



Bethlehem Township Newsletter

www.bethlehemnj.org

Spring 2010



EARTH DAY Local Celebrations

The Musconetcong Watershed Association will hold their Annual Stream Clean-up on Saturday, April 17. The list of planned work sites is available at www.musconetcong.org/events/cleanup.htm. They will also take suggestions for additional work sites.

The South Branch Watershed Association will hold their 20th Annual Spring River Clean-up on April 24 from 9:00am until noon. For more information contact Jeremy Carlson, AmeriCorps Watershed Ambassador, at 782-0422, ext. 16, or via e-mail at jeremycarlson@sbwa.org. Gloves, bags and snacks will be provided, so pre-register by April 20.

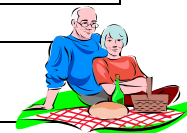
Hunterdon County's Department of Parks and Recreation will hold their Annual Earth Day Celebration at Deer Path Park on Saturday, April 24 from 10:30am to 4:00pm. The event is free, with a suggested donation of \$5.00 per car. Families can learn about local wildlife, make nature-inspired craft projects, enjoy the 4-H show animals and visit the conservation exhibit area. The pond will be open for canoe clinics. There will be music, story-telling and food. Please bring a nonperishable food donation for the Hunterdon County food pantry. Download a flyer at www.co.hunterdon.nj.us/pdf/parks/notices/2010EarthDay.pdf



RESIDENTS IN THE MILITARY Status Report

We are grateful to our residents who serve our country in the military and they would love to hear from you. For that reason, our Township Clerk maintains a list of our residents in the military. Please contact her at 735-4107, ext. 101 if you would like to be included on our list or if you would like details on contacting a service member.

NEWS FOR SENIORS County Programs Offer Help



The Hunterdon County Office on Aging sponsors many programs to help seniors and low-income residents. Below are some timely events. Visit www.co.hunterdon.nj.us/seniors.htm for full details.

☀ Senior Center

The Hunterdon County Senior Center offers daily activities and programs for seniors to help keep them active and healthy. Activities range from card games, ping pong and shuffleboard to history lectures, computer classes and visits to museums. It's a great place to make new friends! Get current schedules at www.co.hunterdon.nj.us/aging/seniorcenter.htm.

☀ Small Appliance Repair

Seniors 60 and over should bring their ailing small appliances to the county's Division of Senior Services (4 Gauntt Place in Flemington) on April 20. From 9:30am until noon, Mr. FIX-IT will have experts on hand to make them run like new. You will only be charged for parts used and a snack will be served while you wait. For details, call 788-1358 or visit www.co.hunterdon.nj.us/aging/mrfixitapplianceday.htm.



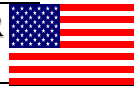
PTA FUNDRAISER Discount Dorney Park Tickets

The PTA's Dorney Park ticket fundraiser was a huge success last year, raising almost \$2,000 for our children while saving families \$14.99 per ticket! This year, Dorney's price for a general admission is \$41.99 and the PTA is selling tickets for just \$25.00, saving you \$16.99! Order yours from any Conley or Hoppock student until May 7. Contact Eileen Bancalari at ebanc@earthlink.net with any questions.



ELECTION DATES TO REMEMBER

School & Primary Elections



LOCAL & REGIONAL SCHOOLS

Items up for Vote on April 20



There are several key dates associated with every election. The first deadline in a primary election is to set your party affiliation. You only need to do this if you want to vote a different ballot from the one you voted last year. To do this, download a form from www.co.hunterdon.nj.us/pdf/ElectionBd/PartyAffiliationChangeForm.pdf. (Be sure not to include the line break if you copy this!) Next, you must be registered. You only need to do this when you turn 18 or move from another county or state. Get that form at www.co.hunterdon.nj.us/pdf/voterregapp.pdf. Next, if you want to vote by mail or in person at the County Clerk's office prior to an election, you must apply for an absentee ballot. Download the application appropriate for you, either from www.co.hunterdon.nj.us/pdf/civilian.pdf for civilians or www.co.hunterdon.nj.us/pdf/military.pdf for military. (These forms are also available from the Bethlehem Township Clerk, the Hunterdon County Clerk at 71 Main Street in Flemington, or at the Hunterdon County Complex on Route 12 in Flemington.)

	School	Primary
Set Party Affiliation	N/A	April 19
Register	March 30	May 18
Absentee (by Mail)	received by April 13	June 1
Absentee (in Person)	April 19 by 3:00pm	June 7
Vote	April 20 7am - 9pm	June 8 6am - 8pm

If you choose to vote in person at the County Clerk's office, you may do so weekdays from 8:30am to 4:30pm or during these special extended hours:

- ✓ School Election:
 - Thursday, April 15, 2010 until 7:00pm
 - Saturday, April 17, 2010, 9:00am to 1:00pm
- ✓ Primary Election:
 - Thursday, June 3, 2010 until 7:00pm
 - Saturday, June 5, 2010, 9:00am to 1:00pm

It's important to vote in every election, and this year's Annual School Election is no exception. The following paragraphs summarize the decisions that will be made this April 20.

- ✚ There are two positions open on the Bethlehem Township Board of Education. There are four positions open on the North Hunterdon – Voorhees Regional High School District Board of Education, including the position covering Bethlehem Township, Hampton and Glen Gardner.
- ✚ The regional district has received approval for 40% state aid on several maintenance projects that need to be completed at the two high schools. By authorizing the work to be done in 2010 tax payers will save almost \$7M. Full details are posted at www.nhvweb.net/budget/ReferendumPage.htm.
- ✚ The township and county school budgets are also up for a vote, as they are annually. Learn more about the issues involved in setting the budget before you get to the booth.

To find information regarding the Bethlehem Township school budget, visit the state website dedicated to “user-friendly” budget summaries: www.state.nj.us/education/finance/fp/ufb/report/19-0370.html. More information is available at www.btschools.org/weekly_video. (Please note that the address ends with “weekly_video”. There is no space between the words.) This site requires that you register before accessing the content. If you aren't registered, you'll be offered a chance to register.

The North Hunterdon – Voorhees Regional High School District proposes to offset a significant loss of government funds by cutting 28.5 positions, summer school and several non-academic programs. The budget proposal, including the state summary, board candidates and referendum information, is available on the district's website at www.nhvweb.net/budget.



HOUSEHOLD WASTE CLEANUP
Municipal Garage
April 24, 8:00am to 4:00pm

In an effort to keep from raising taxes, we will only have one cleanup this year, so start cleaning now! Bring your non-hazardous household waste and brush tied into 4' lengths to the Municipal Garage. We can also accept up to 4 tires per household, each removed from the rim. Air conditioners will be accepted, but need Freon removal certification. Sorry, no contractor's waste, auto parts, tree stumps, rock, or dirt can be accepted. Rain or shine.

Remember that proof of residency is required. Handicapped residents and Senior Citizens living alone, please call the Municipal Clerk at 735-4107, ext. 101 to make special arrangements.

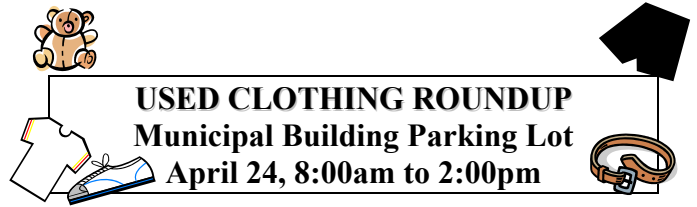


HAZARDOUS WASTE CLEANUP
Hunterdon County Complex, Garage
July 10 & November 13, 9:00am to 1:00pm

The county conducts hazardous waste cleanups at the County Complex (Route 12 in Flemington). They accept motor oil, anti-freeze, fire extinguishers, and batteries without limit. They accept the following up to 10 gallons or 80 pounds only:

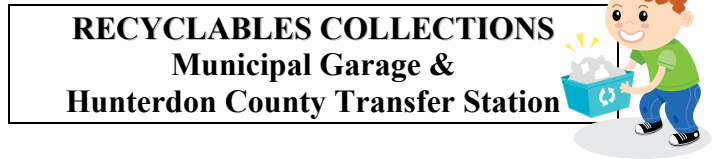
Aerosol Cans	Insecticides
Anti-freeze	Kerosene
Asbestos Pipe Wrap	Latex Paint
Batteries	Mercury
Diesel Fuel	Oil Based Paint
Drain Cleaner	Paint Thinner
Fluorescent tubes	Pesticides
Fuel Oil/Sludge	Photographic Chemicals
Gas/Oil Mix	Pool Chemicals
Gasoline	Varnish/Stains
Herbicides	

Sorry, they will be unable to accept empty containers (which should be recycled), explosives, PCBs, pentachlorophenol, radioactive materials, or silvex. If you need more information, call 788-1110.



USED CLOTHING ROUNDUP
Municipal Building Parking Lot
April 24, 8:00am to 2:00pm

Bring your unwanted but wearable men's, women's and children's clothing, shoes, boots, ties and handbags to the Municipal Building. Add your unneeded linens, stuffed animals, and baby gear to the roundup! All of these items should be in plastic bags. Hard toys and craft sets need to be in 24x24x21 boxes. (Some boxes will be available at the drop-off site if you can't find any.) Small bikes and tricycles will also be accepted. Our schools directly benefit from your donations, which help those less fortunate than you. Ask for a tax receipt if you need one. Contact Laurie Keefe at keefe397@embarqmail.com for more information.



RECYCLABLES COLLECTIONS
Municipal Garage &
Hunterdon County Transfer Station

You have three options for handling your general recyclable materials. First, and most efficient, you can place your recyclables on your curb for your trash collector to process. Contact your provider for specifics on containers and quantities.

Our Department of Public Works accepts aluminum and steel cans, glass bottles and jars; #1 and #2 plastics; auto batteries, magazines, office paper, paperback books, hardback books (covers removed) and junk mail; newspaper, telephone books bundled and cross-tied with string; brown paper bags, corrugated cardboard; scrap steel; and clean, used motor oil. This service is free to township residents. All your rinsed cans, glass, and plastic can be commingled and deposited in the appropriate bin at the Municipal Garage, Monday through Saturday, from 8:30am to 3:30pm.

Recyclable items can be taken to the County Transfer Station. For specifics, please call 908-236-9088 or go to <http://co.hunterdon.nj.us/recycling.htm>. The Transfer Station is located at 10 Petticoat Lane in Annandale and is open from 7:00am to 4:30pm Monday to Friday or 7:00am to 1:00pm on Saturday.



**CENSUS 2010
A Potential Tax Savings**

Participation in the US census is vital for determining how federal tax money will be used to fund hospitals, job training centers, schools, emergency services, and more. Participation is also mandatory. Anyone who doesn't return their form will be visited by a census worker, whose training, wages, and travel expenses are paid with tax money. To help raise awareness, the Census Bureau has created the "Take 10 Challenge". Take 10 minutes to answer 10 questions, and then send your form back. Keep track of return rates at 2010.census.gov/2010census/take10map.

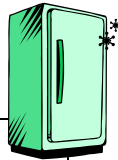
Every 1% improvement in the 2010 census return rate over the 2000 rate is expected to save taxpayers \$85 million. If 100% of households mailed back their forms, taxpayers would save \$1.5 billion dollars. Now, that would be a tax break!



**PARENT-TOT TIME
Community Center**

3rd Wednesday, Monthly at 9:30am

Come sing, dance, rhyme and listen to stories with Gail Coe, former Conley kindergarten teacher. We meet the 3rd Wednesday of each month through June 2010. Children from birth to four and their parents are invited to attend. Bring a mat or a blanket. For more information email Gail Coe at gailcoe@comcast.net or give her a phone call at 537-2525.



**REFRIGERATORS/FREEZERS
Easy Pickup & Responsible Recycling**

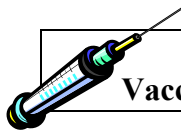
To promote responsible recycling of refrigerators and freezers in New Jersey, Jaco Environmental has extended their collection program through December 31 and raised the cash incentive to \$50. To arrange for a pickup, visit Jaco Environmental on the web at www.jacoinc.net/weborder/rebatex.aspx?ProgramID=73 or call them at 877-270-3520.



**DOG AND CAT LICENSE
Due January 31 Annually**

Remember to keep your dog and/or cat license current. Avoid penalties by getting your license before January 31 annually and notifying the licensing official if you no longer own a previously licensed animal.

The license fee is \$8.00 for a neutered/spayed dog or cat and \$11.00 for a non-neutered/spayed dog or cat. Proof of a rabies vaccination valid through November 1 of the licensing year and a self-addressed stamped envelope must accompany every application. Download an application form from our website at www.bethlehem-twp.org/Forms/Animal_License_Application.pdf.



**FREE RABIES CLINICS
Vaccinations Feral Cats & Your Pets**

Have you been adopted by a feral (wild) cat? Because these cats spend most of their time in the wild, yet come into contact with humans, they pose a significant risk of passing on the rabies virus. Hunterdon County asks that you capture your feral friends, "in boxes, sheets or pillowcases", and bring them to a free rabies vaccines clinic. All dogs and cats are welcome, but must be on a leash or in a container. Here is the list of clinics coming soon:

Raritan Township Public Works

204 Pennsylvania Avenue - (908) 806-6100

- Wednesday, April 21 from 6:00pm to 8:00pm
- Wednesday, May 5 from 6:00pm to 8:00pm
- Wednesday, May 19 from 6:00pm to 8:00pm

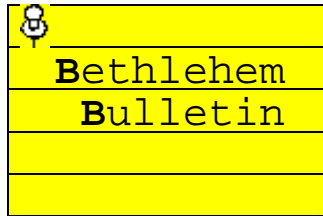
High Bridge Rescue Squad

95 West Main Street - 638-6455

- Saturday, April 17 from 9:00am to 11:00am

WEATHER EFFICIENT HOMES

NORWESCAP has a "Weatherization Program", which offers a free home energy audit and energy-saving home improvements. Low-income homeowners and renters are eligible. For more details, visit www.norwescap.org/programdetails.asp?ID=33 or call 782-0612.



Recreation Committee

The Recreation Committee plans events for all ages and runs sports programs for kids and adults. We have exercise programs, a senior's organization and a Community Day with fireworks. We have a park for all to enjoy and we're looking to expand. We welcome the help of scouts, confirmation students and high school youth looking to perform a community service. Please come to a meeting and give us your thoughts! Meetings are held the 1st Wednesday, monthly at 7:30pm in the Community Center.



West Portal Historic Society

The West Portal Historic Society encourages interest in local history and documents local heritage. Meetings are held in the Old Town House at 292 West Portal Road on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 7:30pm. The public is encouraged to attend.

Public Information Committee

Notice that the current Township Directory is included with this newsletter. Please save it for future reference. Be sure to check our website at www.bethlehemnj.org for late-breaking news and updates.

ROCK BAND & Wii AT THE LIBRARY

The Hunterdon County Library, in the County Complex on Route 12 in Flemington, hosts a Rock Band & Wii party Tuesdays from 5:30pm to 8:30pm. Equipment is provided and registration is not required. Check out all of the library's programs at www.hclibrary.us/events.htm.

Township Committee

There are still several positions open on various committees. Please consider serving Bethlehem Township and review the list of possibilities at www.bethlehemnj.org (Scroll to "2010 Municipal Positions").

Bethlehem Township PTA

Save these dates! You can download flyers for these events from the BTPTA website at www.btpta.org.

- ⌚ There are great prizes to be won, including vacation homes, Longaberger baskets, and pottery at our Tricky Tray on Friday, April 23, in the Conley Multi-Purpose Room beginning at 6:00pm. There will be a silent auction and a 50/50 drawing.
- ⌚ Enjoy a "Couples' Night Out"! On May 15, at 5:00pm we will host a Texas Hold 'Em Tournament & Casino Night at the Beaver Brook Country Club. Professional tables and dealers, hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar are included in the registration fee.

Help us raise money for our schools by clipping labels and sending them in!

- 💰 Each Tyson Food's label submitted is worth 24 cents! Through this program, our PTA has the opportunity to raise as much as \$12,000 this year! For more information on which labels to clip, visit ProjectAPlus.tyson.com or contact Ellen Clinebell at qponhunt@embarqmail.com.
- 💰 Each General Mills' "Box Top for Education" label provides our schools with 10 cents. GM has a website located at www.boxtops4education.com with many family resources and an online marketplace that also benefits our schools. Save those labels! For questions, contact Tricia Morris at morris5@comcast.net or 735-4521.

TAX INFORMATION

The deadline for Federal & State taxes this year is April 15. Get tax forms and instructions from the following sites:

- 🌱 Federal: www.irs.gov/formspubs/index.html
- 🌱 State: www.state.nj.us/treasury/taxation/forms.shtml



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DATES TO REMEMBER: Look inside for details!

- ✓ April 15 Federal & State Taxes Due
- ✓ April 13, School Absentee Ballots must be received by mail
- ✓ April 17, Musconetcong Watershed Assoc. Stream Clean-Up
- ✓ April 19, School Absentee Ballots must be delivered in person, Party Affiliation must be set for Primary Election
- ✓ April 20, Annual School Election, HC "Mr. FIX-IT"
- ✓ April 23, BTPTA Tricky Tray
- ✓ April 24, BT Household Waste Cleanup, Used Clothing Roundup, South Branch Watershed Assoc. Spring River Cleanup
- ✓ April 24, HC Earth Day Celebration
- ✓ May 01 BT Property Taxes Due
- ✓ May 07, BTPTA deadline for discount Dorney Park Tickets
- ✓ May 15, BTPTA Texas Hold 'Em Tournament & Casino Night
- ✓ May 18, Register for Primary Election
- ✓ June 01, Primary Absentee Ballots must be received by mail
- ✓ June 07, Primary Absentee Ballots must be delivered in person
- ✓ June 08, Primary Election
- ✓ July 10, HC Hazardous Waste Cleanup

PERMISSION NO. 7
ASBURY, NJ 08802
US POSTAGE PAID
PRESORTED STANDARD

Bethlehem Township
405 Mine Road
Asbury, NJ 08802