

HALCYON PARK

SITUATED IN THE TOWN OF BLOOMFIELD, N.J.

A Note from The HPNA President– Dan Natale

On behalf of the Halcyon Park Neighborhood Association, I would like to wish all our neighbors and friends a very happy spring season in spite of the pollen count in the air.

We have several new families that have moved into the neighborhood and we welcome them and hope they join the HPNA and volunteer to run for leadership positions

I want to thank Nicole Lobascio for coordinating our very successful egg hunt for neighborhood children. A lovely couple who lives at 83 Lexington Avenue baked muffins for the children and helped make this a very successful event. They and several other couples brought their children to the egg hunt. I am sure that next year this will be a

very exciting event now that we know that there are many young families interested in working together and planning activities for the children.



Mr. Michael Scurman, Director of the Recreation Department, has sent us a comprehensive list of summer activities for children and teenagers who live in Halcyon Park. Perhaps in the future we can convince

the Police Department to find funding for a Police Athletic League (PAL) that will encourage our teenagers to engage in constructive activities during the summer months. Having positive role models is very important for our teenagers and we hope we can see some progress toward a PAL.

Please help us maintain our neighborhood park. If you find trash in the street, pick it up and put it in one of the trash containers. Encourage your children to take care of the environment and to respect town property. Breaking tree branches or walking along the edge of the pond are violations of town ordinance. Let us work together to maintain our quality of life and safety.

Enjoy the beautiful weather!

Halcyon Park Neighborhood Association Officers:

Daniel Natal,
President
Margaret Sobharam,
Vice President
Denise Serbay,
Newsletter Co-Editor
Vacant,
Neighborhood Watch Coordinator
Norma Borja,
Beautification Coordinator
Aurea Natal, Treasurer
Susana Sotillo, Secretary
Rich Rockwell,
Web Master

**Visit our park on the
web:**

www.halcyonpark.org

From the desk of Norma Borja, HP Beautification Coordinator

*Look deep into nature and
then you will understand
everything better*
-by Albert Einstein

We are so fortunate to be surrounded by the beauty of nature with our beautiful

and peaceful park that is filled with wonderful displays of great vegetation and trees. Nature for me is a great teacher.

I have so much Gratitude for the home owners that

keep up their properties in wonderful shape, and for adopting the park across your properties by planting flowerbeds...on behalf of HPNA and myself we thank you for all your wonderful efforts.



Beautification continued from page 1.

My sincere thanks goes to Anthony Nesto and his staff for assisting me with all my requests during the year by helping us with various repairs, removing old trees and the maintenance that it takes to keep up the charm of Halcyon Park. I am presently working with Paul Lasek, Township Engineer regarding the two light post and the fountain lights to work again!!! Mr. Lasek assures me that these repairs will be done very soon. Also I would like to express our gratitude to Lucille & Allen Balnicki for the beautiful holiday wreaths that enhanced HP during the past holiday season. Mr Balnicki will be donating again a brand new American Flag for our flag pole too. Thank you both!

Let's welcome Brian and Barry and

their pooch Chigua. They moved into 32 Parkway West and are working hard to beautify their property.

Thank you to those individuals that help us keep our park litter free. Likewise, if you see a pet owner who is not picking after their pet **please remind them politely that it is the law to do so.** Children play in the park and not picking up after your pet endangers our children's health. Remember that by keeping this site litter free and in wonderful shape, we will be able to maintain a high market value for our properties. On behalf of HPNA, and myself I wish you and your loved ones a season filled with peace, health, creativity, abundance, safety, joy and lots of fun! Nature is a great teacher for me I embrace the beauty of the park every

day...and that is the one reason I was attracted to the park when I first moved in twenty four years ago, and I will continue my persistence and efforts to be involved in keeping the charm and the beauty of this historical site.

Also just so you know 'halcyon means peaceful'. : -)



How can you be content to be in the world like tulips in a garden, to make a fine show, and be good for nothing.
-Mary Astell



Well , as I always like to say this time of year, Spring has sprung! Though it's safe to say it got a pretty good head start, which is good for us warm-weather loving folks, but not too great for some of our gardens. My bulbs which bloomed so beautifully last year (in my humble opinion) arrived this year with not quite the same color and vibrancy. And now they're gone. However, the

Say Hey!! by Denise Serbay

overall beauty of our neighborhood is on full display, as the cherry blossoms decorate the park and some lucky neighbors gardens somehow managed to flourish (feel free to give me some tips!). I would also venture to say that the shortened cold weather spared many of us from the usual colds and flus, which is always a plus. For instance, as a pediatric respiratory therapist at my still-feels-new job (thank you God), I marvelled at the noticeable decrease in kids coming in with colds, croups, and viruses. It still feels like the

weather is not quite sure what it wants to do, so I guess we'll see.....

I would like to extend a hearty welcome to my new neighbors at 82 Far- randale Avenue! and to all the new residents who have decided to call Halcyon Park "home".

Welcome!! Please join our Neighborhood Association and feel free to voice any and all ideas and concerns that you may have. We want to hear from you!

Bloomfield's Bicentennial Celebration

Our very own Webmaster and creator of the Halcyon Park Historic District web site, Rich Rockwell, will be giving two presentations in celebration of the Bicentennial.

Tuesday, May 22, 8:00 PM

The Photography of Charles Warren Eaton

Bloomfield Middle School, 60 Huck Rd

Internationally acclaimed artist Charles Warren Eaton lived in Bloomfield from 1887 until his death in 1937. Known for his tonalist oil paintings of intimate landscapes. His paintings are exhibited in a number of museums around the country and in Bloomfield, at the Bloomfield Public Library, the HSOB Museum and Bloomfield Cemetery. Eaton was also a photographer. The Historical Society of Bloomfield is fortunate to have a collection of negatives of Eaton's photographs. Experience life in Bloomfield around the turn of the century through scenes of the town and Eaton's life, including the Morris Canal, Oakes Pond, Davey's Mill, the Diamond Paper Mill and a number of other Bloomfield landmarks.

Saturday, June 16, 4:00 PM

Repeat performance of The Morris Canal in Bloomfield

Bloomfield High School, Broad Street and Belleville Avenue

High School Auditorium - Main entrance in the old original High School building

Due to an overcapacity crowd at the March 27 event, we are scheduling this repeat performance.

For more information about these events: <http://hsob.org>

Other Bicentennial Events – for more information:

<http://bloomfieldbicentennial.com>

Monday, May 28, 2012

Bloomfield Memorial Day Parade, Opening of the Sesquicentennial Time Capsule, and Old Fashioned Bloomfield Bicentennial Picnic

TIME: 9:00 AM

PLACE: Kickoff at Broad & Warren Streets Parade ends at Town Green

Wednesday June 13, 2012

The Role of New Jersey in the Civil War: Speaker: William Gillette, Ph.D., Professor of History at Rutgers University.

Sponsored by the Bloomfield Cultural Commission – Provided by Horizons Speaker Bureau of NJ Council for the Humanities

TIME: 7:30 PM

PLACE: Oakeside Bloomfield Cultural Center

240 Belleville Avenue

Monday, June 25, 2012

Bicentennial Summer Concert Series
Bloomfield Federation of Music

American Salute – Honoring Our Men & Women in Uniform

TIME: 7:00 PM

PLACE: Bloomfield HS Auditorium

Thursday, June 28, 2012

Bloomfield Educational Foundation's Sunset Classic Road Race



Bloomfield's
Bicentennial Celebration continues...

TIME: 6:00pm: Kids Infield Sprints /

TIME: 6:30pm: 1 Mile Bicentennial Fun Run /

TIME: *Immediately following Fun Run: 5 Mile Road Race

PLACE: Starts at Broad & James Streets

Wednesday, July 4, 2012

Fourth of July Bicentennial Fireworks Spectacular

TIMES: 5:30 PM - Gates open

7:30 PM – Band goes on (The Kootz)

Approximately 9:15 PM - Fireworks start

PLACE: Foley Field/Memorial Park

Revaluation of Homes, Property Taxes, and Quality of Life Issues – by Susana Sotillo



First of all, I would like to thank Mr. Carlos Bernard, Third-Ward Councilman, for having addressed some pressing problems that were affecting us. These included pot smoking and illegal behavior by outsiders and some teenagers in the Halcyon Pond area. He also helped the police monitor illegal skateboarding along Parkway West since some of the skateboarders have run into cars coming in the opposite direction. If you need his assistance with quality of life or safety issues in our park, please address your correspondence to Carlos Bernard, Room: 209-Municipal Building or call him at (973) 680-4077; FAX: (973) 680-4040 cbernard@bloomfieldtnj.com.

Many of our neighbors have complained about the outrageous reassessment of their properties after

making home improvements. The value of houses in the park and everywhere else has dramatically decreased. This was not taken into consideration in reassessing our properties. In the case of a young couple on Lexington Avenue, their taxes went from \$7800 to \$12,000. You need to contact Mr. Joseph Pisauro and file a Tax Appeal. The deadline for filing your tax appeal was April 1st, which means that you will need to wait until next year and collect all the information required for an appeal. As Sue Ann Penna explained to the readership of Bloomfield Life in a column dated Thursday, April 12th, most homes being devalued are south of Bay Avenue in Bloomfield. Mr. Pisauro has lowered property values on 30 percent of the homes. This means that \$70 million of assessed value has been shifted to non-devalued homeowners (THOSE OF US WHO LIVE IN THE THIRD WARD). According to Ms. Penna, that translates into \$2.15 million in real estate taxes, spread out among property owners whose real estate value did not change for 2012. Call Joseph Pisauro at 973-680-4021 for answers to his method of reassessment and then contact your state legislators and the Governor directly.

Protect our quality of life in Halcyon Park by having our elected officials at the local, county, and state level address the following issues:

1. Illegal subdivision of single family homes – Basement apartment rentals in direct violation of the Town code. (To report these violations, call Zoning Official Anthony Marucci, Room 105-Municipal Building; Phone (973) 259-3088 FAX (973) 680-1652).
2. Speed bumps needed at the entrance to the park between Watsessing Ave. and Franklin St. Many individuals who live in the park fail to stop at the designated Stop sign and have on several occasions almost hit those of us who walk around the perimeter of the park along Lexington Avenue.
3. Speed bumps at the intersection of Vesper Street and Parkway West, where many children play while irresponsible drivers use our park as a shortcut to Bloomfield Avenue. Speed Bumps and traffic signs can only be addressed by county and state officials. Please call Assemblyman, 28th District Ralph Caputo directly if you want to get some immediate action: 148-152 Franklin Street; Belleville, NJ 07109; p

*Under a new **Cut It and Leave It** program, the Township now encourages you to cut your grass and leave it on the lawn to help fertilize it and retain moisture. This process is also known as **Grasscycling**, meaning a natural recycling of grass clippings. **Grasscycling** saves time and money, as you no longer have to purchase and fill biodegradable bags for grass, the lawn stays healthier, it lowers your need to fertilize by up to 30%, and it reduces the trucking and resulting fuel use and pollution for collecting the bags. For more information, see [our Grasscycling page](#). Landscapers are also encouraged to **grasscycle** properly.*

*Township regulations **require** that brush, branches, yard rakings and other vegetative matter be placed in biodegradable bags **only** for collection by the Township.*

*Landscapers are required to conform to these requirements. Pickups will be made on the same day as recycling pickups. Leaves shall be placed in biodegradable bags **only** for curbside pickup by the Township during the periods of October 1 through December 15 and April 1 through May 15 of each year.*

Biodegradable bags with leaves will not be picked up during the Winter months (Jan. 1 - Mar.31). Instead, Christmas trees will be picked up (in January) and the repair of potholes and other work will be performed during this period.

Helpful Home Hints from The Nicholas Team – Choosing the right paint for your house



The exterior paint of your home functions in many ways like the clothes you wear: to create an important first impression. If you're considering a do-it-yourself project

of repainting your house, you first need to carefully review and select the kind of paint you'll use. There are several factors to weigh when choosing a paint type, such as drying time vs. durability. The type of paint used in previous layers is also important, as is cost. Here are the basic kinds of paint you'll see:

- **Stains** Solvent or water-thinned stains can provide semi-transparent, transparent, or solid finishes for wood, and some may include preservatives.
- **Primers** New wood or metal should be sealed with a suggested primer. In general one coat of pri-

mer and one coat of finish will be more durable than two coats of finish.

- **Oil** Oil paints have a long drying time (12 to 48 hours), which can make sudden rains a danger, but are extremely durable. Strong odors and difficult cleanup also make this more of a choice for professionals than amateurs.

- **Alkyd** A solvent-thinned, synthetic-resin paint, alkyds have many of the properties of oil-based paints but dry more quickly. Works well over older oil or alkyd layers.

- **Acrylic** Technically a type of latex paint, acrylics dry very quickly and will work on almost any building material.

- **Latex** A popular choice for amateurs, latex paints offer easy cleanup, solid durability, and fast drying times. Latex paints may be incompatible with an existing oil or alkyd layer.

Be sure to thoroughly review the options before beginning your painting project. Hardware and home stores are often willing to help you make the right choice. More information and tips for homeowners can also be found on my website. If you have any questions about your home, don't hesitate to call us.



Barbara P. Hughes & Gregg Nicholas

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Curbside Recycling

JANUARY							FEBRUARY							MARCH							APRIL						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7				1	2	3	4				1	2	3		1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31					26	27	28	29				25	26	27	28	29	30	31	29	30					

Recycling Delay

Jan. 2 - Day after New Year's

Where a blacked-out date appears, recycling pickups will be delayed by one day. Also, garbage pickups will be suspended on blacked-out days and affected residents will have only one garbage collection that week.

Shaded Dates:
Mixed Paper Only

Unshaded Dates:
Commingled

Report missed
pickups at (973)
674-6266

Whether you considering a purchase or sale of a home, we can help you with every step of the process– staging, pre-qualification, inspections and everything in between.... And especially with the most important piece of the process– PRICE and COST. Here are some things to consider before making your next move... for more information on these topics—send us an email for an e-copy of the complete booklet about things to consider when buying or selling– we'd love to forward it to you or anyone you know that might find them useful –email us today!

RealEstate@TheNicholasTeam.com

In the meantime, take a look below at the current inventory in Halcyon Park and the homes that have new neighbors in the past 6 months!

Things to consider if you are selling your home:

Is the Housing Market actually recovering?

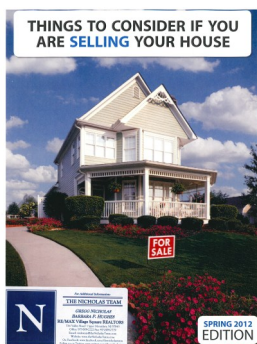
House Prices: Window of Opportunity Beginning to close

REO to RENTAL Program: Its impact on the market

Real State Commissions: You get what you pay for

Is it the price of your home or the price of your happiness?

How the serenity prayer applies to selling a home



Things to consider if you are buying a home:

Should you buy or should you rent?

The cost is more important than the price

If Warren Buffett says buy, BUY!!

What is Suze Orman talking about?

What value does your loan officer add?

Is it time for young families to buy a home?

Residential / Condo / Coop Listings

No.	ML#	MED	Status	Town	Code	Address	List Price	Style	RM	BR	TBT	Gar	BSMT	Sold Price	DOM
1	2919004	11	A	Bloomfield Twp.*	1602	85 LEXINGTON AVE*	\$154,900	Colonial	7	3	1	0	Yes	\$	76
2	2887931	7	A	Bloomfield Twp.*	1602	66 LEXINGTON AVE*	\$170,000	Colonial	6	2	2	0	Yes	\$	229
3	2905266	16	A	Bloomfield Twp.*	1602	22 FONTAINE AVE*	\$209,900	Colonial, See Remarks	6	3	1.1	0	Yes	\$	143
4	2906204	8	A	Bloomfield Twp.*	1602	26 FLORENCE AVE*	\$214,000	Colonial	6	3	1	1	Yes	\$	136
5	2840300	10	A	Bloomfield Twp.*	1602	139 LEXINGTON AVE*	\$225,000	Colonial	8	4	2	1	Yes	\$	419
6	2925118	19	A	Bloomfield Twp.	1602	38 Farrandale Ave	\$228,500	Colonial	7	3	1.1	1	Yes	\$	54
7	2889215	10	A	Bloomfield Twp.*	1602	96 Parkway West	\$249,000	Colonial	9	5	1	1	Yes	\$	223
8	2893751	23	A	Bloomfield Twp.*	1602	53 Parkway E*	\$249,000	Colonial	7	3	1.1	1	Yes	\$	203
9	2929930	25	A	Bloomfield Twp.*	1602	124 Parkway W*	\$289,900	Colonial	8	3	1.1	2	Yes	\$	37
10	2899712	12	A	Bloomfield Twp.*	1602	15 Parkway E*	\$289,928	Colonial, Detached	7	3	1.1	0	Yes	\$	174
11	2914415	13	A	Bloomfield Twp.	1602	16 Parkway West	\$349,000	Colonial	8	3	2	0	Yes	\$	95
12	2908429	5	S	Bloomfield Twp.*	1602	110 LEXINGTON AVE*	\$134,900	Colonial	7	3	1.1	2	Yes	\$135,000	67
13	2904224	14	S	Bloomfield Twp.*	1602	105 LEXINGTON AVE*	\$189,000	Colonial	7	3	1	1	Yes	\$185,000	28
14	2884891	18	S	Bloomfield Twp.	1602	32 Parkway West	\$219,000	Colonial	6	3	1	0	Yes	\$216,000	57
15	2886830	17	S	Bloomfield Twp.*	1602	9 Parkway E*	\$229,000	Colonial	7	3	1.1	1	Yes	\$225,000	36
16	2859785	17	S	Bloomfield Twp.*	1602	95 PARKWAY E*	\$329,999	Colonial	10	4	2	1	Yes	\$324,000	158