

HALCYON PARK

SITUATED IN THE TOWN OF BLOOMFIELD, N.J.

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SPRING/SUMMER 2009



WEEKLY SUMMER FARMERS' MARKET

The Bloomfield Center Alliance is sponsoring its **6th Annual FARMERS' MARKET** every Thursday through October 30 at Vanner 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.

ESSEX COUNTY WELFARE MOBILE OFFICE VAN

The Bloomfield Department of Health and Human Services is proud to announce the arrival of the Essex County Welfare Mobile Office Van. The Van will be stationed at Bloomfield Town Hall. Applications can be processed for Food Stamp Program; Medicaid Programs (i.e. Family Care); Temporary Assistance to Needy Families and other helpful programs. To inquire about obtaining an appointment or for more information, please contact the Bloomfield Human Services Division at 973-680-4017.

Editor's Note-

We would like to extend our condolences to our Beautification Coordinator Norma Borja-Kroll on the passing of her beloved father, Carlos Borja.

*Denise Serbay
Newsletter Editor*

NATALIE MACALISTER—HALCYON PARK RESIDENT

Natalie McAlister is one of our very own Halcyon Park resident high school students. You have seen her name before in our newsletters when she started competing in the USATF Jr. Olympics two years ago. She is now running for the BHS indoor winter track in the varsity level as a freshman. She is making quite a name for herself in the sport of track and field. Running for an elite youth track club (Lightning Track Club) has paved the way for her freshman winter season.

She started off with the Women's Colgate Games this winter, accumulating enough points to compete in the finals at Madison Square Garden where she came in 4th in her race, the 55 meter hurdles, and ended in 5th overall. Being a member of the girls' varsity indoor track team has been a great thing. She climbed all the way to the State Meet of Champions in Toms River. To get there she had to place in the following meets:

- Essex County Meet 2nd place 8.91



- Sectionals Champions 3rd place 8.86
- Group State Champions 5th place 8.88
- NJ Meet of Champions 4th in the prelims with a time of 8.96, not making it to the finals.
- Eastern States Championship where she broke her record with a personal best time of 8.75

GREETINGS FROM HPNA PRESIDENT

It is that time of year we enjoy the wonderful spring days by finishing our spring cleaning and start our gardening and look forward to the summer days ahead. I am happy to report the township of Bloomfield is currently moving ahead with its plans on the

downtown redevelopment, but the town is still facing economic worries, as well as we the residents, we face continuing real estate tax increases and are expecting to get less for it. But we have the right to **"SPEAK UP"** and demand more ser-

vices for it, that's why I would encourage everyone to make an effort to show up at the regularly scheduled Town Council meetings every Monday at 7:30 p.m. to voice your concerns with respect to the increasing crime, littering, speeding in the to

Wonder of Spring... "How strange that Nature does not knock, yet, does not intrude!"
- Emily Dickinson

NATALIE MACALISTER...

In the Essex County Relays, which took place Saturday February 28th, the Bloomfield girls took 2nd place in the 55 meters Shuttle Hurdle Relay with a time of 35.41 and 2nd place in the 4x200 relay with a time of 1:49.57. Natalie is ranked # 20 in New Jersey High Schools girls for the 55 hurdles and ranked # 1 in the state as a Freshman. Go here to see her personal status <http://nj.milesplit.us/athletes/611384>

To finish her indoor season she ran in the NY Armory competing in the High School National Scholastic

Indoor Champs (NSIC). She came in 3rd in her heat with a time of 9.46 in the 60 meter hurdles. She then came in with a time of 8.67 in the 55 meter mark with was a good enough time for her to reclaim her crown as the NUMBER ONE Freshman in New Jersey. To see her last race you can go to <http://ny.milesplit.us/videos/6004>.

This has been an extraordinary start as a freshman. No sooner than one season ends than another begins, as she will be getting ready and practicing for the outdoor season where she

will be running the 100 meter hurdles along with other event. She also has set her sights on the high jump.

Let's take time to congratulate Natalie on her great accomplishments thus far. This is only the beginning of her track and field world. And let's not forget to mention that she is also doing well academically as well: Student first and athlete second. "The main thing is to KEEP the Main Thing THE MAIN THING!" and the main thing is school/education, and then track.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE CONT.

park, vandalism, zoning code violations, and neighborhood safety. It's your right to voice your thoughts and concerns as they are critical to the future of Halcyon Park and the township of Bloomfield. The HPNA is currently planning a neighborhood meeting by the pond and are expecting our new Councilman Robert Ruane and Police department community development officers to be present to answer any questions or concerns or suggestions you may have. We welcome all new Halcyon Park residents and urge them to become active members of

HPNA. Please visit our wonderful web site created and maintained by Rich Rockwell, our local Halcyon Park historian and webmaster at halcyonparkhistoricaldistrict.com/ and enjoy historical archives filled with photos and the parks historical facts. I would also like to encourage all residents to please submit any old photos or information related to Halcyon Park to share with all of our residents and helps educate our children on Halcyon Park's Past. I would like to personally thank Denise Serbay our new News-

letter editor for all of her hard work and community outreach Township officials with many concerns affecting our quality of Life in Halcyon Park and our township and I would especially like to thank Barbara Hughes for sponsoring and added such wonderful flair to our newsletters.

Have a wonderful spring and summer and I look forward to seeing you at our next meeting—JUNE 24 at the Pond)

**Daniel Natal, President
Halcyon Park Neighborhood
Association (973)259-1337**



*No matter how long the
Winter is.,
Spring is sure to follow!
-Proverb*

Important Telephone Numbers:

**County Executive Liaison – Benjamin Amos
973-395-8615
Mayor's Office – Pam Walsh
973-680-4080
Police Department
973-680-4141
Department of Public Works
973-680-4127**

SAY HEY BY DENISE SERBAY

Spring is in full swing, and summer is not be far behind. Woo hoo!! That means more baseball, longer days, more time outdoors. It's wonderful to see the returning of the beautiful foliage to our neighbors gardens. This is my first winter-to-spring as a homeowner, and besides the joy of saying goodbye to low boiler water levels and high heating bills, it's nice to see barren gardens returning to their hidden beauty. The bulbs I planted in November bloomed great, but they're gone now. I'm hoping to see summer bulbs come up soon, my thumb isn't that green yet!

We are hoping to plan some outdoor activities for the children and residents of the park, something like

Pizza by the Pond. If anyone has any suggestions, please call one of us. My # is 973-743-1365.

In March the Neighborhood Association met with Councilman Ruane and Community Policing Officers Kevin O'Connell and Jose Munoz about some issues concerning Halcyon Park and the surrounding area. Many issues were discussed (please see column). At that meeting, also, Councilman Ruane requested a follow-up meeting by the pond; that meeting will be held *Wednesday, June 24th, at 6:30pm*. Please make every effort to attend. If you are unable to attend but have an issue that is concerning you, again, please call one of us and we will make sure that your concern is



heard. Councilman Ruane is very attentive to the concerns of our residents. Your voice will be heard.

Please be sure to read about our very own Natalie McAlister of Lexington Avenue. She continues to excel in the sport of track and field, having completed an incredibly successful winter season and now competing in the outdoor season. Natalie has just completed her Freshman year at Bloomfield High School and has been featured in Bloomfield Life and the Independent Press.

A MESSAGE FROM THE FORMER EDITOR- SUSANNA SOTILLA

I urge all residents to join the Halcyon Park Neighborhood Association. Your high property taxes pay for civic improvements and municipal services. If you are not involved in your local community, elected officials will not be aware of problems you might be experiencing. For example, we are

surrounded by structures (e.g., apartment buildings with absentee landlords and stores in the Stop & Shop plaza) that threaten our quality of life. Every day one finds litter in the park, around the pond, and on our own front lawns. We have also experienced attempted break-ins, the defacing of neighbors' property and vehi-

cles by local vandals, and graffiti spraying by unknown individuals. Whatever we do, we must keep this neighborhood free of drug dealers and gang members. We can only do this if we all work together, join the Neighborhood Watch Group, and take part in neighborhood activities.

Continued on Page 4

People ask me what I do in winter when there's no baseball. I'll tell you what I do. I stare out the window and wait for spring. -Rogers Hornsby



*Spring is Nature's way of saying "Let's Party!"
- Robin Williams, comedian*

NEWS FROM OUR BEAUTIFUCATION COORDINATOR...

Spring is finally here! Let us enjoy this magnificent time of the year. We are so fortunate to have our properties surrounded with our own display of cherry blossoms right here in our "PEACEFUL & BEAUTIFUL HALCYON PARK"....and just so you know "halcyon" means peaceful.

I would like to thank all

the residents who have helped us maintain the beauty and charm of our park and keep the grounds free of litter. Special thanks to Anthony Nesto, Director of Recreation, and his staff for keeping the park in such wonderful condition.

I would like to invite our residents to visit Branch Brook Park, home of the

Cherry Blossom festival hosted by Joseph N. DiVincenzo, Jr. Branch Brook Park is located nearby, in Belleville/Newark.

I will be working with Anthony Nesto to make sure that some repairs will be done around the park, especially the potholes that we are aware leave craters behind from the past winter. Also, I

Continued on Page 4

NATALIE MACALISTER SPRING HIGHLIGHTS

A NOTE FROM OUR BEAUTIFICATION COORDINATOR Norma Borja- Kroll

I would like to suggest placing our garbage curbside on the day of pick-up, rather than on the night before, perhaps for this next month. We have been having problems with possums and the like, who tear at the garbage at night-time, leaving a mess. Hopefully the weather will allow, as it understandably difficult to place garbage outside in the morning when it is raining, as it has been so frequently lately.

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

FROM THE BEAUTIFICATION COORDINATOR CONTINUED...

will be asking him to work on Paving Parkway West and Parkway East. I am also taking this opportunity to remind everyone that we MUST use only recyclable paper bags for our spring clean up.

A reminder to Halcyon Park residents and visitors who use our park to walk their dogs: You MUST pick up after your dogs, it's the LAW! and all dogs must be kept on a leash. Please do not leave dog feces in the park.

Thank you all for your support. Please help us keep our park BEAUTIFUL, SERENE, and CLEAN. We noticed some of you have adopted the park to plant flowers, please keep up the good work.

Personal Bests

400 Meter Hurdles - 1:06.19
100 Meter Hurdles - 15.10
High Jump - 4-8
60 Meter Hurdles - 9.46
55 Meter Hurdles - 8.75
55 Meter Dash - 8.02
200 Meter Dash - 28.93

Natalie had an outstanding freshman year running the 100 hurdles took her all the way to the Meet of Champs.

She took third place in the NNJIL Championship time of 15.91 100H. In The Essex County she took up two new events. The High Jump where she just miss moving on placing 7th with a jump of 4'8" and in the 400 hurdles she ran a 1:08.87 breaking Bloomfield's High School record from 1982 and Third place in the 100H time of 15.37 She then moved on to the NJSIAA Sectional Championship in her prelim she ran a 15.35 in the 100H and in the finals she had a Lolo Jones moment and hit the 9th hurdles causing her to come in 5th with a

This moved her into the NJSIAA Group Championships in Egg Harbor where she broke her record for the 2nd time in a row in the 400H with an impressive time of 1:06.19 as good as her time was she 13th and in the 100H she PR in the prelim with a time of 15.10 and 15.15 in the finals placing 7th, and her time was the fastest in the 6 wild cards giving her the chance to run at the Meet of Champions again. She ended in the prelims with a time of 15.54.

Over all she had a great freshman year where she is ranked #1 freshman in the state for both indoor and outdoor. Kudos to Natalie in her successful Track and Field freshman year. It can only get better from here. All the best to Bloomfield's Finest.

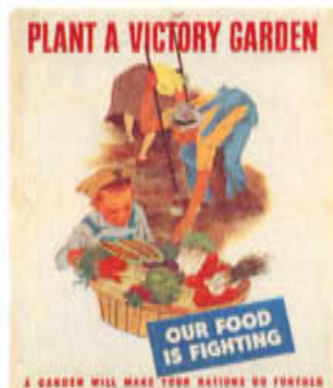
FROM SUSANNA SOTILLO CONTINUED...

Please make an effort to join our HPNA's meetings and events. We need your input and cooperation.

Here is a list of what needs to be addressed by our Third Ward representative, Township officials, and Police Chief:

- Lack of speed bumps requested along Watsessing Avenue, especially at the intersection with Berkeley Avenue where children wait for the school bus
- Pedestrian crossing signs and strips at Watsessing and Grover Street

- Illegal parking of commercial vehicles in Halcyon Park's narrow streets
- Parking cars on front lawns in violation of Town Code (Lexington Ave.)
- Illegal subdivision of single family homes in violation of the Town Code
- Paving over lawn and removal of vegetation in violation of the Town Code
- Accumulation of trash at the entrance to the park (This negatively impacts on our property values and makes the entire area undesirable.) Potholes and broken Belgian blocks along Parkway East and West



During World War II, Americans responded to pressure on the public food supply by growing fruits and vegetables at home. These "Victory Gardens" were planted in backyards and on apartment rooftops, in big cities and small rural towns, and in every corner of the country. A homespun solution to a national problem, Victory Gardens came to be a part of everyday life in America.

Today, some people are re-purposing this wartime effort on the home front into a modern strategy to combat rising grocery bills, economic uncertainty and global warming.

Why Garden at Home?

Having a vegetable patch right outside your door has many benefits. Most notably, growing your own vegetables is an easy way to save money on groceries. A small investment in seeds and supplies combined with just a little sweat equity can reap pounds of fruits and vegetables over one season. Canning or jarring the surplus from each crop allows you to enjoy the bounty of your harvest throughout the year.

In addition to the economic benefit, home-grown vegetables are fresher and often more flavorful than grocery store produce. By taking charge of your own greens, you needn't be concerned about unknown chemical pesticides

affecting the vegetables you eat.

Gardening can have intangible benefits as well. Many amateur horticulturists use time in the garden as a stress reliever—a chance for alone time and peaceful reflection. Gardening doesn't have to be a solitary activity, however: growing vegetables can be a great outdoor activity for families and a fun way for children to help the household. Local gardens also help fight global warming; they eliminate the need for fuel to transport food thousands of miles from farm to table.

Where Will Your Garden Grow?

You don't need to have a large available space at home in order to start a vegetable garden. A well-tended smaller garden will actually yield more vegetables than a larger counterpart that is ill-managed. If you live in an apartment or if space is very limited, you can choose to grow in containers housed on a deck or balcony.

Regardless of your garden's size, there are some key requirements for successful growing:

Sunlight—Most vegetables require anywhere from six to eight hours of direct sunlight each day. Plants that don't get enough light typically bear less and are more susceptible to attacks from diseases or pests. Leafy vegetables such as spinach and lettuce can be grown in the shade if you don't have access to a spot in full sunlight. Cool-season varieties such as peas can also be grown in partial shade.

Water—Most vegetables require regular water in order

to survive. While a full-scale irrigation system isn't necessary, the closer your garden is to a water source the easier time you will have keeping vegetables well-watered.

Soil—Plants tend to thrive in moist, well-drained soil rich in organic nutrients. When using containers to grow vegetables, make sure to use a potting mix designed for containers (most contain equal parts clean sand, perlite, vermiculite, potting soil and peat moss).

Convenience—Many home gardeners like to locate their vegetable patch close to the kitchen, making it easier to harvest fresh produce while cooking. If your only suitable growing spots aren't conveniently located, consider keeping a few favorite potted veggies on handy indoor counters.

What to Plant?

The next step is to determine what you'll be growing in your garden. Begin by examining the types of vegetables your family eats throughout the year. First time gardeners have been known to plant more than they either need or can manage. To begin, follow the old adage that "less is more." Seed catalogs can help you narrow down your choices, or you may seek help at your local home and garden store.

Remember that certain types of vegetables such as peppers and tomatoes produce throughout the year,

A Word from Our Sponsor...

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THE NICHOLAS TEAM
RE/MAX Village Square Realtors
516 Valley Road Upper Montclair, NJ 07043
Office: 973-509-2222 Ext. 126
On the Web: www.TheNicholasTeam.com
Email: RealEstate@TheNicholasTeam.com



Planning a Vegetable Garden

In the spring, at the end of the day, you should smell like dirt. ~Margaret Atwood

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION – DUES \$10 per household — HPNA is now exempt from Federal income tax. You may now write a check out to the Halcyon Park Neighborhood Association. Kindly fill out the form below and drop off your membership fees or donations at **3 Parkway East, Bloomfield, NJ 0700**, or call Auria Natal, our HPNA Treasurer, at **973-259-1337**.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

PLANTING A GARDEN CONT..

while others such as carrots or corn produce only once. You may need to plant more of the latter as a result.

During your first growing season, you may want to plant several varieties of each vegetable to determine which will grow best in your garden.

Row Cropping Vs. Intensive Cropping

Home gardens typically adhere to two basic designs:

Row Cropping—vegetables are planted in single file rows with a walking path between each row. This layout is especially effective for larger gardens, and allows space to use mechanical tillers and for weed control. The drawback of row cropping is that fewer vegetables are planted in a given area, making it less suitable for small gardens.

Intensive Cropping—vegetables are planted in wide bands from one to four feet across. The closer spacing of the plants usually necessitates hand weeding. Because of this, the width of the bands should not exceed easy reach. Intensive cropping allows for more flexible garden layouts. Many gardeners will leave certain areas unplanted initially, allowing additional crops to

be planted and harvested later in the season.

Upkeep

Vegetables generally require a steady supply of water. If you have indoor/covered plant containers or if rain isn't plentiful, you'll need to handle watering detail. Always water when the topmost inch of soil is dry. In-ground crops may require watering once or twice a week, while faster-draining raised beds or containers will likely require watering every other day.

For maximum results, consider applying a packaged vegetable fertilizer. Always follow the provided instructions and avoid applying more than the recommended amount. If you are planning an organic garden, you'll want to dig in high quality compost during the initial planting. Organic fertilizers may also be used if desired.

Weeds are the bane of every gardener; they compete with your vegetables for nutrients and water. Discourage weed settings by using a hoe or hand fork to regularly stir the top inch of soil (this is



known as cultivation).

Visit: www.theNicholasTeam.com for more helpful information

The Neighborhood Association invited our Third Ward Councilman Robert Ruane to a neighborhood meeting to discuss various safety and quality of life issues affecting us in and around Halcyon Park. Officers Kevin O'Connell and Jose Munoz also attended. Some of the issues that were discussed were:

ASSOCIATION MEETS WITH COUNCILMAN

Unruly visitors to Halcyon Park--It was brought to the attention that some residents of Halcyon Park invite unruly visitors to our park, and disruptive and illegal activity takes place. This is unacceptable. Many residents moved here from urban areas, hoping for a quiet, semi-suburban lifestyle with the conveniences of the city. Our longtime residents have expressed dismay over what has been happening in and around this beautiful residential area. To endure visitors who play loud music, smoke marijuana, pollute our pond with alcohol bottles and worse, is unfair to put it mildly, in some instances the behavior is downright disgusting. PLEASE, respect our park -- YOU LIVE HERE! Don't allow visitors to drag us down.

Littering in the pond-- As I mentioned above, littering in the pond is a problem. On a recent day, my son and I fished alcohol bottles, cigarette lighters, etc. out of the pond.

Norma Kroll, our Beautification Coordinator, has fished out alcohol bottles and worse out of the pond. On a daily basis, she walks the park, what she sees on some days is frankly disgusting. She works hard to keep our park looking beautiful, she nor any of the residents or visitors

should be subjected to some of the garbage that is being seen: Graffiti-- Some

residents of our park have been subjected to graffiti being sprayed on their residences. The town comes to remove the graffiti, but these acts are criminal acts of vandalism.

We again urge our residents to become involved in our neighborhood association and neighborhood watch. Doing so does not require an inordinate amount of work or commitment. Our property values are declining, some of it of course due to the stunning economic downturn. However, do we want to aggravate this decline by allowing our neighborhood to be marred by graffiti, littering, vandalism, illegal activity? Please think about it. What happens to your neighbor's property affects YOUR property value as well. Halcyon Park is a unique part of Bloomfield; there is no place like it. It is a planned, histori-



Third Ward Councilman
Robert Ruane

cal enclave. Many of us moved here because of this.

Please look at our website:

HalcyonPark.org We want to keep it safe, beautiful, enjoyable, and attractive to our and other families.

Councilman Ruane wants to hear from our neighborhood. He suggested a gathering in our park to accommodate all the residents. Please consider attending. The date will be determined shortly. Bring your concerns. Call any of us to voice your concerns (my # is 973-743-1365), and if you are unable to attend, we will make sure that we speak for you. Councilman Ruane is very interested in addressing our concerns.

- Dan Natal, HPNA President.