

Merchantville BOROUGH NEWSLETTER

Volume 14, Issue 4

Merchantville, New Jersey

Summer 2008



2008 BOROUGH NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 11th

MARCH 7th

MAY 9th

JUNE 27th

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 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

11th ANNUAL MERCHANTVILLE SUMMER SOCK HOP & CAR / MOTORCYCLE SHOW

Saturday, July 12, 2008

Registration 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM

Festivities Begin at 3:00 PM



This event has seen significant growth over the past 10 years. Originally started as a local day of fun for families in Merchantville and the surrounding communities, it has grown to the point that the festivities now draw participants from over 9 states and fill up most of the major parks and thoroughfares throughout the town center.

All proceeds from the event benefit the Merchantville Task Force, a not-for-profit organization dedicated to the enrichment of the downtown area.

Rain Date: July 19, 2008

Municipal Taxes

The NJ State Legislature is expected to approve a cost-slashing budget Monday, 6/23. Although Merchantville stands to lose around \$464,000 dollars in revenue, 25% of what our CMPTRA aid cut would have been or \$273,683 has been restored. The bulk of the funding that will be withheld as state aid are taxes on the Verizon equipment within their building and rent money paid by PSE&G to run power lines through the town.

Additionally, most Camden County property owners will see a decrease or no increase in their county taxes. Their tax decrease is based on an equalized tax rate, which means tax rates will vary depending on municipality. As it stands, 22 of the county's 37 municipalities will get a county tax reduction.

Meeting Reminder:

All proposed and adopted resolutions and ordinances are available to the public online @ www.merchantville.com or at Borough Hall between 8:00 am and 4:30 pm. The public is welcome to attend Council meetings on the 2nd & 4th Monday of each month from September through May and on the 2nd Monday during the Summer months.

Restoration of Merchantville's Historic Community Center

Over the last two years the Borough has become increasingly concerned about, and interested in, the Community Center. The building is an important part of the social fabric of our town and has an interesting history showing involvement of the community to save it.

The building was originally constructed in 1870 as the carriage house for a large estate on East Maple Avenue. In 1921 the estate was demolished, but the Merchantville Country Club took ownership of the building and moved it to its current location at Prospect and Somerset Streets. The Club renovated it into its clubhouse for its



baseball, football, cricket, and golf activities, the activities of the Merchantville Field Club, the predecessor of the Country Club. In the 1940's the public became very concerned about the lack of a meeting place for the community and in particular its youth. In 1947 the Borough Council formed a committee to study the problem. No solution emerged until 1954 when The Merchantville Country Club decided to move to a new facility. Citizens attended a Borough Council meeting and presented a petition signed by high school students. The community spearheaded a campaign to purchase what is now the Community Center and purchased bonds

from the Borough to raise the \$36,000 required to purchase the building and four surrounding acres of land. A commission was created by the Borough Council in 1955 and, along with an auxiliary, began to raise funds and enlist volunteers to renovate the building and repair and decorate the interior. Community involvement was strong and programs were chosen for the new center based on the needs of the public.

Fifty years after this community effort to create a community place, the Community Center is visited 30,000 times a year and meets very diverse needs. It serves as the Senior Center, as well as the fields and meeting rooms for the Little League. It is the site of the Easter Egg Hunt and Brunch with Santa, but also hosts meetings on the Master Plan. It also hosts about 75 private gatherings each year, ranging from birthday parties to wedding receptions.

Although the Community Center is an attractive facility, it has not had the on-going attention and maintenance it deserves until recently. The Borough commissioned a Preservation Plan in 2007 which estimated a total cost of over \$1.7 million to restore everything that is needed. A grant applied for in 2007 to begin the construction planning was not awarded, in part because the reviewers did not see evidence of continuing commitment to the property. A task group has been formed under the auspices of the Borough Council to apply for a grant from the New Jersey Historic Trust to meet half of the restoration needs. Resident Bill Lammey is preparing this grant application as a service to the Borough with the help of Historic Society President Maureen McLoone. We have requested a federal appropriation and will apply for a Camden County Open Space and Preservation grant to help match the Historic Trust grant. In addition the Borough has spent about \$70,000 in the last two years to further the planning for the restoration and to correct drainage problems that were a destabilizing influence on the structure. The Borough hopes the social role the Community Center has played for almost 100 years will elevate its significance to the funding organizations. To recognize its historical significance, Maureen McLoone is preparing an application to nominate the property for inclusion on the State and National Historic Register. We encourage residents to visit the Community Center to understand its needs and importance to the community and welcome any residents who would like to be involved in the work that lies ahead if we are awarded the grant. If you would like to play a part, contact Councilman Anthony Perno (662-7937) or Denise Brouse in Borough Hall (662-2474, extension 103).

Code Enforcement INFORMATION

Residents are reminded to bundle all tree cuttings and brush. The bundles can be no longer than 4 feet, no larger than 24 inches in diameter, and weigh no more than 50 pounds. Leaves and grass clippings must be in bags or cans. All this type of debris will be collected on your normal trash day. The cleaning and maintenance of curbs and sidewalks are the responsibility of the resident.

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You must receive permission from the Superintendent of Public Works before any trimming or cutting of trees between the curb line and sidewalk can be done.

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Please remember to contact the Code Enforcement, and Zoning Officer Eric Schmidt at 856-662-2474 ext. 110 or email: codeenforcement@merchantville.com before you start ANY home project. He will be glad to assist you in filing the proper forms for permits, variances, and any other paperwork necessary to get your project completed as quickly as possible.

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Merchantville's Borough Code is available 24/7 online so whether you have a question about dog licensing or recycling the answer can usually be found in the Code. The can be accessed through www.merchantville.com in the main menu under "Code" or at www.codedsystems.com/merchantville.htm.

Police Department INFORMATION

Between May 19, 2008 and June 1, 2008 the police department participated in the statewide "Click It or Ticket" program. This was funded by the NJ Division of Highway Traffic safety. During this time officers worked supplemental shifts and issued 185 seatbelt tickets, 134 other traffic violations, 3 DWI arrests, 9 other arrests. These are some of the highest statistics we have posted for this type of program.

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On Friday June 6, 2008 construction will begin at the Maple Avenue and Chapel Avenue site. The contractor will be completely closing the Maple Avenue sidewalk and will also be excavating in the street. Traffic flow on Maple Avenue will *not* be interrupted and there will be *no* interruptions to local businesses other than the presence of construction workers and vehicles in the area. Every effort has been made to cause little or no disruption to the businesses and residents in the area. Should you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me.

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Residents are reminded that trash should be placed at the curb no earlier than 3:00 PM on the day preceding your scheduled pickup. Anyone wishing to report violators are asked to call the police tip line at 856-662-2474, ext 166 and leave a message with the information.

St. Peter School News

Congratulations to St. Peter School Class of 2008!

Richard Adair, Michael Basileo, Patrick Brust, Roman Carandang, Michael Carter, Jenna Cavanagh, Samantha Clark, Kristin Curley, Sara DeFeo, Vincent DeFeo, Joseph Flemming, Maura Hahn, Rachel Hasset, Angela Hazard, Claire Higgins, Jessica Hoffman, Alyson Howe, Jeffrey Hurley, Kelsie Imaduddin, Kelsey Kilpatrick, James Malick, Haley Rose McDermott, Kevin Melia, Brittany O'Brien, Patrick O'Drain, Stephen Petrucelli, Justin Pierlott, Maura Pomante, Briana Popelak, Joseph Radetich, Kaitlyn Razzi, Justine Reed, Jocelyn Rhea, Alexander Sheldahl, Craig Smith, Nicholas Stefanacci, Shannon Szczepanski, Nicholas Tahenakos, Francesca Tenaglia, Anthony Thompson, Ryan Tillinghast, Gabriel Whiteley, Marissa Wolfe and John Zazzera.

Parking Study Committee Update

At the recent parking meter meeting, the group of attendees discussed the underutilization of the 38 metered parking spaces along the Merchantville Mile. As a result bags have been placed over those parking meters for a 60 day trial to see whether the spaces will be better utilized without the fees and 2 hour time restriction. Please advise your customers and employees that they can park in this location for free during this trial period. Bags will remain there until the end of July. Committee meeting minutes and results of parking surveys have been published by Ragan Design and can be found on the town website @ www.merchantville.com. The next scheduled meeting is Thursday, July 31st.

Shade Tree Commission: *Trees: seen one, seen 'em all?*

Once I started studying trees I was astounded at all the ways in which they are different from each other. It was as if a whole world had been hiding right in front of my eyes and I had been given the code that revealed it. Tree identification books are a great help in answering the question "What tree is this?" They are organized as keys, a series of questions whose answers lead you to more questions until the choices have been narrowed down to one.

Some of the characteristics asked about are the buds, flowers, leaves, bark, and fruit. Look for pudgy, sticky buds on Chestnut trees and long, thin, pointed ones on Beeches. Flowers can range from the showy Dogwood, Cherry, and Catalpa (blooming now) to the easy-to-miss Oak, Beech, and Birch. Leaf characteristics include not only the size, shape and color but the texture and thickness of the leaf and the pattern of the veins. A lot of tree bark looks very similar, but you can't miss the smooth, grey bark of a Magnolia or Beech, the patchy, flaking bark of a Sycamore, or the peeling bark of a Birch. Lastly, fruit is a great clue to a tree's identity, from walnuts, acorns, and chestnuts to the less familiar lantern-like fruit of the Golden Raintree and flat pea-like pods lining the branches of Redbuds.

But what if you don't have any of these clues? What if somebody shows you two twigs with the leaves removed, telling you one is from a Maple and the other from an Oak? One of the first questions a key will ask is how the leaves are arranged. Most trees' leaves are located either in pairs opposite each other or singly on alternate sides of a branch. Maple tree leaves are arranged opposite each other, while Oaks' alternate. That means that the answer to "Test your tree smarts" at the MSTC table at the Birthday Celebration was "A". Congratulations to those who correctly identified it, and I hope that knowing a little more about the sometimes small differences between trees will help you enjoy them more.



MLL BOYS WIN MAJORS

Congratulations to the Merchantville Phillies for their championship win in the 2008 Interleague 27 Majors Division. The boys battled back valiantly from an early loss in the double elimination contest to beat the Runnemeade Blue Jays in two consecutive games Monday, June 16th and Tuesday June, 17th. This team of 11 and 12 year old boys, many of whom have played baseball together since tee-ball, have worked long and hard for this moment. The victory was especially important to the five 12 year olds for whom the game Tuesday night was the last regulation Little League game they will play.



Garden Club News

Thanks to the gardening angels who planted around the Merchantville Welcome sign, in the planter at the corner of Chestnut & Gilmore and at Chestnut & Centre.

Additional thanks to Jim and Agnes Madden who planted the area around the gazebo and the berm along the Public Works building. The Gardening Club presently includes the Maddens and Lisa & Allen McSparron. Anyone who is interested in helping our efforts to keep the Borough Beautiful can contact Councilman Shawn Waldron at swaldon@merchantvillenj.gov.

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Poison Control Center Advises Community on Heat and Sun-Related Illnesses

With heat warnings in effect, the potential for someone developing heat related illness increases significantly. Often referred to as “heatstroke” or “sunstroke,” heat related illness occurs when a person’s body temperature rises to a dangerous level. Factors such as underlying medical problems, dehydration and medication usage all play a role in heat-related illness. Human beings can reduce their body temperature in various ways, the most obvious of which is sweating. On hot, humid days, the increased moisture in the air slows the evaporation of sweat. When sweating is not adequate to cool your body, your temperature rises, and you may become ill. Because most heat-related illness or deaths occur during the summer, people should be aware of who is at greatest risk and what actions should be taken to prevent a heat-related illness. In addition to the elderly, very young, and people with chronic diseases being at risk, certain medications increase one’s risk.

Medications, which increase the risk of developing heat related illness, include but are not limited to:

- Antidepressants like Elavil and Tofranil
- Antihistamines like Benadryl and Chlor-Trimeton
- Diuretics like Lasix and Diuril
- Antipsychotics like Haldol

Tips to prevent heat illness:

- Air-conditioning is the number one protective factor against heat-related illness and death.
- Wear lightweight, light-colored, loose-fitting, open-woven clothes.
- Wear a vented hat in the sun to protect yourself from the sun’s rays. Don’t forget sunscreen!
- Drink extra water (fluids) all day and less tea, coffee, cola and alcoholic beverages! Do NOT wait until you feel thirsty to drink – it may be too late!
- During outdoor activities, take frequent breaks and drink plenty of water or other fluids, even if you don’t feel thirsty.
- Reduce or schedule outdoor activity, for cooler times of the day, before 10am and after 6pm.
- If you have a chronic medical problem, ask your doctor about how to deal with the heat.

By knowing who is at risk and what prevention measures to take, heat-related illness and death can be prevented. For immediate treatment advice, as well as for prevention information. The Poison Control Center is available 24 hours every day. Call **1-800-222-1222**. Trained medical professionals handle all calls.

MERCHANTVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY – SUMMER PROGRAMS

Little Ones Play Group Birth to 3 years and their caregivers. *Every Saturday, 11 a.m. to noon.* Meet our youngest members and make new friends! We have special books and toys.

Jewelry Craft Preschool and up *Wednesday, July 2, 3 - 4 p.m.* Choose from a variety of materials such as glass, plastic and foam to make bracelets and necklaces.

Garden Signs Preschool and up *Wednesday, July 9, 3 - 4 p.m.* Make a colorful garden sign for the blooming outdoors.

Bee Aware: Know the Bear Facts Wednesday, July 16, 2:30 p.m. Did you know that black bears live in New Jersey? Learn about them and their relationship to bees with Michelle Ruggiero of the NJ Division of Fish & Wildlife.

Summer Mobile Preschool and up *Wednesday, July 23, 3 - 4 p.m.* Flowers and bugs are just some of the shapes that will make up this colorful piece.

Bug Safari, Butterfly Stages and Bug Craft Wednesday, July 30, 2 p.m. - Bug Craft Learn about bug anatomy and then create your own bug!

Story Dance with Candice Carriger Wednesday, August 6, 4 p.m. *Story Dance is a creative movement activity that combines yoga poses, movement games and student-created dance to bring stories to life.* **FOR ALL AGES / FAMILIES**

Merchantville School Registering Tuition Students For Fall

Merchantville School attracts families that are looking for a quality education for their children. According to Chris Swanson, Chief School Administrator, "In the last several years we have had tuition students from several surrounding communities, including Pennsauken and Maple Shade. Families are drawn to Merchantville School because of its reputation for academic excellence and the individual attention that comes naturally in a small school environment."

Merchantville is committed to maintaining its long-held tradition of academic excellence and to offering services that are usually not found in a small school. For example, Merchantville School offers high school level Algebra I and Spanish I classes for academically qualified eighth grade students. Environmentally themed field trips at many grade levels are designed to give students hands-on science experience. Other programs usually not found in small schools include school cafeteria that has a before school breakfast program and hot food for lunch. Working parents can take advantage of the before and after Merchantville School, a pre-K through eighth grade school in historic Merchantville, is accepting a limited number of tuition students for fall registration. With just 350 students in grades pre-K through eight, Merchantville School is known for its small class sizes, strong parental involvement and highly skilled, dedicated staff. Merchantville offers a full range of academic, athletic, and cultural programs designed to give its children a strong foundation to meet the challenges of the 21st century. school childcare program. school childcare program.

Tuition for non-resident students is comparable to that charged by local parochial schools. Registrations are being accepted for grades 1 through 8. Interested families are encouraged call 856-663-1091 for more information or to schedule a tour of the school.

Dental Emergencies By Dr. Gary Sapienza

The general rule-of-thumb for dental emergencies: if you think it's an emergency, your dentist does, too. Give your dentist a call and try to get an appointment that day. Or leave a message with your dentist's emergency number. In the meantime, here's what to do until you get in for an examination.

Broken Fillings. Save the filling. Rinse your mouth with lukewarm water to remove debris; dissolved table salt or baking soda is soothing. If the tooth is sensitive use dental wax, or, in a pinch, sugarless gum.

Lost crown. Try to affix the crown with denture adhesive or, if it won't stick, use dental wax to keep the tooth away from air.

Knocked-out tooth. Don't panic. If you can get treatment within about an hour, chances are the tooth can be resealed for good. Don't touch the tooth root. Gently replace the tooth where it belongs if you can, or keep it moist in milk.

Damaged bridges, dentures, partials. Do not risk home repairs. Keep all the pieces, even the smallest, and call your dentist.

Toothache is common and nasty. Toothache tells you something is wrong that needs attention. Rinse your mouth with warm water and try to floss the food away. An ice pack or numbing agent may make you comfortable. Two Advil and two Tylenol taken together work well and can be taken every 4-6 hours until you get an appointment.

www.SapienzaDental.com
(856) 662-6152



PHONE: 856-662-8884
FAX: 856-662-8840



DISCOVER THE DIFFERENCE

Of your hometown. Experience the difference that shopping in your own town offers. Supporting community businesses ensures a long and healthy future for your downtown!

What's Happening at Maple-Chapel Intersection?

As this is being written, three buildings have disappeared at the Maple - Chapel intersection, and three rather large piles of debris are being removed. The now-demolished buildings are the vacant Shell gas station, the former Nursing home building and Dr. Chase's family dentistry property.

Several years ago after the Shell station and Nursing home closed the Borough Council and Planning Board declared those lots a redevelopment zone. That redevelopment zone entertained several rounds of development proposals over many years until 2006 when one that would best suit the community was accepted.

That development proposal by RLC III was of significant interest to the borough. Rudolph Celli and others from RLC III presented their concept for the property to the residents in a series of public meetings throughout the first half of 2007. Though the Chase building was not originally part of the redevelopment zone, RLC III realized that the potential of the corner for redevelopment would be greatly enhanced with the larger area available if this property was included, so they purchased the Chase property and requested that the borough include it in the redevelopment zone. After the appropriate hearings and public input, including the possible historic significance of the Chase property, the Planning Board, followed by Council, amended the redevelopment plan to include the property.

In February of this year the purchase of the properties was completed. In early March work began on the site and demolition of the buildings began with the gas station in mid-March. Work on the site is scheduled for completion by the end of 2008. At that time PNC Bank is expected to move from its current location on Center Street to the new Chapel-Maple development. A couple of other retailers will be joining the bank at the Maple-Chapel corner .

The change is exciting and a bold step for Merchantville's future! To take a property that was listed as a State of NJ Contaminated Site and return it to a useful, vibrant asset deserves our thanks. There must be a great deal of well deserved satisfaction for those who first began this process 6 years ago! Keep an eye out as the once blighted eyesore resurfaces as an essential part of our business community!

DON'T FORGET...

Residents and neighbors are invited to The Merchantville Film Forum on the First Wednesday of every month at the Public Library. On July 2nd and August 6th at 6:30 p.m. join other adults for screening and discussion of classic films. Bring your dinner in a sack. We will provide water and snacks. Call for titles.

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Merchantville Elementary School

130 South Centre Street
Merchantville, NJ 08109
856.663.1091

Dear Friends of Merchantville School,

Merchantville Elementary School is a unique home to an ethnically and economically diverse student body of 400 pre-kindergarten through eighth grade students. Our auditorium plays a major part in the lives of our students and community. Since our Borough is only 7/10 of a square mile and our school is funded almost completely by our residents' taxes, we are asking for your help.

After 80 years of use in this unique historical building, our auditorium needs restoration and our goal is to raise approximately \$100,000.00 to refurbish the auditorium. We have received a generous donation of gently used auditorium seats, but we need help to install them along with other improvements to complete the project.

Any donation is appreciated and all donors will have their names prominently displayed in the foyer of the auditorium. We would be happy to give naming rights to you or your business should you choose to fund the project.

If you have any questions or would like further information, please call Mr. Christian Swanson Sr., Chief School Administrator at 856.663.1091 ext 12, or Denise Brouse at 856.317.9211.

If you would like to have a remembrance of the auditorium, we will auction off the old seats within the next few months. Please contact either of the names listed above if you would like to be contacted when the auction is scheduled.

We sincerely hope you will consider our request and look forward to hearing from you.

Please return the attached sponsor form with your donation. This project will not be possible without your generosity.

Sincerely,

The Merchantville School Auditorium Committee, PTA

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PLEASE DETATCH AND RETURN

Name as you would like it listed on the Plaque:

Circle choice of Sponsorship:

Bronze Sponsor: \$50-\$200

Silver Sponsor: \$200-\$500

Gold Sponsor: \$500-\$1000

Platinum Sponsor: \$1000-\$5000

Knight Sponsor: \$5000 and higher

Please make checks payable to:

"Merchantville PTA"

Attention: Auditorium

130 South Centre Street

Merchantville, NJ 08109