



Oak Hill Association Newsletter



Summer 2008
Volume 40

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Here we are in the throes of a love/hate relationship with the month of August (hate the heat/love that it is still summer), and already the days are getting shorter. Fear not, OHA is looking forward to some fun events in the coming months. Unfortunately, we decided to cancel the Annual Block Party. It is a pleasant day but too work intensive, too few workers. Perhaps with some new volunteers it could live another day.

Instead we are hosting a **Wine/Meet-Your-Neighbors Party** on Sunday evening, Sept. 14th, at Racioppi's Kitchen in Red Bank. Featured will be "heavy" hors d'oeuvres (enough to constitute a meal), red and white wines, beer and soft drinks. The cost will be a bargain price of \$15. per person - well worth the value! The price per non-member will be \$25, should you wish to bring a guest. For our young families, book that babysitter and have a night out for yourselves! For information, call Vivian Breen@ 732-671-4638. Or sign up now! (See page 4.)

We are still seeking a few good people to join us here at the top of the heap. We could accomplish so much more! For example, if we had two or three members who would rotate through the Board of Ed. Meetings, we might have had a "heads-up" on the cell tower issue. Can't really blame the Board if no one from the community attends the meetings to keep abreast of the issues or initiate a protest!

We will be holding election of officers at the October General Meeting. Please consider serving as an officer or in some other capacity. And submit any ideas you have on other people who might be interested. Call one of the officers listed on page 8 if you are interested in keeping the OHA a living, breathing organization! We need help!

Vivian Breen, President

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GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2008

Place: Middletown United Methodist Church, 924 Middletown Lincroft Road.

Time: 7:30 pm

Our speaker for the evening will be Oak Hill member and resident historian, Randall Gabrielan. He will discuss the history of Oak Hill and environs, and will share photos and highlights of his newest book, *Middletown, Monmouth County, NJ*, a history of Middletown from the 1600s. He will share insights and stories from our area's past. This talk is for **all ages!**

For additional information and a review of the book, go to page 6.

Business: Election of officers



Wine / Meet Your Neighbors Party

Details
Page 4



CIVIC WATCH COMMITTEE

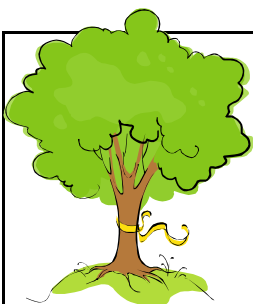
Civic Watch Committee members strive to stay abreast of any activity in and around Oak Hill or the Township that might ultimately affect our quality of life. To do this we monitor meeting agendas for Zoning and Planning Boards and attend those where the subject matter appears to be appropriate.

New Regulations by COAH

In case you have been on vacation and are not aware, the Council on Affordable Housing (COAH) regulations for NJ towns to meet their obligation in providing affordable housing have been changed to exclude Regional Contribution Agreements (RCAs).

Until this recent change, Middletown was on track with meeting the affordable housing quota for COAH. However, now NJ towns must have a new plan in place by December 31. Middletown, like other towns, is scrambling to design a plan and find ways that will result in the least loss of open space and the least cost to the township. Locations must be found and property owners must cooperate within the limited time. You can stay abreast of this issue by reading the local newspapers.

If you are at all civic minded and want to see our local government first hand, please join us by calling Helen Duthie at 732-706-3486.



Tree Trimming? Or Blight?

Several people have noticed the tree trimming that is going on around Pelican, Crawford, and lower Borden by the power company, First Energy.

Here is just one example of email sent by an OHA member to the Civic Watch committee:

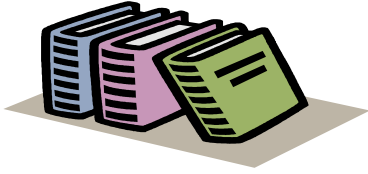
You are the guy who knows how to get things done, so I'm asking, how does Oak Hill Association get involved in the recent tree cutting job done by JCP&L? Job was totally one sided, with no regard for the property owners' homes or the real value of trees to our neighborhood. This area should have had underground wiring years ago, not this 1940's dated technology which ruins property value. We have to make some noise on this. If I do on my own, it will not get the attention an association can get.

Well, in this case the writer was right. Our own Civic Watch Committee member, Don Duthie, contacted Deputy Mayor Pam Brightbill about the matter. Pam forwarded our concerns to her contact at First Energy. A meeting has been scheduled among First Energy rep Roberta Sheridan, her Forester, Pam or another Middletown Township representative, and members of the Oak Hill Association Civic Watch committee on August 15 at the site on Pelican to discuss our concerns.

A word to the wise: The power and telephone companies do own easements around their wires. To avoid such damage in the future, it would be wise for the homeowner to have the trees cut back from the wires periodically by a reputable tree firm. There are many such firms in the area that OH residents can recommend.

Civic Watch continued on page 3.

BOOK CLUB



The Oak Hill Book Club meets monthly in members' homes to discuss the latest books, fiction and nonfiction. Meetings are generally the fourth Wednesday evening of the month.

Near-term books:

August: "March" by Geraldine Brooks

September: "What Remains" by Carol Radziwell

If you are interested in joining, call Karen Sabella 732-672-5706.

GARDEN CLUB



The Oak Hill Garden Club will host a planning meeting in September to discuss plans and events for the upcoming 2008-2009 year.

We are also in process of planning an "Apple Picking" meeting at one of our local orchards in October. (First week in October).

If interested, please contact Virginia Hickey @ 732-671-2604 or Marie Logioco @ 732-671-7042. ALL ARE WELCOME!



NEWCOMERS

We welcome our newcomers to Oak Hill!



We know of 6 house closings in Oak Hill in recent months. But we have no names to report at this time. We will update you in future newsletters.

Please call Helen at (732) 706-3486 if you are aware of any new residents in the area.

Save the Macleod Rice House

Purchased with the aid of Green Acres funds by Middletown Township, this home now is in dire need of TLC. The original owner Macleod was a NYC fabric importer who added on to an existing structure to build his lovely summer home overlooking the bay. In 1947 the estate was purchased for use as a boys' school and was operated as Croydon Hall Academy until 1976.

A group has been formed to save this landmark. The house is to be nominated for the New Jersey and National Register of Historic Places, and applications for grants to help maintain the building will be made. Gardeners, writers and interested people are needed to save this grand old house. Please get in touch to offer help and comments: Friends of the MacLeod-Rice House at Croydon Hall, PO Box 4262, Middletown, NJ 07748.

Civic Watch, cont. - Red Hill Road Traffic Light

Another Oak Hill resident wonders,

Do you know how the Association could complain to the County regarding the new traffic lights on Red Hill Road and onto the entrance to the Parkway North? Every morning there is now a backup due to poor timing of the lights and a very long wait for the turn signal to get onto the Parkway (and a very short timing of that left hand turn signal)?

Civic-minded Oak Hill resident Glenn Cashion knew to call the Monmouth County Director of Public Works, John Tobia. OH Association called his office and were told they have completed a study and are making changes to the lights. Those changes should be in effect by the time this newsletter reaches you.

WINE / MEET YOUR NEIGHBORS PARTY



Reviving a popular adult activity from the past, we are announcing a Sunday-evening Cocktail (well, wine and beer) Party with a delicious spread of hors d'oeuvres provided by Oak Hill neighbors Joe and Marie Racioppi at their premier Red Bank restaurant.

Date: Sunday, September 14, 2008

Place: Racioppi's Kitchen, 107 Oakland St., Red Bank

Time: 6:30 - 9:00 PM

Cost: \$15 for OHA members, \$25 for guests. Will be subsidized by the Association.

Reserve your spot today, then bring your appetite for what is guaranteed to be a wonderful evening of fun and food with your neighbors.

OAK HILL ACTIVE MEN'S GROUP



Oak Hill men and wives participate, once or twice per month, in a wide variety of fun activities. We run local trips and visits to NY City. Local dinners and shows are always popular. Come to our monthly breakfast, and/or join our email list for current activities (open to any OHA member). Contact Steve Miller (732-671-5917) or stevemiller@comcast.net

WINE / MEET YOUR NEIGHBORS PARTY

Please reserve spots for OHA members _____ (number) @ \$15/member = \$ _____

and Guests _____ (number) @ \$25/guest = \$ _____

Total \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

Send reservation, with a check for the total amount to

Vivian Breen

10 Quail Drive, Middletown, NJ 07748

2008 SOCIAL EVENTS FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Contact Laura Campbell 732-275-1676 for more information about these events.

Halloween Parade

Our annual Halloween parade will be held on **Saturday, October 18th**. Come dressed in your favorite costume and follow the fire engine to the parade finish where the kids can climb aboard the fire truck, participate in some fun activities and enjoy the refreshments. We will have inflatable (e.g. moon walks, mazes, etc.) so make sure your kids are dressed appropriately. Don't miss out on this most popular event.



Date: Saturday, October 18, 2008 (Rain Date: Saturday, October 25, 2008 at 1:00 pm)

Place: Starts at Borden & Lionel, goes down Borden & cross over Pelican and finish on Borden

Time: 1:00 p.m. sharp

Cost: \$0

Any questions, please contact Allison LaRosa at 732-957-0335.

Brunch with Santa

Our 4th annual brunch will be held on **Saturday, December 6, 2008**. There will be a DJ to keep the kids entertained while you relax and catch up with your neighbors. And of course, Santa will be there to hear all about your child's Christmas list and pose for that special picture!



Date: Saturday, December 6, 2008

Place: Gibbs Hall

Time: 12:00 p.m.—3:00 p.m.

Cost: TBD

Look for sign-up and details in the Fall newsletter.

Any questions, please contact Laura Campbell at 732-275-1676.

PLAYGROUP

For babies, toddlers and preschoolers.

Fall schedule To Be Determined.

Let them play while you get a chance to talk to other moms. For information or for inclement weather call Laura Campbell (732)275-1676.



What is Wrong ???

An Assault on Apathy

Low voter turnout in elections. Poor response to appeals for volunteers. Poor attendance at activities of religious or neighborhood groups, clubs, professional or political organizations. And the list goes on.

As the world grows more complex and socioeconomic pressures multiply, more than ever there is a need for humans to reach out, expand their sphere of influence and participate in dialog and friendship. A sense of community, caring and mutual concern must be in place and nurtured to protect the family and society from threats and abuses that can weaken and destroy them.

In the last issue of the OHA newsletter that went out to some 1100 homes in Oak Hill a few months ago, there was an article about some of the problems we have here in Oak Hill - late leaves and brush pick-ups, commercial signs on lawns, deteriorating road surfaces, excessive removal of trees. The article asked that Oak Hill residents volunteer to serve on a committee to explore ways to preserve the quality of life here in Oak Hill. Sad to say, only 2 people responded to the article, a disappointing, apathetic response to an important appeal.

Apathy is defined as "lack of interest; listless condition; indifference". Our Oak Hill community is **not** indifferent and **is** interested in what goes on. So, "What is wrong?" We can no longer say, let the other guy do it, or let the elected politicians handle it. Look at where that got us in Trenton and Freehold. There is too much at stake in this day and age to let someone else do it. The squeaky wheel gets the oil, and it will always be that way. For all our sakes, each resident of Oak Hill needs to get more active and participate more in community affairs and activities. We must be very protective of our area by participating and staying vigilant and energized. Best of all is the satisfaction and sense of accomplishment one gets!!!!

Everyone who reads this is strongly encouraged to select one or two organizations and start attending meetings or, even better, volunteer. If you do, you will be meeting new people, learning how groups function and operate, opposing, supporting or advancing a cause or point of view, learning what is happening in the world around us, gaining experience, and making a contribution to our community. If many more of us get involved, our community will be a much stronger and better place.

2008 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Event	Date Time	Location	Time
Easter Egg Hunt	Saturday, March 15th	The Breen's'- 10 Quail Drive	Noon - 4:00pm
Spring General Meeting	Tuesday, May 20th	Middletown United Methodist Church – Middletown Lincroft Road	7:30pm
Garage Sale	Friday and Saturday May 16th and May 17th	Throughout the Neighborhood	9am – 3:00pm
Wine/Meet-Your-Neighbors Party	Sunday, September 14th	Racioppi's Restaurant, Red Bank	6:30 - 9:00pm
Fall General Meeting and Officer Election	Tuesday, October 14th	Middletown United Methodist Church – Middletown Lincroft Road	7:30pm
Halloween Parade	Saturday, October 18th	Starts at Borden & Lionel	1:00pm
Brunch with Santa	Saturday, December 6th	Gibbs Hall, Forth Monmouth	12:00pm



Golf Fore Our Schools

On Friday, September 26, Nut Swamp Elementary School will be holding their Fall Golf Fundraiser at the Pebble Creek Golf Club in Colts Neck. The funds raised at the 2008 Golf Classic will be used to make major improvements to the All Purpose Room as well as continue our Literacy Initiatives.

A special Oak Hill Association discount of \$135 per golfer will be available through August 29 (\$160 per golfer thereafter). **OR for the best savings, reserve a foursome for only \$500!!**

Your registration fee includes ALL of the following for a great day of fun at a great value:

Continental breakfast

Loaded golfer gift bag

Cortez cigars hand-rolled on-premises!

A round of golf on the enjoyable and picturesque Pebble Creek course

Drinks and snacks on course throughout the day!

Full BBQ lunch

Complimentary chair massages

Basket raffles and silent auction

Golf Clinic Option - The 2008 Fall Golf Fundraiser is again offering the golf clinic package that includes an hour and a half fundamentals clinic and the post-tournament luncheon. The cost is \$75 and includes the clinic, luncheon, drinks and snacks, chair massages and raffles & auctions.

The success of our fundraising endeavor depends largely on the generosity of local businesses and Nut Swamp families and friends. Many sponsorship opportunities are still available in addition to the opportunity to advertise your business in the event program. Sponsorships include appropriate signage as well as a prominent ad in the program book distributed to all of our guests.

Complete details are included in the Golf Classic brochure, which can be downloaded from the Nut Swamp web site www.middletonk12.org/nutswamp or by contacting Carol Loh (kloh@comcast.net or 732-706-3311).

Association Officers And Committee Heads

PRESIDENT	Vivian Breen	671-4638	NEW COMERS:	Helen Duthie	706-3486
VICE PRESIDENT	Laura Campbell	275-1676	GARDEN CLUB	Marie Logioco	671-7042
TREASURER	Allison LaRosa	957-0335	BOOK CLUB	Karen Sabella	671-5706
SECRETARY	Steve Miller	671-5917	NEWSLETTER:	Pat Miller	671-5917
CIVIC WATCH	Don Duthie	706-3486	SOCIAL COMMITTEE	Rita McKinney	671-7404
	Helen Duthie	706-3486		Bill Butler	671-3438
	Charla Tewksbury	275-6794		Patrice Nybro	615-9245
ACTIVE MEN'S GROUP	Steve Miller	671-5917	PRESERVATION	Laura Campbell	275-1676
				Bill Butler	671 - 3438

VERIZON CELL TOWER AT MIDDLETOWN HIGH SCHOOL SOUTH?

Many homeowners have received letters, and/or seen the anti-cell tower signs on front lawns.

The best way to learn and be heard is the August 25, 7PM, Zoning Board meeting at Middletown Town Hall, 1 Kings Highway . This date was delayed from July 28. See "Meetings" > "Zoning Board" > "Agenda July 28, 2008", at <http://www.middletownnj.org> Verizon has asked for a "Use Variance", and will reportedly discuss safety data at the meeting. The public may speak and present evidence.

The following is BACKGROUND MATERIAL – to help you understand the issues

<http://www.middletownk12.org/VerizonCellTower.aspx>
(Middletown Bd of Education summary) The Board of Education is reported to be exploring provisions to back out of its Verizon cell tower contract.

<http://www.middletownk12.org/files/MiddletownHighSchoolSouthCellTowerMPEReport.pdf>
(Verizon study of radiation from the proposed tower)

http://www.geocities.com/no_celltower_mhss/
Middletown residents against the tower - includes links to other information

<http://www.app.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/200807070515/NEWS01/807070340>
Asbury Park Press, July 7

http://independent.gmnews.com/news/2008/0716/front_page/007.html
"Independent", July 16, 2008



CATS: PETS or PESTS ?

The black cats in our neighborhood are multiplying! We thought the two roaming cats we had seen on occasion for the last couple of years must belong to a neighbor. But last week, the little black female reappeared with 3 nursing baby kittens (who appear to have worms), in the editor's back yard. Now we think they must be strays. If they are yours, the newspaper veterinarian recommends that they be kept indoors and not allowed to roam. In any event, they should be spayed or neutered.

To claim them, please keep them inside or call Pat Miller at 732-671-5917, or email at patmiller@comcast.net. If the cats stay around our house, we may try to trap them and take them to the SPCA while the kittens are still small enough to be adopted.

The Middletown Board of Health (732-615-2094) advises:

Do not feed stray cats- they will become YOURS.

All Middletown cats must be LICENSED, and have a rabies shot (free vaccination Sept 20).

The Middletown Board of Health has a trap – they will train and lend the trap.

Once a cat is trapped, the Board of Health will pickup and deliver to the Eatontown SPCA.

Oak Hill Association

151 Borden Road
Middletown, NJ 07748

Newsletter Contributions
Phone: 732-671-5917
Email: patmiller@comcast.net

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OR CURRENT RESIDENT

TIME VALUE DATED MATERIAL

Upcoming Events (complete list on page 7)

- Wine/Meet-Your-Neighbors Party, September 14, 2008
- Fall General Meeting, October 14, 2008
- Halloween Parade, October 18, 2008
- Holiday Brunch, December 6, 2008