



DIGITAL TV CONVERSION

Halcyon Park Residents: Are you ready for the analog to digital television conversion on February 17, 2009? Please check out the following website for answers to the questions that you may have and to receive a TV converter box coupon:

<http://www.dtv.gov/consumercorner.html>

DO A GOOD DEED!!

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED...

to deliver groceries to elderly and disabled Bloomfield residents. The time commitment is approximately one hour per week.

If interested, please contact Paula Peikes, LCSW of the Bloomfield Department of Health and Human Services at (973) 680-4019. Thank you.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

On behalf of the leadership of the Halcyon Park Neighborhood Association, I would like to wish our neighbors and friends a very happy holiday season. In these times of economic uncertainty, we need to work together in order to strengthen our family and social networks.

Robert Ruane was elected Third Ward representative in November and will be sworn in on Thursday, January 1, 2009 at noon, in Bloomfield Town Hall. Please

make an effort to attend this first meeting of Town Council. Mr. Ruane can be reached at 201-513-1988 or at: rmrskr2345@yahoo.com I would like to remind you to remember those who have served us well during this past year. Be generous with our sanitation workers, trash collectors, Bloomfield Recreation workers, and our faithful mailman. These workers truly appreciate being remembered at this time of the year, especially during hard economic



We were lucky to have a white Christmas this year.

times. We urge you to become actively involved with the HPNA.

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A MESSAGE FROM THE OUTGOING NEWSLETTER EDITOR

For the past seven years I have been putting together the neighborhood newsletter and encouraging various HPNA officers to write columns or submit articles of interest to our HPNA mem-

bership. I have not always been successful and it is now time for someone with new ideas and lots of energy to take charge of compiling and editing the newsletter. We also need someone to en-

courage parents and children who live in Halcyon Park to become actively involved in maintaining the grounds and pond.

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FROM OUR SPONSOR...

HEATING YOUR HOME EFFICIENTLY

Regardless of what the weather brings this winter, heating your home efficiently is probably something on your mind. Keeping your home a comfortable temperature when the weather turns bad doesn't have to be a financial drain. With a little bit of work, you can actually save a great deal on your heating bills:

Stopping Air Leaks

The first step to making your home more heat efficient is to identify air leaks. Common air leak sources such as recessed lights, doorframes, window frames, and electrical outlets can be a big drain of heat and money. You can check for air leaks yourself by walking through your home with a lit incense stick (horizontal smoke indicates a leak), or you can hire a technician for a more thorough inspection. Simple fixes like sealing around outlets and switches, caulking gaps in the framing, and plugging gaps surrounding pipes will typically result in noticeable

savings.

Duct Problems

One of the most important systems in your home may be quietly wasting your energy dollars. Often overlooked, typical duct systems lose 25-40% of the heating or cooling energy put out by the central furnace, heat pump, or air conditioner. Common duct system problems include:

- + Leaky joints or visible holes in the duct surface
- + Disconnected ducts that have fallen away from each other
- + Inadequate or poorly finished duct work

+ Un-insulated or poorly insulated ducts in attics and crawlspaces

Most duct repairs should be made by a trained professional, especially those that will take place in unconditioned spaces. A qualified pro can also help you more accurately assess the duct problems that you have. If you decide to make minor duct repairs on your own, keep in mind that duct tape is usually only intended as a temporary fix. Silicone caulking or cement with mastic are better sealing options. Improving your duct system efficiency can cut your annual utility bills by as much as \$300, and will improve

O, wind, if Winter comes, can Spring be far behind? —Percy Bysshe Shelley

SAY HEY! BY DENISE SERBAY

Hi Neighbors—

We are starting a new item in our newsletter, for now we'll call it "Say Hey". (I got that from my love of baseball and admiration of Willie Mays, the "Say Hey" kid.) We invite all of you to contribute, perhaps telling us a little about yourselves, how you came to live in the park, any neighborhood concerns you may have—ANYTHING at all!

Let me first begin by telling you a little about myself. I came upon Halcyon Park in my search for a home that began over a year ago. I fell in love with the area, and here I



Halcyon Pond frozen over after a recent snow storm.

am. My home is on Farrandale Avenue. I can't imagine a prettier place here in Bloomfield; this area is truly unique. Please check out the Halcyon Park website so wonderfully maintained by Rich Rockwell of Lexington Avenue. You'll find the history of our park along with some great photos of neighborhood homes and your fellow neighbors (e.g. our Night Out by the pond this past August), past newsletters, etc.

With the winter upon us, things are pretty quiet, our beautiful fountain is off, our flowers are dormant (hopefully to return brightly in the spring). Those of us with not so green thumbs may be called to account in the spring. For instance, I planted some bulbs in my front yard for early spring blooming, and I was surprised to see the buds (or whatever) already emerging. I can only keep my fingers crossed that I planted them well enough to have some nice blooms soon. We'll see.....

If anyone has ideas for activities in the coming months, please let us know. Perhaps a Spring Fling Block

Party or an Easter Egg hunt for the kids. With these shorter days, not to mention the gloomy economic news that we are bombarded with on an almost daily basis, it's nice to have something to look forward to. And in light of these economic times, it would be nice to share any money making/saving tips, coupon clubs, etc. Perhaps we could also share some recipes and gardening tips (hint, hint).

I would also like to invite our young ones to contribute to the newsletter, perhaps sharing stories about school experiences, sports endeavors, etc. If any of you are interested in an Environmental Club here in the park, please let us know. We have the benefit of a beautiful park that can also be a resource of learning.

Again, please feel free to contribute to our newsletter, and consider joining our Neighborhood Association. We have a beautiful neighborhood here with good people, let's not be strangers.

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OUTGOING NEWSLETTER EDITORS MESSAGE CONT.

Several of us have spent time removing trash from the pond dumped by uncaring individuals who do not respect public property. There is a need for parents to team up with Bloomfield teachers and form an Environmental Committee for the upkeep of our pond and park. Dr. Paul Russo, a professor of biology and zoology at Bloomfield College, would be more than happy to provide expert advice in this area. He can be reached at 973-748-2802. He would be happy to arrange for workshops in the Bloomfield schools.

If Halcyon Park remains an attractive oasis for prospective home buyers, our property values will remain stable. After all, young couples look not just at the safety of a neighborhood, but also at the quality of instruction in our public schools. It is imperative that this town safeguard its public schools, improve their ranking

at the regional and state levels, and offer alternative modes of education for disruptive individuals (required online attendance).

There are some serious problems in Halcyon Park that have not been addressed adequately by Township officials:

- 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 Grove Street
- Littering by individuals who buy food at McDonalds and dispose of their trash in Halcyon Park
- Illegal parking of commercial vehicles in Halcyon Park's narrow streets
- 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
- Deterioration of residential structures at the very entrance to the park, and accumulation of trash (This negatively impacts on our property values.) Potholes and broken Belgian blocks along Parkway East and West

All these violations and lack of traffic safeguards requested affect our property values and make Halcyon Park a less desirable place. It is up to everyone in this park to make phone calls and demand that township officials address our concerns.

{ *One kind word can warm three winter months- Japanese Proverb* }



*Bloomfield's Town Hall
1 Municipal Plaza*

IMPORTANT TELEPHONE NUMBERS AND WEBSITES:

**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**

**Health Department
973-680-4124**

**For Missed Recycling Pick ups:
973-674-6266**

**Bloomfield on the Web:
www.bloomfieldtwpnj.com**

Peregrine Sighted In Halcyon Park!

Recently there have been several sighting of a large bird flying overhead in and around Halcyon Park. It is apparently a Peregrine falcon, a endangered species and beautiful bird.

Here are a few quick facts about Peregrine Falcons

>The Peregrine Falcon feeds almost exclusively on medium sized birds such as doves, waterfowl, song-birds and pigeons. Other than bats taken at night, it rarely hunts small mammals, but will on occasion take rats, voles, hares, mice and squirrels.

>The Peregrine Falcon became an endangered species because of the use of pesticides, especially DDT during the 1950s, 60s, and 70s.

>Many Peregrine Falcons have settled in large cities, nesting on cathedrals, skyscraper window ledges, and the towers of suspension bridges.

>Peregrines now breed in many mountainous and coastal areas, especially in the west and north, and nest in some urban areas, capitalizing on the urban pigeon populations for food

For more information on Peregrine Falcons visit:

<http://www.peregrinefund.org>

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The overall air quality in your home.

Keep your Home Insulated

Properly insulating your home is one of the most cost-effective ways to cut down on energy loss. Improving the insulation in your home can cut your heating and cooling costs by as much as 30%, and will create a more uniform, comfortable temperature in your home. Better insulation will also help decrease outdoor noise. Check the insulation in your attic, ceilings, exterior and basement walls, floors, and crawl spaces to see if they meet recommended standards for your area. The U.S. Dept. of Energy provides information on recommended insulation levels for each region. Typically the easiest and most cost-effective way to improve your home's insulation is to add insulation to your attic.

Thermostat Solutions

That little box on the wall can be a tool for big energy savings. You can save up to 3 percent for every one degree that you lower the temperature in your home over a 24-hour period in winter. You can also save up to 10% annually in your heating and cooling bills by adjusting your thermostat down 10%



Peregrine recently seen in backyard of Halcyon Park resident, bird has also been seen flying & hunting near Stop & Shop

to 15% for an 8-hour period each day. Turning the heat down while you sleep or while you're away at work is a simple and logical energy efficiency solution. If the prospect of waking up to a chilly house doesn't excite you, buy a programmable thermostat. They are inexpensive and adjust the temperature in your home based on schedules that you determine.

Ceiling Fans

While most people think of ceiling fans as a cooling solution, they can also help maintain a warm temperature in your home during winter. Running a ceiling fan in reverse circulates rising warm air back down to living areas. Consider ceiling fans for your home, particularly if you have rooms with high ceilings that seem to stay colder. Ceiling fans vary in price depending on things like material and size, but many are inexpensive and easy to operate.

For more information on heating efficiency hints visit the US Department of energy website at :

Halcyon Park Neighborhood Association Officers

Daniel Natal President
Norma Borja Kroll,
Beautification Coordinator
Robert McAlister,
Neighborhood Watch Coordinator
Denise Serbay,
Newsletter Editor

Susana Sotillo
Recording Secretary
Auria Natal
Treasurer
Rich Rockwell
Webmaster
<http://www.halcyonpark.org>

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If you are looking for solutions to problems in the park, especially its upkeep and safety, you need to make your voice heard. Make an effort to attend Town Council meetings on Mondays and call our Third Ward representative if you have specific problems that need his immediate attention. Remember that politicians respond to community strength a lot faster than to persistent individual complaints.

On behalf of the HPNA leadership, I wish you and your family a very Happy Holiday Season. - Dan Natal, President

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



Regular maintenance on your heating system will help keep repairs & breakdowns to a minimum.

<http://www.energysavers.gov/>

Or you can visit: www.thenicholasteam.com where you can sign up for my monthly e-newsletter for more information or you can sign up for monthly updates of what's going on in Bloomfield's real estate market delivered right to your email address!