

Magnolia's COMMUNITY CONNECTION



www.magnolia-nj.org

Spring 2009

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

Dear Neighbors,

We are trying to assist Magnolia by entering into "Shared Service Agreements" with other towns and agencies. In doing this we help reduce the tax burden on you. The following are Shared Services we have entered into in the past and currently:

Borough Clerk • Municipal Court Administrator • CFO • Construction Official/Building Inspector • Bucket Truck Use
Trash and Recycle Collection • Road Salt/Plowing • Dumping of Leaves • Special Response Unit

The largest one and the one bringing us the greatest benefit is the trash and recycle collection. We assist Hi-Nella, Laurel Springs, Stratford and currently are finalizing Somerdale with their trash and/or recycle pick-up. This keeps our employees in the Public Works Department employed and brings in over \$400,000 in additional revenue. These services help keep your taxes down!

Also we have received the following grants:

NJ Dept. of Transportation \$302,000
Madison/Charles Avenues Reconstruction

Community Block Grant \$30,000
Engineering for Safe Route

Municipal Drug/Alcohol Alliance \$9,326

NJ Dept. of Transportation \$180,000
Williams Avenue – Phillips to Morrow Reconstruction

NJ Safe Route to Schools \$156,000

US Department of Justice \$12,400

These grants continue to help reduce your taxes.

Please read all the important items in this newsletter. We continue to do our best to assist you in keeping your taxes affordable, and providing you the best services possible.

Former Mayor John (Jack) Reid, a long time resident passed away on February 27th. He served as our Mayor from 1966 to 1969 and was a Councilman from 1964-1966. Please keep him in your heart and his family in your prayers.

BettyAnn
BettyAnn Cowling-Carson
Proud Mayor of Magnolia

FIRE

Fire Chief Gary Riebel



The Magnolia Fire Company would like to remind all residents about smoke detector safety and smoke detector battery replacement. The Magnolia Fire Company replaced 150 smoke detector batteries and 60 smoke detectors in homes in the Borough of Magnolia in 2008.

Why should my home have smoke alarms?

In the event of a fire, a smoke alarm can save your life and those of your loved ones. They are the single most important means of preventing house and apartment fire fatalities by providing an early warning signal so you and your family can escape. Smoke alarms are one of the best safety features you can buy and install to protect yourself, your family and your home.

Are smoke alarms hard to install?

Not at all! In most cases you would just need a screwdriver.

Many brands come with self stick tape. Please be sure to follow directions. The Magnolia Fire Company will help you with installation just give us a call at (856) 783-5818 or send me an e-mail at firechief@magnolia-nj.org

How to keep smoke alarms working?

Simply replace the batteries at least once a year. As a rule of thumb when we change our clocks for day light savings remember to change your smoke detector batteries. Keep them clean. Dust and debris can interfere with the operation, so vacuum over and around your smoke alarms regularly.

REMEMBER SMOKE DETECTORS SAVE LIVES!

If you have an organization that wants to visit the fire station please do not hesitate to contact me at (856) 783-5818 or firechief@magnolia-nj.org

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

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

TRASH - TUESDAY RECYCLING - 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.
- 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 and saves taxpayers money*****

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 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.

STORM WATER MANAGEMENT

With the assistance of NJ DEP, we are installing new storm water and sewer pipes along the 500 to 700 block of W. Brooke Ave. to be completed June 2009.

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 will be hosting the annual Public Safety Day at the Magnolia Public School on April 24th, 2009. This Public Safety Day will showcase and educate our children on the public safety profession and the equipment that is utilized by our professionals and volunteers.

I would like to remind all the residents of Magnolia that they must have their house address visibly displayed for our Public Safety Departments. By placing a visible, properly sized and (illuminated at night) house address this will assist our town professionals with their response time to your call for help and assistance.

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. Spring and Summer are approaching please continue to take pride in your property and keep it maintained and ensure that your grass is cut on a bi-weekly schedule.

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".



MISS MAGNOLIA

In February, Jennifer Mooney was crowned Miss Magnolia 2009, we hope she enjoys her reign and Congratulations!



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
Jonathan Sullivan - N. Warwick Road



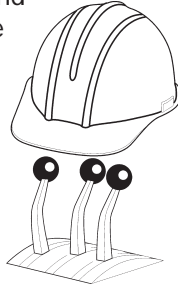
Please let us know when they return, so we can welcome them home! Also, if we missed anyone please call.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Councilman Anthony DePrince II

As reported already, the borough and fire company have created a joint committee to come up with a sustainability and rehabilitation plan for the Fire Hall. In December of 2008 the committee presented its findings to the Mayor and Borough Council as well as the membership of the Fire Company. Both parties overwhelmingly accepted and approved and accepted the committee's recommendations.

The committee developed a plan that will reconfigure the facility with a partial demolition and rehabilitation that will create a sustainable fire station capable of supporting the fire and rescue service needs for the residents of the borough for the foreseeable future. Essentially, the rehabilitation will convert the current facility from a "Fire Hall" to a "Fire Station." The demolition will reduce the size of the facility by over 40% and create a more energy efficient and manageable facility for the fire company and borough. The facility will continue to provide a base of operations for the fire company and its apparatus and equipment. Additionally, the remaining space will provide adequate training, storage and other facilities for the department.



Three of the rear building lots will be sold to create a funding source for the project and eliminate the current debt of the fire company. Additionally, the sold lots will create room for three new homes and additional tax revenue. Additional funding from the Borough Capital Budget will help complete the project.

The committee continues to function by overseeing the completion of this plan and project. The borough and the fire company are excited about this renewal program and look forward to completing this project for continued public safety of our residents.

If you have any questions about this project please feel free to e-mail Tony DePrince at tdeprince@magnolia-nj.org or leave a message at the borough hall at (856) 783-1520 x110.

MAGNOLIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Dennis J. Harkins

Upcoming Activities:

April 18

Annual Spring Hoagie Sale
11:00 am – 1:00 pm

May 16

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. We are requesting old photos from 1950 on, if you have any photos or info contact Helen Bradley at 783-8585.

FINANCE

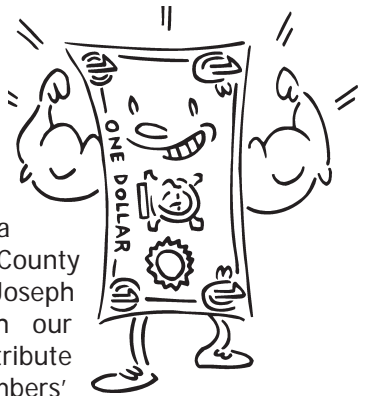
Councilman Steve Whalen

RESPONSIBLE BUDGETING . . . RESPONSIBLE SPENDING

As evident of our national economic crisis, times such as these remind each one of us how important it is to remain fiscally responsible.

In January Senator Dana Redd, Assemblywoman Nilsa Cruz-Perez, and Camden County Freeholders Rod Greco and Joseph Ripa visited and spoke with our residents. Each leader paid tribute to the mayor's and council members' commitment to prudent budgeting and spending.

Freeholder Greco acknowledged that the Borough of Magnolia is "the example of what the county, state and nation should be doing" to lessen the burden of high property taxes; and Senator Redd stated that she would be more than happy to share Magnolia's accomplishments with her state colleagues and Governor Corzine.

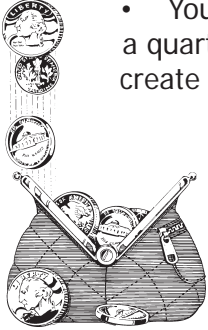


**"You (Mayor and Council) are a good example of what good government is... you are talented, dedicated, and have a great heart,"
Assemblywoman Nilsa-Cruz-Perez**

As mayor and council members, we are preparing the FY 2009 municipal budget, which balances the needs of our "one square mile of friendliness" and the associated costs. We recognize each and every day that our collective tax dollars account for the services you expect; and we continue to explore options to lessen costs, such as additional shared services, cooperative purchasing plans, cross-training employees, and acquiring grants for major infrastructural improvements. We remain vigilant to increasing efficiencies, and we are optimistic that the state, county, and our local schools will take note of Freeholder Greco's words of Magnolia's dedication to responsible budgeting and responsible spending. The proposed FY 2009 municipal budget is a commitment to our enduring obligation that consists of only essential spending such as replacing an eleven year old police vehicle; replacing running gear for our volunteer firefighters; providing building sustainability assistance to the Magnolia Volunteer Fire Company; and increases to fixed costs, such as utilities and salaries. The proposed 2009 departmental operations expenses will remain "flat," meaning the same amount budgeted last year. All other expenses, including roads and sewer improvements, will be paid through federal, state, and county grants. With this being said, we are projecting the annual tax contribution to rise by \$5.42 per month for the average assessed home. Please know that we continue to implement intelligent budgeting, and we maintain sensible operational costs to provide you with the level of services that you have come to expect. If you should have any questions or concerns please come to our next council meeting.

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 flag, please place in the red, white & blue mail box at the American Legion.
- Magnolia Senior Citizen's Club meets at 1pm at the Magnolia School on the 3rd Thursday of the month
- You can pay your taxes on a weekly or monthly basis. To help lessen the burden of paying once a quarter, you can make payments toward your taxes. Please contact the Tax Collector to help you create a schedule that will work for you as well as keep your taxes current. This is not a payment plan for delinquent taxes, it is to assist you in how to make payments more frequently so the quarterly payment does not feel as large.



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DIRECTOR OF TECHNOLOGY, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & COMPLIANCE

Councilwoman Paula Bonamassa

Community Center Volunteers are urgently needed! We need your help in staffing open gym nights at the Community Center. If you can donate 2 to 3 hours of your time once a week, once a month, or whenever you can, we need to hear from you. Staffing is needed from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. on Thursday and Friday nights. Please contact Paula Bonamassa at 856-783-5153, if you are interested.



DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC EVENTS

Councilman Robert Brandt

The Rec Committee is "Spring-ing" into Action.

Spring is almost here and the Recreation Committee is busy preparing for our upcoming April events. First up is our Clean Communities Day which will be held on April 4th at 10:00 a.m. Everyone is invited to meet at Albertson Park for coffee, donuts and water before we begin to make our park ready for upcoming Spring and summer events; Hope to see you there!



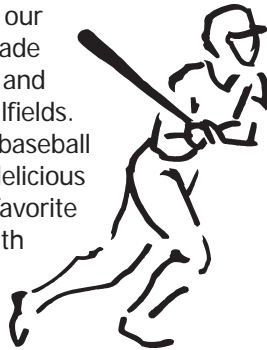
One of our favorite events The Easter Egg Hunt will be held April 11th at 10:00 a.m. The Easter Bunny will be on hand for photo opportunities and to greet all who attend. There will be eggs aplenty including special prize eggs and golden eggs. Come join us for a morning filled with laughter and fun.

April 18th will find us singing "Take Me Out to the Ball Game" as we celebrate our Little League Opening Day. The parade will begin at Borough Hall at 12:30 pm and proceed down Evesham Rd. to the ballfields. We look forward to a season of great baseball and softball and of course all those delicious hotdogs. So come cheer for your favorite ballplayer and enjoy a few hours with friends and neighbors.

During the Little League festivities, we will have a table for Summer Rec Sign-ups.

We are looking forward to the successful initiation of our program under the leadership of Mrs. Sandy Brosious and her staff.

If you are interested in being a part of the recreation committee or if you have any questions, please contact Bob Brandt: phone (856-229-1182) or by email to rbrandt@magnolia-nj.org. Your presence is welcome and appreciated.



MAYOR HONORED

Mayor BettyAnn Cowling-Carson was honored on March 5th by the New Jersey General Assembly with an Assembly Resolution saluting her as a highly esteemed resident and acknowledging her remarkable record of professional achievement and community service during Women's History Month in March 2009.



Along with the NJ General Assembly we would like to thank her for all she does to make Magnolia a better place to live!

MEMORIAL WALK

Saturday April 4th marks the 15th anniversary death of Jennifer Persia. Her family is honoring her memory with a Memorial Walk. The walk will start at 8:30 a.m. on the corner of Brooke Avenue and Warwick Road and will end at Albertson Park.

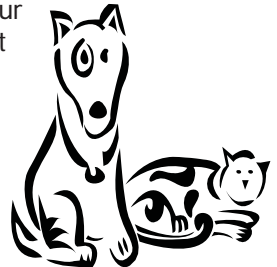
CONSTRUCTION, LICENSING & STREET LIGHTING, PLANNING & ZONING

Councilwoman Mary Martz

DOG AND CAT LICENSING

Pet Licensing is required for dogs and cats alike. All pet licenses should be renewed by the end of January. If you no longer have your pet, please call the Borough Hall at 783-1520 to let us know.

Remember there is an Ordinance prohibiting for your pet/pets wandering beyond your property without a leash for disturbing the peace and quiet, with habitual barks or cries, and sanitary requirements.



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.





SCHOOL NEWS

A MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dr. Warren L. Pross

CITIZENS URGED TO VOTE IN APRIL 21 SCHOOL ELECTIONS

The Magnolia Board of Education is urging community residents to vote in the 2009 Annual School Election on Tuesday, April 21. The election will take place at the Community Center between the hours of 2:00pm and 9:00pm.

On April 21, voters will have the opportunity to select the individuals who will set the policies under which our school district will operate. The board of education sets policies in areas such as classroom instruction, student discipline, and the use of school facilities. These policies guide the school administration in managing the educational program. The board also negotiates employee contracts and approves the hiring of teachers, administrators, and other staff.

The school board also approves the local district's proposed budget for presentation to the voters. Voters will then vote on the proposed budget.

Important dates relating to the election include:

March 31, 2009 - Last day to register to vote; call the Borough Hall or Magnolia Public School for details

April 14, 2009 - Absentee ballots due by mail to the county clerk

April 20, 2009 - Last day to apply for absentee ballot in person, no later than 3:00pm

April 21, 2009 - School Election Day

FIFTH GRADERS MOVE TO STORY TOWN

Diane Venables

Story town is the name of our new reading program. This program involves not only whole group instruction as we have had in the past, but small group differentiated instruction as well. The groups are formed according to the needs of the students. While every group is working on the same skills, the instruction, activities, and reading books are on a level where each individual student can experience success.

During our group time, the students who are not meeting with me are receiving RtI instruction, working on a learning center, or completing individual or group activities at their seats. Centers have been a hit with our fifth graders! They consist of reading and responding to a variety of genre such as biographies, fables, poetry, jokes and riddles, tall tales, and subject area books. We also have centers to help improve fluency and specific reading skills. During our whole group reading, students have the opportunity to apply the skills they have learned in their small groups to selections read by the entire class.

We are proud of the progress our fifth graders have been making with this program!

HAPPENINGS IN 4th GRADE

B.J. Okeson-Brandt, Jane Williams, Paul Sorrentino

Have you ever wondered what Julius Caesar and George Washington might have in common? Recently, 4th graders, representing those characters, had a chance to find out. Children in 4th grade chose the biography of a famous person to read. They then created old fashion sandwich signboards to wear, displaying interesting facts about their chosen person. The children passed from one famous person to another looking for connections across the ages. Some found a connection in their birth dates, others where they grew up and still others in their chosen fields. So what did George Washington and Julius Caesar talk about ... why old war stories of course!

Check out the 4th grade hallways for famous potato autobiographies and an alien invasion. Fourth graders were asked to create potato characters in honor of St. Patrick's Day. Each potato talked about their early years in the "patch" and also shared their tater tot teen years. They wrapped up their autobiographies with their chosen career paths. Come see the potatoes dressed for a day at work and enjoy reading their life stories.

In science, the fourth grade students were asked to create their own solar systems and inhabitants to round out their study of our universe. We are please to have so many creative and imaginative aliens visiting us from galaxies far, far away.

In math, it's all about decimal fractions. Students were given an assignment to create designs using a 100 sq. grid. The designs were colorful and creative. Next up for our students is the fun of probability. Students will spin those colorful spinners, watch where the arrow lands!



RESPONSE TO INTERVENTION

Lyndsay Williams

Could you imagine having RtI (Response to Intervention) when we were younger? Could you have been a better reader? As I begin my first year at Magnolia School, I am extremely excited to be a part of the new reading initiative.

Being an RtI interventionist, I have the opportunity to evaluate and group children by their reading needs. On a daily basis, I provide small group instruction to fourth and fifth grade students using research-based reading programs, which allows me to teach children strategies to be a successful reader. Through the RtI program, students will become confident readers who feel success, and I look forward to be apart of their reading journey.