

H A P P Y N E W Y E A R ! !

Halcyon Park Neighborhood Association Officers

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Rich Rockwell, Web
Master

P R E S I D E N T ' S M E S S A G E



The following is from Dan Natal, HP Neighborhood Association President;

I hope your holiday season brought joy and peace to your family and loved ones. On behalf of the Halcyon Park Neighborhood Association, I wish you a belated happy, healthy and prosperous 2012. Also on behalf of HPNA I would like to thank **Al Balnicki** for the especially generous donation of beautiful Christmas wreaths which you have noticed decorating

our park.

We have a new councilman representing the Third Ward **Mr. Carlos Bernard**. He can be reached at (201) 852-42876 or you can also email him at CarlosMBernard@gmail.com. Please make an effort to reach out to him if there are important issues in our neighborhood that you want him to address. One of them should be the need for better traffic control measures such as speed strips along **Parkway East** and West, and the installation of a traffic light or stop signs at a very dangerous intersection: Grove St. and

Watsessing Avenue.

I know that many of our neighbors have faced difficult times, but we hope that 2012 brings peace and prosperity to everyone. Many have moved to other states or to the Jersey shore and they will be truly missed and not forgotten but several families have moved into our neighborhood. We welcome them warmly. I hope most of you remembered those who provide valuable services for our community year round, such as the sanitation workers, the recycling team, and the recreation department. All these workers help us maintain



B L O O M F I E L D C E L E B R A T E S 2 0 0 Y E A R S

The year 2012 marks the 200th anniversary of the founding of Bloomfield Township and the Bicentennial Committee is busily planning ways to mark the milestone.

Among the scheduled events

are concerts, parades, a road race, the opening of a 50-year-old time capsule, and the planting of a bicentennial tree. The kick-off event on March 23 at Bloomfield College.

A few of the preliminary schedule of events include:

Friday, March 23, 2012
Bicentennial Kick off event
7:30 PM
Bloomfield High School
Friday, April 27, 2012
The planting of the Bicentennial Tree

P R E S I D E N T ' S M E S S A G E C O N T I N U E D .



our quality of life and contribute to our well being. They appreciate being remembered during the holiday season. I hope you also remembered our faithful postal carrier, **Don**.

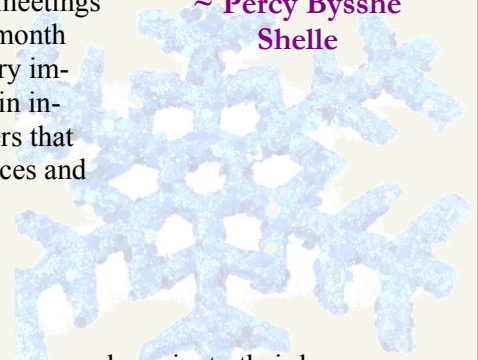
The HPNA hopes to or-

ganize an environmental awareness workshop in April to celebrate Earth Day and award a gift certificate to a team of Halcyon Park children or teenagers who come up with the best ideas for promoting environmental awareness and helping us maintain the park free of litter. We also hope some of our neighbors decide to organize a neighbor-

hood-wide garage sale the last week in the spring April or May like we did two years ago. Finally, I urge all concerned park residents to make an effort to attend Town Council meetings at least once a month because it is very important to remain involved in matters that affect our finances and quality of life.

*"If Winter comes,
can Spring be far
behind?"*

~ Percy Bysshe
Shelle



H O M E H E L P

*"A man builds a fine
house; and now he has a
master, and a task for
life; he is to furnish,
watch, show it, and keep
it in repair, the rest of
his days."*

**Ralph Waldo
Emerson
(1803 - 1882),**

Tax Appeals

In case you plan to appeal your taxes, remember that Tax Appeals start January 1 – April 1, 2012.

The Bloomfield Taxpayers Association will be hosting a workshop with an attorney so you can find out how to appeal your property taxes. If you are concerned about your taxes and have some ideas as to how to challenge the waste you see

around you, write an article or share your ideas with other concerned citizens by posting at the following site:

www.blmfdtaxpayer.blogspot.com

Home Repairs for Those Who Qualify

The town has a program that lets income-qualified homeowners make need-

ed repairs to their home valued at up to \$15,000. Funds are available year-round on a first-come first-served basis. Contact the Community Grants Planning & Housing of East Windsor at (609) 371-2151 or send email to Ximena@cgph.net.

B I C E N T E N N I A L E V E N T S

TIME: To be determined
PLACE: To be announced

Sunday, April 29, 2012

Bicentennial Concert performed by
The Bloomfield Civic Band
3:00 PM
Bloomfield Middle School
60 Huck Rd.

Monday, May 28, 2012

Bloomfield Memorial Day Parade
with a bicentennial theme
9:00 AM
Kickoff at Broad & Warren Streets

Monday May 28, 2012

Opening of the Sesquicentennial (150
year) time capsule. NOTE: members
of BHS Class of 1962 will be on

hand to help open the time capsule

TIME: Immediately following
the Memorial Day Parade
PLACE: To be determined

Thursday, June 28, 2012

Bloomfield Educational Foundation's
Sunset Classic Road Race

B I C E N T E N N I A L C O N T I N U E D .

6:30pm: Kids Infield Sprints /
7:00pm: 1 Mile Fun Run /
7:30pm: 5 Mile Road Race
Foley Field / Memorial Park

Week of July 2, 2012

Various events including;
Restaurant Week and July 4th
Bicentennial Fireworks Special
TIMES & PLACES: To Be Announced

Mondays & Tuesdays throughout the month of July

EVENTS: Bicentennial Summer

Concert Series & Federation of Music
Concert Series

TIMES: To Be Announced
PLACE: Brookside Park / Town Green

Tuesday, August 7, 2012

EVENT: National Night Out – Bicentennial Edition

TIMES: Various times throughout the evening

PLACE: Various neighborhoods throughout the town

Monday, December 3, 2012

EVENT: Lighting of the Bicentennial Holiday Tree

TIME: 7:00 PM

PLACE: In front of Town Hall

Be sure to check out the website (it officially launched on January 14) for more information and confirmation of dates & times.

www.bloomfieldbicentennial.com

S A Y H E Y F R O M D E N I S E S E R B A Y

Hi Neighbors.

Happy 2012!

As we leave 2011 behind and look to the new year, may we all experience many warm and happy times, good health and a good measure of prosperity sprinkled in. Many of us still struggle with unemployment, or the effects of it even as we have found jobs.

Looking forward to this year, many exciting things will be hap-

pening in Bloomfield this year. Bloomfield is preparing to celebrate its bicentennial, and there are many activities planned around this event. Our own Rich Rockwell is very involved with this. Being relatively new to the area, I am looking forward to learning even more about the town's history. As far as more recent history is concerned, remember this time last year when it seemed the entire world was

blanketed in white?? Snow blindness threatened many of us as snow surrounded us for months following the Christmas blizzard. As I type this, the temperature is about 50 degrees. Go figure. Can spring training be far behind?? (One can dream). In the meantime, there's always warm sweaters, warm blankets, and hot chocolate! Enjoy!

T H I R D W A R D N E W S B Y S U S A N A S O T I L L O

Happy New Year to everyone!

We have two new members in town council. Mr. Elias Chalet, representing the First Ward, and Mr. Carlos Bernard, our Third Ward representative. Perhaps we will see new businesses or medical centers moving into this town. We certainly need to expand the tax base because the town is relying primarily on home owners and small

businesses to pay outrageously high salaries to some town employees, consultants, lawyers, and school district administrators. Most town employees, especially those making over \$100K, do not live in Bloomfield. At a time when many Bloomfield taxpayers are unemployed or experiencing cutbacks in salary and health benefits, it is unacceptable to raise taxes for anything other than vital

services: education, police, fire, and trash collection.

Overcrowding in the Third Ward

There is serious overcrowding in the Third Ward, where there are numerous multiple dwelling units and apartment buildings housing many Section 8 tenants. We certainly do not need any new apartment buildings in this area. What we

need is more open space and amenities for our residents, and a playground in a nearby site for young children where parents could watch them while they play. This is something we must ask Mr. Carlos Bernard to address since he promised to make changes in the Third Ward. We need to support our local businesses, shops, and restaurants. It is up to homeowners and small

YOUR NEW BUSINESS!

By Ray Scally Systems LLC

WRITING YOUR FIRST BUSINESS PLAN

My cousin Joe who lives in Ft. Lee wanted to visit his friend Jennifer in Washington DC. He got in his car and headed out. Unfortunately, he did not have a map or a plan on where he was going. So when the road forked at the junction of Rt. 80 West and Rt. 95 South, he stayed to the right. That was a mistake because it put him in the wrong direction of where he wanted to go. If only Joe had done some research and planning beforehand, he could have figured out exactly where he wanted to go and how to get there.

This is the importance of having a plan whether it is your personal life or business life. In writing your business plan, one of the first things to cover is a Statement of Purpose, what is it the new business owner is trying to do, trying to sell, trying to make? This is important because it will keep the Entrepreneur focused on his mission; too

many times, novice entrepreneurs get sidetracked with other non-essential opportunities that wind up taking him away from his original plan.

One of the first things an entrepreneur should concern himself with is how much revenue, or sales, can he expect in his first years in business?



Generally, a business owner will want to look at his expected revenue over the first year and up to the third year of business. This will give him an opportunity to have a rolling forecast up to three years and normally will show increasing revenues as his company grows and expands. As part of his forecasting process, he should look at his expected customers, who he is selling to and why would they place their business with him rather than his

competition? We all have competition, even Apple with Ipods and ITablets has competition, and knowing how and why a customer will select your brand is basic to running a successful business. As part of this rolling forecast, the new business operator will want to break down his revenue by year, by quarter, by month. Whether you are IBM, the Phone Company, or JC Penney, there are peak times of the year for sales and slow times. Knowing when they will occur will help the entrepreneur manage the rush and ride out the slow times.

A second component of his business plan is to know what his expenses are. Will you have to rent a store or warehouse or can you operate it from your kitchen table or garage? Will you have to buy inventory, how many people will you need to hire and at what cost? As part of this, an entrepreneur should reasonably expect losses in his

first year as expenses outrun his sales while he is getting known and established. How much are the losses, when will you reach break-even and how can you finance the losses until your business reaches Shangri-La, also known as profitability? Another important component is how will your customers learn about your business, how will you advertise and where? Can you do it on the web, do it with the local paper like the Bloomfield Press because you are targeting a customer base in a very local area? What will the costs be for advertising, literature, for promotional items? There are numerous expenses in operating your business and the more detailed and better forecasted, the better the chance of your success.

Before we get to the bottom line, we still have one other expense to consider and that is taxes. It is our duty, painful as it is, to pay our fair share of taxes. A good

THIRD WARD CONTINUED.

business owners to demand accountability from town officials. As many concerned citizens have pointed out, we need to make sure the redevelopment of the center of town becomes a reality. We also need to scrutinize and challenge tax abatements for un-

necessary construction projects that do not directly benefit homeowners or the unemployed in our town. The town cannot keep raising our taxes to pay back political donors at the expense of our community. Our community must have a say about the hiring of

consultants and other politically connected individuals since we have a local college and a public university that can form partnerships with the town in order to cut back on unnecessary expenditures.



Caption describing picture or graphic.

THIRD WARD CONTINUED.

accountant, preferably a CPA, will be well worth the cost. Today the tax laws are so complex, and often contradictory, the new business owner will need the expert advice that a true professional can provide. And on the subject of advice, a person should strongly consider getting some free advice from trusted sources such as SCORE, a non-profit association dedicated to entrepreneurs and small business

owners with a local office in Newark and offices throughout the state. They can provide a mentor, someone who has been there and can provide sound advice.

Another source of information could be the Small Business Administration that can help with financing, loans, and grants and a variety of other services that can help the new business owner get started and grow a viable

business. Although there are a lot more details that go into writing an individual business plan, a good place to start could be on the web, keyword: Writing a Business Plan.

The writer, a former Halcyon Park resident, operates his own small business Scally Systems LLC based in Essex Fells, NJ.

HOME ENERGY SAVING IDEAS FROM THE NICHOLAS TEAM

You might assume that making your home energy efficient requires a lot of time and money, but generally that's not the case. Often small fixes can have a big impact on your heating, cooling, and other utility bills. Here are some easy things you can do to make your home more efficient right now:

Tip #1: Don't turn that dial

Keep your thermostat set at one temperature and leave it! In the winter around 68 degrees should be right, and 75 degrees in summer (in homes with a cooling system, of course). Avoiding constant adjustments will keep your energy bills stable.

Tip #2: Stop the drip-drips

Leaky showerheads and faucets are hard-to-miss energy wasters. Toilets that run can also cost you on your water bill. The majority of required repairs are covered in the most basic do-it-yourself

handbook.

Tip #3: Go fluorescent

While compact fluorescent light bulbs cost more than the standard incandescent bulbs that you're used to, they last up to five times longer and use only a quarter of the electricity. Many of these bulbs last over five years, and each energy-saving fluorescent bulb will save you \$40 to \$60 on your electric bill over the course of its lifetime. (Home Depot has a recycling box for the used bulbs, they shouldn't be thrown out in regular trash).

**Tip #4: Watch that fireplace**

Energy can really leak out of that fireplace. Check the dampers and screens to make

sure that energy isn't leaking when the fireplace is not in use. If the fireplace is just for decoration, cover the chimney. A well maintained fireplace should be an economical way to heat your house and add a warm atmosphere as well.

Tip #5: Keep those appliances humming

Clean air conditioning and furnace filters frequently, and have your appliances inspected once a year. Efficient appliances lower energy bills and future repair costs.

Tip #6: Windows that waste

Windows are the most common energy waster. Make sure that all the weatherstripping is in good condition, and consider double-paned windows and storm shutters to reduce the energy drain.

Hopefully these ideas help

The bad news is time flies. The good news is you're the pilot.

Michael Altshuler



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you create a more energy efficient home. Energy efficiency is not only an important part of conservation; it's also a great way to save money. More homeowners tips are available on our website. (www.thenicholasteam.com). If you have any questions about your home, we're only a phone call or email away.

WE'RE ON THE WEB!
WWW.HALCYONPARK.ORG



Tai Chi in Halcyon Park 7:40 a.m. Monday thru Saturday

Two of our neighbors are visiting scholars at Montclair State University and practice Tai Chi every morning (Monday thru Saturday) at 7:40 a.m. and they would welcome neighbors interested in joining them.

From Wiki-pedia: *T'ai chi ch'uan* (simplified Chinese: 太极拳; traditional Chinese: 太極拳; pinyin: tàijíquán; Wade-Giles: t'ai² ch'üan²; literally "Supreme Ultimate Fist"), often shortened to **T'ai chi** or



Neighbors Making News....

On Tuesday, March 27, at 8:00pm Rich Rockwell will be holding a slide presentation on the Morris Canal in Bloomfield. Location to be announced.

A virtual tour of the Morris Canal through Bloomfield with historical photos and maps from the Historical Society archives, and recent photos showing the same locations today.

At top, is a photo taken from the James Street bridge over the Morris Canal looking south toward the aqueduct over Third River, photographed by Charles Warren Eaton. Present site of JFK Blvd and Foley Field to the left

2012 BLOOMFIELD RECYCLING SCHEDULE January—April

Mixed Paper Pick-Up Weeks	Commingled Pick-Up Weeks
Dec. 26-30	Jan. 2-6
Jan. 9-13	Jan. 16-20
Jan. 23-27	Jan. 30-Feb. 3
Feb. 6-10	Feb. 13-17
Feb. 20-24	Feb. 27-Mar. 2
Mar. 5-10	Mar. 12-16
Mar. 19-23	Mar. 26-30
Apr. 2-6	Apr. 9-13
Apr. 16-20	Apr. 23-27

Bloomfield's weekly newspaper pick-up dates alternate with weekly commingled pick-ups. When holidays occur, normal pick-ups are delayed by one day throughout the following week. For missed recycling pick-ups call (973) 674-6266.