

Magnolia's COMMUNITY CONNECTION



www.magnolia-nj.org

Fall 2009

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

Dear Neighbors,

I hope you enjoyed your summer and possibly you were able to get away to relax. Now that school has begun please be aware of the children on their way or back from school. We have many holiday events coming up noted in this newsletter. I hope you find the time to come out and enjoy at least one of the events.

Please remember to exercise your freedom as a citizen and vote on November 3rd. The polls are open from 6am to 8pm at the Community Center. If you have not seen the new Community Center at least you will get to see what a jewel we have here in Magnolia! There is rarely a day goes by without some activity going on there.

Also do not forget to visit our comprehensive website at www.magnolia-nj.org we have one of the most informative town websites in New Jersey thanks to the ongoing work of former Councilman Nick D'Amico.

If at any time you have any thoughts or concerns you feel will make Magnolia a better place to live feel free to leave me a message at Borough Hall (783-1520 ext.124), or email me at baccarson@magnolia-nj.org.


BettyAnn Cowling-Carson
Proud Mayor of Magnolia

MAGNOLIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Dennis J. Harkins

Our 2nd annual Magnolia Station Model Train Show will be held November 21,, 2009 @ the Magnolia Community Center.

Houses for the Christmas Tour are needed. For information or to offer your house, Call Elaine @ (856) 783-2136.

Station Hours

- Tuesday 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm
- Saturday 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

TECHNOLOGY

Councilwoman Paula Bonamassa
P. "Nick" D'Amico (Webmaster)

How is the new Borough website working for you? Your comments and suggestions about the new website are always welcomed. We continue to improve the website; however, feedback from the residents is crucial in making improvements that make the website work better. Please e-mail me your suggestions and comments to ndamico@magnolia-nj.org.

We have launched a new Community Information Service designed to deliver important and timely information to residents in our area using the latest technology.

This service, Nixle, delivers trustworthy and important neighborhood-level public safety and community event notifications instantly sent to you by cell phone text message, email, and web. There is NO Spam or Advertising.

Nixle is completely free (standard text message rates apply for cell phone subscribers who do not have text plans with their cell phone providers).

The service is simple to use, reliable and trusted.

Register now and learn more at www.nixle.com. Tell your neighbors or friends in the community and recommend that they register to receive neighborhood information.

Stay connected to your world, from the public safety alerts that are relevant to you, to the important neighborhood advisories you want to know about, and other valuable community information. You decide what information you want and whether you want it sent to your cell phone, email, or just simply over the web.

MAGNOLIA HONORS

- Magnolia Medal recipient, Denis Reid
- Volunteer of the Year, John Wolf, Jr
- Commandeer of N.J. State "Sons of the American Legion," Jay Gillman
- President of South Jersey Chiefs' Association, Chief Robert Doyle
- Mrs. Camden County, Maggie Jean-Gilles
- Miss Magnolia, Jennifer Mooney
- UGSL Minor Division Champions, and the Gloucester City Tournament Champions, Magnolia Silver Bullets

FINANCE

Councilman Steve Whalen

As we enter the last quarter of 2009, it is important to note that all municipal department budgets are running in the black, which is attributed to our department supervisors holding the line on spending and doing an outstanding job of working within their respective budget allocations. We recently concluded the municipal tax sale, which provides the town with anticipated revenue to continue the great services that you have come to expect. Mayor and council members continue to aggressively pursue grants to repave our roads, make other infrastructure improvements, and enhance public safety in our community. If you should have any questions please feel free to contact my home phone 435-0378 or email me at swhalen@magnolia-nj.org.

PROPERTY TAX RELIEF FOR SENIOR CITIZENS, DISABLED PERSONS AND VETERANS

Are you aware that there are several property tax programs that may help Seniors, Disabled Persons and Veterans. The Property Tax Reimbursement Program, commonly known as the "Senior Freeze", is available to residents age 65 or older with an income limit of \$60,000.00 for 2007 and \$70,000.00 for 2008. It is also available for residents receiving Federal Social Security Disability benefits. For more information on this program please call the State of New Jersey at 1-800-882-6597.

There is also a \$250.00 property tax deduction for Senior Citizens and Disabled Persons or for Veterans that you can apply for at the Borough Hall through the Tax Assessor's Office. The income limit is \$10,000.00 for Seniors and Disabled but you may deduct your Social Security or Government Pension from your income in order to qualify. Veterans need to have been on active duty during war-time. Please stop in and pick up an application which will explain all of the qualifications or call the Tax Office at (856) 783-1520 Ext. 112.

PUBLIC WORKS

Councilman Donald Wilson

Trash and Recycling

Public Works Superintendent Steve Pacella would like to remind everyone that there should be no trash, styrofoam packing material or debris inside cardboard boxes. 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

Mondays – beginning October 26th; pile curbside - you may mix grass with leaves. If you have a storm drain, please keep clear at all times.

Sewer

There is 24 hour Emergency Service, please call (609) 868-2552.

FIRE

Fire Chief Gary Riebel

We have been very busy at the fire station with construction. This work is being done by the Borough of Magnolia and the Magnolia Fire Company to help down size the fire hall and make it affordable. We are looking for as much help as possible, so if you have some free time and would like to lend a hand please call me @ 856 783-5818.

I want to remind you of some future dates.

Thursday October 22 - Fire Prevention Night @ Sterling High School 7 PM to 9 PM

Saturday November 7 - Craft Bazaar to be held at the Community Center 9 AM to 3 PM

I would also like to remind residents that burning trash and leaves is illegal. Please obey this law or you will be subject to a fine.

Fire Prevention is more than just a week in October. Please try to follow the following in case of a fire:

Plan and practice your exit plan in your home.

Get out and stay out. Never re-enter a burning building.

Stop – Drop – Roll

Keep Smoke Alarms Clean and Working

Change Your Clock – Change Your Battery

If you need a smoke detector please do not hesitate to contact us and we will send one of our trained personnel out to see you.

Please visit us at our new web site at
www.magnoliafirecompany.com

Chief Gary J. Riebel, Sr.
chief@magnoliafirecompany.com

DID YOU KNOW . . .

- **NEW OFFICE HOURS:** The tax office will be open the first Wednesday of the following months, November, February, March, May, August & September.
- 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.
- Don't forget to set your clocks back during the night of Saturday, November 1st. We'll all welcome the extra hour of sleep!

PUBLIC SAFETY

Councilman Anthony DePrince II

CHIEF OF POLICE OFFICE

Chief Robert Doyle

The Magnolia Police Department would like to thank Ptlm. James Parker, the residents of Magnolia, Mayor and Council and all of the Public Safety Departments for another successful National Night Out.

The Magnolia Police Department and the Borough of Magnolia have received a Federal Grant called the Safe Routes to School Grant. This grant encourages students to walk and bike to school. This grant will be discussed at future Council meetings on how we will implement Infrastructure and Non-Infrastructure Projects.

A reminder to all parents now that school is back, the Borough of Magnolia has a curfew at 9:00PM on School days. If your Child is stopped by the Police Department a warning letter will be sent to the child's home.

Officer Patrick Charles has been assigned as the Code Enforcement Officer for the Borough of Magnolia. If any residents have a Code Enforcement complaint, please lodge your complaint through the Borough Website or the Code Enforcement voicemail at 1-856-783-1520 ext. 206. Please continue to take pride in your property and keep it maintained.

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

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 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 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 January each year. Our free rabies clinic is Nov 7th at the Ambulance Squad; 10am-12pm, it is open to all residents of Camden County.

RECREATION & PUBLIC EVENTS

Councilman Bob Brandt

LET THE HOLIDAY FUN BEGIN!

The recreation committee is hard at work preparing for a very busy season. First up is our annual Halloween festivity. Our annual parade will be held on October 30th. The parade will form at 6:30 pm at Borough Hall and proceed to our Community Center. Judging will begin promptly at 7 pm and there will be prizes and goodies for everyone! JUST A REMINDER: trick or treating will be ending @ the 7:00 pm curfew this year.

The Halloween House Decorating contest will take place the week of October 18th through the 24th with winners chosen in each district. Let your inner goblin and ghost take over and let the decorating begin!

Mark December 4th, 7:00 pm on your calendar and join us for our traditional tree lighting ceremony at Borough Hall. Holiday music provided by our school children will be followed by the arrival of Santa Claus on a brightly lit fire truck. Bring your children and grandchildren to meet and greet Santa and don't forget to bring your wish list.

Lunch with Santa will be December 13th at the Community Center and will begin at 12:00 noon. There will be food and fun for all! Signups will be taken at Borough Hall October 30th through December 5th.

A great time for food and friends will take place at our Senior Citizen Holiday Dinner at the Community Center. The festivities are scheduled for 5:00 pm on December 13th. The Sterling Silvertones will present their holiday program and the jolly old elf will make his annual appearance. Please register at Borough Hall or call Bob Brandt at 856-685-4445.

Finally, join us January 6, 2010 for our Reorganization and Council Meeting which begins at 6:00 pm at the Borough Hall.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO ALL!

SOME OF OUR MAGNOLIA RESIDENTS PROUDLY SERVING THEIR COUNTRY:

Lt. Col. Thomas Euler - Evesham Ave
Kirsten Knapp-Storie - Charles Road
Karen Rabell-Porter - 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 our their homecoming- so they will be acknowledged.



DON'T FORGET TO VOTE NOVEMBER 3, 2009 - 6am-8pm
at the Community Center, 425 W. Brooke Avenue



VOTE BY MAIL IS NOW AVAILABLE FROM THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK.

Vote by Mail has replaced Absentee Voting in the State of New Jersey. It allows a voter to vote without going to the polls on Election Day. You can apply by completing an application and sending it to the County Clerk. Your application must be received seven (7) days prior to the election. You can also apply in person to the County Clerk's Office up until 3:00 pm the day before the election. Stop by Borough Hall for an application now.

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SCHOOL NEWS



MAGNOLIA BOARD OF EDUCATION UPDATE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dr. Warren L. Pross

At the Magnolia Board of Education Work Session on Tuesday, October 6, 2009, the issue of parental involvement was discussed. The Board indicated that pro-active communication with parents will be an initiative for the upcoming school year. Therefore, the Board decided that at the beginning of each board meeting to share pertinent information with the public.

For example, budget planning information will be shared. In addition, as board committees meet, information of interest will be shared. Some of these areas might include curriculum and building/grounds.

The Board has, likewise, asked if any members of the public have specific areas on which they would like information to please contact the Superintendent's office at 783-6343 ext 825 with the requests.

Also, at this meeting, the Board decided on goals for the 09/10 school year.

Listed below are the goals that the Magnolia board of Education will be working on for the 09/10 school year.

1. To review and revise the Magnolia School District Policy Manual
2. To continue to explore additional shared service opportunities
3. To improve committee effectiveness

The Board and Superintendent are anticipating a good school year for the children of the Magnolia School District. As always, your input is important, therefore, if you have suggestions or concerns, please call the Superintendent at 783-4763 ext 825.

OUR NEW FIRST GRADE TEACHER

Ms. Robin Salaga

Hello. My name is Robin Salaga and I am the long-term substitute teacher for Mrs. Singleton's 1st grade class. To tell you a little bit about myself, I was a 2nd grade teacher at St. Paul School in Burlington for three years. I have worked in the Maple Shade, Tabernacle, and Cinnaminson schools as a substitute teacher for grades K-5th. In 2003, I graduated from Holy Family University with my Bachelors in Elementary Education. Currently, I am back at Holy Family to receive my Masters as a Reading Specialist and expect to graduate in the fall of 2010. I am enjoying my time spent at Magnolia School. The faculty and staff are professional, friendly, and have been very helpful. I look forward to a great year in 1st grade!

INTRODUCING OUR NEW SPEECH THERAPIST

Matthew Schmidt

My name is Matthew Schmidt and I am the new speech therapist at Magnolia Public School. As a recent graduate of the Richard Stockton College of New Jersey, I am eager to apply the knowledge I have acquired with the passion I have for helping the children of this great district. As someone who experienced speech as a first grader, I have a complete understanding of the hardships students may face when having difficulties in language. I am enthusiastic about applying speech therapy in a variety of ways, such as through music and art, to allow these students to express themselves appropriately and make use of their creativity. I greatly look forward to working with the not only the Magnolia School staff, but most importantly the students.

HOLA!

Mrs. Ruth Agron

Hola! Hello! My name is Ruth Agron, Señora Agron to my students, and I am the new Spanish teacher at Magnolia Public School. I received my teaching and World Language certificate from Rowan University and taught Spanish at Lawnside Public School for 5 years. I am very happy to be teaching at Magnolia, and I look forward to getting the students excited about learning Spanish. I thank the school staff for being so helpful and welcoming and I am looking forward to a fantastic school year.

INCLUDE

Mrs. Kelly Livingston

The Magnolia Public School was awarded a four-year mathematics grant from the state of New Jersey, Department of Educational Technology. Through this grant, the district will strive to develop and maintain an atmosphere of high-performing inclusive classrooms while considering the strengths and abilities of all students and by designing instructional strategies that meet the New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards in mathematics. Teachers will determine success through assessing outcomes that are tied directly to instruction while using a wide range of technology in meaningful ways.

It is the goal of our grant project to design high-performing inclusive mathematics classrooms by utilizing the Universal Design for Learning (UDL) model, the development of Professional Learning Communities for our middle school teachers and instituting a Response to Intervention (RTI) program for students in grades five through seven. The students in the inclusive mathematics classroom will come from a heterogeneous population with diverse learning styles where cooperative learning occurs and differentiated instruction takes place.

With professional development, collaborative meetings, the re-designing of the general education classroom model and mathematics intervention from our higher education partner, Rowan University, it is our four-year goal to provide all students with the tools necessary to become mathematically literate and life-long learners.



Solutions to Stormwater Pollution

Easy Things You Can Do Every Day To Protect Our Water

A Guide To Healthy Habits for Cleaner Water

Pollution on streets, parking lots and lawns is washed by rain into stormdrains, then directly to our drinking water supplies and the ocean and lakes our children play in. Fertilizer, oil, pesticides, detergents, pet waste, grass clippings: you name it and it ends up in our water.

Stormwater pollution is one of New Jersey's greatest threats to clean and plentiful water, and that's why we're all doing something about it.

By sharing the responsibility and making small, easy changes in our daily lives, we can keep common pollutants out of stormwater. It all adds up to cleaner water, and it saves the high cost of cleaning up once it's dirty.

As part of New Jersey's initiative to keep our water clean and plentiful and to meet federal requirements, many municipalities and other public agencies including colleges and military bases must adopt ordinances or other rules prohibiting various activities that contribute to stormwater pollution. Breaking these rules can result in fines or other penalties.

As a resident, business, or other member of the New Jersey community, it is important to know these easy things you can do every day to protect our water.

Limit your use of fertilizers and pesticides

- Do a soil test to see if you need a fertilizer.
- Do not apply fertilizers if heavy rain is predicted.
- Look into alternatives for pesticides.
- Maintain a small lawn and keep the rest of your property or yard in a natural state with trees and other native vegetation that requires little or no fertilizer.
- If you use fertilizers and pesticides, follow the instructions on the label on how to correctly apply it. Make sure you properly store or discard any unused portions.

Properly use and dispose of hazardous products

- Hazardous products include some household or commercial cleaning products, lawn and garden care products, motor oil, antifreeze, and paints.
- Do not pour any hazardous products down a storm drain because storm drains are usually connected to local waterbodies and the water is not treated.