



The Peapack-Gladstone

Borough Gazette

Volume XII, Issue 2

A Quarterly Publication for the Residents of Peapack and Gladstone

Fall 2006

MAYOR'S CORNER

Dear Peapack-Gladstone Residents:

Your personal property tax bills have arrived and those of us who are residents with ownership of personal property should feel a slight sigh of relief. Even if your tax bill has increased (4% average in community), and your property has increased in assessed value (11% average in community); if it were not for the volunteers on Borough Committees, our Borough employees and the elected officials, we all could be experiencing a much more substantial tax obligation. We have had, FOR REAL, belt tightening.

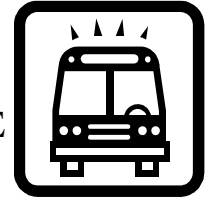
I have long believed that no one succeeds by himself or herself. This community is an outstanding example of that notion. Our residents are always ready to accept challenges as volunteers to keep our community one that we can be proud of. Our volunteers continually protect our rural sight with tree plantings and the creation of parks, seek and create new ways to protect open space and farmland, and plan summer programs for adults (concerts, reading clubs) and for our youngsters (day camp, sports leagues).



Volunteers have protected against special and unfitting development, provided welcome signs and walking tours that truly reflect the charm of our community and arranged to assist our residents during tough times, including emergency management, in our everyday activities. I could go on and on, but you get the message. I constantly applaud this Borough and am so proud of it.

What does the future hold? I cannot remember any time past when this question made people so uneasy. Can we continue to afford to live in this community? This Borough became a leader in the controversy of tax reform by my signing a Mayor's petition, with hundreds of other Mayors, insisting on a Constitutional Convention or some state legislative action to relieve property tax. We tax with an antiquated system which rebuts the notion of ability to pay. However, even now that the legislature appears to be on plan to reform or change, we need to be prepared to make some sacrifices of our own in other, but less

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HOP ON THE BUS

The Borough of Peapack & Gladstone provides a transportation bus for senior citizens 55 years and older. The bus operates on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday each week for grocery shopping, doctor visits, trips to the mall and other activities. There is a \$1 charge per trip. The bus is wheelchair accessible. For more information, call your driver, Bob Deutsch at 507-2545. Ω

2006 HAPPY ROCKER TRIPS

- * Friday, September 22, 2006: Bucks County Playhouse and dinner at Lambertville Station. Bus leaves at 4:00 p.m. Price - \$50.00 per person.
- * Tuesday, October 10: Octoberfest at Li Greci's Staten Restaurant on Staten Island. Bus leaves at 10:00 a.m. Price - \$43.00 per person.

Events for November and December have not yet been finalized.

For more information about these and other events, contact Charles Vanderbilt at 908-781-1076. Get on the list! Ω

Villa Hosts Matheny Benefit

The Matheny Medical and Educational Center will be the beneficiary of Villa Enterprises Management's annual golf tournament to be held Monday, September 11, at the New Jersey National Golf Club in Basking Ridge. Villa, based in Morristown, is an international organization operating five restaurant brands: Villa Fresh Italian Kitchen, Green Leaf's, Bananas, South Philly Steaks & Fries and Casa Java.

For more information on how to participate in or be a sponsor at the golf tournament, call 973-285-4800, ext. 6861, or e-mail lorrico@villaenterprises.com. ◊



SOMERSET HILLS SCHOOL DISTRICT

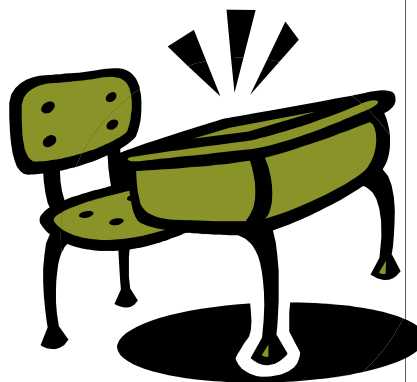
Another very busy summer in The Somerset Hills School District is almost over. Construction at Bernards High School has been progressing at a very rapid pace. Throughout the building are backhoes tearing up the floors, a maze of dumpsters, wires hanging, jackhammers removing old staircases and dust and debris everywhere.

When school opens on September 6, the new science wing will be complete. The music wing, which connects the main building to the lower gym, is expected to be ready in December.

Demolition of the cafeteria began in mid-July beginning the next phase of the high school project. A new cafeteria, auditorium, nurse's office, community room, three classrooms and an additional parking lot will be added to the high school over the next year.

At Bedwell Elementary and the Bernardsville Middle School, technology is being upgraded and new computers are being installed.

Through all the construction and disruption, daily activities of the staff continue as the student schedules are completed, positions are finalized, sports schedules are set and preparation is made for the new school year. ◊



MAYOR'S CORNER

(Continued from page 1)

financially taxing, ways of life. In particular we need to change our thinking on home rule and think more of consolidating and sharing municipal and school district services with other communities. As an example of our own success in this area, we share our health department with seven other communities.

Home rule should not be taken away from the rights of voters in any consolidation or shared movement, but voters need to be educated as to what consolidation means for their finances and services. Shared services with other municipalities and school districts will absolutely show some real results. Each and every shared service or consolidation, however, has to be based on a local discussion and decision. That is the ability to retain home rule. Home rule does not require that you provide every service on your own, but allows for making decisions as to what is best for your town and its residents. This is where I believe the Governor's plan will focus, as well as on cutting government employees' pay and benefits.

CALL BEFORE YOU DIG!!!!

The Underground Facility Protection Act, better known as the "One Call Law", was enacted in October 1994. The law requires that anyone digging must call 1-800-272-1000 so that operators can mark-out their underground utilities. **Anyone** digging (Schools, Police, Public Safety, Public Works, Municipalities and Homeowners) to install, remove or replace trees, tree stumps, curbs, street and sign posts, mailbox posts, fences, construct decks, additions, or create new gardens, etc. must call **800-272-1000**.

The one-Call system will notify the operators of underground facilities to mark-out your planned activity. You must wait three business days for your mark-out and not more than 10 days before you start your project. Your notification is good for 30 business days. The person/company doing the excavation is required to call the Center.

The information needed to process your request is as follows: Name, address, the dig address and the nearest intersection, depth you are digging, the type of work and where you need the property marked out. Be sure to have this information available when you call the Center. You will receive a ticket number, which should be retained until your project is safely completed.



Remember: You cannot work outside the scope of work stated on your request and you must hand dig within 2 feet of mark-outs before using mechanical equipment.

The One-Call Center is not responsible for the mark-outs. If you should find that your property has been marked, it means that someone has requested a utilities mark-out in your area. The mark-out is for your safety.

Mark-outs are color-coded. The color code markings for utilities are: Red (electric); Yellow (gas, oil, dangerous materials, product & stream lines); Orange (CATV communications); Blue (water); Green (sewer) and White (proposed excavation).

Here's How it Works In A Nutshell:

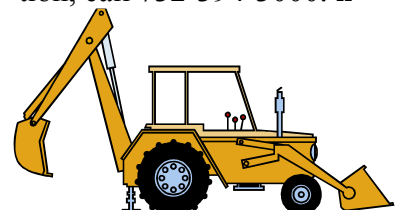
- * Always call the One Call Center prior to digging within the time frame. 800-272-1000.
- * Be prepared with the necessary information: The municipality, street address, extent of work, caller's name, contact person name, address and phone numbers.
- * Then, wait for the site to be marked! Marking could be paint, flags or stakes.

- * Respect and protect the facility operator's marks. Note the color of all markings used and what type of facilities they indicate.
- * Dig with care! Always hand dig within 2 feet on either side of any marked lines.
- * If damage, dislocation, or disturbance of an underground utility line occurs, immediately notify the affected facility, utility or pipeline.
- * If damage creates an emergency, take immediate steps to safeguard health and property.

Results of not calling:

- * Personal injury, including loss of life.
- * Damage to the environment.
- * Costly property damage.
- * Damage to these utilities lines: communication (i.e., telephone, long distance communications, cable television, 911 emergency, fire and police communication), electric, gas pipelines, sewer, traffic signals and water lines.
- * Costly delays and expensive repairs.
- * Legal problems.
- * Civil penalties.

If you need further information, call 732-394-3000. Ω



Peapack-Gladstone

Library

The Peapack-Gladstone Library will celebrate the fall season with a series of programs for patrons of all ages. Each Friday the library hosts "Storytime With Jenna." Children's librarian, Jenna Galley, entertains kids ages two-and-one-half to five years with stories, films and much more. Children's events are scheduled for September 15, 22 and 29; October 6, 13 and 20; and November 10 and 17 at 10:15 a.m. and 1:45 p.m.

The library will host an end of summer Pizza Party at noon on Saturday, September 9. The event is open to all children who participated in the Summer Reading Club. Food and beverages will be served.

The library's book club will meet Tuesday, September 26 at 7 p.m. The group will discuss:

A Death in Belmont by best-selling author Sebastian Junger. The evening promises refreshments, lively discussions and more.

On Saturday, October 7, a Fondue Party for young adults will take place at noon. Teens can enjoy a delicious snack of strawberries, pretzels and other treats dipped in melted chocolate. They will also get tips on how to host their own fondue party.

On Monday, October 30, Laura and Jenna present their Spooktacular Evening as the



library hosts a night of scary stories for children (Grades 3 and up) at 5 p.m. Bring your own goosebumps.

Children and adults of all ages are invited to family movie night on November 1.

The library will show Ghostbusters from 6 to 8 p.m. Popcorn will be included.

All programs require registration, and interested patrons can call the library at 908-234-0598. We look forward to seeing you! ☺

Matheny Golf Classic to be Held October 9 at Trump National

The Matheny Medical and Educational Center Golf Classic will be held Monday, October 9, at the Trump National Golf Club in Bedminster. Play will be limited to 108 players, so reserve your space early. Proceeds from the Golf Classic will help fund the Matheny Center of Medicine and Dentistry, which provides outpatient medical, dental and therapy services to persons with disabilities in the community.

The title sponsor of the Golf Classic is PayLock of Peapack. The double eagle sponsor is Village Office Supply of Bridgewater. For more information regarding sponsorships or participation, call 908-234-0011, ext. 260, or e-mail lregan@matheny.org



AT WORK WITH THE DPW

Although summer is not yet over, the Department of Public Works would like to remind residents of the following:

- * Raking of leaves into the street is prohibited. There will be two leaf pickups this fall, November 18 and December 16. Please use the appropriate brown bags.
- * During snow season, please keep recyclable and garbage cans on curb three feet from the roadway and remove as soon as possible after pickup.
- * Please check your mailboxes to make sure they are secure to their posts and in good shape.

For the safety and well being of our residents and general public, DPW employees now account for four EMT's and three designated ambulance drivers. These employees handle daytime calls under the direction of the Peapack Gladstone First Aid Squad. Ω



Full Circle 2006:

The Common Thread Will Celebrate Matheny's Arts Access Program

The Common Thread will celebrate Matheny's Arts Access Program on Sunday, November 12, in the Robert Schonhorn Arts Center on the Matheny campus. The event will be held from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m.

A reception showcasing paintings and digital art will begin at 3:00 p.m., followed by a stage presentation at 4:00 p.m. The stage presentation will feature two dance performances and dramatic readings.

Tickets are \$25.00, and all proceeds will benefit Arts Access, an alternative fine arts program for people with disabilities. For more information, call 908-234-0011, ext. 442 or e-mail info@artsaccessprogram.org. Ω

HISTORICAL COMMISSION UPDATE

Prints and note cards depicting scenes of Peapack-Gladstone by local artist and Commission member, Victor Martinez, are available for purchase at the Borough Hall and local business establishments. Checks should be made payable to Borough of Peapack-Gladstone H.P.C. Proceeds will benefit the Historic Preservation Commission.

A Walking Tour map illustrating the original core of Peapack-Gladstone, prepared by John Smith, Chairman of the Commission, was used for the commission sponsored walking tour on July 17, 2006. The event was well attended as residents enjoyed relating their own homes to the map. The map also identified the locations of key historic structures and homes prior to 1930, along with written information about them. Copies of this map are available from John Smith at 908-234-1121 at a cost of \$20.00 each. Another walking tour may be scheduled for this fall.

Upcoming meetings of the Historic Preservation Commission will be held at 4:00 p.m. on August 3rd and November 2nd, at the Borough Hall Conference Room. Anyone interested is welcome to attend the meetings. Information regarding membership can also be obtained by calling our secretary, Nancy Wotjon at 908-719-2956, or John Smith. Ω

RECREATION NEWS

Another Community Day was enjoyed by all! This annual community gathering would not be possible without the time and energy donated by Cole Kleitsch, Susan Kennedy, Shari Engelmann, Rich Rampinelli, Art and Barbara Certisimo, Mike Russo and Sandy Haut. Thank you all for a great evening! Thank you also to Brady and Megan Becker for running the men's and women's softball games. The local talent has become quite impressive.

The Summer Recreation program was again a complete success! The crafts, sports, trips, contests and activities were enjoyed by all participants. A huge thanks to the hardworking staff members: Dave Angri, Susan Kennedy, Nancie Samuelson, Diane Becker, Kris Hall, Tommy Hart, Jimmy Sheppard, Jason Engelmann, Megan Becker, Jillian Kennedy, Amy Engelmann, Jesse Angri, Anthony Palma and Katie Rohrbaker.



Art in the Park will be held on Sunday, September 17. Anyone

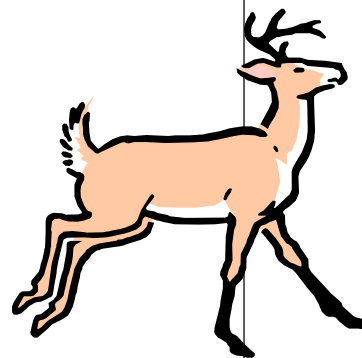
interested in helping out or exhibiting art work should call Nancie Samuelson at 908-901-9589.

Soccer forms for kindergarten and grade 1 will be mailed in September. All other grades should have registered with SHSC in June.



Basketball registration forms for grades 5 through 8 will be mailed in October. Grades 3 and 4 will receive registration forms by mail in November.

The annual Halloween Parade will be held on Sunday, October 29. All participants should meet at the Peapack Gladstone Bank at 2:00 p.m. The costume parade will then proceed to the municipal building where refreshments will be served. Ω



Deer Fencing in the Borough

Deer fencing is permitted in Peapack and Gladstone. A Building Permit is not required, but you *must* have a Zoning Permit so the municipality knows where you want to erect the fence and can inspect it once completed. If you forget to get the Zoning Permit and install the wrong fencing or put the fence in the wrong place, you might be asked to remove it or relocate it.

The regulations are as follows:

- * Maximum height is nine (9) feet.
- * Fencing may be erected in the side and rear yards, but not in the front yard.
- * The fence may be placed at your property lines.
- * Fence should be mesh type with no openings smaller than 4" x 4".
- * Fence and posts should be a dark color.

Zoning Permits are available at the Construction Office in Borough Hall. The fee is \$50.00. When you apply for the permit, please bring a copy of your survey with you.

Any questions, call 908-234-2256. Ω

Talkin' Trash

Garbage and recycling containers shall not be placed curbside before noon of the day before collection as stated in Borough Ordinances 707 and 714. They also must be removed from curbside by noon on the day following the pick-up. Help us keep the Borough more attractive by following these rules.

To ensure collection, mark your calendar for the following services:

- * Normal garbage pick-up is curbside every Wednesday.
- * Bulk Collection is every third Wednesday of the month.
- * Recycling collection is every other Tuesday. The schedule for the remainder of 2006 is September 5th and 19th, October 3rd and 17th and 31st, November 14th and 28th, and December 12th and 26th.
- * In a few weeks, the leaves will begin to fall again. There will be two town-wide leaf pick-ups: November 18th and December 16th. Place your bagged leaves at the curb in biodegradable leaf bags which may be purchased from the Borough Clerk's office. If you need more information, please call 908-234-1259. Please do not rake your leaves into the street. It is against the law and clogs the storm water drainage system. ◊

TAXING MATTERS

Because of the delay in the State of New Jersey setting a budget, the mailing of the Borough of Peapack & Gladstone's Property Tax Bills was delayed. However, tax bills were mailed to all homeowners as of July 17, 2006.

Property taxes are due on the 1st of August, November, February and May. The August due date remains the 1st of the month and the grace period expired on the 10th of August.

If you escrow funds with your mortgage company for quarterly tax payments, you will have received a bill indicating that it is for "advice only". If you received a bill marked "advice only" and are paying your taxes directly to our office, please do so from this advice bill. Include a note with your payment, including your block and lot number, stating that you are responsible for paying your taxes directly. We will update our files accordingly. If you received a normal bill and expected to receive an advice copy because you escrow funds, please forward a copy of the tax bill to your mortgage company. A form needs to be completed by you and your mortgage company to authorize the collector's office to forward future tax bills to your lender or to discuss your property taxes with them. This form must be obtained from your mortgage company.

Property taxes are based on the assessed value of your home, divided by 100 and then multiplied by the tax rate. Any questions you may have on the assessed value of your home should be addressed to the Tax Assessor, Ed Kerwin, at 908-234-2254. A sheet showing the distribution of the tax rate has been included with your tax bill.

If you have not yet received your Property Tax Bill, please call the Tax Office at 908-234-2251. The office is staffed Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. ◊

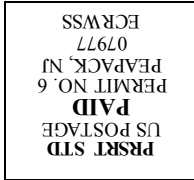
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PEAPACK-GLADSTONE WOMAN'S CLUB, INC.

The Peapack Gladstone Woman's Club invites all women in the Somerset Hills area to their Welcome Back Buffet Supper on Monday, September 11, 2006, at 6:30 p.m. at the Peapack-Gladstone Borough Hall. For information, please call Membership Chairman, Gretchen Lynch at 908-234-9087.

The GFWC Peapack-Gladstone Woman's Club awarded academic scholarships to Christine Snow of Gladstone and Danna L. Hanna of Peapack. Christine will attend the Westminster Choir College of Rider University majoring in music. Danna will attend Raritan Valley Community College with a career goal in elementary education. Scholarships are available to women returning to the business world or to enhance their careers. Naquell Stephenson from Bernardsville High and Sahreeta Ballard from Creative Arts High School in Camden were selected to attend Girls Career Institute at Douglass College, sponsored by the New Jersey Federation of Women's Clubs of GFWC.

Jenna Galley, the Children's Librarian of the Peapack-Gladstone Library was presented with a multimedia projector for the Library at the May meeting. The installation of officers took place at the meeting, as well.

The Peapack-Gladstone Woman's Clubs other activities include an annual blood drive with New Jersey Blood Services, a holiday wish tree for the benefit of residents of Matheny Medical and Educational Center and Bryan Manor, plants and planting of the flowerpots at Liberty Park and volunteering at the New Jersey Food Bank in Hillside, New Jersey.

The GFWC Peapack-Gladstone Woman's Club is a member of the New Jersey Federation of Women's Clubs. Meetings are held in the first floor Conference Room of the Municipal Complex at 7:30 p.m. on the second Monday evening of each month. Area women are invited to attend. For information call Dianne Maki 908-234-1873 or Irene Ellis 908-234-1090. Ω