

Volume Thirteen
Issue Three
Late Winter 2007



www.merchantville.com

Borough of Merchantville, New Jersey

Merchantville Borough Newsletter

*When winds are soft, And the days are warm and clear,
Just like a gentle lamb, Then spring is here.*

- Author Unknown

Lions Club celebrates 81st Anniversary

by William B. Howell, Club Secretary/Treasurer

On June 18, 2007 the Merchantville Lions Club will be holding a joint meeting with the Pennsauken Lions Club to celebrate their 81st anniversary. The event will be held at Macaro's Catering on Westfield Ave., Pennsauken, NJ. The Merchantville Lions Club was organized on July 26, 1926 by our former mayor, Walter V. Kurkian. Mayor Kurkian was also a past District Governor of District 16-C, and also a past International Director. Another former past District Governor from Merchantville, NJ was the former Judge Albert E. Burling.

We are the second oldest Lions Club in District 16-C, and have been serving the community of Merchantville for the past 80 years. During the past 80 years we raised money for and donated a new Ambulance to the Boro. We also assisted many of the Merchantville School children with eye screening and the purchase of new glasses. At graduation time we presented scholarships to the high school students. When the Merchantville High School featured a football team, we provided soda, hot dogs and pretzels. We have been collecting used eye glasses and hearing aids at the Merchantville Post office. Recently the Lions of NJ collected and shipped to 3rd world countries 20,000 used eye glasses. We also provided the school library with magnifying equipment to help the students with their reading. Also many of our members and wives graduated from the Merchantville high School.

We now have nine active members with some members representing long established business in the Boro, namely, Aunt Charlottes Candy Store, Stephenson & Brown Funeral Home and Lamplighter Real Estate Inc. The White Cane Donations are received at Aunt Charlottes Candy Store and we appreciate and thank the community for supporting our projects. Recently we and the Pennsauken Lions Club planted a tree and presented a plaque in memory of a former Lion who was very active in the community, Lion Walter Walenbeck. Some of our members have been active in Lionism for many years, namely, Vernon Collins, 52 years, Joseph Pisko, 44 years, William B. Howell, 37 years, Jeffrey Brown, 35 years, Robert Nonemaker, 35 years, C. Brooks Oakford, 22 years, Anthony Repice, Sr 17 years, Russell Mutschler, 9 years and Barney Vellutello, 9 years.

We are inviting any former members of the Merchantville Lions Club to attend our event on June 18, 2007. Please call (856) 663-0833 to make your reservation.



Annual Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 7th, 10:00 AM ~ Rain or Shine
Merchantville Community Center
Children ~ 10 and under

This annual event, featuring a special guest appearance by the guy with the Big, Floppy Ears is held on the side lawn and open to all community children and grandchildren from birth to 5th grade. There are lots of eggs to find to find, candies and treats! Bring your family & friends and be sure to take along a basket or bag to collect all your goodies. A Parents, Grandparents and relatives are encouraged to bring your cameras and camcorders to capture the fun of this Merchantville Springtime



12th Annual Merchantville
Crafts & Fine Art Festival
Saturday, 5/19 and Sunday, 5/20 2007





Borough Council

Meetings take place in Borough Hall on Monday evenings at 7:30 p.m. Meetings are open to the public and minutes are available on the town website or in the business office at Borough Hall upon approval by Borough Council.

Information at your Fingertips



@ www.merchantville.com

2007

BOROUGH NEWSLETTER PUBLICATION SCHEDULE

JANUARY 6th

FEBRUARY 24th

MARCH 17th

MAY 19th

(Submissions due by May 4th)

JUNE 30th

(Submissions due by June 16th)

AUGUST 18th

(Submissions due by August 4th)

OCTOBER 6th

(Submissions due by September 22nd)

NOVEMBER 17th

(Submissions due by November 3rd)

Email newsletter submissions to:

newsletter@merchantville.com

Please direct delivery concerns to:

Community Affairs Officer

Fred Kohler @ 856-662-2474 ext. 120

VOLUNTEER in 2007

Contact Councilman Shawn Waldron @ 662-2474 x 150 to donate your time and support PUBLIC and COMMUNITY EVENTS in our town this year!

2007 COMMUNITY CALENDAR

March 24 - MLL Field Day, 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. at MES Athletic Fields
Mar. 26 - Borough Council Meeting, 7:30 p.m. in Borough Hall
Mar. 27 - BOE Budget Hearing, 7:30 p.m. in the Public Library
Mar. 27 - Master Plan Meeting, 7:30 p.m. in the Community Center
March 31 - MLL Field Day, 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. at MES Athletic Fields
April 3 - Historic Preservation Meeting, 7:30 p.m. in Borough Hall
April 9 - Borough Council Meeting, 7:30 p.m. at Borough Hall
April 10 - Board of Education Meeting, 7:30 p.m. in the Public Library
April 10 - Planning Board Meeting, 7:30 in Borough Hall
April 17 - BOE Election

Information about Borough, Community & Organization meetings and events can be found @ www.merchantville.com. For updates and additions to the **Community Calendar** between newsletter publication dates please visit the town website.

Borough Master Plan Being Updated

Staff Planners of the Ragan Design Group (RDG) are supporting Planning Board efforts to update the Borough's Master Plan that, in part, reflects current land uses within our Merchantville. The Master Plan also includes information about desirable future land uses such as: retaining and improving community parks, preserving the character and other resources of the community to include our school and community center, establishing general guidelines related to our residential and business zones, and documenting current and projected population and workforce data and development potential. The Master Plan is the foundation document used to create and maintain the Borough Zoning Ordinance that provides more specific guidance toward implementing the objectives of the Master Plan.

During the update process, RDG is gathering extensive information about our town to insure that our Master Plan contains accurate current information while documenting the resources and characteristics of our community that we want to retain, reinforce or possibly modify. RDG will also insure that our plan includes NJ State Smart Growth principles as they apply to our community.

To provide information about the update effort and to obtain input from our residential, business and municipal community, RDG will be facilitating public meetings at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 27th and April 24th in the Community Center. All residents, business people and Borough employees are invited to attend these meetings. If the meeting dates or place changes, notices will be posted at Borough Hall and the Community Center.

BORO CODE NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE . . .

Merchantville's Borough Code is now available online. Borough residents have unlimited electronic access to the codified Borough ordinances. **Coded Systems** provides the ordinance codification and publishing services for the Borough of Merchantville and many surrounding municipalities. With simple and expert searches and the ability to print the text, residents can save time and money with just a click. Whether it's a question on dog licensing or recycling, the answer can usually be found in the Code. Merchantville's Borough Code can be accessed through the Borough's website at www.merchantville.com. Residents are invited to view the Borough Code online and enjoy the benefits offered by the latest in technology.

MERCHANTVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY WINTER 2007 PROGRAM CALENDAR

BOOK BINGO: Wednesdays 4/4 and 4/18

Book Bingo, prizes and snacks provided. From 3:30 - 4:30 p.m. for All Ages.

LITTLE ONES PLAYGROUP: Saturdays, 1/27-5/18

Join your neighbors in the Library's Children's Area for weekly play dates to explore special toys, books and share information. From 11:00 a.m. - Noon for caregivers with babies from birth to 2 years.

PRETTY AS A PICTURE: Wednesday, 3/28

Bring a 2" by 2" picture of your favorite pet and we'll make & decorate a special photo frame for it. Snacks and fun for all. From 3:30 - 4:30 p.m. for children grade 2 - grade 5

BROWN BAG MOVIE: Wednesday, 4/11

Bring your dinner in a brown bag and we'll provide a recently released movie to watch and dessert to eat. Bring your favorite stuffed animal to curl up with, lay back and relax. From 4:00 - 6:30 p.m. for All Ages.

JEWELRY CRAFT: Wednesday 4/28

String a necklace and/or bracelet to keep, using glass, plastic and macaroni beads. Fun & snacks for all. From 3:30 - 4:30 p.m. for All Ages

Registration is required for all programs.

To Register please call (856) 665-3128.

The Merchantville Public Library, is part of the Camden County Library System, 130 S. Centre Street, Merchantville.

Little One's Playgroup Launched at Library

Every Saturday morning at 11:00 a.m. young children from birth to two-years and their caregivers meet in the Children's Corner at Merchantville Public Library! Each session is an hour of non-stop exploratory play. We have lots of toys, building blocks, animals, large soft pillows and a huge assortment of board books. Caregivers get a chance to relax and gab while little ones play to their hearts content. Come join your neighbors and friends and meet some of the area's youngest, local residents. The Merchantville Public Library is located at 130 South Centre Street adjoining the Merchantville Elementary School. Call the Library @ 665-3128 for more information.

Mothers Helping Mothers

Are you home with the kids during the day or even working part time? Need some new ideas or activities? New to motherhood or new to the area? How about some normal conversation with other moms? The group meets in Merchantville every other Friday morning at 9 AM. We feature speakers on various topics, a staffed nursery, monthly kids' outings, monthly mom's night out and more. Please call Sharon at 856-764-0828 or visit us at mothershelpingmothers.com.

Fleurs de Lee Presentation

On Tuesday, April 10 at 7:30 PM, the Merchantville EMD meets at the Merchantville Community Center, Greenleigh Ct. & Somerset Ave. During the meeting a program will be presented by Krista Lee of Merchantville: "Fleurs de Lee". Krista will be speaking to us about Container Planting, Spring Clean Up (yes, Spring is almost here!) and other 'floral subjects'. Light refreshments will be served. Women of all ages are welcome to join us. Call Mary Ellen at (856) 829-4258 if you plan on attending.



Wellspring Center for Yoga & Health

19 North Centre Street

Please join us in welcoming Spring's arrival!

Spring Equinox Drum Circle

Friday, March 23, at 7 pm

Spring Yoga Class Series

begins April 2 - 11 Classes for \$121

Live Music Through March

The Collins House Restaurant, a great spot for relaxed, elegant dining is adding live music during February and March on Friday & Saturday nights and will feature drink and food specials on St. Patty's Day. Collins House guests can select from a wide variety of Northern Italian fare including seafood and meat & pasta dishes cooked to perfection. They feature an "Early Bird Menu" Sunday through Friday from 3-6 p.m. A delicious Brunch is offered Saturdays and Sundays from 11-3 p.m. and special Wine Dinners are featured several times during the year. On line reservations are available @ opentable.com.

Once Upon A Tea Time Party

Dates: Saturday, April 21 Time: 2:00 to 4:00 PM
Sunday, April, 22

1st Presbyterian Church

Maple Ave. and Centre St.
Merchantville, NJ 08109



Tickets: \$ 15.00 per person, available March 25th
Phone inquiries: Church Office, 856-662-6252

Chapel-Maple Redevelopment

On 3/12/07, RLC III, LLC was selected by Borough Council as the redeveloper for the former Shell Station property. The proposed site plan and architectural concept drawing can be viewed @ www.merchantville.com. Just click on the side menu item:

Community > Redevelopment > Chapel-Maple



THE MERCHANT

A SUPPLEMENT FROM THE BUSINESS & PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION

Volume 4, Issue 3

Late Winter 2007

Dear Merchantville Business Owners;

The Ragan Design Group will be facilitating a public workshop for the Merchantville Business Community at the next Planning Board Master plan meeting on Tuesday, March 27, 2007 at 7:30 pm at the Merchantville Community Center, located at 212 Somerset Avenue. Surveys were mailed out to all businesses by the Ragan Design Group on March 9th. Please take a few minutes to fill out their survey and come to the planning meeting and give your input! Help us build a strong, vital and beautiful downtown business district!

The deadline for ad placement in the new Merchantville Business Directory is approaching quickly! I'd like to thank the more than thirty downtown businesses that have already placed an ad in this beautiful new directory. This original publication will be the cornerstone of our new marketing plan to highlight Merchantville as "a local and regional business and shopping destination." Your support is greatly needed and appreciated!

Our next MBPA meeting will be Wednesday, April 18th at 8:30 a.m. The agenda will include MBPA sponsorship for 2007, and our participation in upcoming public events for the Arts Festival, Birthday Celebration and Car Show. Calendars will be available with all dates and times. Your input is greatly needed!

So, place an ad in the directory, fill out your survey and join us at meeting or just contact me with your ideas, recommendations or concerns.

Regards,
Kristine Sodano
MBPA President
856-662-2003
thecountrybloom@comcast.net



The 2007 Merchantville Directory is an attractive and efficient marketing tool and the cornerstone of our new marketing plan to highlight Merchantville as "a local and regional business and shopping destination." Sponsored by the Borough of Merchantville, the Public Events Committee and the Business & Professional Association it 's designed to promote all borough businesses to the public. 10,000 copies of this full color-cover directory will be available at Merchantville shops, restaurants, and offices as well as distributed to our out-of-town visitors at all major downtown events.

All businesses and restaurants, including; services and professionals will be listed in this directory. Print ads are available for purchase. With each purchased ad you also receive a spot on the centerfold walking map, as well as an appropriate category listing which includes your address and phone number. We encourage you to participate by contacting **Janet Hutchinson** at **856-857-1230 or 856-266-7284**. We're sure you'll agree that this new marketing endeavor of is a wise use of your advertising dollars!

Brian's Lawncare

Merchantville NJ, 08109 • 856-261-0239

Over 20 years landscape experience

- Owner operated Free Estimates
- Insured Spring / Fall Cleanups
- Mulching Fertilization
- Sod / Seed Aeration / Thatching
- Hardscaping Design & Installation
- Shrub trimming Bulbs / Flowers



Here's something to smile about

From March to June, we are offering professional Teeth whitening services at a reduced cost and donating
50% to **Go 4 the Goal Foundation** &
50% to **Garth Brooks' Teammates for Kids Foundation**

Gary G. Sapienza, DMD
311 East Maple Avenue
Merchantville, NJ 08019
www.SapienzaDental.com
(856) 662-6152

Gourmet Goodies & Gift Baskets



Bayberry's

21 North Centre Street
Merchantville

856-663-4001

www.bayberrys.com

Merchantville Little League Field Days

Join in and help get the fields ready!!!

March 24 & March 31, 2007 - 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Opening Day

April 14, 2007 Main Field

Beef and Beer

**May 4, 2007 from 8:00 to 11:00 p.m.
at the Merchantville Community Center**

Additional information available at:

<http://eteamz.active.com/merchantville/>

Spring Is Here!

As Everyone Knows this is the Busiest Time for Real Estate
& Interest Rates Are Still At All-Time Lows.

If you are interested in Buying or Selling,
Now is the Time to Act. Call Us Today!

Kathy Boyle Laufer & Rita Boyle O'Brien



The #1 Team & Your Exclusive
Merchantville Representatives
Century 21 CGW
856-304-3839 or 856-308-9536
SisterSales@Century21.com

The Country Bloom

Bringing Classic Country Accessories to Your Home & Garden

Your Store for All Seasons!

*Fresh Cut Flowers
Arrangements & Spring Annuals
Classic Colonial, Victorian &
Shabby Chic Home & Garden Décor*

OPEN

Tuesday - Saturday : 11 - 6

**13 North Centre Street
Merchantville, NJ
(856) 662-2003**

www.thecountrybloom.com



Chestnut Station Seniors Tenant's Association

Christmas Party 2006

by Mary Ann Kearney

On Friday, December 15th, the residents of the Chestnut Station Senior's Tenant's Association held their 3rd annual Christmas party at the apartments. There was fun had by all, with catering by Michael's.

The community business shops contributed many door prizes for the seniors to win. They were from: The Clip Joint; hair cuts and a men's styling kit, Sal's Merchantville Barber; a gift certificate. Karl Florist; a Christmas corsage with gift certificate for the hostess, and The Country Bloom; a beautiful flower arrangement and gift certificate. Gift certificates also came from Philly Fruit, Merchantville Diner, Grand China, and Yankee Caroler. Bayberry's; Lollipop Tree gourmet foods. Gift certificates also from Collin's House Restaurant and Conifer's, the owners of the apartments, Merchantville Cleaners and the L&M Tea Room. Also donated was a beautiful hand-made Holiday wreath by MaryAnne Hobbs-Fernie, daughter of one of the residents.

Photos were taken by the owner of The Darkroom, Brad. And of course Aunt Charlotte's gave boxes of their delicious candies. A grateful "Thank You" to all. The President, Mary Ann Kearney, awarded two 'Special Awards' to two of their residents for the special things they do around the apartments. Betty Haas on the first floor and Lawrence Witcher on the second floor. Entertainment was donated by the wonderful people of the Auto Show Committee, Kevin Greening, Mike and Tom Rhea, Jim Irwin, Jeff Brown, and Andy Zazarra. The violist, Jennifer was amazing and loved by all. She has a great future ahead of her, and we all wish her well. (Break a leg Jennifer) The D.J. was Steve Volkert, and of course, a visit from the jolly old elf in the red suit. Santa (Kevin Greening) also helped give out the door prizes to the winners.

A special thanks goes out to Nola Sadutti, chairperson of the Events Committee and her hard working team. It was a great time had by all. Again, a grateful "Thank You" to all the business shops in Merchantville for helping the seniors Christmas party to be such a success. See you next year. We all want to wish you a very Happy, Healthy 2007!

America on the Move! *by Patty Carr, Merchantville Elementary School*

As a physical education teacher and concerned parent, I encourage children to become more active everyday and develop positive, healthy habits that last a lifetime. On January 9, 2007, I decided to take my own advice.

Greetings from Alaska! My journey began at Watson Lake, British Columbia several weeks ago. I'm walking the Alaska Military Highway and should reach my destination (somewhere in the Yukon) before February 20th. I'm way ahead of schedule... according to the computer.

America on the Move is a free web-based program available to individuals, families, schools, and communities [@www.americaonthemove.org](http://www.americaonthemove.org). This site offers many tools, activities, and additional links promoting healthy eating and active living.

The "walking" program will truly motivate you to increase the number of steps you take during your day. Wear a pedometer, choose a trail, log steps, get closer to your destination, and begin to feel healthier! There is a conversion chart to change everyday activities and sports to "steps". Get some friends together and chart your progress. The whole family will enjoy the interactive routes! For my next adventure...I'm following the Lewis and Clark Trail, or maybe I should visit China.

School News

March 2007

School Calendar

March

- 20 School Board Meeting*
- 27 Public Budget Hearing
7:00 PM, School Library
- 27 School Board Meeting

April

- 9 School Board Meeting*
- 17 School Election
2 - 9 PM, School Library
- 19 Pre-K and Kindergarten
Registration
- 24 School Board Meeting*

*7:30 PM Merchantville Library.
Agendas and minutes are now
available on the school website
under BOE Meeting Dates.

Merchantville BOE

President

Sharon Hartson Stine 662-3851
sharonhs@mac.com

Vice-President

Edward Bohn 663-6033
ebohn3rd@msn.com

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Asst to the Business Administrator
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MERCHANTVILLE

Board Votes on Preliminary Budget

At its March 13th meeting the Merchantville Board of Education voted to submit a preliminary budget to the state that calls for a 1.8% increase in the tax rate, the lowest increase in at least 10 years. This translates into an increase of \$46 per \$100,000 of assessed value. The budget, as currently drafted, will maintain all existing programs. The Board is still reviewing this preliminary budget and it will not be finalized until the public hearing on March 27th.

Public Budget Hearing - March 27th

A public hearing on the school budget will take place on March 27th at 7:00 in the School Library. At that time the board will take comment from the public and then review and finalize the budget for placement on the April 17th ballot.

Budget Vote - April 17th

On April 17th Merchantville residents will have the opportunity to vote on the school budget and the three open seats on the Board of Education. Voting will take place in the School Library from 2:00 until 9:00 PM.

Board of Education Candidates

Two candidates will be on the April 17th ballot for the three open Board seats.
Edward Bohn, III, St. James Avenue, *incumbent*
Russell Loue, Morris Street

Pre-K & Kindergarten Registration

Registration for children entering Pre-K and Kindergarten in September will take place on Thursday, April 19th from 1:15 - 2:45 PM. **Parents who plan to register a child for next year should contact the office (662-1091) prior to April 19th and obtain a copy of the registration package.** The registration package contains forms that must be completed and turned in on the day of registration.

Register to Vote

Residents who are not registered to vote have until Tuesday, March 27 if they want to participate in the 2007 Annual School Election. Voter registration forms and absentee ballots are available online at: http://www.camdencounty.com/government/voter_info.html *reprinted from the February Newsletter*

Steve Volkert Resigns from Board

Steve Volkert, a long-time School Board member, resigned his position on the Board at the conclusion of the January 23rd meeting. Mr. Volkert has been appointed to fill the Merchantville Borough Council seat vacated by Frank North when Mr. North was sworn in as Mayor. The Board accepted Mr. Volkert's resignation with regret and thanked him for his many years of service to the children of Merchantville. The Board opted not to conduct a search and appoint a replacement as Mr. Volkert's Board seat is up for election in April.

Published by the *Merchantville Board of Education*, 130 S. Centre Street, Merchantville, NJ 08109, 856-663-1091.

MATHCOUNTS® Competition

Eight students from St Peter School's new math team competed in the South Jersey MATHCOUNTS Regional Competition at Rowan University in Glassboro on Saturday, February 10. Schools select students to compete individually or as part of a team in one of more than 500 written and oral competitions held nationwide. Top students advance to the state, and ultimately, to the national level. Justin Pierlott finished in the top ten and St. Peter won the distinction of "Best New School".

The following students were among the 143 Mathletes® competing at Rowan: Sara Arana, Emily Leonard, and Kelsey McCoy (8th grade), Patrick O'Drain, Justin Pierlott, Marissa Wolfe, and John Zazzera (7th grade), and Jessica Kowal (6th grade). The students were selected based on their final rank in a school competition held on Friday, January 19. The top four individuals represented St. Peter School in the Team Round of the competition. They were: Justin Pierlott (1st), Emily Leonard (2nd), John Zazzera (3rd) and Patrick O'Drain (4th).

New Gym Floor

On Friday, January 5th, 2007 at 6 pm in the Msgr. Fallon Parish Hall, the St. Peter School community dedicated the new gym floor to Rev. Anthony J. Manuppella.

Students Celebrate Dr. Seuss' Birthday

St. Peter School's kindergarten class found a special way to celebrate the birthday of the beloved author of books such as Green Eggs and Ham and the Cat and the Hat. St. Peter School students celebrated Dr. Seuss' birthday with some green eggs and ham! Students had a chance to taste the green eggs and ham that Dr. Seuss wrote about in his classic children's book Green Eggs and Ham. Students also made hats just like the cat and the hat wore in honor of Dr. Seuss. Both St. Peter School kindergarten classes under the direction of Mrs. Linda Lammers and Mrs. Maggie Giordano enjoyed this wonderful treat. Celebrating the birthday of Dr. Seuss is a tradition for all kindergarteners and we hope to have more fun excitement when Dr. Seuss' birthday rolls around again next year.

Shade Tree Commission: 2006 Summary

by Krista Lee

The volunteers serving on the Merchantville Shade Tree Commission are proud to have contributed to our community. Current members are: Dina Turan, Chairperson, and Bob Paulson, Krista Lee, Joe Cuzzupe, and James Duggan. Joanne Steer has been active for many months and will soon be formally named to the commission as well. Additional volunteers and members are welcome; no formal training is needed, just an interest in our community's trees! Meetings are held the second Wednesday of each month at 7:00 PM in the Merchantville Library.

Thirty new trees were planted this year. Most of them were planted along neighborhood streets; some were planted along the bike path with the help of several of Dina's enthusiastic students. A dozen shrubs (species native to this area) were planted along the southern edge of the bike path as well, to stabilize the bank and keep it from washing onto the path when it rains. Maintenance work included pruning and tree and stump removals.

This year's Arbor Day celebration took place next to the school where an Okame Cherry was planted in honor of the class of 1939. Several members of that class were there along with current students.

The annual Shade Tree Federation meeting was a great time of learning again for us. Lectures about all aspects of community forestry were held throughout the two-day event by leading researchers and teachers such as Dr. Ed Gilman and Dr. Jason Grabosky. One member also attended the annual Woody Plant Conference, held at Swarthmore, and Penn State's four-day Arborist Short Course designed as preparation for certification as an International Society of Arboriculture arborist.

Our "computer geek", Bob, programmed a palm pilot so that a tree survey could be conducted. It has been started, with information about type, location, size, condition, etc of each tree being entered. The information can be sorted in various ways to help us make decisions about planting, maintaining, and removing trees.

Finally, a big thank you to the residents of Merchantville. We know that in many, many little daily ways, by the things you do and sometimes don't do, you help us keep our green and shady town that way.

Juniors Hold Annual Spelling Bee

The GFWC Junior Woman's Club of the Merchantville Area, Inc. held its annual spelling bee on Saturday January 20, 2007 at the Pennsauken High School. Thirty-three fourth and fifth graders from public and private schools in Merchantville and Pennsauken competed. While parents, friends and teachers anxiously looked on, they bravely took their turns at the mike to spell increasingly complex words. This year's competition offered some really impressive spellers. The first place winner was fifth grader Sean Gallagher from St. Peter's school in Merchantville. The second place winner, from St Stephen's School in Pennsauken, was fourth grader Taylor Holmes. Justin Weaver, a fourth grader from Carson Elementary School in Pennsauken, came in third.

The spellers went many rounds before the group was pared down to the final two who went toe to toe for several more rounds until Sean pulled out in front by correctly spelling the word "engorged". Awards were presented by the Country Buffet "Spelling Bee" who graciously attended the Spelling Bee to cheer on the kids. After the bee, the spellers and their fans relaxed with delicious pretzels and juice. Many browsed the book fair hosted by Borders Express looking for favorite books. All the kids went home with goodie bags filled with treats donated by event sponsors; Old Country Buffet and Borders Express. Pennsauken High School graciously offered the use of their facilities and the help of the (very important) audio visual folks who help make it possible for the fans and judges to hear the spellers in action. The fourth and fifth grade teachers in Merchantville and Pennsauken certainly seem to be doing a great job teaching spelling. Learn more @ www.merchantvillewomensclubs.org.

SNOW REMOVAL WARNING BOROUGH ORDINANCE 73-8

Ordinance 73:8 of the Borough of Merchantville requires property owners to remove all snow and ice from the sidewalks in front of their properties within ten daylight hours after the storm has stopped. The Borough has the right to summons property owners who do not fulfill this responsibility, which can result in an appearance in court and a fine. The storm of February 14, however, was particularly difficult in Merchantville. Walks had turned to ice, which could not easily be removed with a normal snow shovel. The Borough has determined not to summons property owners who did not clear their sidewalks because of the undue hardship caused by the nature of this storm. However, we would like to confirm two things. First, any snow and ice remaining from this storm should be removed as soon as possible, because it presents a safety hazard for pedestrians. Second, the police and the code enforcement officers will fully enforce the snow removal ordinance and summons property owners who do not fulfill their responsibilities in any subsequent storms. **County Snow Removal For Elderly & Disabled** Camden County Division of Emergency Management at 856-783-4808 x 5060, from 8 am-

SENIOR ENERGY ASSISTANCE

The New Jersey Department of Community Affairs has developed a program to educate seniors about the energy assistance programs available through the state and how to apply for them. The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) helps directly pay for heating costs while the Universal Service Fund (USF) helps make utility bills affordable by providing a monthly credit on electric or natural gas bills or both. Receiving assistance from either of these programs will not affect the Lifeline benefit some seniors already receive. In fact, qualified individuals can receive all three!

There is one application for both USF and LIHEAP which can be downloaded here. The instructions cover how to complete the application and where to send it. There is an application deadline of March 31, 2007. Applicants can call DCA directly at 800-510-3102 with questions about the application process.

DOG LICENSING REMINDER . . .

All dogs were to be licensed by January 31st pursuant to N.J.S.A. 4:19-5.2 and Merchantville Ordinance #21-2. The cost is \$7.00 for neutered dogs and \$10.00 for non-neutered dogs. Application can be printed from the Borough website or filled out at Borough Hall every Monday through Friday from 9 am - 5 pm.



WATER MAIN FLUSHING

Twice a year the MPWC sets up a program to flush its water mains by opening fire hydrants. You may experience decreased water pressure and/or temporary discoloration of your water while we are working in your area. We try to perform this work during the night and early morning hours to create the least impact to our customers. Please allow the water to run until it clears. This should only take a few minutes. If your water is discolored, you should avoid doing laundry until the flushing in your area is completed. Flushing water mains is a necessary and important maintenance step that must be done by all water companies to clean out any build-up of sand or other sediments that can find their way into the system. It is done in a planned and calculated method so that only the minimum amount of water is used to accomplish the result. The flushing will take place March 25, 26, 27, 28 and 29, 2007 and also April 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 2007. Please contact the MPWC at 663-0043 with any questions you may have concerning this project.

The Merchantville Police Department now has



baseball cards available to all children and (adults). Children are encouraged to interact with officer's when they are on patrol, however we do caution them not to approach officers when they are on a call for service or have a vehicle stopped on the side of the road. Each officer has his personal cards with him when he is on patrol.

The Historical Society Annual Membership Meeting

A very informative and memorable evening was had by many of the town's citizenry. The presentation on the Merchantville Community Center illustrated its rich history and clarified its origins from a Victorian carriage house/stable to the English Tudor structure we know today. Back in 1921 when the Merchantville Country Club relocated the building to its present site and renovated it, local newspapers hailed the accomplishment and said it was truly Merchantville's Community Center! Little did they know how valid their prediction would be! A cherished part of the meeting was the viewing of part of an interview with Edith Silberstein. Seeing and hearing her once more was very special to us all. As we move forward, rally round our cause to champion the undertaking of applying for grants to restore our Community Center and expand our Historical Society so all can have access to Merchantville's legacy.

Due to ongoing problems with the Borough duplicator, printing of the Late Winter issue of the Borough Newsletter, March 17, 2007, has been delayed. The newsletter may need to be printed by an outside contractor. In an effort to convey newsletter information to residents in a timely manner and control the additional cost of off-site printing we have restricted this issue to 8 pages. In order to accomplish this goal some submitted content has been abridged and graphics omitted or reduced in size. To view the complete text of submitted articles with pictures just log on to the Borough website @ www.merchantville.com.