



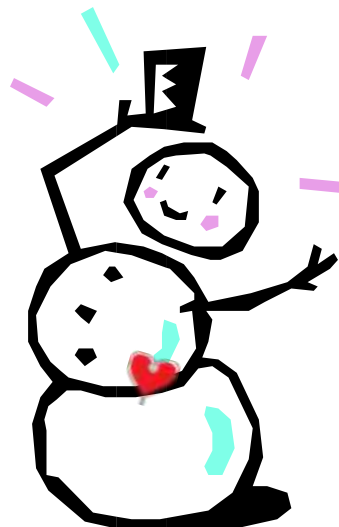
President's Message from Dan Natale

I hope everyone has enjoyed their wonderful holiday season and I would like to express my warmest greetings to all of our residents. I would like to thank our HPNA organization especially Susana Sotillo and Michael LoConte for all of their help and the

["Halcyonpark.nextdoor.com"](http://Halcyonpark.nextdoor.com) website members and residents for all their continued support, dedication and volunteerism during this year in making Halcyon Park a wonderful place to live. It was a pleasure to have shared such great moments with all of the families during our yearly events.

I would particularly like to thank Michael LoConte

and all of participating residents for being a part of the Halcyon Park Neighborhood Watch group. Please help them keep our neighborhood safe and volunteer.



Cold Days...warm hearts..

I would again like to thank Michael LoConte

for decorating the permanent Christmas tree and Susana Sotillo and Denise Serbay for decorating the park in time for our Holiday Season and Nelsha Moorji for organizing the Halcyon Park Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony with Santa.

A heart felt thank you to Al Balnicki for donating the beautiful wreaths that decorated our Halcyon Park Light poles during our holiday season.

On Behalf of the Halcyon Park Neighborhood Association I would like to wish everyone a wonderful, healthy and Happy New Year.

HALCYON PARK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION:

Daniel Natal, President
 Nelsha Moorji, Vice President
 Michael LoConte, Neighborhood Watch and Beautification Coordinator
 Denise Serbay, Beautification Co-Coordinator
 Auria Natal, Treasurer
 Susana Sotillo, Secretary/Newsletter Assistant
 Amanda Natal, Newsletter Copy Editor
 Barbara P. Hughes, Newsletter Sponsor/Publisher
 Rich Rockwell, Web Master

<http://www.halcyonpark.org>

people are resolving to volunteer. Essex County Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) is a wonderful organization of individuals who advocate on behalf of children and young adults in the foster care system, and they are looking for volunteers. CASA advocates are "a child's voice" in the court -spending time with a child (or children), meeting with persons in the child's life (parents, foster parents, school personnel , etc), and making recommendations to the court based on the best interests of the child. If interested, please feel free to contact me (I am a CASA :)) or visit their website. (www.casaessex.org)

Happy 2017!!:)

Say Hey! By Denise Serbay

Happy New Year!!!!!! What a blessing to have the opportunity to look forward to another year ! The weather has been cooperating so far, but even with the coldest of days come the comforts of fireplaces and hot chocolate. (Looking for silver linings wherever they may be found.) Every year brings challenges and joys and the challenges are survived through faith, family, and

friends. Here's hoping that this year brings many, many joys. Before we know it the warmer weather will be with us. As Beautification Co-Coordinator I would again like to thank Steve Schuckman, our Town Forrester, for the great informative walking tour of our neighborhood last October. He has graciously agreed to return and help us with some of the dying

trees here in the park. Looking way forward , we are looking to plan activities (planting, etc) for this year's Earth Day in April . Please let us know what interests you in this area, especially activities for the children. It's never too early to look forward to the joys of warm weather (Pitchers and catchers report for Spring Training next month !!!) Also, at this time of year many

Neighborhoods and Developmental Sprawl — Can We Coexist? By Susana Sotillo

A conference is being planned to take place on Saturday, June 10, 2017 by Dr. Paul Russo, David Kraiker, Data Dissemination Specialist with the US Census Bureau, and me in order to address the developmental sprawl taking place in neighborhoods in Essex County and throughout New Jersey. If you travel by train from Newark's Penn Station to Philadelphia's 34th Street Station, you will be able to observe row upon row of massive apartment buildings near railroad stations in many small towns from northern New Jersey to southern New Jersey. As environmentally conscious individuals who value our neighborhoods, a sense of community, quality schools, and open space, we are very concerned with what many residents of established neighborhoods such as South Orange, Montclair, Bloomfield, Maplewood, Nyack, New York, and many others see as the Urban Transit Village encroachment that is running rampant and threatens the quality of life of many New Jersey communities. If you are interested in this topic which affects all of us who live in the

Halcyon Park and Berkeley neighborhoods, I urge you to consider attending this free conference which will take place at Bloomfield College. We are in the process of putting together an agenda and plan to ask representatives from various New Jersey neighborhoods, including Bloomfield, to address problems they have encountered and solutions proposed in order to achieve some sort of harmony and prevent the shrinking of

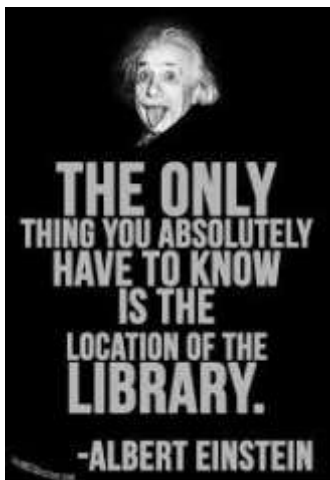


open space currently experienced by many communities.

The proposed title of the conference is "Neighborhoods and Development: Can We Co-exist?" Representatives from ANJEC and professionals who work in Earth and Environmental Sciences will be asked to conduct workshops. An expert will address the state's view of Transit-Oriented

Development, and David Kraiker will show participants how to find map and Census Data for each of the participating neighborhoods. Anna Sandler from TapIntoSoma, an online newspaper, will also address the audience and local news reporters will be invited. We also expect to invite our own town historians to discuss the importance of preserving historical buildings and landmarks. This conference is scheduled from 9 to noon on a Saturday. If anyone is interested in volunteering or donating food and water for the conference participants, please contact me at cassandra8@comcast.net. Participants will be able to propose new perspectives and follow up meetings in the round-up session. We used to have a Bloomfield Neighborhood Association Committee (BNAC) that meet every four weeks throughout the year, but with so many active members of different groups moving away and splinter groups focusing on different issues, there is no organized body like BNAC that focuses exclusively on neighborhoods. We need to resurrect BNAC in 2017 and your assistance with this task would be much appreciated.

A Unique Resource in Bloomfield:



The Library provides free notary service, a monthly Essex County Clerk outreach passport service, a tutoring space and free wireless hotspots for laptop users. Two conference rooms are available for a nominal rental charge. Thanks to elevators and new sliding doors, the entire Library is barrier-free.

Visit the Bloomfield Public Library at 90 Broad Street, call for free reference help at 973-566-6200, extension 502, or check out our website at www.bplnj.org. Take advantage of the Bloomfield Public Library. It's a vital part of your community. For more information, please contact Linda

Halcyon Park Annual Beautification Report

Annual Beautification Report

Due to family obligations, I had to cut back some of my involvement in recent years. Over the past few years, I've been able to devote more time and that's why I was especially thrilled to become active once again. As *Beautification Coordinator*, I have been involved in several projects in the park. Our annual earth day celebration and planting went extremely well. It was great to see so many people come out to help. We have some exciting ideas for next year. Thanks to Margaret and Marlon, Belinda Jones and her daughter, and the many volunteers that showed up and helped

Ongoing beautification projects continued throughout the year and with the outstanding cooperation of our DPW, we got a lot accomplished. Benches were fixed and the park and pond were maintained well. The town arborist presented an in-

formative walking tour of the park. It was enjoyed by many. You can watch it at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8oXOts4PxY0> Trees that were removed will be replaced and diseased trees will be taken down and replaced. Once again the Balnicki family donated the lighted wreaths used in the park. Many volunteers helped decorating the park. Lights were placed on the tree in anticipation of the arrival of Santa and the official lighting of the tree. Hot chocolate, cookies and presents were given to the children. Special thanks to Dan and Nelsha and all that helped.

There are three things that we are asking for your cooperation with:

1. Usually in the winter, people walk their dogs and hardly ever pick up the poop. By the time the snow melts, most of the green areas are disgusting. Please pick up after your dog. There are bags

available at both ends of the park. Please dispose of the bags in the trash baskets.

2. While this is a long way off, please refrain from feeding the ducks in the pond. We had some serious clarity problems with the water this year. While everyone thinks it's cute to feed the ducks, people are constantly coming to the pond all day and night long and putting food in the pond. We believe this dramatically affected the water quality this year.
3. When it snows, please try to get your cars off the street until after the roads are plowed. Once plowed please do not throw the snow back in the street.

Stay warm and let's hope we have a short winter and early Spring. If you want to get involved with our beautification projects, email me at Mikelk98@aol.com.
See you around the park!

Saving Your Pipes in the Winter Weather by Barbara P. Hughes



We live in an area where extreme cold is likely during the winter months— but not guaranteed.

Don't risk thousands of dollars in plumbing repairs... take the time to protect your pipes from bursting. When water freezes in your pipes, the ice expands, adding to the overall pressure in your home's plumbing. When this force builds, it can cause pipes to split. In addition to plumbing repairs, you might find yourself on the hook for flooding damage, too. And please don't think you are immune because you are home— the past two winters, I haven't gotten calls from clients with burst pipes right here in Bloomfield!!

The pipes most at risk? Those exposed to the lowest temperatures, of course. This includes plumbing on the exterior of the home, in exterior walls, and exposed pipes in those unheated zones of your home. Did you know that even a frozen garden hose can cause enough pressure to split an interi-

or pipe? Be sure to disconnect and drain them. Faucets outside are vulnerable as well, so you'll want to locate the shutoff valves for those spigots and make sure they're drained before a freeze.

Naturally, if you're not going to be around for the winter months, you'll want to prepare your home before you head to a warmer climate. Don't let the house drop below the mid-50s, and shut off the water main and be sure to drain the home's plumbing by letting the faucets run to empty and flushing the toilets.

But what do you do if the freeze takes you by surprise? Here are some quick tips to try and save yourself from a plumbing nightmare:

1. Get the taps running. You don't need a rushing stream of water, just make sure indoor and outdoor faucets are letting a steady drip out to keep the water moving.
2. Open up closed spaces. Have an unheated garage? Pipes in cabinets? Get warm air circulating in there by opening them up to climate-controlled areas of your home. The

added heating expense is nothing compared to costly repairs.

3. Insulate pipes. If you suspect the pipes are starting to accumulate some ice, you can try hot towels (soaked in hot water) to loosen the frosty slush in the pipes.

4. Hair dryer to the rescue. When hot towels won't help, don't hesitate to get out your trusty hairdryer or heat gun to thaw things out. No open flames, though!

Finally, if you fear the worst is already upon you, turn off your water main.

At least this way you won't face a flood when things get moving again. Protect your home this winter! Enjoy helpful home tips? Let me know and I'll include you on my free, periodic mailings and send you blog updates thru email! Barbara P. Hughes, REALTOR



RE/MAX Village Square

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MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION –

DUES \$20 per household or \$10 for individual members –

Please 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 _____

Cell# _____ Or Home Phone No. _____

Things that need improvement in our Park:

Things you would like HPNA to address:

Neighborhood Watch Yearly Report By Mike LoConte

I'll start off with a tip. When discarding boxes on the curb, keep in mind that you are advertising to the world that you have new things in your house.



Turn the boxes inside out or tear them up so that there are no

visible signs of that new t. v. or whatever you purchased available to the public.

During the past year, I attended several town-wide community meetings to keep informed about local projects and police activity in town. I continued to work closely with our Mayor and the police department, promoting the neighborhood watch program and encouraging participation, not only in Halcyon Park, but

town wide.

I am administrator of the *Neighborhood Watch Facebook page*. Bloomfield residents are encouraged to join. It's called Bloomfield NJ Neighborhood Watch. Please make sure it says you are from Bloomfield in your profile when requesting to join.

We need to get more people involved and will be holding a meeting once the weather gets warmer. If you're interested in getting involved you can email me

at Mikelk98@aol.com. Put *neighborhood watch* in the subject line.

We were sad to see the Colon family move from the Park. Allyson served as co-coordinator of the Neighborhood Watch program in Halcyon Park and organized many of the activities for children. We wish them well in their new home.

Thanks to Susana and Nelsha, we were able to get reflective vests for our neighborhood watch walkers.

And lastly, it is my sad duty to report that my neighbor and friend Ken Furst passed away on December 17th. He was a wonderful friend that served as a Block Captain in



our Neighborhood Watch program. He will be missed immensely.

Rest Easy, Ken you will never be forgotten.