

Merchantville BOROUGH NEWSLETTER

Volume 13, Issue 8

Merchantville, New Jersey

Early Winter 2007



TREE CITY USA®

BOROUGH NEWSLETTER 2008 SCHEDULE

JANUARY 11th

(Submissions due by 12/28/07)

MARCH 7th

(Submissions due by 2/22/08)

MAY 9th

(Submissions due by 4/25/08)

JUNE 27th

(Submissions due by 6/13/08)

AUGUST 15th

(Submissions due by 8/01/08)

OCTOBER 10th

(Submissions due by 9/26/08)

NOVEMBER 21st

(Submissions due by 11/07/08)

Email newsletter submissions to:
newsletter@merchantville.com

Please direct delivery concerns to:

Community Affairs Officer
@ 856-662-2474 ext. 120

MUNICIPAL MEETING SCHEDULE

Borough Council

2nd & 4th Monday of each month
7:30 p.m. in Borough Hall

Board of Education

2nd & 4th Tuesday of each month
7:30 p.m. in the Public Library

Planning Board

2nd & 4th Tuesday of each month
7:30 p.m. in Borough Hall

Historic Preservation

1st Tuesday of each month
7:30 p.m. in Borough Hall

Shade Tree Commission

2nd Wednesday of each month
7:00 p.m. in the Public Library

Public Events

Monthly 7:30 p.m. in Borough Hall

Board of Health

Quarterly 7:30 p.m. in Borough Hall

Municipal Court

Wednesday of each month
6:00 p.m. in Borough Hall

About the first Thanksgiving feast

The first Thanksgiving was celebrated in October of 1621, not November. The celebration lasted for three days and included games and food. The Wampanoag Indians introduced the Pilgrims to a local delicacy called popcorn. Historians aren't completely certain about the full bounty, but it's safe to say the pilgrims weren't gobbling up pumpkin pie or playing with their mashed potatoes.

The most detailed description of the first Thanksgiving comes from Edward Winslow's 'A Journal of the Pilgrims at Plymouth, in 1621': *"Our harvest being gotten in, our governor sent four men on fowling, that so we might after a special manner rejoice together after we had gathered the fruit of our labors. They four in one day killed as much fowl as, with a little help beside, served the company almost a week. At which time, among other recreations, we exercised our arms, many of the Indians coming amongst us, and among the rest their greatest king Massasoit, with some ninety men, whom for three days we entertained and feasted, and they went out and killed five deer, which they brought to the plantation and bestowed upon our governor, and upon the captain, and others. And although it be not always so plentiful as it was at this time with us, yet by the goodness of God, we are so far from want that we often wish you partakers of our plenty."*

Official Election results uncertain

Unofficial tallies from the November 6th election have new resident Anthony Perno winning a three year term with 466 votes and incumbent Steve Volkert earning a one-year term over Jim Kelly with 493 votes. However, 11 provisional ballots that could impact the final outcome in the other open three-year seat where Nick DiMatteo has 427 votes, Christina Wintters has 404 votes and Mark Brunton has 430 had not been certified or counted by the time this issue went to print. Bob Venuti, chairman of Camden County's Election Board, predicted local results will be certified by November 19th.

Resident wins second term as freeholder

Merchantville resident, Carmen Rodriguez, easily won a second freeholder term on November 6th. An advocate of fiscal discipline and social responsibility, she has supported the county's effort to control property taxes by cutting 517 employees from its work force and reducing its payroll by \$18 million. She's forged a partnership with county employees to maintain and improve services by redistributing work and allowing employees access to better technology and training.

Rodriguez looks forward to continuing projects she's helped further as freeholder liaison to the Board of Social Services and the county's Health and Human Services Department including maintenance of necessary public services and investing resources into programs for vulnerable groups such as children, seniors, the mentally ill and homeless.

Carmen who lives with her husband, Ornan, and their three young sons, is the first Hispanic Freeholder in Camden County history. She holds masters degrees in Teaching English as a Second Language and Chemistry Education.

Call before you dig

Call PSE&G at least three full business days before digging starts, call 811 or 1-800-272-1000 for a free mark out of underground gas, water, cable, telephone and electric utility lines.

Wait three full business days after calling PSE&G before doing any digging. Underground utilities will be marked with paint, flags or stakes. If the site does not have underground utilities, you will be notified.

Always hand dig and locate underground utilities within two feet of marked lines.

Making the call before you dig will help prevent property damage and potential injuries. Please be sure to dig safely.

Zero tolerance for juvenile vandals

The Police Department is investigating several acts of vandalism to Borough property. The gazebo, Morrissey Park, the Community Center and Wellwood Park have all been damaged by juveniles. The Borough Public Works Department is attempting to make the necessary repairs immediately upon the discovery of the damages. The police are stepping up patrols in the areas being damaged.

The Police Department will prosecute anyone caught damaging these facilities. Should you see anyone vandalizing, or causing damage to any Borough property you are asked to notify the police. You do not have to give your name. Please call 856-662-0500 or the police "Tip line" at 856-662-2474 ext. 166.

SNOW REMOVAL WARNING - Borough Ordinance 73-8

The owner or owners, occupant or occupants of premises abutting or bordering upon any of the streets, avenues or highways in the Borough of Merchantville shall remove or cause to be removed all ice or snow from the sidewalks of any such streets, avenues or highways **within 10 hours** of daylight after the same shall have formed or ceased to fall thereon.

The meaning of this ordinance is for all property owners, or occupants to clear the public sidewalks that about your property **within 10 hours of the storm ceasing or 10 hours after daylight, which ever is first.**

The first violation of this ordinance will cause a written warning to be issued. For any subsequent violations a summons to appear in municipal court will be issued.

County presents roundabout

A public presentation of the roundabout proposed to address the obsolete five point intersection at Gilmore, Chestnut and Park Avenues has been rescheduled for Monday, November 26th at 7:30 p.m. during the Council meeting.

County Engineer, Bob Kelly, will be available to discuss proposed modifications. The Camden County Division of Engineering provides engineering and technical support for Camden County capital projects. Engineering Division is responsible for the preparation of drawings, plans, specifications and other requisite documentation. Engineering field crews conduct project surveys, documentation validation and on-site project inspections.

The proposed modifications to the intersection will be paid for through county, state and federal funds.

As decisions are made, approvals are given and project documents become available they will be published on the website, in the newsletter and at Borough Hall.

New four-way stops approved

Borough Council has approved 4 way stops at two intersections. These intersections will have the appropriate signs installed and the police will begin enforcement within the next month. The new stop signs will be installed on Prospect St. at the intersection of Somerset St. and Locust St. and also Volan St. will get 4 way stop signs at the intersection of Springfield Ave.

Leaf collection schedule

The Public Works department has published their 2007-08 Leaf Collection Schedule for residents. It is available for viewing or printing on the website @ www.merchantville.com. The Public Works department asks that all residents follow this schedule which includes weekly dates for pick-up.

Property owners are responsible for any private contractors who are not in compliance with guidelines regarding leaf collection.

Thank you for your cooperation!

Mulherns donates for worthy cause

Bob and Yvonne Mulhern, resident owners of Mulhern's Auto, and members of the Auto Value group, have just finished restoring a vehicle for donation to a single mother who has suffered domestic abuse.

Auto Value group began a nationwide program that helps victims of domestic violence and abuse gain their freedom through the donation of refurbished cars. This unprecedented vehicle gift program is sponsored by the warehouses, parts stores and certified service centers flying the Auto Value/Bumper to Bumper flags.

When Auto Value group came up with the idea to assist battered women, they solicited local residents for cars and convinced local repair shops, like Mulherns, to make them roadworthy, inspected and registered free of charge.

Merchantville congratulates Mulhern's and other borough businesses for contributing to and participating in such valuable and worthwhile charity causes.

Urban myths circulated via local email

During the past two weeks a number of e-mails have been circulating in South Jersey about gang initiations. This e-mail is an urban myth. It has been widely circulated in the past and threatens that patrons should not go to various shopping centers after dark, because they will be targeted for violent crimes.

Residents are urged to take normal precautions any time you go shopping. Precautions such as shopping with someone rather than alone. When parking and walking to and from the store after dark stay in well lighted areas. Look into your car before you open it.

Please contact Sgt. Fred Koehler of the Borough Police Department Crime Prevention Unit at 856-662-2474 ext. 120 if you have any questions, or want further information.

Police Department Crime Prevention Tip for December

- As the holidays draw closer most of us will be spending many hours shopping for gifts. Here are some tips that will help make your holiday a safer one.
- Don't carry large sums of cash on your person. Carry only the cash you will need to purchase the article(s). If you must carry a large sum, divide the money between your purse, pocket, and wallet.
- Don't carry excessive credit cards. Take only the cards you will need for the stores you intend to shop. Make sure you keep a record of the credit card account numbers of all your cards at home.
- Don't carry your purse by the handle, or place your arm through the strap and let it dangle. Place one end of the purse in the palm of your hand, the other in the bend of your elbow, or carry it upside down with the clasp unlocked, but held closed in your hand.
- Don't leave delivered packages out on your door step. Arrange to be home when a delivery is anticipated.
- Don't wait until you have put your packages down inside before you lock your front door. Lock the door immediately upon entering your home.
- Men, don't carry your wallet in your hip pocket. Put it in your breast pocket.
- For further information or questions please contact the Crime Prevention Unit at 856-662-2474 Ext. 120

Former Tax Assessor dies

Hobart Grant, 85, a retired mortgage banker and educator who helped decipher German codes during World War II, died on October 15, 2007 at Our Lady of Lourdes Medical Center in Camden. He served on Borough Council, as Fire Commissioner and as Borough Tax Assessor for 27 years. He was a member in the Niagara Fire Company of Merchantville for the past 38 years. In addition to his wife, Mr. Grant is survived by sons Douglas, Andrew and John, a sister, a brother, six grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. A service in celebration of his life was held at First Presbyterian Church.

THE MERCHANT

A SUPPLEMENT FROM THE BUSINESS & PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION

EARTH TONES

A Gallery of Fine Craft

Jewelry · Pottery · Glass
Wood · Sculpture

HOLIDAY GATHERINGS

Fridays in December

6:00 p.m. til 9:00 p.m.

19 N. Centre Street
Merchantville, NJ
856-488-1830

ENJOY The Peaceful Season



DELICIOUS FRESH FOOD
INTERESTING DAILY SPECIALS
TRUE CAFE AMBIENCE

PHONE: 856-662-8884

FAX: 856-662-8840

HOURS:

Monday thru Friday 7 am - 3 p.m.
Saturday 8 am - noon

For holiday shopping or your personal wish list:
Holiday Gift Certificates are now available at

Wellspring Center for Yoga & Health

19 North Centre Street Merchantville, NJ 08109
856.662.4100

Winter Classes begin Monday, 1/7/08

\$121 for an 11 week Series - \$15 for a single class

Coming in December

Saturday, December 1st from 7-9 pm

Yoga Dance Workshop

Saturday, December 15th at 5 pm

Beginners Meditation Workshop

(Stop in before or after classes, or call for an appointment.)

Stop and Crop Scrapbooking Shop is running a 30% off sale on Saturday November 24th. This is a great way to stock up on stocking stuffers and gifts for the "artist" on your holiday gift list. We also have added a few free crop days this month. Scrapbooks are great personal holiday gifts. Stop on by and we will help you create your own memory book. We also would be more than happy to create a scrapbook for you! Call 609-410-4010 or stop by for more details! Check our website for classes @www.stopandcropscrapbooking.com

Relive some childhood memories at Grace Church

The Cherry Valley Model Railroad Club will host their annual Holiday Open House in the basement of Grace Episcopal Church during this year's YuleFest 2007. Grace Church is located at 7 East Maple Avenue in Merchantville. Model trains will be on display for all to enjoy on Friday, 11/30 & 12/7 from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., Saturday, 12/1 & 12/8 from 10:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. and Sunday, 12/2 & 12/9 from 12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Donations are accepted but NO admission charged. For additional info please call John P. Dunn Sr. at 609-

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The Country Bloom

will sadly close its doors soon

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Up to 75% off!

Shop Early For Best Selection!

Furniture & Fixtures for Sale

Open Tuesday – Saturday 10 am-6 pm

13 North Centre Street

Bayberry's MOVING SALE



30% OFF

*Seasonal Gifts & Gourmet Goodies
Infant Apparel & Christening Gowns*

50% OFF

Communion Dresses & Accessories

Swoop up some great holiday deals
At 21 North Centre Street

before we fly off to our new nest
At 5 West Park Avenue

February 2008

WEBSITE ADVERTISING

Looking for a simple way to target your customers or connect with the public without the cost and hassles of a direct mailing? Why not try advertising to local, regional and out-of-state visitors on **www.merchantville.com**?

The site currently offers banner and button advertising spots and include a direct link to the sponsors web site. Proceeds from these website ads will help pay for hosting the website, upgrades to the web site and promotional marketing of community events.

A reduced advertising rate is offered to annual members of the MBPA. To learn more about website advertising visit the homepage at **www.merchantville.com**.

Caribbean Night at Custom Travel

Grab your flip flops and suntan lotion! Georgianne Jaworski, owner of Custom Travel, would like to invite all residents out to her next Caribbean Night featuring Sandals and Beaches Resorts.

The event will take place on Tuesday, November 20th at 6:30 pm at Custom Travel located at 221 N. Centre St. Refreshments will be served. Your RSVP is required. Please call 856-663-0444.

St. Peter School News

St. Peter in Merchantville will hold its annual Christmas bazaar on Friday, November 30th from 4:00-9:00 p.m. and Saturday December 1st, 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. in newly renovated Pastor's Hall. On Saturday festivities will begin immediately following the Holiday Parade along Maple Ave. Games, prizes, crafts refreshments and more! The school choir will be performing at the Annual Tree Lighting ceremony at the Municipal Building on the evening of Friday, November 30th at 7:00 p.m.

Merchantville Historical Society

Whether you receive your new 2008 calendar as a holiday gift, or pick one up to get yourself geared up for the new year, make sure you mark Thursday, January 31st as a special night. The Annual Meeting of the Merchantville Historical Society will "Honor Thy Mayors" at 8 p.m. in the Community Center. We will toast and roast (affectionately) our current mayor, Frank North, and our four past mayors, Patrick Brennan, Jack Morrissey, George Hammond and Burt German. There will be a presentation featuring all our mayors from the very first burgess, Matthias Homer. Any special photographs or stories will be welcomed.

Plan to join us as we recognize and honor some of our outstanding Merchantvillians. Anyone one wishing to bring a finger food or dessert, please contact Marge Disch at mmdisch@comcast.net.

Wanted: Merchantville High alumni interested in stepping up to the plate and overseeing the 4,000 record alumni database. John Smiley and Russ Mutschler have given this project their very special care and attention for many, many years. Now they would like to see the baton passed onto some other spirited, enthusiastic grads who will champion this very worthwhile endeavor.

MERCHANTVILLE-PENNSAUKEN WATER COMMISSION

20 West Maple Avenue • PO Box 1205 • Merchantville, NJ 08109
Ph: 856.663.0043 • Fax: 856.486.7417 • www.mpwc.com

HAPPY HOLIDAYS The Commissioners and Staff of The Merchantville-Pennsauken Water Commission Would Like to Wish Our Customers a Joyful Holiday Season and a Happy, Healthy New Year. Please note that the MPWC will be closed on Monday, December 24 and Tuesday, December 25, 2007.

GET READY FOR OLD MAN WINTER . . . *The cold weather has arrived, take steps to protect your property* Be sure to turn off the water supply to any outside faucets or water lines, or to lines that run in unheated spaces. Water lines which must be kept "active" can be protected from bursting with inexpensive electrical tape - when temperatures drop, it warms the pipes. Make sure that the electrical tape is UL approved and install according to the directions.

Insulating or wrapping your hot water heater can make a significant savings in your energy bill. The water heater doesn't have to work as hard when insulated, saving you money by avoiding premature replacement. Insulating wraps for water heaters can be found at any well stocked hardware store. Also wrap pipes that are known to freeze – like those in basements and crawl spaces!

And last but not least, disconnect, drain and store your garden hose to avoid winter weather damage

MPWC EMPLOYEE NEWS . . . Congratulations to the following employees celebrating service anniversaries with the MPWC: **Jeff Whalen - 28 Years, Carol Lex - 14 Years & Sam Magro - 7 Years**

SENIOR CITIZEN AND DISABLED PERSONS DISCOUNT . . . *Don't miss your chance to enroll for 2008* The enrollment period for the 2008 continues through the month of December. You must enroll in this program EACH YEAR, so even if you are already receiving the discount for 2007 you will need to complete the enrollment form with updated information for your 2008 discount. The enrollment form requires your lot and block number, so please bring along a copy of your tax bill. Enrollment forms are available at our main office located at 20 W. Maple Avenue.

Look for the MPWC Float in the upcoming Merchantville Holiday parade!

MERCHANTVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY

2007/2008 Winter Program Calendar

130 South Centre Street
Merchantville, New Jersey

Registration required for all programs. For registration and information call: 856-665-3128

MERCHANTVILLE FILM FORUM - Wednesdays from 6:30 to 9:00 p.m. for Adults

The Merchantville Film Forum continues to be held onth at 6:30 pm in the library. Join us to watch a selected film and then for a discussion afterwards. We provide water and snacks; drop in after work; bring your dinner in a sack and join other adults for a look at classic films.

- **December 5th "It's A Wonderful Life" with Jimmy Stewart and Donna Reed**
- **January 2nd "Laura" with Gene Tierney and Dana Andrews**
- **February 6th "Room at The Top" with Laurence Harvey**

HOLIDAY WREATH MAGNET - Wednesday, 12/5 from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. for Children Grade 2 and older
Decorate a mini holiday wreath that we'll make into a magnet.

HOLIDAY PICTURE FRAME - Wednesday, 12/12 from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. for Children Grade 2 and older
Decorate a special holiday picture frame.

DECOUPAGE - Wednesday, 12/19 from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. for Children Grade 2 and older
Join us to decoupage a vase to give or keep.

MOVIE AFTERNOON - Wednesday, 12/26 from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. for Children of all ages
Join us to kick back and watch a recently released full length Feature Film. Call the Library to find out the title. We'll provide plenty of snacks!! Why not bring in your comfy pillow to relax on!!

FUN WITH FOOD - Wednesday, 1/02 from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. for Children Grade 2 and older
Come see how fun and interesting healthy snacks can be, mmmm.... it tastes good too!!

FOR GIRLS ONLY!!! - Wednesday, 1/16 & 1/23 from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. for Children Grade 2 and older
Paint and decorate your own personalized Diva Doll!

DO NOT DISTURB!! - Wednesday, 1/30 from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. for Children Grade 2 and older
Make sure no one disturbs you, come and create your own personal Door Knob Hanger.

SNOWFLAKES!!! - Wednesday, 2/06 from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. for Children Grade 2 and older
Join us for a wintry snowflake craft.

CANDLE MAKING - Wednesday, 2/20 from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. for Children Grade 2 and older
Create your own candle to take home!!

DECOUPAGE - Wednesday, 2/27 from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. for Children Grade 2 and older
Join us to make a decoupage jar to hold goodies!!

LITTLE ONE'S PLAYGROUP - Every Saturday from 11:00 to Noon for Children birth to 2 years & caregivers
Meet our youngest members and make new friends! We have special books and toys for you to play with.

Merchantville Juniors

The Merchantville Junior Woman's Club meets on the first Thursday of every month at the Merchantville Community Center on Somerset Avenue. Meetings start at 8:00PM and include light refreshments. The Merchantville Junior Woman's Club serves the local and global community through donations of time and money to charities including local libraries, fire departments, breast cancer research, CARE and many others. Women between the ages of 18 and 40 who are looking for friendship and involvement in the community are invited to come check us out. For learn more about membership in the Juniors call Victoria Amper at 856-314-8193 or merchantvillejuniors@yahoo.com

YULEFEST 2007

MERCHANTVILLE, NEW JERSEY

November 30 - December 23

EVENT GUIDE

Friday, November 30th

5:00-9:00 Candlelight Shopping/Downtown
4:00-9:00 Christmas Bazaar/St. Peter Church
6:00-9:00 Cherry Valley Model Trains/Grace Church
7:00 Tree Lighting/Borough Hall

Saturday, December 1st

10:00 a.m. Christmas Parade/Maple Avenue
10:00-5:00 Holiday Shopping/Downtown
10:00-9:00 Cherry Valley Model Trains/Grace Church
11:00-2:00 Christmas Bazaar/St. Peter Church
12:00-2:00 Visit Santa at Santa's Shack/Downtown

Sunday, December 2nd

12:00-4:00 Holiday Shopping/Downtown
12:00-6:00 Cherry Valley Model Trains/Grace Church

Friday, December 7th

5:00-9:00 Candlelight Shopping/Downtown
6:00-9:00 Cherry Valley Model Trains/Grace Church

Saturday, December 8th

10:00-5:00 Holiday Shopping/Downtown
10:00-9:00 Cherry Valley Model Trains/Grace Church
12:00-2:00 Visit Santa at Santa's Shack/Downtown

Sunday, December 9th

12:00-4:00 p.m. Holiday Shopping/Downtown
12:00-6:00 Cherry Valley Model Trains/Grace Church

Friday, December 14th

5:00-9:00 Candlelight Shopping/Downtown

Saturday, December 15th

10:00-5:00 Holiday Shopping/Downtown
10:00 Brunch With Santa/Community Center
12:00-2:00 Visit Santa at Santa's Shack/Downtown

Sunday, December 16th

12:00-4:00 Downtown Holiday Shopping

Friday, December 21st

5:00-9:00 Downtown Candlelight Shopping

Saturday, December 22nd

10:00-5:00 Holiday Shopping/Downtown
12:00-2:00 Visit Santa at Santa's Shack/Downtown

Sunday, December 23rd

12:00-4:00 Holiday Shopping/Downtown

EVENT DETAILS AVAILABLE AT:

www.merchantville.com
events@merchantville.com
856-662-2474 x121