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 Norma Borja Kroll, Beautification Coordinator
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 Susana Sotillo, Recording Secretary/Temporary Newsletter Editor
 Auria Natal, Treasurer
 Rich Rockwell, Webmaster <http://www.halcyonpark.org/>



Spring - Summer 2008 (April, May, June and July) - Volume 6 No. 9

President's Message:

Earth Day 2008 has come and gone. We hope you join us in a series of events we have planned during the months of May, June, and July. We urge everyone to encourage children to participate in HPNA-sponsored activities that benefit the entire community.

Thanks to Charles Burns and his wife, Lexington Avenue residents, we have planned several outstanding activities for our Halcyon Park community: Clean Up Day in the park, Art in the Park, and a Concert and Children's Medieval Faire. Those interested in helping us plan activities for the children, please call me at **973-259-1337** or email me at dan.natal@nbkny.com. We need volunteers to help us coordinate all these events.

Margaret Sobharam of Parkway West is seeking volunteers to coordinate a neighborhood garage sale around the pond. This is a great opportunity for everyone to do some important spring cleaning and in the process earn some money. If you would like to help with this, please contact Margaret at **(973) 743-2387**.

Welcome to Denise Serbay and family who purchased their new home on Farrandale Avenue. We are looking forward to her active participation in neighborhood activities.

In addition to the planned activities for the next three months, Stephen Schuckman, Bloomfield's arborist, will be conducting a tour around the park. We urge all residents who want to plant trees to join us on **Tuesday, May 13th at 6:30 p.m.** by the pond.

Please visit the spectacular **Halcyon Park Web Site** that Rich Rockwell so generously maintains for us. You can assist Rich by making historic documents and photos of the park and environs available to him

I wish everyone a very safe and pleasant summer vacation,

Daniel Natal, President



Children's Activities and Neighborhood Events

Halcyon Park "Clean Up" in the Park Day

With Spring here, it's been nice to see neighbors working on their yards, planting flowers, reseeding lawns, and generally spending time outdoors. Recently, our park has been subject to lots of littering and vandalism. I'd like to encourage Halcyon Park residents to take as much pride in the beauty and cleanliness of our park as we do in keeping our own yards tidy. I'd like to organize a "**clean up in the park**" day one weekend in May, where residents and particularly local kids come out for a few hours on a weekend afternoon and collect litter and perhaps even plant some flowers in the park. The more we all take part in keeping our neighborhood beautiful, the nicer it will be for all residents. If you would like to assist me in planning this neighborhood event, please contact **Charles Burns** by e-mail at charlesburns@gmail.com

Art in the Park

Being an artist myself, I'm always struck by the beauty of our area when the seasons change. Are you an artist too? (painter, sculptor, sketcher, photographer?) Would you participate in a day of "art in the park" and bring an easel and some paints, or your camera to the park? I think this would be a fantastic way for artistically-inclined Halcyon Parkers to meet other artists who live in our community. If interested, please contact **Charles Burns** at charlesburns@gmail.com, or drop by 122 Lexington Avenue.



Concert and Children's Medieval Faire

The HPNA is currently organizing a free outdoor performance by Medieval/Renaissance musicians *Karpathos* (Sarabeth Burns on Lexington Ave. on violin, with other musicians/dancers) in Halcyon Park, tentatively scheduled for **Sunday, June 22nd at 2PM** (save the date!). We're also putting together some children's activities to accompany the music, perhaps a puppet-show, Medieval dress-up, etc. If you have any ideas for activities or would like to help with the event, please contact **Charles Burns** by e-mail at charlesburns@gmail.com



When?—

July 13th through 19th

Camp Seven Hills in Holland, NY – Girls and Boys ages 7-16

Grounded on the conviction that kids can begin establishing habits of the good and ethical life early on, Camp Inquiry 2008 adopts a three-part focus: The arts and sciences, the skeptical perspective, and ethical character development comprise an integrated approach to this "Age of Discovery." The Total cost per camper is **\$600.00**. Official reservations require a **\$50.00** deposit. Please send the completed Reservation Form to **Camp Inquiry, c/o Center for Inquiry, PO Box 741, Amherst NY 14226** or fax to **(716) 636-1733**.



*Please send me your email addresses at cassandra8@comcast.net at your earliest convenience. It is important that we have your email address in case of emergencies or if we need to notify residents about some important issue. Thank you, Susana M. Sotillo,
Recording Secretary*



A Message from Our Sponsor:

BARBARA P. HUGHES
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Upon Further Inspection

One of the most important steps in the home buying and selling process is often overlooked: the home inspection. While many buyers and sellers alike are wary of inspections (for fear of finding the dreaded "deal-breaker"), in reality thorough and timely inspections help smooth the process and prevent headaches during or after closing.

The Difference between Appraisal and Inspection

Many consumers are unclear regarding the difference between a home appraiser and a licensed home inspector. A house appraisal is an independent evaluation of the current market value of the home. Generally speaking, the appraiser's job is to review the property to determine its worth relative to similar properties in the area and recent sales history. With that value set, the lender can determine how much money can appropriately be loaned to the buyer. Appraisers typically work for the bank, the FHA, or HUD depending on the type of loan. In contrast, the house inspector is trained to identify items in the home that need either replacement or repair. A licensed inspector will carefully examine the home's structural components, heating, cooling, plumbing and electrical systems, insulation, roofing and so on. A home inspection report will give far more detailed information than available in a home appraisal.

While an appraiser will perform a walk through of your home, it is typically a cursory examination that lasts between 15 and 30 minutes. An in-depth home inspection will last from two to three hours. An appraiser may point out potential problem areas, but they are not trained to spot damage or faulty systems. Only a certified inspector can adequately review the quality and condition of a home for sale.

For More Information regarding home inspections, home staging before selling or anything about buying or selling real estate, visit my website: www.barbaraphughes.com



News from the Beautification Coordinator – Normal Borja Kroll

Let us embrace this beautiful time of the year as an opportunity for new BEGINNINGS! I am grateful to Mr. Anthony Nesto, Director of Parks & Recreation, and Joe Binkiewizz and his hard-working crew, from the Department of Recreation, for an excellent job in the beautification of our park. They removed debris from the flower beds and carefully put mulch around bushes, trees, and plants. I also would like to take this opportunity to thank Joe Testa from the Electrical Department for the installation and maintenance of the fountain head which looks amazing! THANK YOU ALL, FOR A JOB WELL DONE!



This coming fall, Mr. Nesto is planning the re-seeding of the grass in the section between Farrandale Ave. and Fontaine. If the budget permits it, both the Recreation Department and the Department of

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Public Works will refurbish all the benches and trash containers in the park, utilizing graffiti-proof materials.

I also would like to invite everyone to join us in a one-hour “walking and talking tour” with Stephen Schuckman, Bloomfield's and Glen Ridge’s arborist. We will meet by the pond on Tuesday, May 13th at 6:30 p.m. If you want to plant a tree in your property, please email Mr. Schuckman at *smschuckman@msn.com* or call him at 973-494-1296.

Thanks to all the residents who help us maintain our beautiful surroundings. If you see any trash, please pick it up. Also, help us by reporting acts of vandalism in the park (e.g., defacing park benches or destroying public property). Call **973-680-4141**

Please remember that you must use only biodegradable bags for collecting yard waste (leaves, grass clippings, brush, branches, and yard rakings. The township will not pick up waste collected in plastic or shopping bags. For more information, please call the **Bloomfield Public Works Department at (973) 6800-4127**. For **pothole repair**, call **(973) 680-4127, press #1** and provide exact location. **Streetlight out**, call **(973) 680-4009**.



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION – DUES \$10 per household – We have an HPNA account at American Savings. Please make checks payable to the Halcyon Park Neighborhood Association. You will be issued a receipt from the Treasurer, Auria Natal. Kindly fill out the form below and drop off your membership fees or donations at **3 Parkway East**, or call Auria at **973-259-1337**.

NAME _____ E-mail Address _____

Address _____

Phone No. _____

Things that need improvement _____

Things you would like HPNA to address:

- I would like to help out with:
- Publicity
 - Children’s Activities
 - Newsletter
 - Neighborhood Watch

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