



Chatham Township Newsletter

Vol. 1 No. 1 Summer 2003

Milestones



100 Years Ago

At Hickory Tree devastating windstorms dam-

aged barns, fences and up-rooted trees on the Wittrecht, Perst, Behre and Hess properties. The historic old hickory tree was felled to the ground.

Chatham Press—7/25/1903

75 Years Ago

A police department for Chatham Township is formed. It will consist of one chief and 2 officers which have not been chosen yet. The headquarters will be at Town Hall on Southern Boulevard. H. W. Rowe who has directed the activities of special officers for several years will retire.

Chatham Press 7/21/1928

50 Years Ago

Township census conducted by the Board of Education revealed there are 1325 children residing in the township. 655 elementary pupils, 79 kindergarten and 152 headed for Chatham High School. 101 will attend parochial schools.

“Shane” is the featured movie at the Madison Movie Theatre.

Chatham Courier 7/16/1953

25 Years Ago

Developer, Ramon Tublitz, asked the Township Committee to consider rezoning 30 acres off Shunpike, next to the A&P to permit the building of garden apartments.

Chatham Courier 6/20/1978

Message from Mayor John DeMeo

Welcome to the new Chatham Township Newsletter. I hope you enjoy it and look forward to your suggestions. The Township Committee is funding and presenting the newsletter with the assistance of volunteer Celeste Fondaco who is compiling it for us.

We hope it will help keep you apprised of work going on in the Township that is important to all residents.

To review some of the current work items of the Township Committee:

- A Length of Service Award Program (LOSAP) for the Emergency Squad has been authorized to appear as a referendum on the November ballot.
- 6.6 acres on Woodland Rd, adjacent to Cougar Field has been purchased with the borough, using state, county, and municipal funding. The engineering report for the development of recreational fields is expected shortly.
- We have authorized a feasibility study of providing sewers on sections of River Road (west of Fairmount Ave), Johnson Dr. and Mountain Avenue
- We are entering into negotiations for our cable franchise renewal with Patriot Media.
- We have passed the 100 acres mark of open space preserved and are working with other landowners to preserve their property.

Enjoy your Newsletter.

Additions - Alterations - Accessory Buildings and Permits

As a resident, are you wondering whether you need to get a town permit when you are planning an addition or alteration to your house or yard? To be sure, it's best to check with the Construction Office at Town Hall - 58 Meyersville Rd. - open from 8:30 am to 4 pm, phone number: 973-635-3204.

For alterations, additions or accessory buildings that do not intrude into the required setbacks on your property or exceed impervious cover limits, a simple construction permit is needed. Most Chatham Township residents are in a ½ acre zone that requires 15 foot side-yard setbacks and 50 foot front-yard and rear yard setbacks. The impervious cover requirement is calculated

on a sliding scale that limits all impervious cover on a ½ acre lot to 30%. Impervious cover includes roofs, driveways, walkways, patios, or anything that doesn't allow precipitation to infiltrate into the soil.

The setback requirements are in place to provide a buffer for you and your neighbors. This buffer helps maintain your privacy as well as providing green, open space. The impervious cover limit is in place to control storm water runoff which carries pollutants and can cause flooding if not properly managed. Past construction has caused numerous localized flooding problems which impervious cover limits will help to reduce and avoid in the future.

When changes to your house or yard would intrude into setbacks or exceed the impervious cover

limits, variances are required and are reviewed by the Zoning Board of Adjustment. The board is charged with upholding the town's regulations so review is quasi-legal. The applicant has to prove that a hardship exists and that the benefits of granting a variance outweigh the detriments. Variance applications go through a public process, so applicants must send certified letters to neighbors as well as publish a notice in local newspapers. During these hearings, members of the public are permitted to ask questions, and at the conclusion of the hearing, make comments or statements.

It makes sense to check with the Construction Office before you finalize your plans for your property. Good luck!

Your Township Committee & Administration

The Township Committee is the Legislative Branch of our government and establishes policies for the administration of the various departments. The Committee appoints the Township Administrator who is responsible for carrying out those policies and overseeing the day to day operations.

Subcommittees of the Township Committee are Public Safety; Public Works; Planning, Engineering and Land Use; Parks and Recreation; General Administration and Finance. Two Members of Township Committee serve on each and provide oversight to the departments.

Township Committee meetings are held on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month, at 7:30 PM, at the Municipal Building. Members of the Township Committee are:

John DeMeo-Mayor, Susan Hoag- Deputy Mayor, Abigail Fair, Bailey Brower, Jr. and William O'Connor, Township Administrator-Thomas Ciccarone.

Planning Board

The Planning Board is responsible for the Township's Master Plan and controls the development and use of land within the Township in accordance with the Master Plan. This includes the use of our unimproved land for now and in the future.

Board of Adjustment

The Board of Adjustment handles the applications for variances to the state and local land use regulations. The local land use ordinance is enacted by the Township Committee . If individuals or developers wish to vary from the regulations, approval must be granted by the Board of Adjustment.

Environmental Commission

The Environmental Commission is concerned with preserving our community's environment and is responsible for the Townships' environmental resource inventory. The Commission reviews development applications and provides advice to the Planning Board and Township Committee.

Board of Health

The Board of Health is an autonomous body that addresses public health issues presented by the board's health officer and by residents of the Township. They review in detail all plans for the construction of new, and the repair of existing septic systems and pass ordinances and resolutions governing activities of the board. Additional board concerns include public swimming pools, retail food establishments, rabies clinics and health education.

Recreation Advisory Committee

The Committee advises the Recreation Department on the comprehensive program of recreational opportunities for all residents of the Township. The Committee works closely with the Chatham Borough Board of Recreation and meetings are held with the Borough members. The Recreation Advisory Committee meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month, at 8PM. Please call the Township Office for the location of the meetings.

Colony Pool Advisory Committee

The committee reports to the Township Committee and makes recommendations on policies, procedures, rules and regulations for the operation and management of the Colony Pool. and Recreation Area They serve as a conduit of the public's comments and concerns about Colony Pool.

Tree Protection Committee

The Tree Protection Committee has the responsibility to watch over all the municipality owned trees and recommend action to the Manger of Public Works. The Committee also reviews all building applications for the purpose of issuing tree removal permits and to direct developers to take appropriate action to protect the remaining trees . In this way the Committee essentially acts in behalf of the future home owner as well as for the Township.

Open Space Advisory Committee

The Open Space Advisory Committee's mission is to advise the Township Committee on acquisition of land to be preserved as active or passive open space. The committee is responsible for the Open Space element of the Master Plan. A goal is to implement the Heritage Greenway that will connect all the schools, parks and recreation fields with trails .

Visit the Chatham Township
Website at
www.chathamtownship.org
for all current information and
activities in our town

Committees, Boards, Commissions

Monthly Schedules

All meetings are at Township Municipal Building,
58 Meyersville Road unless otherwise noted.

Township Committee

2nd & 4th Thursday of each month at 7:30PM

Planning Board

1st & 3rd Monday of each month at 7:30PM

Board of Adjustment

3rd Thursday of each month at 7:30PM

Board of Health

2nd Tuesday of each month at 7:30PM

Environmental Commission

1st Tuesday of each month, at 7:30 PM

Court

1st Wednesday of each month at 9:00AAM & 6:00PM

3rd Wednesday of each month at 9:00AM

Recreation Committee

2nd Tuesday of each month at 8:00PM. The meetings alternate between the Township and Borough.

Open Space Committee

4th Monday of each month at 7:30PM

Colony Pool Committee

4th Wednesday of each month at 8:00PM at Colony Pool Clubhouse

Tree Protection Committee

3rd Monday of each month at 9:00AM or as required for inspections.

Board of Education

2nd & 4th Monday of the month at 8:00PM at the Band Room at the Middle School, 480 Main Street.

Library Trustees

4th Tuesday of each month at 7:30 at the Library

Chatham Township Art League

Our Purpose:

To nurture the artistic development of Chatham Township visual artists and to foster within the community an appreciation of the visual arts in general. Any interested resident of Chatham Township is welcome to join. The present membership of approximately 40 includes amateur and professional artists and those who are simply interested in art and local artists.

Each year the League sponsors general-

interest programs and artist-specific

programs, such as demonstrations, share-

sessions, critiques. Occasionally, an outing is

arranged to a museum that is of interest to the group or to a locality with attractions featuring the visual arts. Most importantly, four exhibits of member art work are hung in the halls of the Municipal Bldg. each year.

For more information or to join call Louise Riker,

Membership Chairman, 973-377-1416



Upcoming Events

From 6/8 through 7/18 Larry Kerner will have a solo show featuring photographs in black and white and color which include many New Jersey scenes. His show will be followed by a summer show of members' works, including paintings in all mediums. It will open 7/21 and hang through 10/6

Fall Art Show—11/2 through 12/1. This year instead of our usual fall show, we will be hosting the Community Art Show of the Chathams, sponsored by the Woman's Club of Chatham. They are unable to use the library this year because of renovations and we are excited to have opportunity to share our facilities with them. Please come to the reception on Sunday, 11/2 at the Municipal Building from 2-4PM .

The Township Forest

When we hear the word "forest" we usually think of distant mountains or tropical jungles. The forest least thought of but of equal importance to those who inhabit it is the "urban forest". In short, the trees that serve us, shade us and protect us in our urban and suburban life style. Unfortunately neglected, and sadly disappearing, this forest is in dire need of help. Due to sprawling development and careless landscaping we lose over 300 mature trees a year in our township.

These trees serve us esthetically and lend mature charm to our community. They cool us in summer and act as sound barriers. They protect our water sources and prevent soil erosion.

The township Tree Protection Committee not only strives to protect this existing "forest" but is engaged in an ongoing tree planting program on municipal and park land throughout the Township.

We encourage your interest and participation in this program. We need your help and cooperation to lend success to this plan. At present we are losing the battle to save our mature trees and need all the help we can get. Call 973-635-3210 to volunteer.

Police Activities

- The township police are increasing their efforts to put a stop to the vandalism in town. They are patrolling the streets in plain clothes and unmarked cars..
- Because of the importance of homeland security, the police are reevaluating their communication systems for upgrading.
- The police are encouraging residents to participate in National Night Out on August 5th. The Fire Departments are planning events and neighborhood gatherings will be taking place. To find out more call the police station for places and times 973-377-0100.

[www.
chathamtownship.org](http://www.chathamtownship.org)

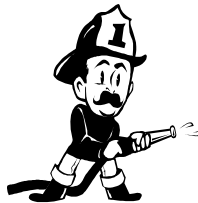
RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMER

Chatham Emergency Squad

A vial of life is free to anyone who wishes one. It is a special packet kept in the home containing all pertinent information about the patient's health and medications. In an emergency call to your home, it can be readily available to the emergency squad or police. Call 973-377-1131 to get yours.

Green Village Fire Department

The Green Village Fire Department will be hosting a golf outing at Fairmount Country Club on September 8.



Equipment Fund Raffle

Get your raffle tickets now at the Green Village Sunoco or call the fire department. Only 200 tickets will be sold at \$100 per ticket. The drawing will take place on 12/7
1st Prize \$4,000
2nd Prize \$2,000
3rd 4th and 5th \$1,000 each

A Demolition drill of the buildings on the Oak Knoll property on Green Village Road will be open for public observation. The date is soon to be announced in local newspapers. For more information call 973-377-7073 Extension 4

DPW Report

Joe Smith, Director of our Public Works, reports his department had a busy winter with the 59 inches of snow. The DPW completed a total of 20 road sanding operations and 5 full plowing operations culminating with the 20 inch snow storm on President's Day. With 40 miles of Township roads to care for and 4 passes required for each clearing, the department plows 160 miles for just one pass through town. Then there are the parking lots, cul-de-sacs to be cleared followed by sidewalks and storm sewer catch basins.

Most recently they have been sweeping streets, getting all the playing fields ready for spring recreation and painting and preparing our colony Pool and Recreation Center ready for another successful summer. Our thanks to all the Department.

Recreation Programs

Summer Program Highlights

Multi Sport Camp

Experience over 15 sports in one week! Receive instruction and participate in games. Go to the Olympics and the World Cup!

So much to do in so little time!

Chatham residents entering Grades 1-5. Enrollment is limited- Register now!

6/23-27 9-1 7/14-18 9-1 7/21-25 9-1

Sports camps include Baseball, Basketball, Field Hockey, Football, Lacrosse, Jr. and Sr Softball, Volleyball and Wrestling.

Summer Music Camp, Summer Strings Camp and Recreation Program for children grades 1-8.

Colony Recreation Center for swimming and tennis.

Fall Registrations

Soccer for boys and girls grades 1-8

Football for boys grades 6,7, and 8

Flag Football for boys grades 4 and 5

Field Hockey for girls grades 5 through 8

Cheerleading for girls grades 6, 7 and 8.

For more information, call 973-635-3201 or

973-635-7066. Some forms can be downloaded from the website www.chathamtownship.org