

Harrison Township

Upcoming Events:

- Movie & Ice Cream Social, July 13, William Wilt Soccer Complex
- Peach Festival, July 28-31, 4-H Fairgrounds
- A Flick & a Float, August 31, Raccoon Valley Swim Club
- Community Yard Sale, September 17, Ella Harris Park
- Coach Bag Bingo, September 24, Memorial Post, Glassboro

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www.harrisontwp.us

E-Harrison

Preserving the Past to Enhance the Future • July/August 2011

Odds and Ends from the Administrator's Office

Resident Triumphant in Special Olympics

Sixteen-year-old Becky Visalli of Mullica Hill returned victorious from the Special Olympic World Games held in Athens, Greece, from June 25 to July 4.

Competing in three bowling events, Becky earned a gold medal in the singles event and her team captured a gold medal. Then she and her partner received a bronze medal for the doubles competition. Becky was a member of Team USA consisting of approximately 300 athletes from all 50 states. Becky was the youngest of the 31 bowlers on the USA bowling team.

Congratulations Becky!

Good News in the News!

Several Harrison Township businesses were recognized recently by *South Jersey Magazine* as the "Best of South Jersey" for the year 2011. We extend our congratulations to:

- Best Furniture Store: Robert Starr Furniture – 147 Bridgeton Pike
- Best Coffee Shop: Crescent Moon – Mullica Hill Plaza
- Best Consignment Shop: Repeat Boutique – 44 South Main Street
- Best Hardware Store: Warren's Hardware – 110 Bridgeton Pike
- Best Physical Therapy: Victory Physical Therapy – Mullica Hill Shopping Center
- Best Sporting Goods Store: South Jersey Running & Triathlon Co. – 86 N. Main St.
- Best Bank: The Bank – 148 North Main St.
- Best Cream Pies – Harrison House Diner & Restaurant – 98 North Main Street
- Best Health-Conscious Market – Natural Harvest Food Market – 45 South Main Street

Please continue to support these and the many other fine businesses in our own community. After all, we offer some of the "Best of South Jersey."

Speaking of the Best of South Jersey

Did you know that one of our teachers at Pleasant Valley School was named one of the Top Teachers in South Jersey by *South Jersey Magazine*? Mrs. Meghan Hack, a sixth-grade teacher, received this honor after she was nominated by one of her students, Cali Wingate. In her application, Cali explained why Mrs. Hack made a difference in her life. She pointed out that Mrs. Hack's

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Pet Licensing

The annual pet census is underway, and you may have already received a visit from one of the township's friendly census takers.

2011 licenses are now past due. If you haven't already done so, please visit the Municipal Clerk's Office during regular business hours, and staff members will be happy to help you with the licensing process.

Please provide proof of a current rabies vaccination valid through November 1, 2011. A discount is offered for residents who have spayed or neutered their pets, so be sure to provide the spay/neuter certificate when you license your pet.

For additional information, please contact the Municipal Clerk's Office at 856-478-4111 (ext. 1).

From the Mayor's Perspective...

School is out and summer has arrived. We hope you make time to relax with your family. Your Township Committee, on the other hand, has been busy working toward a number of goals.

Here's a quick update:

Road Improvements: Over the last 18 months, we have seen numerous road improvement projects progress in our community, with the Route 322 Bypass project taking center stage.

We recently activated the new traffic light and intersection at Tomlin Station Road and Route 322, an eagerly anticipated advance. With this change, traffic flow improved immediately and one of the most dangerous intersections in the county will no longer carry that reputation — all with the flip of a switch! In reality, this project was years in the making, and we thank the Gloucester County Board of Freeholders and the County Engineer's Office for their continual support on this and other projects that were completed recently.

The multi-phase Route 322 Bypass project, bearing a \$25-million price tag, was funded by the county and state. When you take into account the other new traffic lights and paving projects, significant infrastructure improvements have been made in Harrison Township recently. All have been funded by more than \$40 million in county, state, and federal stimulus dollars.

We expect to hold the final "ribbon-cutting" for the bypass, connecting the new intersection at Clems Run and the Harrison House intersection, at the end of this year.

In 2012 the exciting Pond Project will begin, which will transform the appearance of that area. We will provide details in a future newsletter.

Main Street Beautification: We are focused on enhancing the visual impact of our historic Main Street district. You may have noticed we recently gave our Municipal Building a landscaping facelift. New public parking signs are popping up in front of businesses that have chosen to provide free parking access to the public. Soon-to-come businesses also have provided their support. CVS (which will begin construction on a new store at the former Wawa site in Richwood) provided the landscaping at the triangle and point at Commissioners Road and Route 77. We thank them for their commitment to our community. Our Beautification Committee has held several fundraising events, netting approximately \$100 K earmarked for the installation of street lights on the south end of Main Street. We recently announced a significant expansion of that project, using funds from the dedicated tax that we pay for our Open Space Program. Your Township Committee will take advantage of the flexibility the ordinance provides, allowing for certain uses within our historic district. We are finalizing plans to include additional street lights, new sidewalks, flower boxes, and other streetscaping accents that will greatly enhance the appearance of the district. Expect to see work begin later this year.

New Police Chief: Please join me in welcoming Tom Mills to his new leadership role as our new Chief of Police. Tom has been with the Harrison Township Police Department for 13 years, and he was sworn in as chief on June 21. We spent the last several months planning and then conducting an extensive interview process to choose a new chief from within the department. Harrison Township is fortunate to have several experienced officers who would serve our residents well in that role. In the eyes of Township Committee, Mr. Mills emerged as the officer best suited to lead the Police Department. We look forward to working with him and the other members of the department in making Harrison Township the gold standard for police departments in South Jersey.

As always, we appreciate your feedback and input. Let me know your thoughts through an email at lmanzo@harrisonswp.us or call me directly on my cell phone at 609-254-1199.

Together for Harrison Township,

Lou Manzo

Mayor

Odds & Ends (cont'd from page 1)

enthusiastic personality motivates students, puts them in the mood for learning, and makes learning enjoyable. She credits Mrs. Hack with giving her the confidence to achieve her goal of making the Superintendent's List.

Congratulations to Mrs. Hack and thank you for bringing such wonderful qualities to your classroom!

Summer Recycling

With the arrival of summer, it is more important than ever to remember to recycle vegetative waste. Grass, leaves, and trimmings should be placed in biodegradable bags, which are available at Warren's Hardware and most home centers. Branches, brush, and shrubs should be cut to 4-foot lengths and tied in bundles.

The Recycling Center continues to be open Saturdays from 9 am to 3 pm and is now also open on Monday and Wednesday evenings from 5 to 7 pm through October.

Please remember that vegetative waste recycling saves us a great deal of money in dumping fees.

Dealing with Aggressive Drivers

Chances are, you probably have encountered motorists on the road who drive in ways that could endanger others. Aggressive drivers may pass unsafely and improperly, tailgate, flash their headlights to move the driver ahead, speed, cut off drivers, use hand gestures, weave through traffic, and honk their horns.

We can all reduce the incidence of aggressive driving in New Jersey by showing courtesy to other drivers. Here are some tips from the Harrison Township Police Department for dealing with aggressive drivers without upsetting them or causing yourself harm:

- Make every attempt to get out of their way.
- Do not challenge them.
- Avoid eye contact.
- Do not make or return gestures.
- Do not block the passing lane, and avoid switching lanes without signaling.
- Do not tailgate.
- Allow plenty of time for your trip.
- Stay away from drivers behaving erratically.

Thank you and have a safe and enjoyable summer.

Lt. David M. Wingate

Harrison Township Police Department



Woman's Club Notes

- Tickets for Coach Bag Bingo on **September 24** at Memorial Post in Glassboro are on sale at Sister's in Mullica Hill, or you may send an e-mail to womansclubofmullica-hill@gmail.com. Tickets are \$25. The event will include 11 bingo games, a separate auction, and a 50/50 raffle.
- The club is collecting Socks for Soldiers in the bin in the municipal building. Until October 31, please drop off white socks (crew socks in men's large and extra large) that will be placed in stockings for our soldiers.



Environmental Commission News

The Harrison Township Environmental Commission (HTEC) meets monthly to examine ways that we can be your advocates on environmental issues in the township. In addition to being an advocate, the HTEC is responsible for keeping the public informed on environmental subjects. To fulfill this obligation, the HTEC publishes articles concerning the environment on the Harrison Township website, located at www.harrisontwp.us. The HTEC plans to eventually publish these informative articles in book form.

Of recent note, we applaud the efforts of the Harrison Township Committee and Planning Board to bring a very large solar generator to Harrison Township. There will soon be 52,000 solar panels on 100 acres generating 12 megawatts of electricity. This joins the solar unit installed on the roof of the Clearview Regional High School building, which has generated over 370,000 kWh of energy since its installation. Projects like these help to protect the environment by using non-polluting fuel to generate the energy that we need.

Finally, Harrison Township Day gave the HTEC the opportunity to meet many of you at our table in Ella Harris Park and we thank you for your interest in our environment. If you have any suggestions for environmental subjects that we can research and publish in the future, please contact us at crieck@harrisontwp.us.

29th Annual New Jersey Peach Festival

July 28–31

*During the 4-H Fair at the 4-H Fairgrounds,
Route 77 South, Mullica Hill*

All weekend long: Peach recipes, educational exhibits, New Jersey peaches for sale, peach ice cream, pies, cakes, and more!

Friday, July 29

2011 Peach Queen and Little Miss Peach Contest*: 6 pm

Commercial Peach Pak Competition Award Ceremony: 7 pm

Governor's Cup will be awarded!

Peach Grower Reception: 8 pm

Saturday, July 30

Peach Bake Off**: 12 pm

Sunday, July 31

2011 Peaches on Parade, Little Mr. & Miss Peach Blossom Contest: 10:30 am



Please support New Jersey farmers. Ask for Jersey Fresh produce when you shop. With your help, we can keep New Jersey farming!



**For applications for the Peach Queen & Little Miss Peach Contests, call 856-881-1411 or 609-221-5388.*

***For applications for the Peach Bake-Off, call 856-417-3341.*

*For more information and applications:
Gloucester.njaes.rutgers.edu/fairfest*

Update From Harrison Township Beautification

Lighting Project Announced at HTB Community Meeting

The Harrison Township Beautification (HTB) met at Old Town Hall on May 23, inviting the community to learn more about HTB and its goals for the streetscape of Mullica Hill's Main Street and to provide feedback and suggest future projects.

In addition to the recently installed benches and larger flower urns expected to be installed this summer, the HTB's goals include obtaining pedestrian lighting along Main Street. Until now the lighting project has focused on the western side of South Main Street.

During this meeting, Mayor Lou Manzo shared the exciting news that the township will be able to expand the lighting project to both sides of Main Street, starting near Harmony Fire Company at the intersection of Main Street (Route 45) and Mullica Hill Road (Route 322) and continuing south to the intersection of Bridgeton Pike (Route 77)

and Commissioners Pike (Route 581).

Jim Malaby of Blueplate and Hazel Dilsaver of Gathering Room Interiors discussed the Second Saturday events, which are planned to continue through the end of the year, bringing food, craft, and other vendors to Main Street on the second Saturday of each month. For more information, please visit www.wix.com/2ndsaturdays/elizabeth-ranae. Hazel Dilsaver also will chair a Decorating Committee for HTB, which will add seasonal touches along Main Street.

During the meeting, Nathaniel Greene described his Eagle Scout project, which will include landscaping at Old Town Hall and organizing a walking tour of Main Street. Eagle Scout is the highest rank attainable in the Boy Scouts of America, and HTB is grateful that Nathaniel has chosen a project that will draw people to our historic Main Street.

Successful Spring Social

Friends and neighbors came together to support HTB on May 7 at the "Meet Me On Main" Spring Social. Held in the garden at Gathering Room Interiors, an elegant setting in which to savor the eclectic local fare available in Harrison Township, the event was hosted by Hazel Dilsaver. HTB is grateful to all who attended and to the event sponsors, providing the food, beverages, and other donations needed to make this event a success:

- Agency 51 Advertising: adagency51.com
- Blueplate: www.blueplatenj.com
- Joe Canal's Discount Liquor Outlet: joecanals.com
- Marino's of Mullica Hill: www.marinosofmullicahill.com
- Mullica Hill Floral Co.: www.mullicahillfloralco.com
- Naples Pizza: mullicahill.com/listman/listings/10051.html
- The Pat Settar Team of Prudential Fox & Roach: www.patsettar.com
- Toscana Pizzeria & Grill: www.toscanamullicahill.com
- Wagonhouse Winery: wagonhousewinery.com

About HTB

HTB works with groups and local government in Harrison Township to raise funds and promote events showcasing our historic downtown, bringing business to the township, and improving the quality of life for our residents. For more information about HTB activities, please visit www.htbeautify.com. If you are interested in taking a more active role in HTB, contact the organization at info@htbeautify.com. Many thanks to those who have already expressed interest. HTB will be contacting volunteers during the summer, and another community meeting will be held in the fall.

Main Street Benches Dedicated

HTB added three new benches to Main Street in Mullica Hill, which were purchased through a donation from the Woman's Club of Mullica



Hill in memory of Shirley Enick, a club member. The benches were installed by the Harrison Township Public Works Department.

The benches were dedicated on Harrison Township Day, May 14 (photo above), at Old Town Hall. Mayor Lou Manzo led the dedication, during which family and friends of Ms. Enick shared heartfelt remembrances.

This is the first step toward an improved streetscape for Main Street in Mullica Hill. The improved streetscape will include flowerpots, benches, and pedestrian lighting, which will make Main Street more appealing for pedestrians and visitors in Mullica Hill.

Upcoming Recreation Events

- ✓ **Community Yard Sale at Ella Harris Park, Saturday, September 17 (Sunday rain date)**
- ✓ **Aquatic Programs will begin in September & continue through June! Recreation will partner again with Future Fitness of Mullica Hill**
- ✓ **Tumblin' Tots, Sponsored by Harrison Township Recreation Friday mornings: September 16 through November 18, 7-Week Session at Gloucester County Library, Mullica Hill**



Registration forms for both programs available at the Recreation Office or on the township website: www.harrisontwp.us

2011 Summer Programs

Registration forms are available on our website at www.harrisontwp.us or at the Recreation Office. Please feel free to call 856-223-8777 with any questions, concerns, or special needs.

- ◆ Boys & Girls Tennis: Ages 7-16 yrs.
- ◆ Arts & Crafts Program: Ages 2-12 yrs.
- ◆ ½-Day Summer Activity Camps: Ages 5-12
- ◆ Theatre Camp: Ages 7 & Older
- ◆ Build-a-Rama: Ages 8 & Older
- ◆ Hip Hop Class: Boys & Girls ages 6 yrs. & Older
- ◆ **New:** Zumbatomic Class: Boys & Girls Ages 6 yrs. & Older
- ◆ Creative Movement: Ages 3-12 yrs.
- ◆ US Multi-Sports Camp: Half Or Full Day
- ◆ Sport Squirts Camp: Ages 3-5 yrs.
- ◆ Beginners Golf Camp: Ages 5-7 yrs.
- ◆ **New:** World Cup Soccer: Ages 5-12 yrs.
- ◆ **New:** Travel Academy: Ages 5-14 yrs.
- ◆ **New:** Soccer Squirts: Ages 3-5 yrs.
- ◆ TSE Academy Softball Camp: July
- ◆ TSE Academy Baseball Camps: July & August
- ◆ **New:** Reading Enrichment Camps: Ages 3-8 yrs.

Movies Nights

- * Wednesday, **July 13:** Movie & Ice Cream Social at William Wilt Soccer Complex
- * Wednesday, **August 31:** A Flick & a Float at Racoon Valley Swim Club.

Bring your chairs and/or blankets. The concession stands will be open.



Mark your calendars for the Pep Rally at the William Wilt Soccer Complex Friday, September 9 Details to be announced



A Message From the Recreation Department

On behalf of the Harrison Township Recreation Commission and Parade Committee, we want to thank all the parade & park volunteers, Main Street Merchants, all parade sponsors, key business and corporate sponsors, Commission Members, and you the residents for your efforts and financial support of the parade and Harrison Township Day. Even with the economic crisis that the State, municipality and the township residents are experiencing, we staged one of the best parades to date. And even with the weather, we were still able to pull off a successful Harrison Township Day.

We also want to recognize the hours and time put in by the members of the Harrison Police Department, Mantua Explorers, Harrison Public Works, Harrison Waste Water Management, Ewan Fire Company, and Harrison Fire Departments. These folks had a real impact in planning, setting up, and staging the parade, not to mention setting up, providing support during and breaking down after the Harrison Township Day.

As you might imagine, Ella Harris Park takes a beating during Harrison Township Day. The incidents of vandalism were few and I want to thank those of

you who attended for respecting the park. With the summer upon us and the kids out of school, I again ask you, the residents, to continue to be vigilant when visiting the parks and facilities in the township. Please talk to your children about respecting the parks and facilities. If you see vandalism occurring, please contact the police. If you see an unsafe condition at any of the parks, please contact the Recreation Office or the Department of Public Works. We have limited resources and we need to preserve them as best as possible.

The well being of you the residents is the goal of the Recreation Commission. Your input allows us to reach our goal.

Jack McElwee

Chairman

Harrison Township Recreation Commission

Mark L. Gravinese

Vice Chairman

2011 Parade Director

Harrison Township Recreation Commission

Township Welcomes New Businesses

Tori's Cleaners & Tailor
214 N. Main Street

This full-service dry cleaning and tailoring establishment owned by township residents David and Karen Charles, is relocating from Mantua Township to Harrison Township. Tori's dry cleans all garments, launders shirts, and cleans household items. Karen is an expert seamstress and tailor with years of experience in the garment-cleaning industry.

Tori's is located at 214 North Main Street, just south of the intersection of Route 45 and Cohawkin Road. David and Karen refurbished a building that badly needed renovations, adding a parking lot for customers on the south side of the building and planting attractive landscaping. Business hours are Monday and Thursday, 8:30 am to 6:30 pm; Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday 8:30 am to 6 pm; and Saturday 9 am to 2 pm, with Saturday summer hours from 9 am to 1 pm. For more information, please call 856-478-4011.

"It's always great to see local residents open a business in our township," Mayor Louis Manzo said. "David and Karen did a terrific job of improving a site that desperately needed it, thereby enhancing one of the gateways to Harrison Township. We welcome them to our growing base of businesses!"

Natural Harvest Market
45 South Main Street

Natural Harvest Market, at 45 South Main Street in Mullica Hill, owned by Deanna Brzeg, is a boutique food market passionate about providing quality organic, natural, gluten-free, vegetarian/vegan, dairy- and nut-free seafood, meats, and gourmet food choices to the local community.

The market focuses on knowing the source of the foods purchased and getting to know the food artisans who make, grow, or fish for these foods. It strives to purchase from as many local farmers and food artisans as possible.

Brzeg stated that they are working with Rutgers Innovation Center in Bridgeton and will sell several more New Jersey-made products. The shop will sell cheese from Cherry Grove Farm in Lawrenceville. The market also offers produce from three organic farms in southern New Jersey.

"We will also be expanding into more healthy prepared foods to take home," Brzeg said. "We would love to expand into cooking classes! For me this business has been a life long dream, and my biggest reward has been getting to know my customers and helping individuals with their dietary needs."

The market is open Tuesday, 10 am to 5 pm; Wednesday, 10 am to 5:30; Thursday, 10 am to 6:30 pm; Friday, 10 am to 5 pm; Saturday, 10 am to 4 pm.