

**Magnolia's**

# COMMUNITY CONNECTION



[www.magnolia-nj.org](http://www.magnolia-nj.org)

Fall 2005

## FROM THE MAYOR'S DESK . . .

Residents of Magnolia,

As Hurricane Katrina continues to unfold we would like to thank everyone who has come together in a time of need to help out with our Coins for Caring Campaign. The Coins for Caring Campaign has been a collaborative effort of Magnolia Public School and the Borough of Magnolia. Jars were placed in Churches, Magnolia School and the Borough Hall, where contributions were made. Please keep all residents in the Hurricane Katrina area in your thoughts and prayers. These residents have a lot of challenges to face. I count my blessing everyday we have not had to face a similar catastrophic event.

On a happier note, I would like to inform everyone about the future development of the Fiberglass property. FedEx Ground has bought the property, and you will start to see changes happening soon. We are also happy to inform everyone that they have agreed to donate Fiberglass field which is over nine acres, to the Borough of Magnolia.

Thanks to Senator Bryant, Assemblyman Roberts, & Assemblywoman Cruz-Perez the Borough of Magnolia was awarded \$215,000 for a Recreation Center/Senior Center. We will now be placing the Center on the Fiberglass property. The project will start in the spring.

I would also like to remind you that Veterans Day (Nov. 11) is fast approaching. Please remember our service personnel at all times. There will be a service honoring the veterans November 11th at the American Legion at 7:00 p.m.

*BettyAnn*

BettyAnn Cowling-Carson  
*Proud Mayor of Magnolia*

## MAGNOLIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

### Upcoming Activities:

Saturday, October 22nd, Annual Fall Hoagie Sale;  
orders call Elaine 783-2136.

Saturday, December 10th, Annual Christmas House Tour;  
info call Elaine 783-2136.

### Santa at the Train Station:

Saturday, 12/3 • Friday, 12/9 • Saturday, 12/10  
Friday, 12/16 • Saturday, 12/17 • Friday, 12/23  
Times are 7:00 - 8:00 p.m. each night.



## DID YOU KNOW...

### NOTARY SERVICE

For your convenience, there is a notary at the Borough Hall. This is a free service. Please do not sign the document prior to coming to the hall and be sure that you have identification with your signature so that a comparison can be done.

### FLU SHOTS

Magnolia Fire Hall,  
Thursday,  
October 27, 2005  
12 noon – 4:00 p.m.

### DAYLIGHT SAVINGS

Don't forget to set your clocks back during the night of Saturday, October 29th.

If you have a torn or old flag, please place in the red, white & blue mail box at the American Legion.

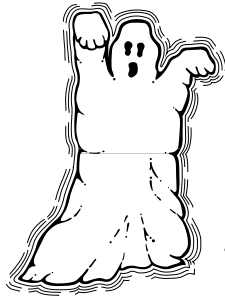
## RECREATION AND PUBLIC EVENTS

Councilwoman Paula Bonamassa

With the change of season upon us, we are welcoming the arrival of fall with many community activities.

A Fall Movie in the Park is back! Fri., Oct 14th, for the showing of a special seasonal movie in Albertson Park. Bring your lawn chair or blanket, and we'll provide the snacks. 7:30 p.m. Rain date, Sat., Oct 15th.

Annual Halloween House Decorating Contest. During the week of Oct. 24th, special ghosts and goblins will be moving through the community looking for the scariest, funniest and most original house decorations. Prizes will be awarded for the winners in each district.



Annual Halloween Parade Sun., Oct. 30th. Please note a time change. Interested participants should meet at the Train Station at 2:00 p.m. The parade will end at the Magnolia School, where costume judging will take place starting at 2:45 p.m.

Trick or Treat hours for Mon., Oct. 31st are 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

December begins with the Tree Lighting on Fri., Dec. 2nd; at 7:00 p.m. at the Borough Hall, including the arrival of a special holiday guest.

Holiday cheer continues on Sun., Dec. 11th at Lunch with Santa. Sign up and location information will be provided at a later date.

Also on Dec. 11th is our annual Senior Dinner at 5 p.m. Food, fun and holiday entertainment is sure to make this evening special. More information to follow.



Finally, the Christmas House Decorating Contest during the week of Dec. 12th. Put out your holiday best and help spread some Christmas cheer! Prizes will be awarded for the winners in each district.

Interested in being a part of the Recreation Committee, contact Paula Bonamassa (783-5153). The Committee meets on the third Sun., at Borough Hall, at 7:00 p.m. Help of any kind is welcomed!

## PUBLIC BUILDINGS, GROUNDS, AND LIGHTING

Councilman P. "Nick" D'Amico

Please contact the Borough Offices if you notice any street lights, you will need to be able to give the pole number (on a metal tag attached to the pole) and location when calling; you may also log on to [www.pseg.com](http://www.pseg.com) to report outages.

We recently upgraded the Borough Hall's heat, air and ventilation systems to provide better efficiency and increased comfort.

## CODES AND LICENSING

Councilwoman Mary Martz

### CONSTRUCTION DEPARTMENT

Christopher Mecca, Construction Official, would like to remind everyone that the Construction office is open Mon. 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Inspections can be arranged by calling the office at 783-1520, ext. 117. Permits are required for fences, roofs, porches, sheds, and patios or front steps.

Certificate of Occupancies (fee \$46.00) need to be obtained once you list your home for sale or change a tenant in a rental property. Should you sell to someone with school age children and do not obtain a certificate of occupancy the children will be unable to attend either Magnolia Public or Sterling High School until one is obtained.

### PROPERTY MAINTENANCE

Bob Brandt, Code Enforcement Officer, would like to remind all residents to clear your sidewalks of snow; so our children have a safe place to walk to school.



### DOG AND CAT LICENSING

Remember there is an Ordinance prohibiting more than 2 dogs and/or 2 cats per household. Should you have more than the allowed number, please do not replace a pet should it leave you. If you are a new resident, please be aware of this. Licensing is required for dogs and cats alike. Renewal for licensing is due by the end of January each year. Our free rabies clinic is Nov. 5th at the Ambulance Squad; 10 a.m.-12 p.m., it is open to all residents of Camden County.

## MAGNOLIA PUBLIC SCHOOL

The administration and staff are excited about the start of the 2005-2006 school year.

There are a number of new faculty additions including: Mrs. Karen MacPherson, kindergarten; Mr. Robert Berry, Spanish; Mrs. Christina Collazzo, middle school language arts; Mrs. Jenelle Donnelly, middle school math; Mr. Nicholas Borgese, third grade; and Mrs. Jennifer Campbell, school psychologist.

In additions, there are a number of new and/or enriched program offerings. These include:

1. Everyday Math Program 1-6
2. Handwriting Without Tears
3. Study Skills 7-8
4. World Language
5. Restorative Practices – Pro-active discipline
6. Gifted and Talented Program K-8
7. Instructional emphasis on test taking skills, individualized and small group instruction, and alternative assessment.

The goal of the administration and the Board is to serve all of our students effectively and efficiently.



## CHIEF OF POLICE OFFICE

Chief Robert Doyle



The Magnolia Police Department would like to remind residents visiting the Magnolia school that there is Permit Parking "only" for the residents of the 100 block of Lincoln Ave. There is available parking in the teacher's parking lot and other surrounding streets.

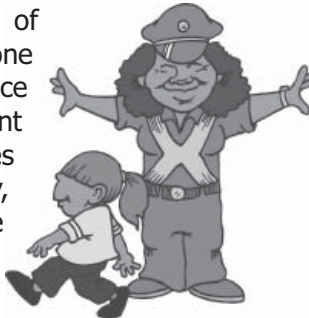
A reminder, now that children are back in school the Borough curfew will be enforced from 9:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. on School Days. If your child is stopped by the police department after curfew a warning letter will be sent to the child's home.

A new Junk and Abandoned vehicle ordinance, has been passed by Mayor and Council. The police dept. will be out enforcing this new ordinance and sending out warning letters. If you have any questions about the new ordinance please contact the police department.

### POLICE DEPARTMENT SAFETY TIPS

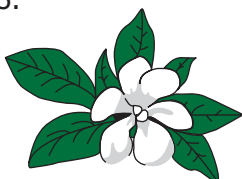
The Holidays are fast approaching, please make sure that you check your child's Halloween candy and they are wearing reflective material on their costumes. Try to accompany them if possible. Also, while you are out shopping be aware of your surroundings while you are walking in parking lots and opening your car door.

Lastly, we are still in need of substitute crossing guards, anyone interested please stop by the Police Department for an employment application. If any resident sees suspicious or criminal activity, please contact the Magnolia Police department (dispatch center) at (856) 783-4900. We need the community's eyes and ears.



The Magnolia Police Dept., in collaboration with the Camden County Women's Shelter, are currently recruiting volunteers for a domestic violence victim response team. The team members will work in conjunction with the police to provide support, information and referral at the time of a domestic violence crisis. The Camden County Women's Shelter, and the department are committed to a multi-racial, multi-ethnic team to serve the community in the best manner possible. Applicants 18 yrs. of age or older, contact Sgt. Robert Stetser (856) 784-1884, ext 122.

Council recently adopted a new law stating sex offenders under Megan's Law are not permitted to reside within 2500 feet of any school, public park, playground and daycare center in Magnolia. This does not apply to residents owning property or residing in Magnolia prior to September 1, 2005.



## MAGNOLIA FIRE COMPANY

Chief Gary J. Riebel

Fire Prevention Night will be held again this year as a group effort by the Magnolia, Somerdale, HiNella, Stratford and Laurel Spring Fire Companies at Sterling High School on Thursday night, Oct. 20, from 7-9 p.m. This is a great night for all members of the family. Please plan to join us.



Smoke alarm batteries need to be changed at least once a year. An average of three children a day dies each year in home fires. Remember to change the batteries in your smoke alarms when you change your clocks back to standard time on Oct. 30. Once you have changed the batteries, be sure to test the alarms. This simple act will cut the risk of dying in a home fire nearly in half. If you are in need of a smoke detector or battery or can not change the battery yourself please do not hesitate to call us @ 783-5818.

If you are looking for a way to help your community The Magnolia Fire Company is always looking for new members.

### MAGNOLIA AMBULANCE



Magnolia Ambulance Corp. is pleased to announce that a shared-services agreement has been reached with the Stratford Ambulance Assoc. for weekday, daytime Emergency Medical Services.

Beginning in December, coverage between 6 am and 6 p.m. on weekdays will be delivered to the Sterling Area (including Magnolia, Somerdale, Stratford, Laurel Springs, and Hi-Nella) half of the week by a Magnolia Ambulance and the other half by a Stratford Ambulance. Staffing will be provided by Virtua Health employees who are certified Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT'S). On a 24 hour basis on weekends the Magnolia Ambulance is staffed by paid EMT's who are employees of the Magnolia Ambulance Corps. Volunteers still staff our Ambulance Monday through Thursday from 6 p.m. - 6 am

The Magnolia Ambulance Corps still continues to provide these services with little tax impact to the residents and look for volunteers to provide EMS coverage to both the Borough's of Magnolia and Somerdale. Please call 784-8089 to volunteer or if you have any questions about EMS services.

Also, the final total for the coin toss between Somerdale Fire Co and Magnolia Ambulance was just about \$8500.00 with a little more than \$500.00 donated from the Somerdale Fire Co to bring the total to an even \$9000.00 that the Somerdale Fire Chief, Miss New Jersey and myself presented to the American Red Cross Monday night, Sept. 12th at the Somerdale Fire Co's monthly meeting.

Also, congratulations to Ann Phillips, who has been with the squad 15 years and is now a life member, George Bakely, who has been a member for 45 years, and Andrew Kohler, who has moved up from a Cadet to a certified active member.



## PUBLIC WORKS

Councilman  
Donald Wilson

### TRASH AND RECYCLING

Public Works  
Superintendent, Steve  
Pacella would like to  
remind everyone that  
metal day is the first  
(1st) Monday of every  
month. Please cut  
long pipes or poles to  
6-foot lengths prior to  
collection. In order to  
allow the crews to move  
along more efficiently,  
**NO CONTAINERS FOR  
GRASS, TRASH OR  
RECYCLING SHOULD  
BE OVER 50 POUNDS!!**  
If they are, they will  
not be picked up. Also,  
trash should not be  
placed at the curb any  
earlier than 6:00 p.m.  
the night before pick-  
up. Last grass pick-up  
- Oct. 17th.

### STREET SWEEPING DATES

October 3rd - Section 1  
October 10th - Section 2  
October 17th - Section 3

### LEAF SCHEDULE

Mondays – beginning  
October 24th; pile  
curbside - you may mix  
grass with leaves. If  
you have a storm drain,  
please keep clear at all  
times.

### SEWER

Reminding everyone that  
some products should  
not be flushed down  
toilets; these items  
include paper towels,  
feminine products,  
cleaning towels,  
disposable wipes etc.

***Thank you for your  
cooperation.***

## PUBLIC SAFETY

Councilman Anthony DePrince II

### Magnolia Senior Health and Safety Workshop

October 24th, 8:30Am - 2:30PM at the Magnolia Borough Hall  
Continental Breakfast and Lunch will be served.

#### Topics to be covered:

Living Wills and Services of the Camden County Surrogate's Office  
Medicare Drug Program and Prescription Information • Senior Wellness Issues  
Crime and Fire Prevention Information • Property Tax Rebate Programs Information

***RSVP by October 17th at 783-1520 x112***

## FINANCE

Councilman Steve Whalen



The Finance Office is responsible for the administration of town revenues, expenditures, investments and assets.

Did you know that only 22.8% of your property taxes goes toward the municipal budget?

While this is only a small portion of your tax dollars, your mayor and council continues to aggressively look for opportunities to further reduce your local tax burden. This year, through tremendous effort, we are pleased to announce that Magnolia has applied for and received many federal, state, and county grants that have brought more than \$250,000 to our town. Over the past five years, the town has assertively secured grants in excess of one-million dollars. This is an unprecedented amount of revenue to our town. Grants are monies awarded to communities that are able to develop long and short-range goals that demonstrate how the money will improve municipal services. Grant writing is a daunting task that requires countless hours of paperwork. The hard work of those who have completed these overwhelming tasks are to be commended for giving our residents improved services with no additional increase in local property taxes.

Welcome to Maureen Mitchell, our Certified Municipal Finance Officer and Certified Tax Collector. Maureen began working for us in August and brings with her many years of government finance experience. We look forward to her experience and expertise! Maureen is replacing Dorothea Jones who accepted a position in another town after thirteen loyal years to Magnolia. Thank you Dottie for your hard work to our town.

Welcome to John Keenan, our Certified Municipal Clerk. John began working for us in July under a joint shared-services agreement with the Borough of Stratford. John's vast knowledge of municipal government has allowed us to operate more effectively and more efficiently. We look forward to his experience and expertise! John is replacing Joyce Harrum who stepped down after giving more than five years of dedicated service to our administrative offices. Thank you Joyce for your devoted efforts to Magnolia.

We are also pleased to announce the consolidation of our administrative office personnel. Robin Sarlo will continue to serve as the Assistant to the Finance Officer, which also includes the added responsibilities of Treasurer. Kathy Andress will continue to greet you at the front window, answer our phones; and she is now taking on additional responsibilities as Deputy Tax Collector and Deputy Elections Clerk. Marianne Grandowicz will continue to serve you in the Construction Office as well as the additional responsibilities of Deputy Animal Registrar. Both Maureen and John will have reduced hours in the front office, which will save us a significant amount of money in salaries and health benefits. With these changes, we are very confident that you will continue to receive the most courteous and direct service for all of your concerns. Thank you to Robin, Kathy, Marianne, Maureen, and John for stepping up to these challenges as we continue to look for additional ways to trim down municipal expenditures.

We would also like to remind you of our Tax Abatement program for construction improvements to older homes. Many homeowners have benefited from this program that is designed to enhance residential aesthetics and accommodate growing families living in Magnolia. If you are interested in the Property Tax program please contact Borough Hall, 783-1520-ext. 112.