

# Magnolia's COMMUNITY CONNECTION



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

Fall 2008

## From the Desk of the Proud Mayor of Magnolia . . .

I don't usually talk about my personal life, but at this time I feel that I must. I would like to thank everyone for the love, support, prayers and cards during the recent illness of my daughter Melissa. Melissa finished chemotherapy on August 26 and went back to Centenary College on Labor Day to finish her senior year. As long as everything stays the way it is now, she will be graduating in May.

I thought that I had seen my darkest days when I lost my parents; but when your children get sick you don't know what to do but cry, pray, feel very helpless and try to be supportive.

While I was sitting in the chemo office with Melissa, I noticed many of our Magnolia residents sitting in the office and that broke my heart. Cancer affects the whole family and I am very blessed that my daughter is a cancer survivor.

To quote Hillary Clinton "it takes a village to raise a child" and I believe that even more. The residents of Magnolia came forward in a way that I can't believe and they proved that we are truly One Square Mile of Friendliness.

There is no place like home and I am so proud to be your Mayor.

Thank you from the bottom of my heart.



*BettyAnn*

BettyAnn Cowling-Carson  
Proud Mayor of Magnolia



## PUBLIC WORKS

Councilman Donald Wilson

### TRASH AND RECYCLING

Steve Pacella

Scrap metal & appliances - please call for pickup (856) 784-6162, (leave address on machine), **NO CONTAINERS FOR GRASS, TRASH OR RECYCLING SHOULD BE OVER 50 POUNDS!!** If they are, they will not be picked up.

There will be no schedule changes on Columbus Day Mon., Oct. 13th or Election Day Tues., Nov. 4th.

There will be no recycling pick-up Thurs., Nov. 27, pick-up will be Dec 4th. There will be no recycling pick-up Thurs., Dec. 25, pick-up will be Jan 2.

### LEAF SCHEDULE

Daily - beginning October 27th; 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.

## FIRE

Fire Chief Gary Riebel

### DATES TO REMEMBER:

**Fire Prevention Open House:** Thursday October 16, 2008 @ Sterling High School 7:00 - 9:00 PM

**Magnolia Fire Company Christmas Craft Bazaar:** Saturday November 8, 2008 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM

**Christmas Eve:** Once again Santa will visit each street in town. If you have a shut in and can not make it curbside please call me at the fire station @ 783-5818 to make further arrangements.

### SMOKE DETECTORS

You should install smoke detectors not only for the safety of you and your family, but to minimize damage to your home and your belongings.

If you need the fire company to assist you in the installation or replacement of batteries, please do not hesitate to contact me at the fire station @ 783-5818 and I will send a member to come out and assist you.





## PUBLIC SAFETY

Councilman Anthony DePrince II

The Mayor and Borough Council, Recreation Committee, Magnolia Police Department, Ambulance Corp and Fire Company would like to thank everyone who attended National Night Out and Family Movie Night this past August. It was one of our most highly attended and successful programs. Thanks to all who dedicated their time and efforts in support of this wonderful evening.

As many of you know, the Magnolia Fire Company, Inc. held a town meeting last spring to discuss and inform the community regarding their current financial difficulties. As explained during the meeting, the fire company organization is currently experiencing difficulty with their fund raising efforts resulting in declining revenue over the last few years. Consequently, their ability to continue to maintain an adequate budget for their building maintenance, utilities and other organizational expenses is in jeopardy. Many of you who attended the meeting expressed concern about the fate of the Fire Company and their future.

As a result of this meeting, the Mayor and Borough Council adopted a resolution forming a special committee to research and explore this issue. The members of the committee are; Councilman Anthony DePrince, Councilman Steve Whalen, Magnolia Fire Company President Chris Merulla and Fire Company Treasurer Rob Vaughan and they have been meeting over the summer to develop options and solutions to this problem. This committee has brought in a number of professionals to study financial and physical plant options regarding this issue. The committee will be reporting its findings and recommendations to the Mayor and Borough Council, the Fire Company membership and the public at large sometime in the Fall. It is the desire of the borough and the fire company to develop a resolution to the problem that sustains the fire company organization for the foreseeable future.

As a point of reference, and as discussed at the spring meeting, this problem has nothing to do with fire and rescue services for the borough. The borough owns all fire equipment and provides a municipal budget for fire / rescue services. The fire company owns the fire hall and has maintained the building for a number of years with limited support from tax dollars. Unfortunately, their limited fund raising ability and the rising costs of utilities and maintenance have jeopardized their financial solvency.

If you would like to assist the fire company with this program, you may directly donate to their fund drive. They are a 100% volunteer and non-profit organization and rely on fund raising and donations for their organizational budget. If you would like to make a donation, please mail it to the Magnolia Fire Company, Inc., 116 W. Evesham Ave, Magnolia, NJ 08049.

If you have any questions or suggestions regarding this issue, please feel free to contact Councilman Tony DePrince via e-mail at [tdeprince@magnolia-nj.org](mailto:tdeprince@magnolia-nj.org)

## FINANCE

Councilman Steve Whalen

### MAGNOLIA'S FINANCIAL FORECAST

Fortunately, through all of the mess at the state level, we were able to keep the over all tax increase to approximately \$52.00 for the year, or just \$4.35 per month on the average assessed home. Many are relieved that the burden is not greater, but with cooperative planning and responsible spending by our municipal departments and our two school boards, we were able to maintain a respectable increase for 2008. While it is difficult to predict exactly what will happen in the future, mayor and council continue to work on ways to bring in more revenue into our borough. On our economic development front, Fed Ex tax dollars are now flowing into our borough, and we are anticipating ground breaking soon for the redevelopment of Lion's Head Plaza. Even though the Magnolia portion of Lion's Head is relatively small, we are looking forward to every new tax dollar to lessen your property tax burden. In addition to this project, our professionals have informed us to expect more redevelopment along White Horse Pike, which will bring added tax ratables. We are also looking forward to the building of new age restricted housing near our public works building, referred to as Magnolia Commons. We anticipate a significant increase in tax ratables for this proposed project.

too; and we are hopeful that once the Magnolia Commons project is completed our population will grow beyond 5,000 residents, and therefore allow us to retain state aid. We continue to share our trash services with HiNella, Laurel Springs and Stratford to help reduce fixed costs associated with our equipment and man power. In short, I am pleased to announce that Magnolia does have long-term strategic plans to address property tax concerns, and we will continue to explore all opportunities to provide our residents with real property tax relief in a careful and ethical manner.



### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED . . .

. . . for open nights at the Community Center. Contact Borough Hall if you are able to spend a night at the Community Center from 7-9 pm. Monday, Thursday and Friday are the nights the Center is open. Thank you to those who are so dedicated, without you the Center would not be open.



## CHIEF OF POLICE OFFICE

Chief Robert Doyle

The Magnolia Police Department would like to thank Ptlm. Parker, the Residents of Magnolia, Mayor and Council and all of our Public Safety Departments for another successful National Night Out and Movie in the Park. We are hoping expand on it next year.

A reminder to all Parents now that school is back, the Borough of Magnolia has a curfew from 9:00PM to 6:00AM 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. If your child is riding a bike to school ensure that they are wearing a helmet and speak with them about the Rules of the roadway.

If any residents have a Code Enforcement complaint, please lodge your complaint through the Borough Website or the Code Enforcement voicemail at (856) 783-1520 ext. 206.

Lastly, please continue to 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".

## CODES AND LICENSING

Councilwoman Mary Martz

### CONSTRUCTION DEPARTMENT

John Szczerbinski, Construction Official, would like to remind everyone that the Construction office is open Mondays 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. To schedule an inspection, please call the office by 3:00 pm the day before. 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 Magnolia Public or Sterling High School until one is obtained.

### 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. 1st at the Ambulance Squad; 10 a.m. - 12 p.m., it is open to all residents of Camden County.



## RECREATION & PUBLIC EVENTS

Councilwoman Paula Bonamassa

As we prepare for the changing season, here are some important events happening this fall and winter.



First up is the annual Halloween House Decorating Contest. During the week of October 19th, the Recreation Committee will be moving through the community looking for the 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 Thursday, 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 Community Center. Costume judging will take place starting at approximately 7:15 p.m.

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

Don't forget to set your clocks back during the night on Saturday, November 1st. We will all welcome the extra hour of sleep!

December is a busy month for recreation, beginning with the Tree Lighting on Friday, December 5th. 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 14th. Put out your holiday best and help spread some holiday cheer! Prizes will be awarded for the top three winners in each district.

The holiday spirit continues on Sunday, December 14th at a very special Lunch with Santa. Sign up and location information will be provided at a later date.

Also, our annual Senior Dinner is December 14th. 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 Community Center, starting at 7:00 p.m. Help of any kind is welcomed and appreciated!

The following individuals were recognized at our 4th of July celebration;

Dominic "Mickey" Petzitto - Magnolia Medal recipient  
Scott S. Cowling - Volunteer of the Year recipient



## MISS MAGNOLIA PAGEANT

Tentative date Fri. Jan. 30, 2009

Contact Borough Hall for an application.





**DON'T FORGET TO VOTE NOVEMBER 4, 2008 - 6am-8pm**  
at the new Community Center, 425 W. Brooke Avenue



## SOME OF OUR MAGNOLIA RESIDENTS PROUDLY SERVING THEIR COUNTRY:

Lt. Col. Thomas Euler - Evesham Ave  
Robert Smith Jr. - Monroe Ave  
Kirsten Knapp-Storie - Charles Road  
Matthew Muff - Charles Road  
Christopher Concannon - Warwick Road  
Christopher O'Brien - Otterbranch Dr  
Nick Collazo - Jackson Ave  
Jennifer Nicholls Dayton - Jackson Ave




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

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TECHNOLOGY

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](http://www.pseg.com).

## 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.
- If you have a torn or old fl ag, please place in the red, white & blue mail box at the American Legion. 
- Our free rabies clinic is Nov1st at the Ambulance Squad; 10 a.m.-12 p.m., it is open to all residents of Camden County.
- Protect your Identity, shred your documents: Sat., Nov 1st 9 a.m.-12 p.m. @ Woodcrest speedline.

## \* FLU SHOTS

Camden County Flu / Pneumonia Immuniz.  
October 29th - 9:30 am -11:30 am  
Magnolia Community Center  
425 W. Brooke Ave.



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Borough of Magnolia  
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# SCHOOL NEWS



## OUR NEW SECOND GRADE TEACHER

Erin Conway

My name is Erin Conway and I am the new second grade teacher at Magnolia Elementary School. I completed my student teaching at Laurel Springs Elementary School and graduated from Rowan University with my Masters in Elementary and Special Education. I have also obtained my Reading Certification, and I am excited about our new reading program and implementing creative learning centers. The Magnolia School Staff, as well as the community members, have been very welcoming. I am looking forward to a great school year!

Welcome!

## PERSISTENCE PAYS OFF!

Nick Borgese

All I can remember is zooming around the skating rink floor while be-bopping my body to the 1980s music. A couple of years later, my mom eagerly signed me up for Saturday morning skating classes. Little did I know that I'd grow to be an artistic roller-dancing enthusiast for many years thereafter. My life changed in 1999 when I found the skating partner of my dreams. She was the perfect match for me. So, we went right to work! We competed year after year while climbing the national figure skating ranks. After placing sixth in 2004, we took a three-year hiatus to tie the knot and pursue our career goals. In 2007, we placed fourth, while just missing the world team by a very narrow margin. We then grew more determined than ever to succeed. Practice after practice and routine after routine, we were now more prepared than ever for the nationals. We skated our hearts out! The next thing we realized; we were both standing on top of the awards podium. We had qualified to skate

in the world championships in Taipei, Taiwan! And so, in November of this year, "Borgese and Borgese" will compete for the world roller-figure skating title. Only then will I be able to finish this narrative.



## MAGNOLIA'S NEW GOLF PROGRAM

Mike Morgan

Bobby Jones referred to golf as, "The greatest game ever played." Some may disagree with Mr. Jones but, there has been some form of golf played around the world for over eight centuries. The modern game of golf we are more familiar with has been around for about two hundred years. Interest in the sport has reached an all time high, largely in part to the popularity and ability of Tiger Woods.

One of golf's oldest tales explains how, after an especially difficult round, a golfer hurls his clubs into the ocean and afterwards almost drowns trying to recover them. If you have ever played a round of golf, or hit a bucket of balls on a driving range, you may understand how that golfer feels. Golf can be an incredibly humbling, yet rewarding endeavor. Many who have tried the game become hooked on it immediately. Golf is a sport where the outcome of the round rests entirely on the golfer's shoulders. Your final score, whether it's a 72 or a 127 cannot be blamed on a teammate, a referee, the mascot or anything else (although if you speak to a golfer they can come up with dozens of excuses why they didn't play well). You and you alone have the opportunity to challenge the golf course and other golfers and to improve your skills in each round you play

These opportunities have recently been afforded to Magnolia students as part of our Inter-district golf team. In the coming month's students from Magnolia, Stratford, Somerdale, and Laurel Springs will be participating in a new golf program being offered to seventh and eighth grade boys and girls. The golf program includes helpful hints on equipment and golf course care, chipping and putting, course strategy, how to conduct yourself on a golf course, and drills and routines to help improve each student's abilities in years to come. Students will meet twice a week from 4PM-6PM at Valleybrook Country Club. Players will have access to the driving range, practice area, and golf course. Students who have never had a chance to play on a regulation golf course will have the opportunity to do so. Transportation must be provided by a parent or guardian, and like any other sport you must have a physical to participate.





# SCHOOL NEWS



## DOES ONE SIZE REALLY FIT ALL?

Dana Antonelli

"OK students, please open your books to page 33. We are each going to have a turn reading one paragraph, so make sure you are paying attention. Dana, can you start reading the first paragraph?" Miss Smith asks. Dana looks at the book and realizes she does not know the first word on the page. She thinks to herself, "I hate school. Everyone is going to make fun of me." This is every child's horror story. I know that it was mine. There I was in second grade. Most of my friends were reading. Why wasn't I? I loved school, but hated reading class. Every day it seemed like the same old boring story. My class had to open up a book, and we each took turns reading. Several students use to ask to go to the bathroom during this class. They would usually stay there for a long time, or until my teacher sent another student in the bathroom to go get them. I never understood why, until I was a little older. These students struggled in reading as well. From that point on I knew I wanted to be a teacher. I wanted to make sure that no child would ever feel the way I did, especially in reading class.



Just like many years ago, we have students in our classrooms who struggle academically and others who learn at an advanced level and accelerated pace. In my class, I provide students with their own level of instruction so they will have a high level of success. This practice is known as differentiated instruction. In kindergarten, children have

opportunities to learn and practice concepts through learning centers. Learning centers are stations in the classroom. Each station has manipulatives or written activities for the children to complete. The children work independently or with a small group to complete activities on their own reading level. Centers are a time of day that students eagerly look forward to. It is a very active time during which students have the opportunity to work on hands-on literacy materials. Students are actively engaged in the learning process as they are thinking and doing. While centers are occurring, I have an opportunity to work with small reading groups and conduct guided reading. During guided reading I work with children on their instructional reading level. This allows students to feel successful, become confident proficient readers who LOVE to read

## FOURTH GRADE FABULOUS YOU CAN TEACH AN OLD DOG NEW TRICKS

B. J. Okeson-Brandt

I won't deny that when I heard the words, "We're moving you to a new grade" next year. I ran through a gamut of emotions from surprise to sorrow. For over a decade, 2nd grade had been my home. I shed a few tears as I packed away my Dino Days script, Peg Leg Pete's treasure box and my Strega Nona characters. I wondered if it was possible for an old (okay let's go with slightly middle aged) dog to learn new tricks. I spent the summer painting my new room and reading curriculum. I even had that dream all new teachers have where we are lost in the hallways and can't find our classroom.

And then it happened! I became 4th Grade Fabulous. I met my new grade partners Mrs. Williams and Mr. Sorrentino and found that we are an incredible team together. I am excited about the new lessons I will teach and the new activities that will come from them. And most importantly, I was reminded that children at any age are our most precious assets. So while I may miss my Sponge Bob cartoons, I am learning to appreciate the new beat of Hannah Montana and the Jonas Brothers. I also learned that a middle-aged teacher can learn new tricks and even pull a few surprises out of her sleeve as well.

