

HALCYON PARK

SITUATED IN THE TOWN OF BLOOMFIELD, N.J.

Volume 7 Number 11

Summer 2010



Do You Recognize Either of These Houses in Halcyon Park??

Rich Rockwell our neighbor and webmaster, has been digging thru the archives again and has found a some of old photos of our neighbors homes.

Take a look here and then visit www.halcyonpark.org And submit your answer.

If you are the first one to visit our park's website with the correct answer you can win a gift certificate to Dunkin

Donuts,

compliments of

Barbara P. Hughes of The Nicholas Team of RE/MAX Village Square.



President's Message:

I hope you are enjoying a restful summer. We are very happy to report that the township has finally fixed a section of the pond's retaining walls that had collapsed and posed a danger to young children playing around the pond unsupervised. Thanks to Norma Borja Kroll's persistence in calling various town officials and actually going to their offices to request immediate action, this situation was promptly addressed. This tells us that if we want to get things done in the "Halcyon Park" or around town, we must take a more active role in volunteering and getting involved, attend township meetings to voice your opinions, and remember you pay property taxes and you have

rights in this township, you don't want elected officials making all the decisions for you.

We are planning to hold elections for all Halcyon Park Neighborhood Association (HPNA) positions because it is time for new



Join us at the fountain on August 3 for National Night Out, HP Neighborhood Association elections- bring something to eat & meet your neighbors!

and long-term residents to become actively involved. Remember that politicians look at a

group's strength when it comes to addressing residents' needs. We need to strengthen the role that our organization plays in the preservation of our historical oasis, maintaining our quality of life and fighting crime in this neighborhood and surrounding areas. The date for voting for new officers is Wednesday, July 28th after 4:30 p.m. We will set up voting booths by the pond on those dates and will ask our Web master to post a reminder at our Web site.

Please feel free to submit your name or the name of a resident who has expressed interest in any of the following positions. Our organization is classified as
(continued on Page 4)

Issues to Ponder for the Upcoming November Elections by Susana Sotillo

Property Taxes, Town Services, and Unreasonable Salaries:

About 20 of us appeared before the Board of Taxation in Newark to challenge revaluations of our properties that seem unreasonable given the current mortgage and

housing meltdown in Essex County and throughout America. Our property taxes pay for town services, public education, and Essex County's patronage positions awarded to politically connected individuals. Although eight of us who work

for the State of New Jersey have been furloughed, very few county operatives or town employees have experienced any work-related disruptions. I personally question the outrageous six-figure salaries paid to town
(continued on page 3)

Hello, neighbors!

Say Hey! By Denise Serbay

Hopefully everyone is enjoying their summer. We survived the heat wave (whew!!), now perhaps we can look forward to cooler, but still long, warm, sunny days.

Many of us continue to experience unemployment/furloughs. These are very difficult times, and any sharing of information, job leads, savings tips, coupon clubs, etc would be greatly appreciated.

We are also hoping for more involvement in the Neighborhood Association. Doing so does not involve heavy investment of time. We would like to have more activities, especially for the

many children who live here. Suggestions are welcome. Perhaps a monthly "Pizza by the Pond" while the weather is still warm. We have the



benefit of living in this beautiful park, let's enjoy it!!!! It is so unique.

Bloomfield is preparing for the annual National Night Out, being held this year on Tuesday, August 3rd. As usual, we'll be meeting at the pond. Donations of food, drink are welcome. This is a won-

derful event and opportunity to meet our local elected officials and our community police officers, who are so supportive of this neighborhood, as well as a chance to meet new neighbors and enjoy the old ones. Please contact Dan or myself (83 Farrandale) if you would like to prepare a dish. Let's chow down and enjoy each other's company!

I would also like to personally apologize for an error on my part which caused the omission of our Beautification Coordinator Norma Borja-Kroll's column from our last newsletter. Norma's had a busy summer and her column will be back in the Fall newsletter.

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT at HALCYON PARK FOUNTAIN AUGUST 3

August 3 2010 is the date of this year's National Night Out event. As mentioned in other parts of this newsletter we are planning an informative and enjoyable evening for the residents of Halcyon Park.

The winner of the "Guess This House" event being held on our website will be announced—check out the photos on the front page and visit the website for to view full-sized photos for a chance to be the 1st person to identify the address of the house and win a prize do-

nated by Barbara P. Hughes & the Nicholas Team of RE/MAX Village Square.

(Check out the photos on the first page and visit the webpage to view full sized photos)

Halcyon Park has couple of resident artists, Math Urin of Lexington Avenue and Carlos Diaz of Parkway East will both be displaying some of their paintings of our beautiful park for all to enjoy.

We will also be holding elections for new officers of the Halcyon Park

Neighborhood Association, to get help get everyone involved—come meet your neighbors, nominate someone and vote!

There will be some discussion on neighborhood safety, a possibility of a Halcyon Park wide yard/garage sale and possible other ideas for all of us to enjoy.

Please feel free to bring a chair and something to eat or a dish to share and join us at the fountain starting after 6:30.

See you there!



HALCYON PARK, AUTUMN TWILIGHT

At one time, in the early part of the 20th century, there were two lakes in Halcyon Park. "Lake of the Oaks" and "Shell Lake." Shell Lake, the smaller of the two lakes, was located in the green area near 28 Parkway West. It was filled in many years ago. Lake of the Oaks, the larger lake, is what is known today as the Halcyon Park Pond—

From the website:
www.halcyonpark.org



POLICE-COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

**August 3, 2010
join us at the
Halcyon Park Fountain...
lots of events planned!**

Issues to Ponder (cont'd. from page 1)

employees and managers who choose not to live in Bloomfield. They have no interest or commitment to this town. Bloomfield property owners and local businesses pay salaries, health and pension benefits that are completely out of line with what a working-class-middle-class town can afford. It is time for all of us to demand that our elected representatives consider a fair "payroll" tax for those working in Bloomfield who make over \$50K and have chosen to live elsewhere. Why should residents who are unemployed, underemployed or furloughed continue to bear most of the burden of these oppressive taxes? There are other alternatives our elected officials should explore, such as recruiting qualified college interns from area

universities to work in various town offices, requiring those entrusted with our safety and quality of life to live in our town, and implementing cost-cutting initiatives. These include sharing vital municipal services with towns such as Belleville and Nutley. For example, one Fire Chief and one Police Chief should suffice for the towns of Belleville, Bloomfield, and Nutley. Taxpayers in working-class and middle-class towns cannot continue to pay six-figure salaries for redundant services that should be consolidated.

Political Participation:

Halcyon Park residents are urged to attend the Saturday, July 25th Bloomfield Neighborhood Associations Committee (BNAC) meeting. New members are always wel-

come. BNAC will once again sponsor a debate between the Democratic party's choices for Mayor and Council-at-Large and the slate of candidates put forth by the Republican party. Elections this November are extremely important for this town as they will set the political and economic agenda for the next four years. Everyone needs to inform him/herself of what is at stake. It is not simply the redevelopment of the downtown area. Find out how much it will cost taxpayers in terms of tax abatements, the types of business ventures being attracted to our town, and the impact that developers' plans will have on our already compromised quality of life. Overtaxed home owners and local business owners cannot afford to shoulder any more unnecessary expenditures or law suits due to political infighting and managerial incompetence.

Board of Education:

There are now politically independent members of the Board of Education whom residents should be able to contact about adding civics as part of the students' curriculum. Public education is

funded primarily by property taxes. As taxpayers, we should have a say as to what is expected of those benefiting from a public education. Town-wide projects and neighborhood initiatives should be part of these requirements. There are many senior citizens in Bloomfield who need a helping hand because they are home bound.

Also, the John A. Bukowski Shelter for Animals in Bloomfield desperately needs volunteers to help care for and feed abandoned dogs and cats (973-748-0194). Just a few hours a month would make a difference.

Lastly, we need to discourage acts of vandalism in our park. Two girls were observed by neighbors vandalizing the Hydrangea bushes around the pond the week of June 28th. Norma and I found over eighty flowers scattered all over the park. This is totally unacceptable and parents should be held accountable. Halcyon Park needs volunteers to participate in biannual cleanup tasks, which include removing weeds from flowerbeds, trimming dead branches from bushes, and planting new flowers.

TAKE A BITE OUT OF CRIME

(For more information, call the Community Policing Unit, 973-680-4106, or the Patrol Division, 973-680-4148.)

McGruff the Crime Dog is an anthropomorphic cartoon bloodhound created by Saatchi & Saatchi through the Ad Council for the National Crime Prevention Council for use by

American police in building crime awareness among children. McGruff debuted in July 1980. The character was created by John Young. The motto "Take a Bite out of Crime" was invented by John M. Keil (from Rochester, New York). National Night out is usually scheduled during the first week of August.



Planning a Garage Sale??

You must obtain a permit from the building department, room #105 in town hall at 1 Municipal Plaza. The fee is \$25 (check or money order). Permits should be displayed by those responsible for garage sales.



We're on the web!
Halcyonpark.org

President's Message cont. from Page 1
non-profit with the IRS. As a paying member of the HPNA, you are encouraged to submit proposals requesting federal or state funds in order to start a sports program, organize cultural activities, or sponsor community-wide projects that benefit all residents of Bloomfield. Despite our request for a mobile Police Substation in the "Stop & Shop" parking lot, this will not be implemented because of the current legal and financial problems plaguing our Bloomfield police department. We really need a police substation in this area in order to prevent crime by disruptive outsiders. Unfortunately, we are very close to areas that have experienced petty as well as violent crime, so we are in need of additional police protection for our residents.

We have recently requested more Lighting (possibly LED) on the corner of Berkeley Avenue & Franklin Street. We have also requested the installation of traffic lights on very dangerous intersections on **Grove Street & Watsessing Avenue** and **Watsessing Avenue & Berkeley Avenue**, the possibility of placing rumble strips or speed traps as a result of the speeding in the park, as well as a more visible presence of Police officers in and around Halcyon Park. We would like to see the return of the "**Beat Cop**" to our neighborhood to make the rounds. We are also awaiting the Engineering Department's answer concerning the installation of curbing (Belgium Blocks) and repaving of **Farrandale Avenue** (between Lexington Avenue & Berkeley Avenue) particularly the corner of Florence Avenue.

Dan Natal,
President

Dates to Remember:

July 24 Bloomfield Neighborhood Association Meeting
Bi-Monthly Meeting
10AM-12PM Law Enforcement Building Municipal Plaza 2nd floor

August 3 National Night Out
Halcyon Park Fountain— bring a chair & something to eat or share

September 8 Back to School for Bloomfield Students

WEEKLY SUMMER FARMERS' MARKET

The Bloomfield Center Alliance is sponsoring its **6th Annual FARMERS' MARKET every Thursday through October 30** at **Venner Park from 1 p.m. to 7 p.m.**

There will be a concert band every other Thursday from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.

There will also be a "Healthy Lifestyle" demonstration on the alternate Thursdays from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. featuring local businesses such as Powerhouse Gym, Starseed Yoga, and several martial arts studios.

Res One Liner Report

Residential / Condo / Coop Listings

No.	ML#	MED	Status	Town	Code	Address	List Price	Style	RM	BR	TBT	Gar	BSMT	Sold Price	DOM
1	2730526	10	A	Bloomfield Twp.*	1602	38 FARRANDALE AVE*	\$289,000	Colonial	7	3	1.1	1	Yes	\$	231
2	2787479	0	A	Bloomfield Twp.*	1602	5 VESPER PL*	\$310,000	Bungalow, Cape Cod	8	3	2	0	Yes	\$	6
3	2717876	10	S	Bloomfield Twp.	1602	41 FONTAINE AVE	\$218,000	Colonial	6	3	1.1	0	Yes	\$207,000	28
4	2693796	10	S	Bloomfield Twp.*	1602	33 FARRANDALE AVE*	\$269,000	Colonial	8	4	1.1	2	Yes	\$248,000	197
5	2725647	8	S	Bloomfield Twp.*	1602	20 FONTAINE AVE*	\$275,000	Colonial	6	3	1	0	Yes	\$225,000	73
6	2705290	10	S	Bloomfield Twp.*	1602	114 LEXINGTON AVE*	\$299,000	Colonial	9	4	2	1	Yes	\$300,000	10
7	2629478	9	S	Bloomfield Twp.	1602	75 Fontaine Ave.	\$309,999	Colonial	6	3	1.1	1	Yes	\$285,000	201
8	2692880	10	S	Bloomfield Twp.*	1602	127 Parkway East	\$319,900	Colonial	7	4	2	0	Yes	\$305,000	57
9	2706295	10	X	Bloomfield Twp.	1602	41 Fontaine Avenue	\$199,000	Colonial	6	3	1.1	0	Yes	\$	44
10	2688968	10	X	Bloomfield Twp.	1602	41 Fontaine Avenue	\$243,000	Colonial	6	3	1.1	0	Yes	\$	64

Multi-Family Listings

No.	ML#	MED	Status	Address	Town	Code	List Price	#UN	TRMS	TBRs	TBTH	Sold Price	DOM
1	2727869	6	S	39 FLORENCE AVE*	Bloomfield Twp.*	1602	\$238,900	2	10	5	3	\$269,000	53
2	2723041	1	W	28 FONTAINE AVE*	Bloomfield Twp.*	1602	\$370,000	2	12	6	2.1	\$	125

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Real Estate continues to be the one subject that can evoke an emotion like no other—it gives us shelter from the heat and the cold, it welcomes us home and helps us to entertain our friend and families. It can also frustrate like no other—there is always something to be done—windows to be washed, rugs to be vacuumed, grass to be cut or driveway to be shoveled. It gives us a sense of worth and value—it tells us we've lived the American dream—we own a home.

The value of a home can be many things to many people—its not always the money—although these days that is the bone of contention we all have—having been thru the recent property revaluation—this is something we have all realized—value is in the eye of the beholder. The recent decline in the real estate market this past year generated all of these emotions and more...we as residents of Bloomfield still had to have our homes inspected for re-valuation and tax assessment.

The above chart is taken straight from the Garden State Multiple Listing Service and hopefully is of interest to all of you—maybe it might even help some of you with a tax appeal. If you have any questions or would like more information about the current market, please don't hesitate to get in touch with us—we are never too busy to answer question or help with a real estate need.

We can also be found on : search for The Nicholas Team of RE/MAX Village Square on any of these sites to receive up to the minute real estate news...

twitter

facebook

LinkedIn

Join us at
on Aug. 3rd at Halcyon Park Fountain...
we'll have info about local real estate, "GREEN" &
home safety ideas, Pete Elsby of ISB Mortgage will
be with us to answer mortgage or refinancing ques-
tions you might want to ask...



For Additional Information:

THE NICHOLAS TEAM

RE/MAX Village Square REALTORS

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Office: 973-509-2222 Fax: 973-509-7779

Email: realestate@theNicholasTeam.com

Website: www.theNicholasTeam.com



Lily & Victor Vazquez of Farrandale Avenue had some special house guest this past spring...a momma Robin bird made a nest in the curve of one their gutter and started a family... two baby robins were hatched a few weeks ago and are already out on their own!!



Election of New Officers

(Feel free to nominate yourself and briefly state why you want to be considered for this position):



President _____

Statement of Intent _____

Vice President _____

Statement of Intent _____

Publicity Director (currently vacant) _____

Statement of Intent _____

Beautification Coordinator _____

Statement of Intent _____

Neighborhood Watch Coordinator _____

Statement of Intent _____

Treasurer _____

Statement of Intent _____

HPNA Secretary _____

Statement of Intent _____

Send your nominations to Denise Serbay at denise123094@hotmail.com