

Merchantville BOROUGH NEWSLETTER

Volume 14, Issue 6

Merchantville, New Jersey

Fall 2008



TREE CITY USA®

2008 BOROUGH NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 11th

MARCH 7th

MAY 9th

JUNE 27th

AUGUST 15th

OCTOBER 10th

NOVEMBER 21st

(Submissions due by 11/07/08)

Email submissions to:

merchantvillenj@comcast.net

Direct delivery concerns to:

Community Affairs Officer

@ 856-662-2474 ext. 120

MUNICIPAL MEETINGS

Borough Council

2nd & 4th Monday of each month

7:30 p.m. Borough Hall

Board of Education

2nd & 4th Tuesday of each month

7:30 p.m. Public Library

Planning Board

2nd & 4th Tuesday of each month

7:30 p.m. Borough Hall

Historic Preservation

1st Tuesday of each month

7:30 p.m. Borough Hall

Shade Tree Commission

2nd Wednesday of each month

7:00 p.m. Public Library

Public Events

Monthly 7:30 Borough Hall

Board of Health

Quarterly 7:30 p.m. Borough Hall

Municipal Court

Every Wednesday

6:00 p.m. Borough Hall

Kid's Pumpkin Patch!

Join the Merchantville Area Junior Woman's Club for our 3rd Annual Pumpkin Patch event on Saturday October 25, 2008 from 10AM to 1PM at the Merchantville Community Center at 212 Somerset Ave. Come out and enjoy pumpkin picking and decorating, crafts and games for the kids, and a costume parade for kids. Dress in costume or come as yourself. The beautiful fall weather and onsite playground top off a great day of family fun! Admission is \$6 per child (\$20 for four or more children in one family), price includes a pumpkin and the activities that day. Baked goods, food items and refreshments will be available for sale.



Proceeds will benefit Foster and Adoptive Family Services and other local and global charities the Juniors help support. For more information email us at MerchantvilleJuniors@yahoo.com.

MES Presents HAUNTED HOUSE

The Merchantville 8th Grade Presents their Annual Haunted House. This year's theme is "A Haunted Merchantville", will take place on Friday October 24th and Saturday October 25th from 7:30pm until 9:30 pm. Cost of admission will be \$5.00 for adults and \$3.00 for students. We will also have bake goods and snacks available for sale. Come out and get scared by the 8th grade class!



SAFE HALLOWEEN Downtown TRICK or TREATING



The Merchantville Public Events Committee invites children to enjoy a fun-filled day of safe downtown **TRICK-or-TREATING** at many downtown businesses on **Friday, OCTOBER 31st**. A "SAFE HALLOWEEN STOP" flyer will be posted on the window of all participating businesses. The Police department has provided parents, guardians and residents with a list of safety reminders in this newsletter. Please review these safety instructions with your children before they start

to gather their treats! Enjoy Downtown **TRICK-or-TREATS** from **11:00 a.m - 6:00 p.m.** The Borough has established a curfew of 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, Thursday, & Friday, October 29th, 30th and 31st.

MERCHANTVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Teen and Children's Programs Fall 2008

Book Bingo – Wednesdays, November 12, 19, 3:30 – 4:30 p.m. For Grades 2 and Up. Prizes and snacks for all. Everyone's a winner!

Little Ones Playgroup – Saturdays, October 4, 11, 18, 25, 11 a.m. to noon. For Ages Birth to 3 years and their caregivers. Meet our youngest members and make new friends! We have special books and toys too!

Fall Leaves – Wednesday, October 8, 3:30 p.m. For All Ages. Help us decorate the Library by bringing the outside fall colors into our reading space.

Fall Wreath – Wednesday, October 15, 3:30 – 4:30 p.m. For Grades 2 and Up. We're cutting and gluing a fall wreath.

Halloween Craft – Wednesday, October 22, 3:30 p.m. For Grades 2 and Up. Are we going to trick or treat you with our craft?

Decoupage – Wednesday, October 29, 3:30 p.m. For Grades 2 and Up. We'll decoupage a potpourri jar and fill it up with scents.

Adult and Family Programs Fall 2008

Merchantville Film Forum – First Wednesday of every month, November 5, 6:30 p.m.

Join other adults for screening and discussion of classic films. Bring your dinner in a sack, we have the water and snacks. Call for titles.

Literacy Volunteers Needed – Tuesdays, October 7, 14, 21, 6:30 – 9:00 p.m. You can make a difference in the life of an adult who wants to learn to speak, read and write English and/or improve math skills. No experience necessary, just the willingness to reach out and help a motivated learner. Tutors must be at least 18 years of age. We are looking for local volunteers who will train in Voorhees and tutor at the Merchantville Public Library. Fall Volunteer Tutor Training Workshops will be held at the Camden County Library in Voorhees on six consecutive Tuesdays beginning September 9, 2008, 6:30 – 9:00 p.m.

Cash In The Attic – Wednesday, October 15, 7 – 9 p.m. Treasure hunting begins at home. Antique appraisers Kaysi Miller Weeks and Bruce Dooley of **Aged To Perfection Antique Warehouse** are once again being brought to the Camden County Library System through the generosity of the Friends of The Camden County Library. Start searching your attics, basements and garages—every nook and cranny—to find those not so obvious family heirlooms that might pay for your next vacation or that designer handbag you've been putting off buying for lack of cash. Hey, you might even get enough to fill your gas tank all the way. The cost is \$7 per item, and Kaysi and Bruce will tell you its approximate age, origin, history and comparative value. All proceeds go to the Friends of the Camden County Library System, which funds everything from furniture to programs to special collections at all branches.

Merchantville Public Library • 130 South Centre Street • Merchantville, NJ • 856-665-3128

NPP UPDATE . . . In January the Borough of Merchantville won their third grant for a Neighborhood Preservation Program from the State Department of Community Affairs. The State has awarded \$125,000 for the first year of this five year program with the promise of at least another \$400,000 over the next four years. Neighborhood Preservation is completing surveys and should have applications ready by early December. Streets in Merchantville that are included within the target area include parts of Volan, Chapel, Locust, Centre, Spruce, Woodlawn and Russell. If you have any questions about the program or would like to know if you are in the target area please contact Stacey Loue at 856-662-2474 ext.121 or e-mail sloue@merchantvillenj.gov

The BLUE MONKEY Tavern is now open on the first floor of The Collins House. The Gungor brothers have recently renovated the downstairs into a fantastic and friendly Bar & Grille. Designed by resident, Joe Miraglia of DSGNTEC, some new features include a beautiful handmade bar, booth and high top seating and flat screen TVs. The Blue Monkey is open daily for business. The upstairs dining area has also had a face lift! Stop in to check it out or make a reservation today @ 856-661-8008.

Borough INFORMATION

Merchantville Sewer Authority is seeking to obtain low interest loan from the NJEIT to line the sewer lines though-out the Borough. The infrastructure of underground sewer lines was constructed using terra-cotta piping over 100 years ago. When the terra cotta fails it blocks up the sewage system and in most instances it causes sinkholes in our streets.

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Merchantville has established a "List of Abandoned Properties" under Ordinance 08-01 adopted April 8, 2008 - Properties determined to be vacant, abandoned and/or in a state of disrepair or neglect shall be constituted as nuisance. After receipt of notification, the owner must take appropriate corrective action. Should the owner ignore the Borough's request, the Borough will then have legal rights to take control of the property and remediate the situation.

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Council approved three stories with a maximum height of 48 ft. for TCE. It is expected that Requests for Qualifications will opened to developers for submission within the next 60 days.

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A shared service agreement to allow Merchantville to purchase gasoline from Cherry Hill Twp. will become effective during the month of October.

Police Department INFORMATION

Camden County Board of Freeholders will sponsor a "Protect Your Identity" Shred your documents Saturday November 1, 2008 9 AM - 12 PM at the Woodcrest Speedline, Cherry Hill for more information call 1.866-226-3362

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The Merchantville Police department is in dire need of substitute crossing guards for 2008-2009 school year. The salary is \$10.00 per hour. Please contact Fran Meyers at 856-662-0507 during normal business hours or stop into the Police Station to pick up an application.

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BOROUGH ORDINANCE 19-6 HALLOWEEN CURFEW

Notwithstanding anything contained in this chapter to the contrary, it shall be unlawful for any child under the age of eighteen (18) years to be upon the public places of the Borough of Merchantville after the hour of 7:00 PM., prevailing time, on the 29th day of October, the 30th day of October, and the 31st day of October, until 6:00 AM the following morning, unless exempted from this section under Section 19-3 of this chapter. The exemption being that a child under the age of 18 is accompanied by an adult)

CRIME PREVENTION TIP OF THE MONTH SAFE HALLOWEEN

- 1. Keep front doors and walkways illuminated.**
- 2. Remove any item from your yard or porch which can be easily broken or taken, such as pumpkins, milk cans, etc.**
- 3. Make sure all doors and windows are locked.**
- 4. Use your "peephole" to see who is there before you open the door.**
- 5. Younger children should Trick or Treat during daylight hours under adult or older child supervision. If no adult or other children are available, try to have them go with a group of children to a specific location.**
- 6. Instruct your children not to eat any candy until you have checked it for damaged, suspicious, or unwrapped candy.**
- 7. Do not allow children to go into homes of people they don't know.**
- 8. Warn your children about strangers and accepting gifts or candy from people on the street.**
- 9. If your child encounters a stranger, or is accosted in any manner, report it immediately to the police.**
- 10. When entertaining Trick or Treaters, try to recognize who you are giving candy to. If you can't recognize the individual or feel uncomfortable, do not feel obliged to open the door or give them candy.**
- 11. Be suspicious of older children who come to your home more than once. They may be casing your house.**

Shade Tree Commission: The Gold Tree

Most of the year it can be identified by its grey, ridged bark, the funny knobs on the branches, and the fan-shaped leaves, but it is in the fall when its leaves turn a bright gold that the Ginkgo is at its best. There are many in town, including two in front of Borough Hall, but one of the most spectacular Ginkgos around is the one on Center Street, in front of the school. These beautiful trees are also special for several other reasons. Ginkgo biloba have been around for hundreds of millions of years and are so unique that they are the only species of the only genus of their family. (By comparison, Cherry trees are some of the 400 Prunus species that are part of the thousands of species of the many genera that make up the Rose family.) Another sign of how primitive Ginkgos are is the way the leaf veins repeatedly fork instead of having a mid vein with side veins branching off of it. Also, they are dioecious (dye-ee'-shus), that is, each Ginkgo produces only pollen-producing flowers (the male trees) or only seed-producing flowers (the female trees). Finally, the female trees do not produce true fruit, only seeds with a soft outer covering. It is the decomposing covering of these seeds that produces the smell (OK, the stench) commonly associated with Ginkgos. The seed, by the way, can be eaten if properly prepared and there are many other products made from various parts of these trees as well. Ginkgos are native to eastern China and there is some debate over whether wild populations still exist there. Hardy over a wide range (zones 4-9), they can be grown in a variety of settings and do well even where there is pollution and heat stress, making them popular street trees. They are also not bothered by most diseases and insects. Although they can get quite large they grow very slowly and are usually spindly looking when young; a 15 year old tree might have a trunk diameter of only an inch! They are also slow to mature; female trees may not produce seed until they are 30 years old. Until then, enjoy the ones planted around town, like the one in front of our school.

Shade Tree Commission: Improving the Odds

You may have noticed that many old street trees have been removed lately. The Shade Tree Commission plants new trees to take their place, usually in the fall when they need less water and have a better chance at survival, but many of them die or are severely damaged in their first year or two. When the Shade Tree Commission plants one near your home we ask that you do your part to make sure they get a good start. This is the only way we can continue to look forward to shady, inviting neighborhoods instead of parched expanses of concrete. These few simple steps will vastly improve the odds of survival for our new young trees and shorten the time it takes to enjoy the benefits of the older trees we miss.

DO: Fill the watering bag (if one has been provided) or water deeply every week the tree has leaves the first two summers. **DO NOT:** Plant anything around the base of the tree. Pile mulch around the trunk of the tree – keep it 4 inches away and only 2-3 inches deep. Damage the bark with lawn mowers or string trimmers.

VOTE ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 4TH - Candidates for Merchantville Borough Council

DEMOCRATS

Edward 'Ted' Brennan, 29, *residence 114 Prospect Street*

Guido A. Babore, 41, *residence 44 West Cedar Avenue*

www.merchantville2008.com / merchantville2008@gmail.com

REPUBLICANS

Patricia A. Fields, 53, *residence 205 Woodlawn Ave.*

Steve Volkert, 45, *residence 145 Prospect Street*

www.merchantville08.com



October 14: Last Day to Register to Vote for the Upcoming General Election (21 days before the General Election)

October 28: Deadline for mailed application for absentee ballot to County Clerk.

November 3: There is a 3:00 p.m. deadline for applying for an absentee ballot in person with the County Clerk.

VOTE ON 11/4/08 AT: Niagara Fire Hall 22 E. Park Ave. FROM 6AM-8PM



Merchantville Holiday Home Tour

This year's Holiday Home Tour is scheduled for

Friday, December 12

Times to be Determined

We are still looking for a few more homes to add to the Tour.

If you are interested in featuring your home, please contact us as soon as possible!

As always, this is a great opportunity for people to experience our Great Community!

Please contact:

Kathy Boyle Laufer at 856-304-3839

Rita Boyle O'Brien at 856-308-9536

The Merchantville Historical Society

You can BANK on it! This is exactly what Merchantvillians and surrounding citizenry have done for over 8 decades. In the early 1920s, a brand new brick building was erected at 9 South Centre Street. From its initial



occupant, the First National Bank of Merchantville to PNC, banking services have been housed at this location. Shortly, PNC will move into their new home at Maple & Chapel Avenues. Before the final departure, PNC and the Merchantville Historical Society plan to host a nostalgic evening in the Bank's lobby. On display will be a combined collection of early bank documents, history and other memorabilia. Anyone having a bank treasure from the past, such as old bank deposit books, Christmas club folders, bank give-aways, etc., should bring them, so others can enjoy a

comprehensive journey down memory lane. The evening is opened not just to MHS members but to all who wish to attend. Light refreshments will be served. The doors will open on Friday, November 21st, at 6:30 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. Enter the Merchantville of yesteryear as you meet and greet neighbors of today!

PNC BANK Moves To New Home

Brett C. Miller from FAMECO Real Estate, LP, represents the developers of The Renaissance Building at the corner of Maple and Chapel Avenue and is reaching out to get some feedback from the business community on the types of businesses that would benefit Merchantville and support and enhance the current mix of downtown shops and stores. He's open to all types of retail ideas, restaurants, offices and medical office uses at this location.



The Renaissance Building marketing brochure is available online at www.merchantville.com. Please feel free to contact him with your feedback at 484-567-2349 or visit their website at www.famecoretail.com.

Don't let the parade pass you by!

Who doesn't like a parade? The Merchantville Public Events committee is looking for residents that want to help with our Holiday Parade scheduled for Saturday, December 6th and the Tree lighting ceremony scheduled for the Friday before. The committee will be meeting on every other Thursday at 7 p.m. in the months of October and November. Merchantville's Holiday Parade is a Borough tradition, but we look to you our resident-volunteers to make it even more special for you and your family! We are also looking to make the tree lighting on the Friday night before bigger and better this year. So please join us Thursday October 9th at the borough hall for our first planning meeting. If you can't make it and want to help please call Shawn Waldron at 856-486-2195

Make a float for the parade!

Have you run out of space to decorate your house at Christmas time? Are you the house that keeps up the competition on your street? We then talk to your neighbors, call a truce with your stiffest competition and enter "neighborhood street sponsored float" in this year's holiday parade. We are looking for neighborhood streets to build their own float for some friendly Borough competition. Now we are not expecting the "Fancy Division" of the mummies but a fun time for you, your family and your neighbors. If you are interested get your group together and contact the parade planning committee or Shawn Waldron at 486-2195.

SPS OPEN HOUSE - Sunday, October 26th

St. Peter will hold an Open House on Sunday, October 26th from 1:00 pm until 3:00 pm. Student tours are available with no appointment necessary. At 2 pm, there will be a dedication of the new St. Peter archives room, meticulously organized and designed by Andrew Howie, eagle scout and St. Peter alum. Part of the new room includes a memorial display on the life of Adamary Assaiante, a beloved parishioner and supporter of Catholic education.



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Auditorium Renovations Getting Closer

The Merchantville PTA would like to thank all of the dedicated alumni, families and friends who have helped to make the school auditorium project such a success. Because of these wonderful people, the auditorium has completed phase one of this three phase project. We have received over \$75,000 from donations to date and are still counting. Special thanks to Camden Catholic for the chairs that we received from their auditorium. With the funds, PTA was able to remove the old seats, repair and refinish the floor, install the seats and add new side panels to the rows. The stage floor and walls have been sanded and refinished as well. A new curtain will be added and carpet has been replaced around the auditorium aisles. A ribbon cutting event will take place on Friday, November 14th.

Our continuing goal is to replace the stage lighting, renovate the sound box, add air conditioning and paint areas of the stage. It is not too late to have your name on the plaque that will be displayed in the hallway outside of the auditorium. Please call Denise Brouse at 856-317-9211 for questions or more information.

Merchantville Juniors

Planning is well underway for Operation Santa 2008 for the GFWC Junior Woman's Club of the Merchantville Area, Inc. For over seventeen years the Juniors have used the Operation Santa program to bring Christmas joy to area children who might otherwise find nothing under the tree. Working in conjunction with area schools, the Juniors collect wishes from families in need then shop, wrap and deliver these wishes in time for Christmas morning. This year we hope to grant the wishes of at least 40 children in Merchantville, Pennsauken and surrounding areas. The Juniors could not be successful with this project without the generous support of area residents, organizations and businesses. Through monetary donations from residents and businesses we have been able to meet increasing needs in the community. We hope to see this support continue and grow so that we can reach more children than ever this year. For information about Operation Santa email the Juniors at MerchantvilleJuniors@yahoo.com. Donations may also be sent to Merchantville Juniors, P.O. Box 1468, Merchantville NJ, 08109

TCE Redevelopment Plan

In a resolution dated June 10, 2008, the Planning Board agreed with Borough Council's request and determined that it is appropriate to reduce the height of structures within the TCE redevelopment area from a maximum of 60' to 48' and reduce the total number of allowable floors from four to three. Based on the recommendation contained in the Board's Resolution, Borough Council passed ordinance 08-08 dated September 22, 2008. In addition to the above Resolution, the Planning Board provided Borough Council with guidelines that could be utilized by developers in preparing future redevelopment proposals for the area. The guidelines emphasized several of the criteria contained in the TCE Redevelopment Plan approved in September 2004 to include pedestrian oriented improvements, comprehensive utilization of the structural and street scape design criteria contained within the Historic Preservation section of the Zoning Ordinance, and providing for current and anticipated parking needs to include using the results of the parking study that is nearly completed.

Wondering What Your Home is Worth in Today's Changing Market?



Thinking of Buying or Selling?

Call Your Exclusive Merchantville Team Today!

Kathy Boyle Laufer & Rita Boyle O'Brien
Century 21 CGW - The # 1 Team

Cell: 856-304-3839 or 856-308-9536

SisterSales@Century21.com

2008-2009 Leaf Collection & Holiday Schedule

The Public Works Department will post signs in your area announcing when leaves may be placed in the street for collection. The following leaf collection schedule is subject to change:

Please do not place leaves in street until the signs are posted

2008

Week of:

October 27	Area 1
November 3	Area 2
November 10	Area 3
November 17	Area 4
November 24	Area 5
December 1	Area 1
December 8	Area 2
December 22 & 29	Area 3

2009

Week of:

January 5	Area 4
January 12	Area 5
January 19	Area 1 & 2
January 26	Area 3, 4 & 5

Area 1: Centre St. east to Church Rd from E. Maple Ave south to Spruce St and Sussex St. St. James Ave and Ivins Ave

Area 2: Centre St east to Cove Rd and East Maple Ave north to Rogers Ave

Area 3: Centre St west to Browning Rd and West Maple Ave south to Woodbine Ave

Area 4: Centre St west to Browning Rd and West Maple Ave north to Chestnut Ave and Cedar Ave

Area 5: Browning Rd west to Poplar Ave and West End Ave

Leaves will be picked up on any regular trash collection day provided they are bagged.

Placing leaves in the street on other than posted dates is a violation of the new storm water regulations issued by the State Department of Environmental Protection.

Holiday Schedule

November 27 & 28 Thanksgiving Holiday

- Hold 28TH recycling until Friday

December 5th thru Wednesday December 24th

- Non- burnable pick up hold until Wednesday December 31st

WEATHER PERMITTING . . . WEATHER PERMITTING . . . WEATHER PERMITTING



THE POLITICAL PARTY @ 13 NORTH - Political Art Show

A multimedia political art exhibition from October 3-24, 2008

13 NORTH ART GALLERY is a collaborative of contemporary artists who bring the edge and excitement of an urban art gallery to the shade tree historic boro of Merchantville, NJ. The founding members of 13 NORTH showcase their eclectic exploratory work through multiple art mediums.

13 North Centre Street - Merchantville, New Jersey 08109 - 856-330-4760

Gallery Hours: Thursday & Friday: 4 – 8PM ~ Saturday: 12 – 7PM ~ Sunday: 12 – 5PM