



ABERDEEN UPDATE

Summer 2007

The Official Newsletter of Aberdeen Township

www.aberdeennj.org

Beach Fest was an anglers' delight

Cliffwood Beach Park was the setting for Beach Fest, a day of nautical-themed fun and food highlighted by the Environmental & Shade Tree

Advisory Board's 14th Annual (and most successful) Family Fishing Contest.

Held on a warm and sunny May afternoon, Beach Fest offered fun and games for all, including blow up rides for children and a crafts sale. The day was capped off by a clam-bake and fish fry with specialties from a local restaurant and



A record 100-plus anglers turned out for Family Fishing Contest, the feature event of Beach Fest.

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Projects on Rtes 34, 35 take another step forward

For those who've been stuck in traffic at the intersections of Lloyd Road and Route 34, Amboy Road, Cliffwood Avenue or County Road along Route 35, or have been forced to navigate around flooded sections of Route 35 in Cliffwood, relief is on the way. These future developments follow the recent opening of a new bridge on Wilson Avenue at the Marlboro border.

In the Strathmore area, construction is expected to begin around summer 2009 on the state and county widening projects to ease the congestion that causes backups at various times of the day on Route 34 and Lloyd Road, according to **Tim Gillen**, a principal at CME Associates, Aberdeen Township's municipal engineers.

Under the design scenario now being reviewed by the state, a third dedicated lane will be added in each direction on Route 34 in the vicinity of the Lloyd Road intersection. Beginning at Van Brackle Road, northbound travelers approaching Lloyd Road will have the option of a left-turn lane, a through-lane or a right-turn lane. On the southbound side, beginning near the site of the former Boston Market, vehicles can proceed into a left-turn lane, through-lane or right-turn lane.

A similar scenario is planned for Lloyd Road, where westbound travelers approaching Route 34 will find an elongated left-turn lane, along with through and right-turn lanes. "The county is currently looking at various ways to alleviate the backups for eastbound traffic

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Mayor David Sobel (l.) and Councilman Nick Minutolo on Route 34, where scenario calls for adding 3rd dedicated lane on northbound and southbound sides, along with similar improvements to Lloyd Road.

The Celebration Continues



Aberdeen's 150th Anniversary celebration will continue through November, culminating with the Holiday Fest Sesquicentennial Wrap Up on November 29. Activities scheduled throughout the remainder of the celebration are:

- AUG. 9** Concert in the Park
- SEPT. 15** Aberdeen Day at Matawan Regional H.S.
- OCT. 28** Aberdeen Haunted 5K
- NOV. 29** Holiday Fest Sesquicentennial Wrap Up

All events to be held at Town Hall unless otherwise noted.

For more information please check the Aberdeen Township website: www.aberdeennj.org as the date for each event nears.

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Domestic Violence Response Team aids victims throughout county

Anyone can be a victim of domestic violence – men or women, young or old. Incidents of domestic violence happen everywhere, everyday in this country. For victims in Aberdeen and throughout Monmouth County,



Aberdeen Deputy Chief Rick Derechailo says the DVRT has lent a big helping hand to victims, while also expediting police procedures in such cases.

domestic violence crisis response teams provide compassion and support during this most difficult time.

The countywide Domestic Violence Crisis Response Team (DVRT) is a joint effort between municipal police departments and 180-Turning Lives Around, a private non-profit organization dedicated to providing shelter, counseling, protection, support, prevention, education, and advocacy for Monmouth residents affected by domestic violence and sexual assault.

Team members are specially trained advocates who meet confidentially with victims at local police headquarters 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The volunteers work in conjunction with the police to provide emotional support, information, referrals and a safety plan to the victim and her/his family. They are trained to provide information on the victim's rights, available services and the process of obtaining a temporary restraining order.

"The Domestic Violence Crisis Response Team is all about the victim's safety and providing compassion and non-judgmental listening," explained Sue Levine of 180-Turning Lives Around, who coordinates the countywide program. "The program

ensures that there will be a civilian who they can talk to in complete confidentiality, even from the police, about the incident and what has been going on. Having someone to talk to makes a victim feel empowered. We explain their options and let them know about the services we offer." The group's services include a confidential 'safe house' where women and children can go when violence forces them to leave home, an art therapy program for children, and substance abuse counseling.

"One of the greatest benefits of the DVRT besides the assistance provided to the victim is that it enables the police officer to expedite the process of preparing restraining orders, criminal complaints, contacting a judge and completing other associated paperwork," explained Aberdeen Deputy Chief Rick Derechailo. He added that "sometimes a victim feels more comfortable talking with a volunteer than with a police officer."

180-Turning Lives Around started the DVRT 12 years ago. Since then, the program has grown to over 200 volunteers working in 37 towns. The Aberdeen P.D. joined the DVRT earlier this year, banding together with Matawan and Keyport to form the Northern Regional Response Team. Volunteers respond to calls from all three police departments.

Volunteers are asked to respond after an officer on the scene of a domestic violence incident radios in to police headquarters to let them know that he or she is coming in with a domestic violence victim. A volunteer can also be called if someone dealing with domestic violence goes to the police to discuss their situation or learn about their options. "Sometimes, a relative will come to us to find out what can be done," Derechailo noted. "Once called, volunteers are usually on the scene in 20 minutes or less."

Want to volunteer for DVRT?

Applicants must be 18 years of age or older, have access to transportation, possess a valid driver's license, be willing to serve on an on-call shift basis, submit to background investi-

gations and fingerprinting, and an interview with members of the police department and 180-Turning Lives Around. Once accepted, applicants must complete a 40-hour training course held three evenings a week.

To request an application or for further information, contact Sgt. Darrel Oliver of the Aberdeen Township Police Department, (732) 566-2054, or log on to www.aberdeennj.org. Applications are available for download under "police forms" on the police department web page. ●

SENIOR SPECIALS

The Recreation Department's annual series of day trips for residents 55 and older will run through late fall. The trips listed below have registration deadlines in August and September.

West Point - Tuesday, 10/16. Tickets are \$49.00 and include 90 minute walking & bus tour, buffet lunch at Hotel Thayer, two-hour cruise from West Point to West Haverstraw. Register by 8/14.

One additional trip is planned to **Radio City Music Hall** in December. Please call the Recreation Department at (732) 483-4200, ext. 129 or 171 for more information.

George Hausmann Senior Center Schedule

Mondays

Country Line 11:00 a.m.

Dancing

Tuesdays

Qigong 9:00 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.

Tai-Chi 10:00 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.

Aerobics 11:00 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.

Wednesdays

Gentle Yoga 10:00 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.

Aerobics 11:15 a.m. - Noon

Thursdays

Crafting Class 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

Aerobics 11:15 a.m. – Noon

The George Hausmann Senior Center is located at 30 Noble Place in the "N" section of Strathmore.

Memories of Aberdeen:

Reflecting on life in Oakshades

By Councilman Vincent Vinci

In the days before there was a Garden State Parkway or a Strathmore development, Oakshades was the most populated section of the town that we today call Aberdeen Township. Cliffwood Beach was a resort area with summer bungalows and few year-round homes. The sections that we today call Cliffwood, Strathmore and Freneau were dominated by family-owned farms.

My parents first settled in Oakshades in the 1920s, becoming



Councilman Vincent Vinci reminisces about former rec complex on Lower Main St., where condos now stand.

part of a close-knit community. Back before the Parkway was built, about 75% of Oakshades residents were of Italian descent and the rest mainly Polish and Irish. It was a community where everyone knew one another and where old Italian wine-makers competed over whose was the best.

Our 'downtown' consisted of Lower Main Street and part of Gerard Avenue, where you found a couple of taverns, a big gas station, and a couple of grocery/general stores where,

instead of paying, you'd tell the owner to "put it in the book." At the end of the week, your father would go in and pay up.

Year-round, the biggest local attraction was the recreational complex built on Lower Main after World War II by the Devino family (now the site of some small condos). Inside, there was a bowling alley with 10 lanes and a roller rink. Next door was an outdoor ice rink. The indoor rink was also the home court for my Matawan High basketball team, because the ceilings were too low in the gym in

the original school building on Broad Street. During the 1950s, the rink area was also used for professional wrestling matches, some of them televised. The arena additionally hosted professional boxing matches featuring such local favorite sons as Rocky Tomasello and Rudy Bruno (who still lives in Cliffwood). Both also fought at Madison

Square Garden.

Later on in the 1950s, bowling got more popular and the Devinos converted the indoor rink area into 10 more lanes. With 20 lanes, our local bowling alley began to draw professionals and some of their matches were televised. When the Strathmore development was built in the 1960s, the Devinos saw the opportunity and built the bigger Strathmore Lanes on Route 34, along with the movie theater and some of the other buildings that now stand on that site.

Although the rec complex on Lower Main was a big part of daily life for most of us who grew up in Oakshades, we also looked forward to the two Italian Festivals held each year: the Lady of Mt. Carmel and Feast of St. Lupo. My parents were very involved in the Lady of Mt. Carmel Festival, a week-long event that included a big fair with carnival rides and concluded with a parade through town featuring an Italian

band and a huge fireworks show.

Of course, the construction of the Parkway in the 1950s dramatically changed life for us in Oakshades, between the noise generated by pile-drivers and the loss of homes that were in the path of construction. Still, the memories of those fun times in our community will never go away. ●

LIBRARY NEWS

The Matawan-Aberdeen Public Library will offer the following children's programs in July and August:

Wednesdays - Crafty Kids (ages 2-6). Registration is required. Takes place one week prior to the program.

- 7/30 Movie - High School Musical, 3:30 p.m.
- 8/15 Penguin Pointers - A penguin from Jenkinson's Aquarium will visit the library. 10:30 -10:50/11:00 - 11:20 a.m. Registration is limited and begins on August 1.
- 8/21 Pirates! Curse of the Mutating Hand Science Program. (Ages 3+). 10:00 a.m. -10:45 a.m./11:15 - noon. Registration August 7.
- 8/24 Finisher's Day Party and Puppet Show, 10 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

The Library will offer the following adult programs in July, August and September:

- 7/23 Movie - Night at the Museum, 2:30 p.m.
- 8/6 Movie - Roman Holiday, 2:30 p.m.
- 8/9 Reading Club Meeting, 7:30 p.m.
- 8/13 Movie - The Man Who Knew Too Much, 2:30 p.m.
- 8/20 Movie - The Grapes of Wrath, 2:30 p.m.
- 8/27 Movie - For Whom the Bell Tolls, 2:30 p.m.
- 9/6 The Secret of Anti-Aging, 7:30 p.m.
- 9/10 Landlord/Tenant Law, 7:00 p.m.
- 9/17 How to Buy the Best Mutual Fund Annuities for You, 7:00 p.m.
- 9/19 Creating a Simple Web Page, 7:00 p.m.
- 9/20 Book Club Meeting, 7:30 p.m.
- 9/24 Hypertension and Stroke, 7:30 p.m.
- 9/26 Reword, Revise, Rewrite that Resume, 7:00 p.m.
- 9/27 Acupuncture, 7:30 p.m.

Register now for 5K

October 28 - Save this date for the Inaugural Aberdeen Haunted 5K & Family Run. A New Jersey Grand Prix Event, the 5K will be held on a USATF Certified Course through the streets of Aberdeen. The Family Fun Run will take place on a one-mile course.

Go to www.wamproductions.biz, for info. Applications are available at Town Hall or on-line at www.raceforum.com/Aberdeen.

Pop Warner program is more than football

Countless numbers of football players at all levels of the game can trace their introduction to the sport to the National Pop Warner Little Scholars Program (PWLS), a national non-profit organization that



Deputy Mayor Wilhelmina Gumbs joins long-time Pop Warner coach and league executive John Donohue on MRHS football field, a site for games and practices.

provides youth football, cheer & dance programs for children ages 6 to 14 in 41 states. PWLS is the largest youth football, cheer and dance program in the United States and the only one that requires its participants to maintain academic standards in order to participate.

Locally, Matawan-Aberdeen Pop Warner, founded in 1960, each year serves approximately 150 boys through its football program and 110 girls participating in cheerleading and dance. Teams play an eight-week season starting in early September. There are nine divisions, all determined by a strict age/weight scale to ensure safe and balanced competition.

"This is a great program and I commend the coaches and other volunteers who go out there several evenings a week and on the weekends to work with the kids," commented Deputy Mayor **Wilhelmina Gumbs**, who has had a son, two grandsons and several nephews play in Pop Warner. "Most importantly, the program gives the boys and girls choices for their futures. Because of their exposure to the program and its emphasis on maintaining good

grades, by the time they get to high school, many of them are now able to think about college."

As a volunteer organization, Pop Warner relies on dedicated members of the community who serve on its executive board, committees and as coaches. For the past 35 years, Cliffwood resident **John Donohue**, a member of the league's executive board and current head coach of the Junior Pee-Wees (8 to 10 year olds), has devoted himself to Pop Warner.

Donohue, a retired chief construction inspector for Con Edison in New York City, served as an assistant coach for one year and for the past 34 years as a head coach. As a member of the executive board, he

attends meetings once a month during the off-season and twice a month in-season. Once the season starts on August 1, there are weekday evening practices until play begins in early September, when evening practices take place three days a week. Games are held on Saturday or Sunday.

Reflecting on his years with the organization, Donohue talks with pride about his former players, many of whom went on to play football in high school, college and even the National Football League. Prominent Matawan-Aberdeen Pop Warner players who went on to the NFL include Jay Bellamy, a safety for the New Orleans Saints, and Charlie Rogers, who played running back and wide receiver for the Seattle Seahawks, Buffalo Bills and Miami Dolphins. He is also proud of those now serving their community as teachers, coaches and police officers.

In particular, the program has served as an unofficial developmental league for Matawan Regional High's acclaimed football program and, in recent years, has worked very closely with the school's coaching staff in areas like training regimens. A num-

ber of the school's former players are now Pop Warner coaches. "John has been an integral part of the Pop Warner program for many years and a big asset to our program and to the community at large," says **Joe Martucci**, the high school's longtime football coach and athletic director.

Donohue is a strong believer in Matawan Aberdeen Pop Warner's philosophy of the importance of developing pride, self esteem and team spirit. "If you can teach the kids how to get along with others, that's how you form a team," he states. "But equally important, we want them to enjoy the game."

At 73, Donohue says he plans to coach "for as long as they let me. I love football. It makes me feel younger and the kids make me feel younger." ●

HEALTH UPDATES

Seniors and Heat Related Illness.

Seniors are at higher risk of heat-related illness due to poor circulation, medications and afflictions that may affect skin and other sensory organs. Keep these tips in mind to stay safe this summer: If you don't have air conditioning at home, spend time in air conditioned places like the mall or library; when outdoors, stay in the shade as much as possible; limit outdoor activities to early morning or evening; use fans, along with air conditioning, to circulate air; lower your body temperature with a cool bath; wear loose fitting clothing in lighter colors; drink plenty of fluids, avoid alcohol and limit caffeine intake.

Skin Cancer Prevention. Most of the more than 1 million cases of skin cancer diagnosed yearly in the U.S. are considered sun-related. Skin cancer risk can be lowered by practicing sun safety. Avoid the sun between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. Use sunscreen with an SPF of at least 30. Cover your head with a wide-brimmed hat. Wear sunglasses with 99% to 100% UVA & UVB absorption. Seek shade, especially at mid-day, when sun is the strongest. Cover up as much skin as possible.

Prepared by Robert Scapicio, Health Officer for Aberdeen & Hazlet Townships

Beach Fest (continued from page 1)

treats for land lovers.

The turnout for the fishing contest was beyond expectations. "It was an incredible success, with the greatest level of participation to date," noted **Frank Huza**, vice chairman of the Environmental & Shade Tree Advisory Board. The event drew over 100 anglers (double the number in previous years) competing in three age categories for trophies and fishing-themed prizes.

Beach Fest concluded at sundown with a giant movie screen presentation of 'Shark Tale.'

"The Cliffwood Beach waterfront is one of the jewels of the Bayshore area," said Councilman and Cliffwood Beach resident **Joe Raymond**. "Beach Fest was a great way to remind everyone of the importance of keeping the waterfront clean and safe for future generations."

Beach Fest was the second in a series of events commemorating Aberdeen's 150th Birthday. The celebration continued in late June with "A Movie Under the Stars." Approximately 200 people packed the Council Chambers (a threat of rain moved the movie indoors) to watch 'Night at the Museum'. ●

Scenes from Beach Fest



Fishing contest organizer Frank Huza hands trophy to one of this year's young winners.; Police Chief John Powers and Councilman Tom Perry (showing off his mitts) were among the servers at clambake and fish fry.; Youngsters enjoyed blow-up rides and playground equipment at Cliffwood Beach Park.

Aberdeen Day Preview

Aberdeen Day 2007 will take place on Saturday, September 15, at Matawan Regional High School. This year, Aberdeen Day will spotlight the township's 150th Birthday, with an outdoor evening concert and laser light show.

During the afternoon, Aberdeen Day will include entertainment by local groups, a car show, children's activities, refreshments, craft vendors, and displays by non-profit groups.

Applications are available for volunteer groups, youth organizations, businesses, crafters, entertainers and food vendors interested in participating in the event. Volunteer and youth organizations, entertainers and businesses distributing literature participate, free of charge. To apply, call the Recreation Dept: (732) 583-4200, ext. 134, 173 or 129.

Bulk trash pick-ups explained

Q. What types of items are considered bulk pick ups?

A. Refrigerators, air conditioners, stoves, washers, dryers, water heaters, furniture, carpets, certain building materials (up to one garbage can) and other bulk items that cannot be included with regular garbage. A separate pick up of bulk items must be scheduled. Bulk pick-ups should not include materials from major home renovations—disposal of those items are the responsibility of your contractor.

Q. How do I schedule a pick up?

A. Contact Future Sanitation at (732) 919-3345.

Q. Is there a charge for this service?

A. No.

Q. How long does it take to get the items picked up?

A. It currently takes one week to get the item picked up. Pick up day is on Wednesday.

Q. When can I put these items out at the curb?

A. All items must be put out no earlier than the night before the scheduled pick-up day.

Q. What if I don't want to wait a week?

A. In addition to scheduling a bulk pick-up, residents now have the option to bring anything made from metal, including major appliances, to the Public Works garage located on Lenox Road off Cliffwood Avenue. Drop-offs of large metal products can be made weekdays from 6:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., or on the third Saturday of the month between 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.

Township of Aberdeen MUNICIPAL DIRECTORY

Police, Fire & Rescue
Emergencies 9-1-1

ABERDEEN NON-EMERGENCY
POLICE AND FIRE 732-566-2054

TOWNSHIP COUNCIL
732-583-4200
David Sobel, Mayor Ext. 380

Wilhelmina Gumbs,
Deputy Mayor Ext. 383
Owen Drapkin Ext. 381
Nick Minutolo Ext. 382
Tom Perry Ext. 384
Joe Raymond Ext. 385
Vincent Vinci Ext. 386

TOWNSHIP MANAGER
732-583-4200
Stuart Brown Ext. 117

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732-583-4200
Township Clerk Ext. 119
Construction Official Ext. 121
Engineering Ext. 101
Planning and Zoning Ext. 101
Finance Ext. 128
Health Ext. 129
Municipal Court Ext. 141
Public Works Ext. 174
Recreation Ext. 134
Tax Assessor Ext. 122
Tax Collector Ext. 128
Service Requests Ext. 100

HELPFUL NUMBERS
Animal Control
732-922-0100
Chamber of Commerce
732-290-1125
Electricity (JCP&L)
800-662-3115
Library, Free Public
732-583-9100
Gas (N.J. Natural Gas Co.)
800-221-0051
Water (N.J. American Water)
800-652-6987

www.aberdeennj.org

Improvements

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at the intersection, including the addition of a third lane," Gillen said. "We anticipate that any solution would be integrated into the overall project."

Explaining the project's timing, Gillen said that the design is expected to be fully approved by the state later this summer, paving the way for rights-of-way negotiations and acquisitions. "Realistically, acquisitions of parcels needed to facilitate the extra lanes should be completed in 2008, at which time the job would go out to bid for the start of construction the following summer," he said.

"Hopefully, this will put to rest the rumors of jughandles at the Lloyd Road-Route 34 intersection," commented Mayor **David Sobel**.

Councilman **Owen Drapkin** added: "From what we have seen, this project should greatly improve traffic flow at this intersection without major disruptions to businesses and other landowners in the immediate area."

On Highway 35, the state intends to approve funding in fiscal 2008 (which begins October 2007) for the use of federal highway dollars to engineer a major project covering a stretch of the corridor that begins at the Prospect Street intersection in Cliffwood and extends over the Aberdeen Township line to the Cliffwood jughandle in Old Bridge. As currently proposed, the project would:

- Upgrade the culverts and raise the roadway's grade by three feet in the Whale Creek and Long Neck Creek areas to improve drainage and, thus, curtail flooding.

- Improve the capacities of the Amboy Road, Cliffwood Avenue and County Road intersections.

"The state's latest plan was drawn up in response to concerns over property acquisitions that were raised at a citizens' workshop several years ago," said Councilman **Joe Raymond**.

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"We've been advised that the property acquisitions are significantly lower under this plan, which will do much to improve traffic conditions throughout our section of Route 35."

Meanwhile, in the Freneau section, the county completed work in June on the replacement of the Wilson Avenue bridge spanning Matawan Brook. The new 30-foot-wide bridge, which links Aberdeen to Marlboro, is 12



Councilman Joe Raymond on site of new Wawa on Route 35, just north of Cliffwood Ave. Proposed state project will include major improvements to Cliffwood Ave., Amboy Rd. and County Rd. intersections, as well as moves to curtail flooding.

feet wider than the structure it replaced. "The Aberdeen Township Council had advocated for an extensive period of time to replace this bridge with one that is safe for cars, bicyclists and pedestrians. We are pleased to see that this project has been completed," said Councilman **Nick Minutolo**. ●

A public information session on the Route 35 plan is scheduled to be held by the New Jersey Department of Transportation at Aberdeen Township Hall from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. on August 21, followed by a presentation to the Council.