

# Magnolia's COMMUNITY CONNECTION



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

Summer 2008

## From the Mayor's Desk . . .

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

As we are all enjoying this beautiful weather and scenery I want to remind you of all the activities, events and important news this issue has to offer.

~~Some of the first events to highlight are the following:~~

We begin with the Memorial Day ceremony at the American Legion Post, May 26, at 10:00 am. Please be sure to hang your flag during all the patriotic holidays!

On June 13th the Miss Magnolia Pageant will return to Sterling High School at 7:00 pm. Each year this has attracted many young women in a very fun evening for all. This year Mrs. Shelley Wilson is coordinating the event. Applications are available on the borough website or at borough hall. Please sign up early to avoid missing out on practices, important information, as well as having your name in the program!

Read through this issue for other important events of the season.

Since the last newsletter I am sure you have made note of our newest business coming out of the ground on the White Horse Pike...ARBY'S! This will be a welcomed addition to our business community. Hmmm!!

Since the new Community Center opened in October 2007, I have spent many nights as part of the volunteer staff. It gives me great pride to see so many of our youth coming out to a safe haven to meet their friends, and to utilize the facility. We offer so much to our youth, but there is still so many other uses for this center, for both young and old! I am hopeful as more and more residents become acquainted with the building that there will be new groups forming to use it for meetings, social affairs, etc. If you have any ideas please feel free to reach out to the Recreation Committee.

We are still taking nominations for the Magnolia Medal and Volunteer of the Year Award which are awarded on 4th of July. Please send your recommendation in writing to the Borough Hall, to my attention.

I want to wish everyone a safe and enjoyable summer!

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## RECREATION & PUBLIC EVENTS

Councilwoman Paula Bonamassa

Community Center Volunteers are urgently needed! Due to spring and summer activities we anticipate some of our dedicated volunteer staff to be busy and not available for the usual "open nights". We need more volunteers to help keep the center open throughout the spring and summer seasons. The center has become "the place to be" for so many young people in Magnolia. It offers basketball, ping pong, board games, a pool table, movies, air hockey, foos ball, and just a place to meet friends and talk. Please contact Paula Bonamassa (856-783-5153) to volunteer. Your assistance helps the youth be active in a safe environment!

Our annual Summer Recreation Program will be kicking off on Monday, June 23rd. Many fun filled activities are planned, highlighted by weekly field trips. If you missed the enrollment period earlier this month, and would like to take advantage of this awesome summer program, please contact Paula Bonamassa at 856-783-5153. No additional registrations will be taken after June 6th.

On Thursday, July 3rd, please join us for a spectacular fireworks display, to be held at Sterling High School. Pre-fireworks events will begin at 7:00 p.m. and the fireworks will begin at dusk. Our annual parade and fair in the park will take place on Friday, July 4th. If you need information about the 10:00 am parade or 9:30 am fair please contact Bob Brandt (856-229-1182) for parade information and Cathy Dobbins (856-784-1731) for fair information.

We will also be offering a String Band concert in Albertson Park. Save the date of Wednesday, July 16th. Come out and enjoy a lively musical presentation and light refreshments. The show will start promptly at 7:00 p.m.

If you are interested in being a part of the Recreation Committee, please contact Paula Bonamassa (783-5153). Help of any kind is welcomed and appreciated!

## DID YOU KNOW . . .

- "NEW" Magnolia Card Club, every Wed. 1:00-3:00 pm @ the Community Center.
- The sidewalk must be clear for pedestrians, if your car hangs over the walk, you must park in the street.



*BettyAnn*

BettyAnn Cowling-Carson  
Proud Mayor of Magnolia



## FINANCE

Councilman Steve Whalen

Since the posting of the last newsletter, it is still unclear of the Governor's intent to reinstate State aid to our town, but we are somewhat optimistic that he will come to recognize the importance of the State's obligation to the taxpayers of Magnolia. Until a formal decision is announced, we are anticipating estimated tax bills to be sent out in July. Our hope is that with the reinstatement of State Aid we will be able to keep the overall monthly increase for the school tax, local tax, and county tax to approximately ten dollars for the average assessed home. In the meantime, we press on for additional fiscal decisions that continue to highlight our efficiency. Beginning June 1, we will be entering into another shared service agreement with one of our neighboring towns. This interlocal agreement will offset some of our fixed costs, while assisting Stratford with their trash collection needs. This agreement will necessitate a change in our trash and recycling collection schedule, but it does provide the same level of services that we have been so proud to provide to you. Just as the Governor reinforces the need for neighboring towns to share services, consolidation continues to be a mission that Mayor and Council are focused on. While, we may be small, we hope that our leaders in Trenton realize our hard work towards compliance of this mandate, as we also hope that you continue to have the confidence in our abilities to lead Magnolia towards an even more efficient future. Please feel free to attend the next council meeting scheduled on the first Wednesday of the month to get the most current financial information.

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).

## MAGNOLIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

President Dennis J. Harkins

We are currently developing plans for a large Model Train Show to be held Sat. Nov. 22nd at the community Center. As plans develop, more info will follow.

We are also conducting a long range research project, in conjunction with the local Methodist Church, on their cemetery.

Persons interested in history and research, contact Roberta Wood @ 856-784-4944

## 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.  
Jennifer Nicholls Dayton



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

## PUBLIC SAFETY

Councilman Anthony DePrince II

### FIRE

Fire Chief Gary Riebel

#### SPRING TIME GRILLING

It's that time of year again and I would like to remind you of the following:

Every year dozens of people are injured and hundreds of fires are reported because of grilling accidents. With the growing popularity of outdoor cooking, the problem promises to get worse before it gets better.

The leading cause of injuries and fire from gas grilling is leaking fuel lines. Improperly connected hoses, cracked or broken hoses, misaligned venturi tubes can release unlit propane that can quickly build up and cause an explosion. Frequently check gas lines for leaks. Brushing soapy water over the hoses and connectors will show you any potential leaks.

Charcoal presents its own risk due to carbon monoxide poisoning. Burning charcoal produces a lot of this gas. There were over 20 deaths in the United States last year alone from carbon monoxide poisoning associated with charcoal grilling.

When lighting a gas grill use the 10 to 5 rule. If the grill does not start within 10 seconds, turn off the gas, leave the lid open and give it 5 minutes before you try again. Propane gas can develop into a large cloud quickly.

As always, remember that the greatest safety feature we humans have is common sense. Pay attention to what you are doing and if you have a bad feeling, run with it.



#### SMOKE ALARMS

One of the most important fire safety devices for the home is the smoke alarm.

Several studies have concluded that when working smoke alarms are present, the chance of dying from the fire is cut in half. The smoke alarms currently in place have saved thousands of lives, but several problems exist. First, the 12% of homes without alarms have more than half of the fires; second, it is estimated that a third of the smoke alarms in place are not working, often due to failure to replace a worn out battery; and third, many homes do not have as many smoke alarms as are needed to protect the occupants properly. If you have any questions regarding smoke alarms please do not hesitate to contact the fire station @ 856 783-5818.





## CHIEF OF POLICE OFFICE

Chief Robert Doyle

I would like to thank all of the Parents who attended the Municipal Alliance/ Dare Dance in May and congratulations to all of the Dare students. I would also like to thank the Magnolia Historical Society for allowing me to speak on the history of the Magnolia Police Department in May. I will continue to update the Police Departments history and hope to have it displayed on our Borough Website.

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 or the Code Enforcement voicemail at 1-856-783-1520 ext. 206.

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.

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 that 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".



## PUBLIC WORKS

Councilman Donald Wilson

As we have had an interlocal service agreement in picking up Laurel Springs and Hi-Nella trash and recycling, we are now adding Stratford to this agreement. Starting on June 5, 2008 we will start collecting Stratford's trash and recycling. For this to happen, all of Magnolia's trash and recycling will be picked up in two days.

**TRASH** (including grass clippings) schedule:

**TUESDAY** of each week **starting June 3, 2008**

**RECYCLING** (paper, recyclables):

**THURSDAY** of each week **starting June 5, 2008**

Metal remains the first Monday of each month.

Portable basketball nets that are garbage, please call for pick-up 856-784-6162.

## SCHOOL BOARD NEWS



### BUDGET KUDOS

Dr. Warren L. Pross

I am pleased to assure you due to the passage of the upcoming year's budget that we are able to keep all of our programs in place for next year.

Highlights which will be included next year are: expanding the Response to Intervention Program (RTI), grades three to five; continuing the after school extra curricular program; continuing the interscholastic athletic program; and purchasing new reading materials as needed.

In addition, we are able to keep all of our excellent staff members in place, and we hope to add an additional part time employee to assist with the RTI program.

Finally, we continue with your support to be committed to strengthening our academic program. We are proud of our students - your children - for the fact that they have made adequate yearly progress under The No Child Behind Guidelines (NCLB) at both the elementary and the middle school level for the last two years.

As always, I welcome your questions and concerns regarding any of our programs and policies. I can be reached during school hours at 783-6343 ext 825.

**Thanks for your support for the 2008-2009 Budget!**

### INCLUDE

Kelly Livingston

Magnolia School District has embraced the INCLUDE grant offering a tremendous amount of professional development in the areas of inclusion, differentiated instruction, teaching all students through hands on math manipulatives, and assistive technology.

The inclusive practices team has participated in book studies that respond to Professional Learning Communities, Universal Design for Learning (Dufour) and Response to Intervention. All of these programs are motivators for the dynamics of inclusive education. Teachers feel better equipped to handle different student modalities in an all inclusive setting.

INCLUDE has provided us with the technology and professional development thus far to.....

- Enhance learning through interactive smart boards and individual student lap tops
- Model special/general education inclusive practices
- Provide opportunity to unify and collaborate through "PLC" (professional learning community)
- Allow for students to pace in the curriculum at their own individual rate
- Education staff on the importance of universal design for learning/understanding differentiated instruction



# SCHOOL BOARD NEWS

## First Grade RTI

Jennifer Pontarelli

One of the most exciting things about being a teacher is helping children develop the skills they will need to succeed in life. As a primary grade teacher, this is particularly true when it comes to teaching students how to read. This year has been more rewarding than ever because Magnolia Public School has adopted and devoted itself to the principles of "Response to Intervention," also known as RTI. RTI is sweeping the nation, and I am proud to be a part of the trail-blazing transition. RTI is very different from traditional remediation. In addition to standard classroom instruction, RTI involves the screening and monitoring of all students throughout the school year. This screening is not arduous and stressful. It takes a few minutes per child, and the children love the one-on-one attention. The RTI reading assessments help diagnose whether a child is performing below, on target, or above grade level. The assessments also specifically pinpoint whether a child would benefit from extra support with phonemic awareness, decoding, or fluency. The best part is that in the RTI model, children do not need to be performing significantly below grade level or classified as special education students to receive extra help in the form of small-group instruction. This research-based intervention is intended to support the children before they fall behind. The Magnolia learning community has benefited tremendously from RTI this year. I look forward to seeing the continual progress of our children in the coming years.

## The Role of a Social Worker

Mary Antolik

School Social Workers are specialized human service professionals who cooperate with other school personnel to foster student's academic abilities and social development to accomplish the ultimate goal of education.

On a school wide basis, a Social Worker encourages a holistic approach towards preventive and remedial measures in efforts to promote the social functioning of students, provide support to educators, and ameliorate environmental conditions that impede the learning process.

As a team member on the Child Study Team, a Social Worker is part of the assessment process for Special Education Students as well as providing direct and indirect services to those students. School Social Workers consult with teachers and administrators and frequently participate on teams within the school.

Social Workers are guided by principles that include the following:

Each pupil is valued as an individual regardless of any unique characteristic.

Each pupil should be allowed to share in the learning process.

Individual differences (including differences in rates of learning) should be recognized interventions and should be aimed to support the pupil's educational goals.

Each child regardless of race and socioeconomics has a right to equal treatment in schools.

As a School Social Worker at Magnolia Public School, I contribute by improving the quality of life of each pupil by working towards the school's mission of being in partnership with the community and staff to provide a safe and supportive environment which offers all students the opportunity to develop academically, socially, physically, and emotionally and to create confident, productive, life-long learners.

## Students Make History Come Alive

Diane Venables

Peeking inside our fifth grade classroom, you might see students deep sea diving for artifacts, forming a human map, or even walking the streets of Williamsburg. These are just some of the activities that are part of our new History Alive social studies program. Unlike most traditional social studies programs, History Alive allows students to use their multiple intelligences. Instead of just reading and answering questions, students work cooperatively to discover knowledge for themselves.

During a recent unit on our country's colonial period, the classroom was magically transformed into colonial Williamsburg! Our students stepped back in time to experience aspects of daily life as they applied to government, religion, education, social activities, trades, and slave life. Some of these experiences included: playing "The Royal and Most Pleasant Game of Goose" at the Raleigh Tavern, writing with a quill pen and ink at the College of William and Mary, deciding whether to approve or veto laws at the Governor's Palace, and learning a call-and-response song at the slave quarters. The Williamsburg "experience" received rave reviews from our colonists.

History Alive actively engages all students in the learning process while promoting critical thinking skills. The emphasis of our curriculum has shifted from memorizing information to applying knowledge, which results in a better understanding of the concepts our children need to know. Response to this program from the students, parents, and staff has been quite positive.

## National Junior Society

Christina Collazo

Magnolia Public School's National Junior Honor Society continues to be a society based on the pillars of scholarship, leadership, citizenship, and character. This year's members include: Alexis Bonamassa, Courtney Cairns, Jessica Camp, Rachel Cast, Tyler Clark, Andrew Furniss, Ryan Green, Sara Mignano, Crista Rowan, Emily Vidas, Christian Walsh, and Tianna Ward. The induction ceremony was held in May of last year and was highlighted by School Board President Shannon Green's unforgettable speech. Her address to the students was especially personal since she knew many of the children since birth, and the group included her son, Ryan.

This year began with the participation in the annual Magnolia Senior Dinner, held at the brand new Rec Center. The NJHS members loved helping out the community and they especially liked trying their hand at being host/hostesses and waiters/waitresses. The Senior Dinner was an all around good time that brought together the town's youth and elders, and it was a memorable and enjoyable experience for all.

Within the school, the NJHS was given the opportunity to help tutor during classes, read to Ms. Becoskie's Pre-School class, as well as assist Ms. MacPherson and Ms. DiAngelo's homework club students. The schedule was very hectic, but NJHS was able to pull it all together to help out. The members were enthralled with helping their peers learn and being a positive role model to all students in Magnolia Public School.

It is hard to believe that this year is coming to a close, and it's time to say goodbye to the current members and send them off to Sterling High School. The NJHS selection process is now underway, so stay tuned for the announcement of the new members and the induction ceremony where the 2008 members will pass the torch to the new inductees. Good luck to all of the 2008 NJHS members in all your future endeavors.