



Magnolia's Community Connection

Fall 2007

www.magnolia-nj.org

From the Mayor's Desk.....

Residents of Magnolia,

It doesn't seem possible that another Summer is over. As we close our pool up for the chilly months ahead I often reflect on the fun events that have taken place over the Summer season. Of course the first thing I think of is wow, is it Autumn already? The Memorial Day service was moving and I am always honored to be a part of it. We crowned our new Miss Magnolia, Erin Meagher, and her court. Don't they look beautiful? During the 4th of July parade and fair we announced our Volunteer of the year, Sal Marchese and our Magnolia Medal recipients were Lee and Carol Sheilds. I really enjoyed spending time and talking with all the residents.

Now the children are back at school already chatting about their Halloween plans, the leaves have started changing and Veteran's Day is following close behind. These men, women, and their families have given so much to us; let's show our appreciation and support by attending the Veteran's Day service at the American Legion on November 11th at 7pm. Please remember our service personnel on this day and everyday.

**Left to Right, Second Runner Up Caroline Stevenson, Miss Magnolia Erin Meagher,
First Runner Up Jennifer Lee Mooney, Miss Congeniality Amanda Keilyk**

BettyAnn

*BettyAnn Cowling-Carson
Proud Mayor of Magnolia*

Some of our Magnolia residents proudly serving their country:

Robert Smith Jr.-Monroe Ave
Kirsten Knapp-Charles Road
Matthew Muff-Charles Road
Karen Rabell-Porter-Atlantic Ave
Andrew Ballinger-Atlantic Ave
Christopher Concannon-Warwick Road
Christopher O'Brien- Otterbranch Dr

****If we missed anyone please call, also let us know of their homecoming- so they will be acknowledged.*

Mayor BettyAnn Cowling-Carson
Borough Council
Borough Clerk
and
Special dignitaries and honored guests

INVITE YOU TO THE
Dedication and Grand Opening
of the
MAGNOLIA COMMUNITY CENTER
425 Brook Avenue
Magnolia, NJ
Saturday October 27, 2007
10:00 AM
Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

Open House until 12 noon

Refreshments will be served.

The Borough of Magnolia thanks the State of New Jersey Treasury Department, Camden County Board of Freeholders, Open Space Recreational Grant, Local Contractors, and Residents who assisted in the last year to make the dream of a Borough Recreational Community Center a reality. Very few communities have the opportunity to offer such a multi-use facility. Our center is 12,000 square feet, air conditioned and includes a full size gymnasium, conference/meeting rooms, kitchen, restrooms, game room as well as restroom facilities and concession area for the recreational fields.

Volunteers are being sought to staff and monitor the facility to allow the residents (young and old!) free use of the various areas of the facility. If you can not attend this event and want to volunteer please contact Borough Hall.

COMMUNITY CENTER GRAND OPENING

The special day is scheduled for Saturday, October 27 at 10 AM. Dignitaries and those who assisted in the creation and realization of this long awaited dream will be present for the ribbon cutting at 10AM. Following will be refreshments and an open house for touring the facility until 12PM. Please come out to visit the new facility and see what is being offered by this multifunctional building. Residents and their families are more than welcomed to attend.

Anyone who would like to volunteer to help supervise and chaperone open recreation nights for the residents are asked to attend the opening to sign up, or can contact the Borough Clerk at 856-783-1520x110 for more details. The goal is to be able to open the facility on as many nights as possible for any resident to play basketball, possibly volleyball, board/mind games, hold movie nights, homework clubs, and many other possibilities. We are seeking donations of board games, kitchen items, sport equipment such as basketballs, volleyballs, etc. You can drop off your donated items at the Borough Hall, or can contact the Borough Hall if you require someone to pick up your items.

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.

First up is the annual Halloween House Decorating Contest. During the week of October 21st, 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 top three winners in each district.

This year's edition of the Annual Halloween Parade will be held on Tuesday, October 30th. Interested participants should meet at the Borough Hall at 6:30 p.m. The parade will begin at 7:00 p.m. sharp, and end at the new Community Center. Costume judging will take place starting at approximately 7:15 p.m. Even if you don't have any parade participants, please stop by the new building and take a look!

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

Don't forget to set your clocks back during the night of Saturday, November 3rd. We'll all welcome the extra hour of sleep!

December is a busy month for recreation, beginning with the Tree Lighting on Friday, December 7th. Festivities will begin at 7:00 p.m. at the Borough Hall, including the arrival of a special holiday guest.

The Christmas House Decorating Contest will be held during the week of December 11th. Put out your holiday best and help spread some Christmas cheer! Prizes will be awarded for the top three winners in each district

The holiday cheer continues on Sunday, December 16th at Lunch with Santa. Sign up and location information will be provided at a later date.

Also on December 16th is our annual Senior Dinner. Food, fun and holiday entertainment is sure to make this evening special. More information to follow.

If you are interested in being a part of the Recreation Committee, please contact Paula Bonamassa (783-5153). The Committee meets once a month, on the third Sunday. Meetings are held at the New Community Center, starting at 7:00 p.m. Help of any kind is welcomed and appreciated!

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, November & December- please call for pick-up (856) 784-6162, (leave address on machine). 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.

Leaf Schedule

Daily – beginning October 22th; pile leaves 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

Chief of Police Office

Chief Robert Doyle

The Magnolia Police Department would like to remind all residents that the Curfew hours are 9:00PM to 6:00AM during (**School Nights**), this ordinance will be strictly enforced.

The Magnolia Police Department has taken on the task of Code Enforcement for the Borough of Magnolia, and Officer David Bryson has been assigned as the Code Enforcement Officer. Please lodge your complaints through the Borough Website, the Code Enforcement voicemail at 1-856-783-1520 ext. 206, or Officer Bryson's e-mail address Dbryson@magnolia-nj.org.

The Police Department's Crime Prevention / Town Watch would like to start hosting meetings again. If anyone is interested in participating or becoming a Block Captain, please contact Ptl. Parker or Pappalardo. We will be hosting a sign up meeting sometime in late October if there are enough interested people. I would also like to thank Ptl. Parker and Ptl. Pappalardo and the Mayor and Council for another successful National Night Out and Movie in the Park.

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. Parents should always accompany their children if possible. While you are out shopping always be aware of your surroundings while you are walking in parking lots and opening your car door.

Lastly, the Mayor and Council have continued to provide new and safe equipment in our parks each year for the young people of this community, but it continues to be damaged and our parks vandalized. Please let's take pride in our community and assist your Police Department if you see suspicious or criminal activity. **Please remember to call (856) 783-4900 (Dispatch Center) to report an incident that is occurring or contact (856) 784-1884 ext.200 for the "Tip Hotline".**

Finance

Councilman Steve Whalen

As many of you are aware, just like many other towns throughout New Jersey, the residents of our town were faced with another property tax increase this year. Please know that the Mayor and Council continue to voice your property tax concerns to our leaders in Trenton, but disappointingly not much has improved.

Recently, an article appeared in the Courier Post newspaper listing different towns that were awarded "Extraordinary Aid" or relief to escalating property taxes. If you read the article, you most likely noticed that Magnolia was not among those towns that were listed. Basically, Magnolia did not qualify to receive "Extraordinary Aid" because we keep our town finances in strict order. For example: we extend our trash services to HiNella and Laurel Springs, which offsets \$100,000.00 per year; we share a Certified Municipal Clerk, as well as other shared employees to reduce the burden of rising full-time costs such as health benefits, vacation benefits, pension contributions, and sick time; and we continue to strive for the highest efficiency from our Borough employees. Unfortunately, our efficiency seems to hurt us, while other towns seem to be rewarded for inefficiency.

Another concern brought to my attention by several residents is the difficulty of understanding the tax bill. In short, your bill is comprised of three major entities: Local Tax, County Tax, and School Tax. Your portion of taxes to each of these entities is based on the assessed value of your home. In 2007, your taxes were allocated as follows: 57% for our elementary and regional high school, 21.5% for County services, and 21.13%

for Municipal services. Specifically, the local tax increased by \$4.16 per month (\$50.00 for the year) due to a State mandated increase to the pension system and an increase in health benefits costs. While I can not specifically speak for the schools, their portion increased approximately \$250.00 for the year.

I'm sure this information comes as little satisfaction to the burden of increased property taxes, but please know that we continue to work very hard to keep the portion of taxes that we control, "Municipal Tax" in the fore-front of every decision that is made.

Economic Development Grounds, and Lighting

Councilman P. "Nick" D'Amico

If you see a street light out please get the pole number and contact borough hall or log onto www.pseg.com.

Development News

Arby's is coming to Magnolia! They are now clearing their new site at White Horse Pike and Davis Rd. It should be a few more months until completion.

Magnolia Historical Society

Upcoming Activities:

Saturday, December 8th, Annual Christmas House Tour; info call Elaine 783-2136
Those falling leaves are not the end of a season. They are getting ready for a fresh start! We at the Magnolia Historical Society are doing just that. Looking forward to our fall season!

October 20th The Fall Hoagie sale! This time we are adding a special feature of a model train exhibition held in our pavilion. "N" gauge trains will be up and running!

All you rail road buffs come a running for a great time!

Then on December 8th we present our Annual Christmas House tour!

See what I mean? Fall! Not the end of a season! The beginning of a new one!

The Magnolia Historical Society will be selling a brand new pictorial history book. The sale price will be \$19.99.

A wonderful gift for Christmas, birthdays and other occasions!

For information contact Dennis Harkins @ 856-784-4293.

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 most repairs & home improvements; please call (856) 783-1520 ext 117 with any questions.

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

Officer Dave Bryson, Code Enforcement Officer, would like to remind all residents to keep your home free of any yard debris. Any questions please call (856) 783-1520 ext 206.

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 3rd at the Ambulance Squad; 10am-12pm, it is open to all residents of Camden County.

Magnolia Fire Company

Chief Gary J. Riebel

As the cold weather is approaching please take the time to have your heaters and fire place chimneys cleaned and checked to prevent any possible fires.

The Magnolia Fire Company has a few upcoming events that may be of interest to you.

Fire Prevention Open House - Tuesday Night October 16, 2007 from 7 PM to 9 PM at Sterling High School. Free Demonstrations

Halloween Social - Saturday October 27, 2007 at the Magnolia Fire Hall tickets are \$25.00 per head please contact Rob Vaughan at 856 783-0457 or Mike Wolf 856 435-8138

Christmas Bazaar at the Magnolia Fire Hall - Saturday November 10, 2007. Crafters are welcome please contact Gary Riebel at 856 783-5818.

Comedy Night - Saturday November 24, 2007 at the Magnolia Fire Hall tickets are \$ 25.00 per head please contact Gary Riebel at 856 783-5818.

Did you know....

- 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**

**Camden County Flu / Pneumonia Immunization
October 31st
Magnolia Community Center 325 Brook Ave
** (New location) ****

9:00 am -12:00 noon

- If you have a torn or old flag, please place in the red, white & blue mail box at the American Legion.
- Our free rabies clinic is Nov 3rd at the Ambulance Squad; 10am-12pm, it is open to all residents of Camden County.
- Next time you wash your car try adding a teaspoon of vegetable oil to the bucket before adding your soap and water. This will help the soap carry away the dirt from your car's paint during the washing process.

Sterling High School Marching Band

Presents

"A Knight of Sound"

**Tournament of Marching Bands
Saturday October 27, 2007**

6:30 pm
Gates open 5:30 pm