



Saddle River *Matters*

A Newsletter from the Borough of Saddle River

Winter 2014-2015

From the Mayor's Desk



The holiday season is here and with 2014 coming to a close, it is a good time to reflect upon all that has been accomplished and be thankful for all of the blessings bestowed upon us in this wonderful community.

You may have noticed the improvements in front of Wandell School to the sidewalks, curbing and lighting, all part of a three-phase Streetscape project and fully funded by state grant monies. A second NJDOT grant was received for the completion of

Phase II of this Streetscape project, which will continue the lighting, curbing and sidewalks past the safety complex to East Saddle River Road. Additional grant money will be applied for to complete Phase III, taking this work from the corner of East Saddle River Road west toward West Saddle River Road and we anticipate that this phase will be fully funded by the NJDOT as well. The center of Saddle River has been designated the Saddle River Crossing Area and this Streetscape project, when complete, will permanently preserve our historic charm.

Our beautiful Rindlaub Park is now the home of a newly renovated field house as well as a shelter area for our children in the event of a lightning storm, partially funded by monies procured with an Open Space Grant. The restrooms at the field house will be renovated in 2015 to complete this project. Dogs are now permitted in Rindlaub Park, on leash only, and pet waste disposal stations have been installed to insure that we keep our beautiful park clean.

Field "B" renovations are now completed and the parking lot at Rindlaub Park has been expanded with over \$1.2 million of county grant money while improving access for emergency vehicles.

Improvements to the Saddle River Museum continue, with the exterior and landscaping complete and the interior slated to be completed in 2015. It is my hope that once complete, it will be a valuable asset to our community, educating the young and old alike on the rich historical heritage that exists here in Saddle River.

In 2015, the milling and paving of Borough roads will continue as well as the hazardous tree removal project.

I would like to congratulate the Saddle River Fire Department for their diligent work, under the direction of the Public Safety Committee as well as Chief Jake Kossowsky and Assistant Chief Brian Yates, in the restructuring of the fire department. Recruitment efforts have been strong and have included highly dedicated volunteer fire fighters (as well as more Saddle River residents than in the past) and they are evaluating equipment inventory, maintenance and short-term as well as future needs.

Saddle River residents are fortunate to have an extraordinary complement of public safety departments; a larger more efficient fire department, Valley Hospital EMS backed up by Allendale Ambulance Corps servicing the Borough's medical calls and, of course, our exemplary Police Department. My number one priority is the safety and welfare of all Saddle River residents and with

these three departments working in conjunction with each other, I believe that we can all feel confident that we are in very good hands.

I am pleased to welcome two new members to our Borough administrative staff, Borough Administrator Les Shenkler and CFO Michael Mariniello. Mr. Shenkler has been the Borough Administrator in several communities in Bergen County, including the Borough of Allendale from 2001 – 2008 and has over 40 years of experience in the public sector. He comes with a vast knowledge of the day to day operations necessary to run an efficient municipality. Mr. Mariniello most recently was the Director of Finance in Chatham Borough and has over 23 years in municipal government. He served as Administrator in the Borough of Upper Saddle River and the Townships of Rochelle Park and Saddle Brook. Additionally, he served as the CFO in both the City of Hackensack and the Borough of Closter. I am confident that this team will continue to keep Saddle River financially sound and operating efficiently.

The ordinance review committee worked throughout the year to streamline our regulations and to insure that our Borough Code is current, and most recently the amended Tree Ordinance was adopted on November 17, 2014. This ordinance is on the website for your review.

I would like to take this opportunity to bid farewell to Council President Michael Toomey and Council Member Jerry DeCrosta, as their terms are coming to an end. Council President Toomey has taken the lead in many areas of governing the Borough of Saddle River over the past six years and has been extremely effective in streamlining our ordinances and developing new ordinances that are resident-friendly.

During his brief tenure on the Council, Jerry DeCrosta was very effective in supervising the DPW and insuring that our roadways were kept clear during storms and insuring that the Borough received much needed salt from Bergen County last winter. He was instrumental in the rapid repair of pot holes throughout the Borough after last winter's harsh weather as well.

I would like to thank both of these dedicated residents for their public service and wish them all the best in the future.

As you know, my second term ends at the end of 2015 and I will not be seeking a third four-year term. I must say that it has been the privilege of my life to serve as your mayor. Public service is a temporary trust and I feel it is time to extend the call to a new leadership team committed to building and protecting all that we've achieved together.

I join the Council members, Borough employees, and Police Officers and Fire Fighters in expressing our gratitude to all residents in Saddle River for your support and for allowing us to serve you.

We wish all of you a Happy and Health Holiday season and a prosperous New Year.

*Mayor Samuel S. Raia,
Borough of Saddle River*

Follow Mayor Sam Raia at www.MayorSamRaia.com

SNOW PLOW REMINDER

Private snow plow contractors are strictly prohibited from plowing snow across and into Borough roadways. We would encourage residents to remind their contractors that this is a violation of the Borough Code and creates safety concerns in the Borough. Also, please do not pile snow on or near any fire hydrants. It is important to be aware of regulations during snow emergencies. These ordinances can be viewed on our website www.saddleriver.org, Borough Government, Borough Code, Chapter 191-18.

§ 191-18. Snow emergencies.

A snow emergency shall exist when it is necessary to have any snow removal equipment provided by the Borough of Saddle River in operation removing snow from any roadway within said Borough.

§ 191-19. Regulations during snow emergencies.

A. It shall be unlawful for any person to park, abandon or otherwise impede the plowing, sanding, salting or other snow-removal efforts within the Borough during a snow emergency, as defined by § 191-18. Any vehicle which is parked, abandoned or otherwise impedes the Borough's efforts to remove, plow, sand, salt or otherwise remove snow from the roadway shall be towed from said roadway at the request of the Saddle River Police Department.

B. The cost associated with the removal and towing of said vehicle shall be the responsibility of the owner of said vehicle. The owner of any vehicle so removed from the Borough roadway or right-of-way during a snow emergency shall be issued a summons by the Saddle River Police Department.

C. It shall be illegal for any owner of property, employee, agent, contractor or other person at any time, to throw or plow snow or ice on the traveled portion of any roadway within the Borough after it has been plowed by the Borough's snow removal equipment. The person so responsible shall be issued a summons. Any person convicted of a violation of the provisions of this subsection or any supplement thereto shall be fined the sum of \$100 by the Municipal Judge. [Amended 6-21-1993 by Ord. No. 593-C]

THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION

AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM THE SADDLE RIVER FIRE DEPARTMENT AND THE FIRE PREVENTION OFFICE

THE IMPORTANCE OF RESIDENTIAL FIRE SPRINKLER SYSTEMS

In recent years, most new homes in Saddle River have opted to install a fire sprinkler system. When you build a home, you choose many options and installing a fire sprinkler system will provide you with peace of mind, considering the degree of built-in reliability and responsiveness that home fire sprinklers provide.

Today fire kills more people in the United States annually than all natural disasters combined. In fact, more than 5,000 people perish in fires each year, and ironically, most fire deaths occur in the very place where we feel safest-our own homes. Home fires often happen at night when people are sleeping. In only three minutes, a room can become engulfed in flames before anyone awakens. Those at highest risk are the very young and older adults, who may have difficulty making a quick escape.

Smoke alarms are essential in every household as well, however they are designed to detect, not control a fire. Only fire sprinklers can provide a way to fight flames immediately. In less time than it would take most fire departments to arrive on the scene, home fire sprinklers can contain and even extinguish a fire. There is less damage and less chance of deadly smoke and gasses reaching your family.

A fire doubles in size every 30 seconds and with the fire comes super-heated gasses and smoke; fire sprinklers keep small fires small. They react quickly and in fact, home fire sprinkler systems only use between 10 and 26 gallons of water per minute compared to a fire department hose stream that puts out between 125 to 200 gallons per minute on a fire, making property damage 66% less with a fire sprinkler system.

Additional information may be obtained about Home Fire Sprinkler Systems by contacting the Saddle River Fire Prevention Bureau at 201-327-2609 ext. 237.

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR POLICE DEPARTMENT.

Saddle River and several other surrounding communities have recently experienced auto thefts with these vehicles taken from the driveways of the victims. All of the vehicles that were stolen had the keys or key fobs left in the vehicles. Many modern vehicles use proximity keys, or keys which don't need to be in the ignition (FOB's) to turn on the engine. We have seen a dramatic increase of automobile thefts in the surrounding area which are facilitated by residents who keep their keys inside the vehicle when parked. As a matter of practice, always lock your car doors and keep valuables (GPS, purse, wallet, etc.) out of view.

These criminals and their assistants will continue to come to our communities if they are successful at stealing cars. Patrol Officers have made contact with and arrested some of these individuals and residents are strongly advised not to confront them.

As daylight becomes shorter and with the holidays rapidly approaching, the Saddle River Police Department would like to convey some crime prevention tips. Historically, when daylight savings ends, burglaries and crimes against property increase. Criminals sometimes will target homes when it's dark outside and the home looks unoccupied. Taking steps to create the illusion that your home is occupied when you are away is just as important as keeping all doors and windows locked. Consider keeping interior and exterior lights on timers which activate before the sun sets. Keeping a television or radio on is a good way to deter burglars who target unoccupied homes.

Typically, burglars are looking for jewelry and small valuables within your home; specifically inside the master bedroom, bathroom and closets. Hide any expensive or sentimental jewelry in an unsuspecting place, NOT in the jewelry box or nearby areas/drawers.

It is important to stress that part of apprehending criminals is timely reporting of suspicious behavior, vehicles, or persons to the police. Do not hesitate to call 9-1-1 if you see something suspicious or need emergency service assistance.

**FOR NON-EMERGENT ISSUES OR FOR MORE INFORMATION REGARDING CRIME PREVENTION,
PLEASE CONTACT THE SADDLE RIVER POLICE AT 201-327-5300.**

SADDLE RIVER ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION TIPS AND REMINDERS

Roadside Appearance

The natural beauty of Saddle River's country roads has been enhanced this year by the repaving of several roadways, the improvements made by several property owners to remove dead shrubs, debris and the addition of natural stone roadside borders along with the cleanups and maintenance performed by our DPW. Improving natural runoff and keeping trash out of our streams is a priority to reduce flooding and trash accumulation in the Saddle River. Please check your roadside property to see if there is something you can do to help keep Saddle River clean and beautiful.

Maple Tree Maintenance

Sugar Maple trees are an iconic part of Saddle River. Maple trees are highly stressed by salt and acid soil. A bag of lime around your maple trees every other year and keeping winter salt away from the tree's drip line will help keep Saddle River's Maple trees from experiencing the early dieback you see at the end of the summer.

Deer Management Issue

The Saddle River Environmental Commission and the Saddle River Board of Health held a joint meeting on October 27, 2014 for the express purpose of addressing the deer management issue in the Borough of Saddle River.

The Saddle River Environmental Commission and the Saddle River Board of Health have **unanimously** agreed that there is a significant deer problem in the Borough of Saddle River and urgent action must be taken to reduce the deer population. A committee of both residents and Borough staff will address the most effective way to address this issue and residents are encouraged to attend Mayor and Council Meetings to stay informed on this important Borough matter. Additionally, residents are urged **NOT** to feed deer and use caution when driving on Borough roadways, especially at dusk and dawn.

2014 TREE ORDINANCE

The Mayor and Council adopted Ordinance No. 14-904-C, an amended tree ordinance at their regular meeting on November 17, 2014. This ordinance will be reinstating the tree regulations that were originally in place from 1993 to 2012, with some changes and clarifications to make it slightly more permissive and to allow for appeals.

Essentially, the ordinance would go back to the original in terms of the number of trees that can be removed on private property: 5 for properties of 2 acres or more, and 3 for properties of less than 2 acres, in 1 (one) 12-month period, with some new exceptions:

- (a) All trees that are dead and diseased are eliminated from the count.
- (b) All trees within a 40 foot radius of the house are eliminated from the count (provided these trees are not located in the non-disturbance area).
- (c) Trees that are an imminent danger to health and safety may be taken down immediately.
- (d) Trees removed as part of a site plan application or soil relocation permit are exempt from the restriction as to number. The Planning Board, as part of their review would make this determination.

The ordinance would allow an applicant to appeal the decision of the Construction Official and also to seek a variance from the restriction on the number of trees to be taken down in one 12-month period, from the Zoning Board of Adjustment. This is new, and because of this provision, all of the tree regulations will be moved into Chapter 210, Zoning, rather than being a separate chapter (202) of the Saddle River Code.

Note that the provision relating to tree removal in the non-disturbance areas of a lot (within 25 feet of rear or side lot line) will remain in place, as they are today and as they were previously.

2014 TREE LIGHTING WINTER FESTIVAL



Katie, Tommy and James Weng with Mayor Raia getting ready to light the tree



Valley Club Open House



Santa with members of the SRFD

Borough of Saddle River
 100 East Allendale Road
 Saddle River, New Jersey 07458

PRST-STD
 US POSTAGE PAID
 PERMIT NO. 421
 MAHWAH, NJ 07430



Saddle River Matters

The Official newsletter of the Borough of Saddle River, SADDLE RIVER MATTERS is designed to keep our residents better informed about local government activities and issues facing our community.

Borough of Saddle River
 100 E. Allendale Road
 Saddle River, New Jersey 07458

*Published by the Mayor & Council
 Borough of Saddle River*

Samuel S. Raia, Mayor
 Council President Michael Toomey
 Council Member Jerry DeCrosta
 Council Member Ronald Gray
 Council Member Corinne Kerner
 Council Member Albert Kurpis
 Council Member Bruce Walenczyk

Web Address: www.saddleriver.org

Administration:

Police.....	Emergency 911
Fire.....	Emergency 911
Ambulance.....	Emergency 911
Borough Offices:	327-2609
Tax Collector	Ext. 228
Tax Assessor	Ext. 230
Construction Official	Ext. 245
Planning Board Secretary.....	Ext.226
Zoning Board Secretary.....	Ext.225
Board of Health	Ext. 245
Municipal Court	Ext. 294

MEETING SCHEDULE

Borough of Saddle River Boards & Commissions:

**Mayor & Council Meetings 7:00pm
 Third Monday each month**

Zoning Board

7:00 pm
 3rd Wednesday each month

Municipal Court

3:00pm
 1st Tuesday each month
 3rd Tuesday each month

**Parks & Recreation
 Commission**

7:00pm
 2nd Wednesday in February,
 March, September & October

Environmental Commission

6:30pm
 4th Monday each month in
 January, February, March, April, May, June,
 September, October, November & December

Planning Board

7:30pm
 1st Tuesday each month

Board of Health

7:30pm
 1st Wednesday each month

Landmark Commission

7:00pm
 4th Wednesday in January
 February, March, April,
 May, June, September &
 October