



A MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dr. Warren L. Pross



CITIZENS URGED TO VOTE IN APRIL 20 SCHOOL ELECTION

The Magnolia Board of Education and the Superintendent, Warren L. Pross, remind residents to vote in the 2010 Annual School Election on Tuesday, April 20, 2010. The election will be held as it was last year at the Magnolia Community Center, between the hours of 2:00pm and 9:00pm.

The annual election process provides the citizens of the borough of Magnolia with the opportunity of electing the individuals who sit on the local school board. The members of the school board set policy in a number of areas including: fiscal responsibility, the school program, and the use by outside organizations of the school facilities. These policies are guides for the administration and staff in managing the educational program.

In addition, the Board of Education negotiates the contracts of the district employees including the support staff, teachers, and administrators.

Likewise, the school board also approves the local district's proposed budget for presentation to the voters. Voters then cast their vote on the proposed budget.

As you may know, Governor Christie and members of his Committee on Education have released information regarding the money to be allocated to school districts for education.

While we do not as of yet have state aid figures, it is apparent that we should anticipate a cut in our state aid. As we prepare the budget for 2010/2011, we are looking for all possible areas to cut costs and lower expenditures during these difficult financial times. Likewise, the Magnolia Board of Education and the Superintendent continue to look at ways of sharing services, especially with other members of the Sterling Interdistrict.

Should you have further questions regarding the school board election, please call the Superintendent's office at 783-6343 ext 825.

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Magnolia's COMMUNITY CONNECTION



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Spring 2010

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

Dear Neighbors,

I know you are tired of hearing the word "snow", and we all hope there is no more, but I want to make a few statements. During the recent snow storms there have been many who have assisted in helping make the impact less stressful and easier to deal with. Our Public Works Department worked continuously plowing and dumping several tons of salt. Our emergency personnel, including the police, fire and ambulance departments continued to answer calls. Volunteer firemen slept at the fire hall to be ready for any fire call and to escort the ambulance crews when they responded. The firemen also dug out fire hydrants so they would be ready for an emergency.

I want to thank Magnolia Public School and Sterling High School who after being notified by the Police, utilized their automated phone systems to inform homes of students to remove their vehicles from the streets in order to make the plowing easier and more efficient. All of Magnolia came together during the worst snow storm in history. In the future I do want to remind residents that there is an ordinance which requires all vehicles be removed from the street. This may require some residents to park on their lawn, or possibly asking another neighbor to share their driveway. I am sure you noticed the difference on how well streets were cleared when the vehicles were removed, versus those streets that still had vehicles in the street. Magnolia also has an ordinance which requires you to clear your sidewalk 24 hours after the snow has stopped falling, and a big "Thank You" to those neighbors that helped other neighbors! To stay informed during these types of emergencies you should sign up for Nixle which utilizes email and text messaging. Please read the article in this newsletter detailing the free service of Nixle. Again, thank you for all your assistance!

Also this year Magnolia will see the following projects: The railroad crossing at Evesham Avenue will be reconstructed after school finishes in June. This has long been an ongoing issue, but with funding from the State, Conrail will be able to complete this crossing. The football field at the Community Center will be rejuvenated to better function for more than one sport's team at a time, and new lighting is being designed which will be more efficient. The 100 block of Jackson Avenue and East Madison Avenue will be reconstructed and repaved.

One last important item, the U.S. Census application will be coming in March. It is a simple 10 question form which will take about 10 minutes to complete. It is very important to us to have everyone return their information. The U.S. Census information assists municipalities with funding. If you have any questions on how to fill it out there will be a U.S. Census rep. here at borough hall from March 19th to April 19th, every Monday & Friday from 11am-4pm, and Wednesdays from 8:30am-1:30pm.

Please review the other important information in this issue.



BettyAnn 
BettyAnn Cowling-Carson
Proud Mayor of Magnolia

MAGNOLIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Dennis J. Harkins

Upcoming Activities:

April 24 Annual Spring Hoagie Sale 11:00am - 1:00pm

May 22 Annual Spring Flea Mart 9:00am - 1:00pm

The Easter candy fundraiser, need by March 27. Contact Elaine Furniss @ 856-783-2136.



DID YOU KNOW . . .

- Magnolia Senior Citizen's Club meets @ 1pm @ Magnolia School on the 3rd Thursday of the month.

- 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.



- You can pay your taxes on a weekly or monthly basis, to help lessen the burden of paying quarterly. Please contact the Tax Collector to help you create a schedule that will work for



you to 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.



FIRE

Fire Chief Gary Riebel

The Magnolia Fire Company would like to remind all residents about smoke detector safety and smoke detector battery replacement.

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.

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

DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS & FACILITIES
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.

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.

Storm Water Management

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

DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SAFETY
Councilman Anthony DePrince

Update on the Fire Station rehabilitation plan. The demolition of the rear section of the Hall has taken place. The three residential building lots have been sold to a local builder. The site work including paving, storm drains and a new entrance ramp into the basement are under way right now.

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.

FINANCE
Councilman Steve Whalen

Our town continues to operate on a temporary budget as we wait for State Aid numbers to be released from Trenton. Unfortunately this has become a practice by the Governor's office to delay as they crunch their numbers. Our town is in a holding pattern until mid/late-March, but we continue to meet to discuss all fiscal concerns. Our primary objective has not changed, which is to provide our residents with quality services they deserve with the least financial impact. We will post fiscal updates on our Borough website as definitive information is passed on to us. If you should have any questions or concerns regarding our 2010 Budget please feel free to contact the Borough office at 856-783-1520 x 111.

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. 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. 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.

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

CHIEF OF POLICE OFFICE
Chief Robert Doyle

The Magnolia Police Department is saddened of the passing of George S. Bakley who was a Borough Crossing Guard for 23 years and retired in 2005. George was also a member of the Magnolia Ambulance Corp. George's commitment and service to the Police Department and our Community will surely be missed. Our prayers go out to his wife, Edna Bakley.

Spring and Summer is just around the corner. Please take a few minutes to speak with your children about the rules of the road while riding their bike around town and ensure that they are wearing a bike helmet. A reminder that the Borough curfew for children during the school recess and weekends is 10:00pm to 6:00am.



The Magnolia Police Department will be hosting a Public Safety Day in April at the Magnolia Public School. We will be hosting a Bike Rodeo for all of the kids in town July, and National Night Out in August.

Officer Eric Weist 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".**

It is with deep regret the Magnolia Police Department announces the passing of retired Chief Henry "Hank" Jefferson who served with the Magnolia Police Department for 30 years. Chief Jefferson served as the Chief of Police for 27 years. Chief Jefferson was the Past President of the Camden County and South Jersey Police Chief's Association and sat on the Executive Board of the Camden County Hero Scholarship Association. The Law Enforcement community and our Police Department have lost a true innovator and Leader. All of our sympathy goes out to his wife Pat and his family and friends.

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 **March 27th at 9:00 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 3rd 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 10th (rain date April 17th) 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 10:00 am 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.** If you are interested in being a part of the recreation committee or if you have any questions, please contact Bob Brandt: phone (856-685-4445) or by email to rbrandt@magnolia-nj.org. Your presence is welcome and appreciated.



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.

Receive trusted alerts & advisories from your local police departments, government agencies & schools - or send & receive information directly to & from your neighbors. **Nixle-it** and stay connected! Go to www.nixle.com to register.

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
- Karen Rabell-Porter - Atlantic Ave
- Christopher Concannon - Warwick Road
- Christopher O'Brien - Otterbranch Dr
- Nick Collazo - Jackson Ave
- Johnathan Sullivan - N. Warwick Road



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

