



Magnolia's Community Connection
Spring 2008
www.magnolia-nj.org

FROM THE DESK OF THE PROUD MAYOR OF MAGNOLIA:

Dear Neighbors,

I usually look forward to writing this article for the newsletter, but at this time I do not have the usual good news. Most of you probably listened to the Governor's speech last week regarding the State's budget and financial crisis. He announced the State Aid for municipalities under 5,000 residents would be cut 100%, and for those between 5,000 and under 10,000 would lose 50% of their State Aid. Magnolia is well under the population of 5,000. This Aid is very important to us, and has been part of our revenue for decades. There was no advance warning for this immediate cut which affects our 2008 budget, and burdens every resident of Magnolia.

I, along with the New Jersey Conference of Mayors and the Camden County Mayors are fighting this cut. I have been in contact with every legislator in the 5th and 6th district, and they to understand the issue, but respond their hands are tied. They also state they had no inside word of this cut. One State Senator from another district has informed us to cut our budget to make up for the cut. If Magnolia cuts the budget anymore than we have already done we will only have one police officer on each shift, and the borough offices will be open 3 days a week and layoffs could be instituted.

The State is pressing consolidation and shared services. Magnolia has always been a proponent and participant of shared services from office personnel to trash services, but at this time we may not be far away from the creation of Sterling Township!

Council and I are working hard to preserve the services you have always expected from Magnolia, but this task is becoming a challenge when the State requires us to function without the usual Aid, as well as they limit the increase in the municipal budget to 3.5%, and the tax rate is capped at 4%.

Thank you for your continued support.

BettyAnn Cowling-Carson
Proud Mayor of Magnolia

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
Karen Rabell-Porter-Atlantic Ave
Andrew Ballinger-Atlantic Ave
Christopher Concannon-Warwick Road
Christopher O'Brien- Otterbranch Dr
Nick Collazo- Jackson Ave

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

Reprinted from "The Mustang Express"

Rec Center is the hottest place in town

By; Connor Walsh

The new hot spot in town is the rec center! There is nothing bad about it. Every time you go to "the rec" it's always a packed house. All the kids in school talk about it nonstop.

At the rec center, you can play many, many games. There is basketball, table tennis, and a pool table in the upstairs lounge. Speaking of the upstairs, you can also play some air hockey, relax on the sofas, or even play a little foosball.

In addition, you can go to the rec center on Monday if you are 17 or older, Thursdays and Fridays for under 17.

To sum it up, the rec center is one of the best places to be since the Water Ice Factory opened its doors. It's also a great place to meet new friends and to have lots of fun.

Director of Public Events & Facilities

Councilwoman Paula Bonamassa

Can't wait for spring, and we are looking forward to welcoming a change of season with many community activities!

First up is Clean Communities Day, which will take place on Saturday, March 15th. Please gather your family and friends and meet us in Albertson Park at 10:00 a.m. Bring your rake and gardening gloves and join us while we spruce up the recreation areas in our community. Light refreshments will be provided, and be sure to dress for the weather! Rain date TBD. It's a great way to spend two hours on a spring morning!

Next is the Easter Egg Hunt, to be held in Albertson Park on Saturday, March 22nd. Infants through 8th grade children are invited to scour the park for hundreds of candy filled eggs, along with special prize ceramic eggs! This event will start promptly at 10:00 a.m. so bring your Easter basket and don't be late! Rain date TBD.

Then, on April 12th, help us celebrate the kickoff of another great season for Little League baseball and softball! The parade will be forming at the Borough Hall at 1:30 p.m. and will begin at 2:00 p.m. Join the marchers on the parade route or at the Little League complex for opening day ceremonies!

The beginning of the Summer Recreation program is right around the corner! Sign up your child during the enrollment dates and times noted below:

- Saturday, March 22nd - 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. during the Easter Egg Hunt
- Friday, May 2nd – 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. – Magnolia Borough Hall
- Saturday, May 3rd – 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon – Magnolia Borough Hall

Spots are limited, so please mark you calendar for the sign up dates. Detailed flyers and enrollment forms will be distributed soon!

Stay tuned for additional information about our annual 4th of July parade and community celebration. If you are interested in participating in the parade or fair, please contact Bob Brandt (627-3326) for parade information or Cathy Dobbins (784-1731) for booth information. It's not too early to think about the 4th of July.

If you are interested in being a part of the Recreation Committee, please contact Paula Bonamassa (783-5153). The committee meets the 3rd Sunday of every month at the Community Center. Help of any kind is welcomed and appreciated!

Community Center volunteers are always needed. If you have some time you can dedicate to provide supervision for open gym nights, please contact the Borough Hall at (856) 783-1520. Suggestions are also welcome for additional programs or events that would benefit the community!

Director of Public Works

Councilman Donald Wilson

Trash and recyclable materials should be placed at the curb between **7:00 pm** the night before collections and **7:00 am** on the collection day. Please respect your neighbors by removing empty containers by **7:00 pm** that day. (Tip: If you are on vacation, ask a neighbor to place and remove containers at the appropriate times so your house looks occupied).

Trash and Single Stream Recycling.

Single Stream Recycling pick up will be every week:

East of the railroad tracks-Tuesday

West of the railroad tracks- Thursday

- Please remember that all containers, containing grass or trash, will not be picked up if they weigh more than 50 pounds.
- Call Public Works (856) 784-6162, should you need a new bucket.
- Used motor oil must be put in a sturdy container. It will be picked up on your regular recycling day.
- Furniture will be picked up on your regular trash day.
- Appliances and scrap metal will be picked up on the first Monday of the month. If this happens to be a holiday then pick-up will be on the first Friday.
- All recyclables must be placed in the blue can (glass, aluminum, plastic, cardboard, paper, etc.
- **No debris of any kind** left by a contractor will be removed by Public Works. The contractor is responsible for this.

****Remember it is important to Recycle, it saves our environment****

Grass Clippings/Wood and Brush

Grass clippings will be picked up with your regular trash. Place them in open trash containers, wood and brush will be picked up also.

Papers and Cardboard

Newspaper, white paper, magazines, and corrugated cardboard (3x3 or smaller) should be tied and bundled or placed in paper bags weighing less than **50 lbs.** Acceptable paper and cardboard materials include old newspaper (including Sunday inserts), Kraft paper bags, corrugated containers, soda/beer wrappers, six-pack containers, cereal, pizza boxes and magazines). Pick up day is every week with your recyclables.

Sewer

There is a Borough Ordinance requiring homes to have Backwater Valves installed on below ground level items, such as washtubs and basement lavatories. The valves prevent back ups from the sewer system into the home. Most insurance companies **DO NOT** cover back up damage. It would be to your advantage to have a valve installed if your home doesn't have one.

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

Street Sweeping Schedule

West of the railroad tracks-Week of March 17th.

East of the railroad tracks-Week of March 24th.

Storm Water Management

Do not discard any of the following into the storm sewers, grass clippings, leaves, motor oil, trash, bottles and cans, etc.

Thank You for your cooperation.

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**), 10:00PM to 6:00AM during the **Weekend**, and all Parks are closed at **Dusk**. 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 & Officer Kevin Lally have been assigned as the Code Enforcement Officers. Please lodge your complaints through the Borough Website, the Code Enforcement voicemail at 1-856-783-1520 ext. 206.

There is a property maintenance ordinance in the Borough. This ordinance states that all properties should be clear of trash, high grass, untrimmed bushes, animal feces, etc. Should this be reported, a violation letter will be sent. If the situation should persist,

Public Works will be sent to clean the area, and a bill for \$75.00 per hour, per man will be sent to the homeowner. The Borough also has an Ordinance requiring all vehicles to have current license plates and registration. They must also be parked in your driveway, not on the lawn or in the backyard.

The Police Departments Crime Prevention / Town Watch would like to start hosting meetings again. To date no residents have come into the Police Department advising us they are interested in forming a Town Watch Program. If anyone is interested in participating or becoming a Block Captain, please contact Ptl. Parker or Pappalardo.

Spring and Summer is fast approaching. Please take a few minutes to speak with your Children about the Rules of the road while riding their bike around town. A reminder to those residents who have portable Basketball Stands. The town ordinance states they can only be placed between the curb and sidewalk and must be taken in at night. **No Basketball Stands are allowed in the street.**

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".**

Director of Finance & Administration

Councilman Steven Whalen

Dear Fellow Residents,

As our mayor has already written, and as you may have heard, the governor has eliminated property tax relief aid to all communities that fall under 5000 residents, and unfortunately Magnolia is among his list of municipalities. State aid is, in essence, a portion of your state income tax dollars coming back to where you live; and up to this year, state aid has been in place for every municipality in New Jersey to provide assistance to the highest paid property taxes in the nation. What this decision means is that once again our leaders in Trenton have passed the buck to you, Mr. and Mrs. Taxpayer. What is most disheartening to me is Magnolia has for decades lived within its means. We have kept spending at a minimum, as we have always known that our "one square mile of friendliness" is predominately based on residential taxes. In a previous newsletter, I had explained why Magnolia does not get "extraordinary aid" or supplemental aid as in the case of other towns. This is because we have always practiced fiscal responsibility in our municipal spending. Now, to have this money ripped away from our community three months into the current year only intensifies my passion about poor financial decisions coming from Trenton. In essence, we are being deprived our fair share of state aid because of years of out-of-control spending in Trenton, while other larger municipalities will continue to receive state aid. As also stated, we continue to consolidate services, and we also work with other neighboring towns for ambulance coverage, trash services, and shared employees to promote the highest efficiency for you.

Along with me, our finance committee is aggressively working on plans to lessen this hardship on you, but if the governor's proposal holds to the letter, we will be forced to make unprecedented sacrifices, as the underlining message from Trenton is an end to the concept of home rule. Please feel free to attend the next council meeting scheduled on the first Wednesday of the month to get the most current information.

Construction, Licensing & Street Lighting, Planning, & Zoning

Councilwoman Mary Martz

Magnolia welcomes John Szczerbinski (John Z) to the Planning & Zoning and Construction departments as the new Constuction Official. We are moving right along with some major projects, the Arby's on the White Horse Pike should be completed by summer. Walmart will possibly be by fall. The new Magnolia Commons housing development on Davis Road is currently being heard by the Planning Department.

Construction Department

Construction Office is open Monday eve. from 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 home improvements, so please call the office before you start work. 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.

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.

Swimming Pools

With the warm weather approaching, swimming pools will be in use soon. We would like to remind you that BOCA National Building Code, Chapter 421.10.1, states that the top barrier fence shall be at least 48 " above the finished ground level measured on the side of the barrier that faces away from the swimming pool. Recreation pools deeper than 2 feet, need to have a barrier around them. Last year there were quite a few of the smaller,

inflatable pools placed in yards. These pools usually require a filter and a barrier which also requires a permit. Please do not run an extension cord to operate the filter. Should you have any questions prior to investing in a pool, contact the Construction office.

Magnolia Historical Society

Dennis J. Harkins
President

Upcoming Activities:

April 19	Annual Spring Hoagie Sale	11:00 am – 1:00 pm
May 17	Annual Spring Flea Mart	9:00 am – 1:00 pm

The new Photo History Book of Magnolia is still on sale for \$19.99 and can be acquired by contacting Helen Bradley at 783-8585.

Did you know....

- Magnolia Senior Citizen's Club meets @ 1pm @ Magnolia School on the 3rd Thursday of the month.
- The Miss Magnolia Pageant is right around the corner. Applications will be available at www.magnolia-nj.org in April.
- Magnolia Card Club meets every Wednesday @ Community Center 1-3 pm. All card players welcome.
- Penn Jersey Youth Scholarships-May 24th @ Stratford Borough Hall, pre-registration required. Info call Donald Rentschler (856) 784-4140 7:15-8:15 pm.
- Girl Scout Troop 30827 sponsored "Senior Pasta Lunch" Sunday April 13th @ 1pm, Community Center.
- 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 flag, please place in the red, white & blue mail box at the American Legion.

TARKILL SOCCER REGISTRATION

2008 in-person registration being held on May 3 (9A-12P); May 5 and 7 (6-8P) at the Tarkill Clubhouse on Warwick Road at the entrance of Fox Ridge Apartments in Stratford. Tarkill Soccer Club covers the communities of the Sterling District, and encourages Magnolia youth to participate. Check out www.tarkill.com