



BOROUGH NEWSLETTER

Volume 15, Issue 4

Merchantville, New Jersey

Summer 2009



TREE CITY USA®
2009 NEWSLETTER
Publication Dates

JANUARY 16

MARCH 13

MAY 15

JULY 5

AUGUST 21

OCTOBER 2

NOVEMBER 20

Submit information to:

merchantvillenj@comcast.net

Direct delivery concerns to:

@ 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 Thursday of each month
7:00 p.m. Borough Hall, 2nd Floor

Public Events

3rd Monday of each month
7:30 Borough Hall

Board of Health

Quarterly 7:30 p.m. Borough Hall

Municipal Court

Every Wednesday
6:00 p.m. Borough Hall

Farmers Market A Great Success



First Friday Farmers Market returned on July 3rd from 4:00-8:00PM. The marketplace is located on North Centre Street next to the Old PNC Bank building. Merchantville's farmers market will offer produce, organic produce, breads, nursery items, baked goods and nuts. Some participating vendors are be Darro Family Farms, Grasso Farms, Rita Faulk, Aunt Aggies Haddonfield, DanLynn Farms, Meadowbrook Farms, Wirth Florist, La Baguette

Bakery, Green Pad Living, Half Moon Cafe, Pawfections and Polish Goodness. Stop by to pick up your fresh and organic vegetables and Jersey grown plants! Shopping a local farmers market can be beneficial for your heart, spirit, and wallet. If you are interested in participating in the Farmers Market or First Friday please feel free to contact us through the Downtown Merchantville Organizing Committee @ 856-662-4100 or downtownmerchantville@yahoo.com.

New Redevelopment Proposals Under Review

On June 24th a committee of residents and municipal officials got their first look at the proposals for the redevelopment area along Chestnut, Park and Center Street. The committee agreed to meet again on Monday July 6 at 7:00 p.m. in Borough Hall Council Chambers to discuss the proposals. Although the committee meetings are not open to the public at this time committee members were encouraged to reach out to their friends and neighbors to gather their perspective on the proposals as submitted. The original documents are available for review by both the members of the committee and the public at large at Borough Hall and PDF files that were scanned at the request of the committee are also available on the website for public dissemination. The original documents may not leave Borough Hall, but you may review the documents upstairs in council chambers. I would ask that you please take the time to review each proposal in detail before our next meeting. At the next committee meeting the submitted committee information will be reviewed and questions formulated for each of the developers who submitted proposals. Then a meeting date will be set for a one on one interview with each developer to be moderated by Phil Rowan. After both interviews are completed the committee will re-convene to evaluate the proposals as presented and make a recommendation to Borough Council. For more information or questions about the redevelopment please contact Councilman Perno @ aperno@merchantvillenj.gov.

MERCHANTVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY

130 South Centre Street • 856-665-3128

Adult and Family Programs August 2009

Merchantville Film Forum

Adults 18 and older

Wednesday, Aug. 5, 6:30 p.m.

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

Children and Family Programs August 2009

Little Ones Playgroup

Birth to 3 years and their caregivers

Saturdays, 11 a.m. to 12 noon

Meet our youngest members and make new friends.

We have special books and toys too!

Library PIN Use To Begin This Month

Customers of the Camden County Library System will need to create and use a PIN to access their accounts and to use self-service features effective July 7, 2009. The library system is requiring the use of PINs to ensure the privacy and security of its customers' records and services. Starting July 7th customers accessing their accounts online will be prompted to create and enter a four-digit PIN. The customer's PIN will be recorded and required each time the customer wants to view his account or access self-service features on the library's Web-based catalog CamCat.

Customers will need a PIN to: logon and view their personal accounts; request an item (place a hold); renew an item, use the new self checkout service at the branch libraries; or log onto a public computer at one of the library's system's six branches. The PIN works similar to the PINs required to do online banking or to use an ATM. Customers of the library system are encouraged to check their e-mail address on record with the library and update as necessary before July 7. If a customer forgets his PIN, CamCat (the library system's catalog) will provide a way to create a new PIN through a link sent to the customer's e-mail address. Library card holders will need their PINs to use public computers at any one of the six branches: Bellmawr, Gloucester Twp., Haddon Twp., Merchantville, South County (Winslow Twp.) and Voorhees. Residents from communities that are not members of the county library system will still be able to use computers with a guest pass that will provide a barcode and a four digit PIN.

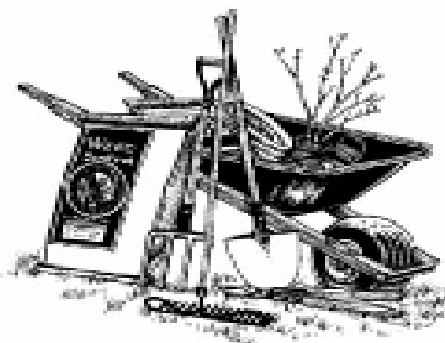


HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS

Our latest history on Merchantville is the Images of America series book. You can order it from the Merchantville Historical Society for \$20 plus shipping costs, which would be about \$3. Barnes & Noble and Borders carry it, but general it appears in local stores. However, you could ask the store near you to order it for you. We also have past publications. One was done in 1966, one in 1974 and an annals of interesting facts and stories done in the 1990s. These are \$10 each. They are soft back. Hope this helps you.



MERCHANTVILLE GARDEN CLUB



Greetings Gardeners!

The Garden Club of Merchantville invites you to tour the beautiful garden of Alexandria Delman located at 222 St. James Avenue in Merchantville on Wednesday, July 8th 7:00 p.m. Alexandria's garden features many unusual flowers and native New Jersey plants. Please join us! Light refreshments will be served. If you are interested in joining the effort, please let me know by email or telephone @856-488-8299. The raindate for this event is Friday July 10th.



Car Show Takes Respite

Merchantville's Car Show and Summer Sock Hop has been canceled this year but plans to return in 2010. This show ranked as one of the best in the region for 11 years and was the pride and joy of our summer season. Thanks to all the committee members, volunteers and sponsors who made it possible for so many years.

We look forward to a fantastic return next year!

COUNCIL INFORMATION

All proposed and adopted resolutions and ordinances are available to the public online @ www.merchantville.com or weekdays 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. Council meeting minutes are published when approved by Council, transcribed by the Borough Clerk and forwarded to the website by the Borough Administrator. Resolutions and Council meeting agenda are posted the weekend prior to each Council meeting. Pursuant to the requirements of "The Open Public Meetings Act", the 2009 Annual Notice of Public Meetings is also available on the website.

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BOROUGH NEWSLETTER GOES PAPERLESS!

In an effort to protect our environment and save tax dollars the newsletter went "paperless" this issue. The newsletter can be viewed and printed from the website @ www.merchantville.com by clicking on the top menu words "NEWSLETTER" and choosing the issue you wish to read. If "going paperless" doesn't suit your needs just stop by Borough Hall for a copy!

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EMS Water Safety TIPS

Swim in supervised areas only.
Obey all rules and posted signs.
Don't mix alcohol and swimming. Alcohol impairs your judgment, balance, and coordination, affects your swimming and diving skills, and reduces your body's ability to stay warm.
Never swim alone, even if you are an experienced swimmer.
Know your ability, don't try to show off.
Pay attention to local weather conditions and forecasts.
Stop swimming at the first indication of bad weather.

If you have any questions about joining the Merchantville Emergency Medical Squad, you can call the EMS building at 856-662-2077. Please leave a message and a squad member will call you back.

HAVE A FUN AND SAFE SUMMER!

CODE ENFORCEMENT

PLEASE Curb and Quiet Your Dog: Letting your dog eliminate on private property without the owner's permission or on public property that is commonly used for recreation is called "trespassing" and "littering". Allowing your dog to eliminate on residents' gardens and plantings is just plain inconsiderate. It is also a public nuisance to allow a dog to habitually bark, whine, howl or make other disturbing noises. Please be considerate of your neighbors.

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MANY HOME IMPROVEMENTS require permits. Please remember to contact the Code Enforcement, and Zoning Office **BEFORE** you start any home project. Code Enforcement and Zoning Officer Eric Schmidt 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. For each project. Contact: **Zoning Officer Eric Schmidt**
Phone: 856-662-2474 extension 110
Email: CodeEnforcement@merchantvillenj.com

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BOROUGH CURFEW

It is unlawful for any minor under the age of 18 years to be out between the hours of 10:00 PM and 6:00 AM Sunday through Thursday, and 11:00 PM to 6:00 AM Friday and Saturday. This ordinance shall not be enforced if the minor is accompanied by his or her parent(s), guardian, or other adult person having custody, care or control of such minor.

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POLICE TIPS

With SUMMER here all residents are urged to call police if they observe any suspicious persons or suspicious activity. We also ask that all residents keep their doors locked and alarms set at all times, especially when they are not home. Residents are also reminded to store items of value that are left in their vehicles out of site or take them inside their homes overnight. Most thieves look for items left in plain view such as GPS units and Ipods and break into vehicles to steal these valuables.

FOR AN EMERGENCY DIAL 9-1-1

Non-Emergency Police Number 856-662-0500
24 hours/ 7 days
Non-Emergency Office Number 856-662-0507
9AM to 5PM Monday through Friday

BOROUGH TAX INFORMATION

Taxes are due and payable on the first of February, May, August and November. The Borough of Merchantville allows a 10-day grace period. When the 10th falls on a weekend or holiday the grace period will be extended to the next business day. Interest on late payments is calculated at 8% for the first \$1,500 and 18% on all amounts over \$1,500. A 6% penalty is also added for all delinquent taxes over \$10,000.

A lock box is located just outside of the Municipal Building and can be used to drop off payments for taxes and sewer.

Deductions for Senior/Disabled:

Annual deduction of up to \$250 from property taxes for homeowner's age 65 or older and/or disabled persons who meet certain income residency requirements is available through the Borough.

Veterans Deduction:

Annual deduction of \$250 from property taxes for qualified veterans and unmarried surviving spouses is available through the Borough.

NJ Property Tax Relief Homestead Rebate Program:

To file applications by phone: 1-877-658-2972

To file application online:

www.state.nj.us/treasury/taxation/

To ask questions:

1-888-238-1233 (homeowners) or 609-29206400 (tenants)

Online information:

www.state.nj.us/treasury/taxation

FISH CONSUMPTION SAFETY

On 6/3 the DEP announced a new recommendation for consuming large bluefish, a popular species commonly caught in Atlantic Ocean waters. They recommend that the public consume no more than one meal every other month of bluefish larger than 24 inches. Bluefish contain polychlorinated biphenyls at levels which may pose a risk to public health the same health concern exists for another popular species, striped bass. Long-term exposure to PCBs has been shown to cause cancer and a number of other serious health effects, including damage to the nervous system of developing fetuses, the immune system and the reproductive system.

More information regarding consumer safety warnings is available at the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection website.

A Birthday Thank You

Merchantville's 135th Birthday Celebration was a huge success! After months of planning and preparation the 135th Merchantville Birthday celebration took place at the Community Center on Saturday, June 6th under sunny skies and provided hours of family fun and entertainment for town residents. This event could not have taken place if it weren't for the time and dedication of town volunteers and a BIG THANK YOU goes out to the following people for taking time out of their busy lives to stage this event: Councilman Ted Brennan, Karen Foster, Stacey Loue, Jim Moore, Councilman Shawn Waldren and Tom Woltjen. A huge thank you goes out to the Niagara Fire Company for cooking all the great food for the event.

Thank you also goes out to our sponsors who provided financial support: Alloway Funeral Home, Community Sports Shop, Foster Wealth LLC, Kelmar Graphics, Merchantville Democrats, Merchantville Republicans and Sapienza Dental. Thanks to the following groups for their great performances as well! American Karate Systems, DeMarco Dance Studio, Dr. Bob and the Jazz Allstars courtesy of Parsons Art Center and Ronnie McLaughlin Dance Studio.

Our Public Works deserves a big round of applause for their site preparation work in advance of the event and their post-event breakdown. The facility looked beautiful before and after! Great job guys. If you would like to be apart of planning next year's event, starting around February 2010 contact Councilman Ted Brennan at ebrennan@merchantvillenj.gov.

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Night at the Camden Riversharks

Join the First presbyterian Church for a night out with the family and friends on Saturday July 11th. This is "Faith and Family" night at the ballpark featuring Christian bands and live music. There will be fireworks after the game! It is a fund raiser for the church. The Gates open at 4:30 and the game starts at 5:35. For ticket info call the church office at 856-662-6252. Tickets are \$10.00

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The Internet Archive is a non-profit website founded in 1996 and the Archive collection includes texts, audio, moving images, and software. Browse through the pages of "Merchantville's History" by Francis W. Eastlack @ www.archive.org.