

Merchantville BOROUGH NEWSLETTER

Volume 14, Issue 1

Merchantville, New Jersey

Winter 2008



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

Merchantville Fine Crafts & Art Festival

Saturday, May 17th from 10:00-5:00 p.m.

Sunday, May 18th from 10:00-5:00 p.m.

Call for Entries Deadline is March 14, 2008



The committee is working hard for an even more spectacular festival this year. With great community support, welcoming merchants, savvy customers and great publicity we know that this show is bound to be a sure winner for your spring schedule!

Printable applications for the 2008 show are available online at www.merchantville.com. Inquiries are welcome via email at arts-festival@merchantville.com or by phone at 856-662-2474 ext. 121.

Borough Receives 3rd Neighborhood Preservation Program

Congratulations to the Borough of Merchantville for their third award of a Neighborhood Preservation Program. The Department of Community Affairs announced ten new awards this fall. We are proud that Merchantville will again be the lead agency in another multi-jurisdictional grant with Pennsauken and Cherry Hill where part of each town is within the program area. 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. In addition, Merchantville also received \$100,000 in a separate grant for Balanced Housing during 2008 and will also work with the County Home Improvement Program to leverage additional funding.

Streets in Merchantville that are included within the **target area** include parts of Volan, Chapel, Locust, Centre, Spruce, Woodlawn and Russell. What this means is that **everyone living in the target area qualifies for a grant**. Residents, business owners and landlords can receive funds to renovate their home, apartment or store. The amount of a grant is based on income and type of property. Homeowners can receive up to \$25,000 in funding to replace major appliances in the home, such as, but not limited to heaters, roofing, electrical, plumbing, windows and many other items. Applications will be available on a first come first serve basis when the State approves the work plan. It will take approximately six months before you can expect to this process to begin. The first phase of the grant application includes a planning and approval process. Residents within the target area will receive information about grant possibilities over the next few months. If you would like to be part of the planning and you are within the area, we would like to include you in our resident organization. Call the Borough office at 662.2474 ext. 103.

Information is just a click away @ www.merchantville.com

Merchantville.com is a dynamic town website. It functions as a great community ambassador while providing an efficient and effective communication tool. The site provides an up-to-date interactive calendar for meetings and events. Content contributions are accepted daily from municipal employees, community volunteers, local organizations and residents. Past issues of the Borough Newsletter are also available on the website. To submit articles, events or photos just email website@merchantville.com.

2008 Council Assignments

On Thursday, January 3rd, Mayor and Council held their Reorganization meeting. Newly elected members Steve Volkert, Anthony Perno and Mark Brunton took the oath of office and responsibilities for 2008 were assigned are as follows:

COMMITTEE FOR WAYS AND MEANS

Department of Accounts & Auditing
Department of Finance
Department of Records & Licenses

COMMITTEE FOR PUBLIC WORKS & SERVICES

Department of Property
Department of Highways
Department of Sewer Utility
Department of Parks & Recreation
Department of Lighting

COMMITTEE FOR PUBLIC SAFETY

Department of Police
Department of Fire
Department of Emergency Rescue Squad
Department of Health
Department of Land Use and Building Inspection

Patricia A. Fields, Chairperson

Patricia A. Fields, Director
Anthony J. Perno, Director
Mark Brunton, Director

Steven Volkert, Chairman

Anthony J. Perno, Director
Mark Brunton, Director
Steven Volkert, Director
Shawn P. Waldron, Director
Mark Brunton, Director

John N. Alloway, Chairman

John N. Alloway, Director
Steven Volkert, Director
Patricia A. Fields, Director
Mark Brunton, Director
Patricia A. Fields, Director

Council Liaison to Senior Citizens	Alloway
Council Representative to Business & Professional Association	Waldron
Council Representative to Emergency Management	Brunton
Council Representative to Planning Board	Fields
Council Representative to Public Events Committee	Waldron
Council Representative to Shade Tree Commission	Waldron
Council Representative to Recreation Commission	Waldron
Chairperson, Recycling and Solid Waste Committee	Volkert
Recycling and Solid Waste Committee	Brunton
Personnel Policies and Procedures	Fields
Liaison to Pennsauken Sewerage Authority	Volkert
CDBG Program	Perno
CDBG Program Alternate	Volkert
Winterization and Rehabilitation	Brunton
Insurance Committee-Fund Commissioner	Alloway
Insurance Committee	Fields
Economic Redevelopment Committee	North
Economic Redevelopment Committee	Perno
Board of Education Interface Committee	Volkert
Board of Education Interface Committee	Perno
Police Board	Volkert, Alloway & North
Communication and Newsletter	Waldron & Brunton
Liaison to Merchantville-Pennsauken Water Commission	North
Council Liaison to Historic Preservation Commission	Waldron
Council Liaison to Neighborhood Preservation Program	Fields

CONTACT INFORMATION

Mayor North and Council may be reached via municipal email, through the website or by dialing their extensions in the Borough Offices at 856-662-2474.

Frank North, Mayor	mayor@merchantvillenj.gov	856-662-2474 ext. 199
John Alloway, Councilman	jalloway@merchantvillenj.gov	856-662-2474 ext. 153
Patricia Fields, Councilwoman	pfields@merchantvillenj.gov	856-662-2474 ext. 151
Shawn Waldron, Councilman	swaldron@merchantvillenj.gov	856-662-2474 ext. 150
Steve Volkert, Councilman	svolkert@merchantvillenj.gov	856-662-2474 ext. 157
Anthony Perno, Councilman	aperno@merchantvillenj.gov	856-662-2474 ext. 155
Mark Brunton, Councilman	mbrunton@merchantvillenj.gov	856-662-2474 ext. 154



New officers sworn in

On Monday, November 19th at the Borough Council meeting two new Merchantville police officers were sworn in. The new department members are Patrolman Matthew Rulli and Patrolman Brian Callaway. Rulli was hired this past July to replace Lieutenant Eric Schmidt who retired more than a year ago and Callaway was hired on September 1st to replace Patrolman Derek Rambo who left to pursue a career with the Gloucester Township Police Department.

Pictured from left to right are Police Chief Wayne Bauer, Ptl. Matthew Rulli, Ptl. Brian Callaway and Councilman John Alloway after the ceremony.

We welcome the addition of these officers to our community and wish them success and safety in their career.

Police Department offers winter driving tips

No one wants to break down in any season, but especially not in cold or snowy winter weather. Start the season off right by ensuring your vehicle is in optimal condition. Get your car serviced now. Check your battery and cooling system. Fill your washer reservoir and check your windshield wipers and defrosters. Inspect your tires. Plan your travel and route. Know your car, stock it and learn what to do in a winter emergency.

Chief Bauer and the Merchantville police offer residents some tips on how to be prepared by stocking your vehicle as winter weather approaches:

Carry items in your vehicle to handle common winter driving tasks such as cleaning off your windshield as well as any supplies you might need in an emergency. Keep the following on hand:

- Snow shovel, broom, and ice scraper.
- Abrasive material, such as sand or kitty litter, in case your vehicle gets stuck in the snow.
- Jumper cables, flashlight and warning devices, such as flares and markers.
- Blankets for protection from the cold.
- A cell phone, water, food, and any necessary medicine.

For the complete list of **Winter Driving Safety Tips** log on to our website @ www.merchantville.com and visit the Police department homepage.

Rental registration dicussed

Last month the Borough held an informational meeting to discuss a new rental unit registration ordinance that is expected to be proposed by Council in the near future. The open public meeting was aimed at reaching apartment owners, landlords and rental managers and was attended by five residents and borough representatives. Areas of discussion included tri-annual and new tenant registration, fees, inspections and enforcement.

The meeting was attended by a handful of residents and property owners. Their questions focused on the current lack of enforcement and follow through, duplication of paperwork and inspections, and utilization and empowerment of current boards. Of paramount concern was the likelihood that the proposed ordinance would only result in unfairly penalizing responsible landlords for the negligence of truant landlords.

SNOW REMOVAL WARNING

BOROUGH ORDINANCE 73-8

Responsibility of owner or occupant: 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.

This ordinance means that all property owners, or occupants must clear the public sidewalks that abut their property within 10 hours of the storm ending or 10 hours after daylight, which ever comes first. A written warning will be issued for the first violation of this ordinance and any subsequent violations will cause a summons to appear in municipal court will be issued.

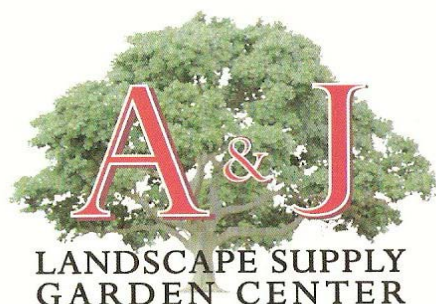
THE MERCHANT

A SUPPLEMENT FROM THE BUSINESS & PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION

Angels Give us a Reason to Smile

Dr. Sapienza and his team are pleased to announce another successful Salvation Army Angel Tree drive. This 2007 holiday season, our patients and the community visited our office and graciously donated many gifts to the Salvation Army for the benefit of families with children in need. With the combined effort and generosity of our family of patients and the community, we were able to make the holiday season even more enjoyable for over 35 families. We are always impressed with the kindness and generosity of our community. Together we can make a difference!

Gary G. Sapienza, DMD FAGD
311 East Maple Avenue
Merchantville, NJ 08109
(856) 662-6152
www.SapienzaDental.com



- MULCH
- STONE
- TREES
- SHRUBS

2955 Haddonfield Road Pennsauken

**Now featuring the Floral Shop
The Country Bloom**

**VOTED BEST OF SJ
HOME & GARDEN SHOP 2007**

**Fresh Cut Flowers
Exquisite Floral Design
For Weddings & Special Events
Seasonal Accessories and Gifts
For Your Home & Garden**

**JOIN US FOR GREAT VALENTINE'S DAY
Bouquets & Arrangements
Store Opening Specials!**

**Open Feb. 14th from 10 am - 7pm
Call (856) 356-2083 Or (856)816-3551
To place orders**

Stop and Crop Scrapbooking Shop

located at 16 North Center Street
662-7357

Kid's Make & Take event on Sunday, February 10th from 12-3. Spend a few hours creating your own Valentine cards by cutting, gluing, glittering, & stamping while enjoying some sweet surprises! Fee is \$10.

Did you know that we offer...

- * Friday and Saturday crops - gather some pictures and friends and spend the evening cropping, chatting, and creating
- * Birthday packages
- *NEW* For all ages a 1 hour beginner lesson \$10 (call ahead)
- * Assistance in helping you create your memories
- * Fundraising events (now available)

We offer a wide variety of paper, stickers, embellishments, 2 Sizzix machines (along with many diecuts), Cricut machine, craft scissors, journaling templates, computer journaling area, idea books, punches, stamps, inks, embossing plates, and a child friendly environment.

We are looking forward to providing you with a friendly, relaxing place where you can create memories and enjoy a little "me time." Feel free to email us at stopandcropscrapbooking@yahoo.com

The Collins House Restaurant

presents a
Wine Tasting Dinner
on
Friday, January 18, 2008
at
7:00 p.m.

FIRST COURSE

Mache Salad with Goat Cheese and Aromatic Oil

SECOND COURSE

Bouillabaisse

Calamari, shrimp, scallop, mussel, clam, swordfish and monkfish with leeks, fennel, saffron in flavorful tomato broth

THIRD COURSE

Farfella alla Nonna

Bowtie pasta ham peas in rich cream

FOURTH COURSE

Prime Pork Cowboy Steak

Stuffed with Italian Sausage Sweet Mashed Potato, Madeira Wine Demi Glaze Broccoli Rabe

OR

Orange Roughy

Raspberry ginger polenta broccoli rabe

FIFTH COURSE

Figs Stuffed Walnuts with Mascarpone Creme

\$68.00 per person
 Plus tax and gratuity

Call for Reservations
856-661-8008

TRY WEBSITE ADS

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. To learn more about website advertising visit the homepage at **merchantville.com**.

Bayberry's

21 North Centre Street • 856-663-4001

MOVING SALE
INVENTORY CLEARANCE

50-70% OFF

January 11th – January 26th

70% OFF Seasonal items

60% OFF Gourmet Foods

50% OFF Infantwear & Gifts

50% OFF Home Accents

50% OFF Root Candles

Half -Price Sale On
COMMUNION DRESSES
CHRISTENING OUTFITS

Visit our Baby & Basket Boutique
at

5 West Park Avenue

Merchantville, NJ

As we celebrate our 14th business year on

Support Merchantville's Businesses

Merchantville has a unique shopping district that's comprised family and independently owned businesses. You may be pleasantly surprised at the variety of goods and services that the Business District has to offer. Residents may even discover businesses they never knew were a part of our diverse shopping community. A comprehensive list of all businesses located in town complete with contact information is available online or in the 2007 Directory.

If you have not received a Borough Directory stop by Borough hall or any of our Downtown Businesses to pick up a free copy!

Merchantville's businesses provide a valuable service to our community and they depend on the support of residents and neighbors to thrive!

♦ JANUARY 2008 WATERLINES ♦

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

Annual Notice of Public Meetings of the Merchantville-Pennsauken Water Commission

Our meetings take place at our Park Avenue Plant, located at 8790 Park Avenue, Pennsauken, NJ 08109, at 6:30 PM unless otherwise noted and/or advertised. Meeting dates for calendar year 2008 are as follows:

January 10, 2008
February 14, 2008
March 13, 2008
April 10, 2008
May 8, 2008
June 12, 2008
July 10, 2008 (REORGANIZATION)
August 14, 2008
September 11, 2008
October 9, 2008
November 13, 2008
December 11, 2008 (9:30 AM)

Happy New Year from the MPWC!



Thanks to all of the staff members who participated in the 2007 holiday parade activities. Your efforts are greatly appreciated!

To the following employees who are celebrating Service Anniversaries with the MPWC:

James Garaguso - 23 Years

Jonathan Hutton - 1 Year

Coming Soon ...

Exciting changes to the MPWC website in the coming weeks. We've been working on ways to make our site more user friendly and informative for our customers. Look for our updated site sometime next month @ www.mpwc.com

Chapel-Maple Redevelopment Conceptual Drawing



Pictured on the left is a conceptual drawing of the proposed redevelopment for the corner of Maple Avenue & Chapel Avenue in Merchantville.

The redeveloper is RLC III, LLC and the final site plans were unanimously approved by the Planning Board at their October 7, 2007 meeting.

The building will cover 7,900 sq. ft. and include parking, a bank and two additional retail spaces.

Property management is currently being handled by MetroCommercial Real Estate.

Scholarship Applications

The Borough is in receipt of applications for the \$1000 King Scholarship Program. To apply an applicant must be a full time college student enrolled at an accredited College or University in the State of New Jersey at the time of award. Submissions must be received by 1/25/2008. A copy of the application is available to view and print here.

A Reminder to SLOW DOWN & STOP

Borough Council has recently approved new 4-way stops at two intersections. One intersection is located on Prospect Street at Somerset Street and Locust Street. The other intersection is Volan Street at Springfield Avenue. The appropriate signs will be installed and the police will begin enforcement during this month.

MERCHANTVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY 2008 Winter Program Calendar

130 South Centre Street • Merchantville, New Jersey

Registration is 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 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. **February 6th "Room at The Top" with Laurence Harvey**

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.

MES Auditorium Meeting

Join us in the school library on January, 23rd at 7:00 p.m. We will be forming the auditorium chair committee. Who should attend? Teachers, alumni from both the high school and elementary school, parents, PTA, school board and anyone interested in being involved with the auditorium chair replacement. We need your time, knowledge and financial support.

BOE News

Jennifer Perno, wife of Councilman Anthony Perno, was recently sworn in as the newest member of Merchantville's Board of Education. She was interviewed and chosen by the board to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Lorri Zeiders.

Pennsauken's Young at Heart Club

Presents Saul Broudy, January 17, 2007 at 1:00 p.m. The Young at Heart Club of Pennsauken located at Merchantville Avenue, and 130 North in the Temple Lutheran Church will present the Saul Broudy program Little Singing workers, American Occupational Folksongs. Saul Broudy holds a Ph.D. and is a veteran performer on the folk scene, singing country, blues, bluegrass and other traditional and contemporary forms of grassroots American music, accompanying himself on acoustic guitar and harmonica. This program is offered through the Horizon Speakers Bureau of New Jersey Council for the Humanities. The public is cordially invited. Admission is free.

COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS

Our Public Events Committee strives to provide an annual calendar full of events and promotions to stimulate community vitality. Events like the **Christmas Parade, Birthday Celebration, Car Show, Arts Festival** and **Town Wide Yard Sale** make Merchantville a regional destination and energize downtown business. Resident events like **Brunch With Santa, Rec Dances** and the **Easter Egg Hunt** foster community interaction. Make a New Year's resolution in 2008 to participate in and support the Merchantville community by volunteering to help with some of these activities. Contact Councilman Shawn Waldron at 856-663-0168 TODAY!

Voters will have to choose a party to vote in the primary

The only way that unaffiliated voters can cast a ballot in the February 5th Presidential Primary is if they drop their independent status and join a political party on that day. New Jersey only allows registered members of political parties to vote in primaries so any registered voters not affiliated with any political party must choose one to vote.

Juniors host yoga event

The Merchantville Junior Woman's Club hosted the Wellspring Center for Yoga & Health at its January 3, 2008 monthly Club meeting at the Community Center. Attendees participated in a yoga demonstration followed by a question and answer session about yoga. Guests were invited to stay after the demonstration and enjoy some light refreshments and learn more about the Juniors as they conducted their regular Club meeting. The Junior Woman's Club donates their time to help make the community a better place for our children. If you are a women between the ages of 18 and 40 are and would like to learn more about the Club please contact Cathy Mason at 856-427-0453 or email merchantvillejuniors@yahoo.com

Merchantville Historical Society

On Thursday, January 31st the Historical Society will "Honor Thy Mayors" at 8 p.m. in the Community Center. They will toast and affectionately roast our current mayor, Frank North, and our four past mayors, Patrick Brennan, Jack Morrissey, George Hammond and Burt German. There will also 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.

Mentors needed for at risk youth

We invite you to participate in what could be one of the most rewarding experiences of your life: becoming a mentor. Camden County is proud to partner with the Amachi Program, Volunteers of American of the Delaware Valley, and Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Camden and Gloucester Counties to provide mentors for at-risk youth in Camden and the surrounding communities.

You can provide the guidance a child needs by volunteering as little as one hour a week. No special skills are needed, just the willingness to care and spend time with a child in need of a structured and trusting relationship. By offering support and encouragement aimed at developing character, you can be a hero in the life of a child.

2008 DOG LICENSE APPLICATION

Your dog license(s) and registration tag(s) will expire on January 31st (2008) and must be renewed pursuant to N.J.S.A. 4:19-5.2 and Merchantville Ordinance #21-2. Please complete the Application Form at the bottom of this page and return it to Borough Hall with the fee of **\$9.00** for neutered dogs (**\$12.00** non-neutered dogs) and a self addressed stamped envelope. **PROOF OF NEUTERING MUST BE SHOWN. A VALID CERTIFICATE OF ANTI- RABIES VACCINATION MUST ACCOMPANY YOUR APPLICATION.** A dog license and registration tag will not be issued to any dog owner unless proof of vaccination against rabies is provided to this office as required by State law. **THE DURATION OF THE RABIES VACCINATION MUST EXTEND THROUGH AT LEAST OCTOBER 2008!** Late fees will be assessed to all licenses issued after March 31, 2008.

After January 31, 2008 any person who owns an unregistered/ unlicensed dog(s) 7 months of age or over is subject to a fine of not more than \$50.00 per dog.

Call 662-2474 x.103 for more information.

John C. Fry
Borough Clerk

APPLICATION:

Name of Owner:

Address:

Phone #:

Dogs Name:

Sex:

Breed:

Hair: Short___ Medium___ Long___ Color/Markings:

Age:

2008 License Number:

VALID RABIES INOCULATION CERTIFICATE AND PROOF OF NEUTERING MUST ACCOMPANY THIS APPLICATION.