



# RUMSON

## Borough Bulletin

WINTER  
2008

Settled in 1665



**The Annual Christmas Tree Lighting in Victory Park was the final event of our Centennial Year.**  
Photographs of the Tree Lighting by Joan and Dave Kingdon.

## 2008 MAYOR'S ADDRESS

The following is a report of the Borough events and activities of 2007.

### THE BOROUGH COUNCIL

As I begin my second term as Mayor, it is my distinct privilege to continue to work with the Council Members you see here today, and I would like to acknowledge all of them for their dedication to the Borough of Rumson. Each Council member serves on two of five important Council Committees and devotes countless volunteer hours analyzing and refining the services provided to Rumson's 7,500 residents. I want to thank them and the Borough employees and professionals for their support and assistance over the past four years. It's a great team that works together to provide Rumson with good and responsive government.

Major Council Committee milestones in 2007 included finalizing the design of the new Borough Hall, conducting a shared services study of a combined Peninsula Police force, assessing Fire Department trucks and equipment with long-range plans, and, perhaps most importantly, conducting financial reviews and producing budgets that have kept the municipal tax rate flat for the past two years. I wholeheartedly commend and thank my colleagues for their time and support of our unique Borough.

### CENTENNIAL SUMMARY

Our Centennial Year was truly a year to remember. The first celebration, held in February, was a fundraising party at the Rumson Country Club. The evening was a great success and provided the seed money which supported the rest of our Centennial Year's events. Everyone in attendance was captivated by the extensive display of historic Rumson memorabilia that filled the entry room.

Our next celebration on May 19<sup>th</sup>, "An Evening at the Farm," was held on the grounds of the Metcalf Estate under an enormous tent, which, thankfully, kept everyone dry. Over 500 residents and friends were treated to the great sounds of *The Trend*, who kept everyone on the dance floor and resulted in several welcome encores.

The Borough held its annual Memorial Day Service at Victory Park to honor our brave soldiers who have served or continue to serve our great country, here and abroad, protecting our freedom. Memorial wreaths were placed at the war monuments during the service, once again conducted around the Bandstand.

Our Founders' Day Parade and Picnic was held on June 9<sup>th</sup>, and it was a spectacular day enjoyed by all of Rumson! The parade took place on a brilliant afternoon with the participation of many surrounding towns and vehicles of all shapes and sizes. Rumson's volunteer organizations of every stripe turned out, and we were so proud of them all. The entertainment never stopped with four bands sharing the Bandstand and keeping everyone on their toes and swaying to the music. The food was plentiful thanks to Dave Ciambrone's efficient organization, Rumson's generous food establishments and the many volunteers.

Since July 4<sup>th</sup> is always associated with fireworks, Rumson celebrated our nation's Independence Day in unforgettable fashion with the first ever "Rumson's Fireworks on the Navesink." The Centennial Committee worked very hard with state and county officials to bring a fabulous fireworks display to Rumson, orchestrated in conjunction with Red Bank's "Kaboom" fireworks, all simulcast with patriotic music. It was breathtaking to sit under the stars at Victory Park or perch on the Oceanic Bridge to watch the bursts of Red, White and Blue sparkle above.

Rumson joined America in honoring all veterans during its third annual Veterans Day Ceremony held at Victory Park. It was hosted by Dan Edwards, President of the Veterans Committee, and was at-

tended by many veterans, relatives and residents who paid tribute to those who have served our country at home and abroad, in defense of freedom and the American way of life. Rumson's own Col. John A. Koenig, USMC, Commanding Officer of the 14<sup>th</sup> Marine Regiment, Fort Worth, Texas, gave a stirring address that reminded us why we are so proud to be Americans. We encourage everyone to join us next November 11th for this important annual ceremony honoring our veterans.



*The Deane-Porter Choir wowed everyone with their spirited performance.*

Our final Centennial celebration, the annual Christmas Tree Lighting in Victory Park, will be remembered by all for years to come. Rumson was treated to fantastic holiday tunes from Tim McLoone and the Shirleys with select members of "Holiday Express." Delicious homemade cookies and hot chocolate were available to everyone as well as baskets filled with candy canes for the children to enjoy. After Santa's much anticipated arrival, the Christmas Tree was lit with great fanfare. The evening ended with an elaborate display of fireworks, courtesy of Garden State Fireworks, which brightened the sky with vibrant colors, perfectly choreographed to familiar Christmas songs.



*Christmas lights were switched on by the winner of the tree lighting contest and her family.*

All of Rumson's Centennial events were funded with the help of many donations to the Rumson Endowment Fund, Inc. We sincerely thank everyone for your generosity, and we thank the Borough's staff that worked so hard on all the events and made our entire Centennial Year a memorable success.

### ORDINANCES

During 2007, the Council began a review of the ordinances of the Borough, a process that will continue through 2008. We are updating our ordinances to meet today's standards and Government requirements and to assure the safety of all residents. We plan to have the ordinances available on our town website prior to the end of 2008.

## **BOROUGH HALL**

This past year, the Borough Council Building Committee was completely absorbed in reviewing plans for the new Borough Hall project. As a result of many rigorous meetings, the final revisions are almost completed. We all look forward to a ground breaking in early Spring of 2008.

A few personnel changes have taken place in 2007. Melissa E. Gonzalez, Tax Collector and Assistant to our CFO, left the Borough of Rumson in September to take a position with the State of New Jersey Division of Local Government Services. We all wish her well in her new endeavor.

We are very pleased to announce that in October, our Chief Financial Officer, Helen L. Graves, achieved her State Certification as a Certified Tax Collector. Mrs. Graves also holds titles of Registered Public Purchasing Official and Qualified Purchasing Agent.

We would like to welcome to our Borough Hall family: Hope Richardson in the Administrative Office, Marie Kuhlthau in the Finance Office, Robert Morley in the Department of Public Works and Michael Marra as our new Fire Official.

## **BOROUGH RECORDS MANAGEMENT**

For the past 3 years, the Borough has focused on records retention, organization and consolidation. In 2007, Rumson became one of 5 towns selected to be part of Monmouth County's research project on records retention. With the help of a State Grant and a Monmouth County Shared Services Grant, in 2007 the Borough completed a comprehensive needs assessment of all the Borough records, one of the first completed in the County. This achievement will allow us to expand our shared services with the County and apply for additional grant funding for records management. Rumson is proud that it will be the first town in Monmouth County to store some of our more historical records and microfilm in the climate-controlled Monmouth County Archives and Records Center at the Manalapan Library. Where applicable, Rumson's records will be digitally reproduced and added to the County's online "OPEN PUBLIC RECORDS SEARCH SYSTEM".

## **RUMSON'S AFFORDABLE HOUSING PLAN**

In accordance with New Jersey Council on Affordable Housing (COAH) regulations, several years ago the Borough and its Planning Board adopted an Affordable Housing Plan and filed that plan with COAH for approval. In 2005, the Borough submitted its 3<sup>rd</sup> Round Plan to the Council on Affordable Housing in Trenton and has been awaiting a response for over two years now. The plan is available for review at Borough Hall. COAH continues to modify its Affordable Housing Plan formula as it deals with court cases filed in opposition to said formula. While it continues to be a moving target, COAH's revisions and affordable housing requirements for municipalities like Rumson are always carefully monitored for the impact they will have on our residents.

## **POLICE DEPARTMENT**

2007 was a very productive year for the Rumson Police Department.

We welcomed Ptl. Richard Torres and Ptl. Damien Brennan, who graduated in January, 2007 from Cape May County Police Academy after completing their Police Officer training. In addition, we hired two part-time police dispatchers. These two gentlemen, Cody Lovgren and Jeff Kapner, have excelled in their skills and, effective today, are being promoted to full-time dispatch positions, replacing two dispatchers who were hired as Police Officers in Fair Haven and Deal respectively.

Knowledge is very valuable and continual training allows our Police Officers to better meet the challenges of their daily work and

community outreach. Ronald J. Vilardi, Jr. trained rigorously in Crime Scene Investigation and Photography, Identity Theft Investigation, Bias Crimes Investigation, Fingerprinting, Interrogation and Statement Taking, and Evidence Management, earning a well-deserved promotion to Detective.

As our children's safety is also of utmost importance, we sent two of our finest patrolmen to the Safe Kids Child Safety Seat class. Ptl. Christopher Isherwood and Ptl. Bryan Dougherty will now be able to train the parents of Rumson on how to correctly install their children's safety seats and advise them regarding seats that have been recalled.

Lt. Scott Paterson, head of our Juvenile Division, has launched and completed a very successful first year presenting the D.A.R.E. Program in our local school systems. D.A.R.E. is a proactive program, taught by D.A.R.E.-trained Juvenile Officers, which enables our children to make good decisions. They learn all about the perils of smoking, drugs, alcohol and peer pressure and emerge confident and empowered.

## **RUMSON EMS AND FIRE DEPARTMENT**

On behalf of the Council, I want to thank and commend Rumson EMS Captain Jen Sapner for her outstanding performance over the past three years. I'd like to point out that the First Aid Squad (EMS) routinely devotes 2,000 plus volunteer hours and answers a minimum of 350 calls every year, around the clock, at no charge, to protect our residents and to assist anyone in need.

I am happy to announce our new First Aid Captain for the year 2008 is Bob Kelleher. We all wish Captain Kelleher the best in the coming year.

It is also time to thank Fire Chief Jymm Fenn and Assistant Fire Chief Joe Ward for their dedicated service this past year. At the same time, we welcome back Joe Ward as Fire Chief and our new Assistant Fire Chief Mike Trivett. We all look forward to working with them in 2008.

I want to extend the Council's sincere appreciation to all of our volunteer firemen and women and to all of our first aid members for the work they do each year to protect us.

The Rumson Fire Department and the Rumson EMS are encouraging new volunteer members to join their ranks. Anyone interested in joining or rejoining either or both of these fine organizations, please call or stop by Borough Hall for an application.

Unfortunately, we lost a few volunteers in the past year.

From Rumson EMS, we lost long-standing member Charles H. Sully. Mr. Sully joined the First Aid Squad in 1974 and became a member of the First Aid police in 1990. He will be missed.

From the Oceanic Hook and Ladder Company, we lost Robert J. Shay. Mr. Shay joined the Company in May 1965. Mr. Shay went on to become an officer and served as Borough Fire Chief in 1979. Robert Shay served on many committees. He was also a Social Member of Rumson Fire Company and served as their President. Mr. Shay worked hard for the Rumson Fire Department for 41 years.

The Oceanic Company lost another long-time member, Anthony Scalzo. Mr. Scalzo joined Oceanic in 1959 and became a Company Life Member in 1984. Mr. Scalzo was a member for 48 years. On March 13, 2007, Mr. Scalzo's wife, Mary also passed away. Mary was a long-time member of the Oceanic Ladies Auxiliary.

The efforts of these dedicated volunteers are missed by the members and our community.

## **RECYCLING**

Our Recycling Program is working very efficiently. During 2007, Rumson recycled 8,000 tons of recyclables. The Borough at-

tempts to recycle all of its cans and bottles, newspaper, mixed paper and cardboard, batteries, flags, leaves, and brush.

### **WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT**

2007 saw the Borough update our sewer pump stations to make them more efficient and reliable. A contract was awarded for the upgrade of one of the Borough's pump stations next to the Recycling Center. The work, completed in September, included modernization of pumps and controls. Video inspection and cleaning of the sewer mains will continue in 2008.

### **RUMSON DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS TOY DRIVE**

This Christmas, for the seventh consecutive year, the Rumson Department of Public Works' employees conducted a *Toy Drive* and collected over 600 toys for children at Family and Children's Services in Oakhurst and Family Based Services of Eatontown. Our DPW employees prepared their own publicity and donated their own time to collect, wrap and deliver more than 600 gifts, providing Christmas cheer to many needy children. We salute the Rumson Department of Public Works Employees who worked so hard to make this drive a success. We thank our generous residents for supporting this great cause.

### **TREE CITY, U.S.A.**

For the 18<sup>th</sup> consecutive year, the National Arbor Day Foundation declared Rumson a Tree City, U.S.A. Community. Each year the Borough qualifies for this designation by meeting the strict requirements of the National Arbor Day Foundation with its tree planting and maintenance program for Borough streets and parks. Many new trees were planted this past year on our streets and in our parks.

### **RECREATION**

Once again the spirit of volunteerism was evident throughout Rumson as volunteer coaches engaged children in a wide variety of recreational activities. Baseball, softball, soccer, basketball and lacrosse were available for children in grades K-8. It was also a banner year for the new Rumson Crew Program, which taught 90 high school students and 80 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade children how to row. This fast growing sport ran three sessions of instruction, which culminated in competing in the November Braxton Memorial Cup Regatta, a USRowing sanctioned event on the Schuylkill River in Philadelphia. Rumson Crew proved they were ready as the high school boys placed second in their race, the girls "A" boat took second place and the girls "B" boat placed fifth. Additionally, the Recreation Department ran a comprehensive summer playground program as well as the annual Halloween parade/party and Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony. Senior citizens participated in an exercise program during the spring season at Bingham Hall.

### **RUMSON PARKS**

The Borough of Rumson has a park program that has something for everyone and every age. Each of the parks is maintained through our Department of Public Works. The fields that are used for athletic activities are rotated on a regular basis so as not to over utilize any one field. The tennis courts at Victory Park were resurfaced in 2007 and Piping Rock received a facelift with new sod. We are all very proud of the many beautiful parks in Rumson.

### **GUNNING ISLAND**

The Boy Scouts, the Borough of Rumson and the Trust for Public Land completed the protection of 20 acres on Gunning Island located in the Shrewsbury River in October 2007.

This Borough Acquisition was made possible through federal, state and county funding. Gunning Island will now be fully protected and managed by the Borough of Rumson. No Borough of

Rumson tax money was used for the purchase of the remaining half of Gunning Island.

Gunning Island was conserved for bird and wildlife habitat, preserving scenic views and open space, educational opportunities and improved water quality. The newly created wildlife preserve is accessible by water to kayakers, canoeists, student groups, birders and others for passive recreation and wildlife viewing.



Gunning Island was a natural sedge island before being supplemented by dredge spoils from the Shrewsbury and Navesink Rivers. The augmented island has quickly filled in with native flora and fauna, and is rapidly becoming an important stopover point for migratory birds, also acting as a permanent habitat to resident bird species, as well as other animals. The shoreline, wetlands and uplands in the bays surrounding Gunning Island are important as fish nurseries, foraging grounds for shorebirds and water birds, and nesting and foraging habitats and rookeries for migratory and wintering birds.

The conservation of Gunning Island ensures that this undeveloped island and its ecological, educational and recreational benefit will be forever protected for current and future generations of residents.

### **ROAD AND DRAINAGE PROGRAM**

Road and drainage work in 2007 centered on the completion of the north end of Bellevue Avenue. The total cost of the project was \$330,000 and was awarded to Earle Asphalt Company. This project significantly improved a major thoroughfare of the Borough and completed the rebuilding of Bellevue Avenue. A New Jersey Department of Transportation Grant in the amount of \$160,000 offset the project's cost and resulted in a cost to taxpayers of \$170,000.

### **RUMSON ENDOWMENT FUND**

The Rumson Endowment Fund, Inc. was formed in 1997 and has been instrumental in financing a number of projects around town. The Centennial Events were all funded by the Endowment Fund and are great examples of the generosity of the residents of this Borough.

Your donation will be tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law, and you will, of course, receive a confirmation of your donation for your records. If you wish to make a donation in the form of securities, please contact Helen Graves at Borough Hall (732-842-1170).

The generosity of the residents of Rumson is legendary, and we thank you in advance for supporting our Borough. Every gift makes a difference in its own right and will help inspire our fellow residents to participate!

### **RETIREMENTS**

Patricia "Trish" Docherty, our Summer Recreation Program Coordinator retired after 10 years of dedicated service to the Borough of Rumson. Trish developed and expanded many of the Summer Programs held at Victory Park and increased attendance to over 300 children between the ages of 5 and 12. Trish had the distinct ability to enlist a smile on the face of every child and made sure that everyone took part in a safe and enjoyable program.

## IN MEMORIAM

We regret to announce the sudden passing of Philip C. Payne, Rumson's Fire Official, on December 20, 2007. Phil worked for the Borough of Rumson for the past 22 years and had planned to retire in January 2008.

In addition to the years he gave to the Borough of Rumson, Phil also worked with other municipalities including the Borough of Fair Haven, Eatontown and West Long Branch. He also was a member of the Monmouth County Fire Marshall's Office and a fireman with Fort Monmouth.

Many of the volunteers of the Rumson Fire Department and members of the administration of the Borough relied on and appreciated Phil's knowledge, professionalism and expertise in Firematics.

Most recently, Phil assisted the Borough with its Centennial events, specifically the Fireworks displays on July 3<sup>rd</sup> and December 2<sup>nd</sup>. Phil was a professional, trustworthy and loyal employee and will be missed.

## MISCELLANEOUS

At this time, we like to welcome our new members of the Borough Family whether they are employees or volunteers. We also want to express our deepest appreciation to all the dedicated volunteers and employees who have given so much to the Borough of Rumson in 2007.

On behalf of the members of the Borough Council and myself, I want to express our appreciation to the chairmen and members of all the Borough's Boards, Commissions and Committees for their valuable and conscientious public service during 2007. They donate a great deal of their time to keep the Borough of Rumson operating efficiently. This year also saw the resignations of longtime Chairman Scott Thompson of the Recreation Commission as well as Trudy Parton of the Planning Board. We thank them for their many years of service and dedication to our Borough.

Finally, I want to express my deep appreciation to the members of the Borough Council, who donate hundreds of hours of their time, at least four Thursday afternoons or evenings each month in addition to various project and committee meetings, all focused on the operation of our Borough Government. We have a team of honest, dedicated, intelligent elected officials, who are committed to providing the Borough with the best government possible. I would like our residents to know that we all serve without compensation, and we try to be responsive and fair in meeting the needs of our overall community.

Significant progress has been made this past year and those efforts will continue. The Borough always strives to provide the most efficient services at the most reasonable cost. All decisions will continue to be made in the best interests of the entire Borough and all of its residents. Your comments and suggestions are always welcome.

We thank you for attending this 2008 Re-organization meeting of the Borough Council. On behalf of the members of the Borough Council and myself, I want to extend to everyone here today and all Rumson residents my best wishes for a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year. May God bless us all, and God Bless America.

Sincerely,

*John E. Ekdahl*, Mayor

## RUMSON POLICE DEPARTMENT

On December 14, 2007, Patrolman Christopher Isherwood and Patrolman Bryan Dougherty successfully completed the week long National Standardized Passenger Safety Training Program. Patrolmen Isherwood and Dougherty are now Certified Child Passenger Safety Seat Technicians. These Officers will be able to assist parents and show them the proper and safe way to install their child safety seats. The Rumson Police Department will be holding a safety seat checkpoint sometime in the spring of 2008. In the meantime, anyone with questions or concerns about child safety seats can contact either of these two officers at 732-842-0500.

### Safe Rider Program

Children in Rumson will now be rewarded for wearing their helmets while riding their bicycles. If children are "caught" wearing their helmets, they will be given a Safe Rider Award which entitles them to one free ice cream cone at Crazees courtesy of the Rumson PBA. On school days, Police Officers are always in the school zones, so make sure that you are wearing your helmet to and from school, and you may get yourself some free ice cream. We would also like to remind parents that the law pertaining to bicycle helmets has changed, and anyone under the age of 18 is required to wear a helmet when riding a bicycle.

### Department Staff

The Rumson Police Department would like to congratulate Special Officer Christian Hostrup for being hired as a full time Police Officer with the Fair Haven Police Department and Special Officer Brian Egan for being hired as a full time Police Officer with the Deal Police Department. Both of these officers did a tremendous job while here in Rumson and will be greatly missed by all.

## RUMSON FIRST AID SQUAD

The Rumson First Aid Squad is an all-volunteer organization that is staffed by your friends and neighbors and provides basic pre-hospital emergency care services at no cost to our residents.

In 2008, we will be reviewing ways to enhance the role of the squad in our community. For example, we are developing a method for residents to gather helpful medical information in an easy to carry card. These folded over cards will be about the size of a business card and contain many important pieces of information (medications, medical history, allergies, contact information, etc.) that are extremely useful in the case of an emergency. It is our hope to make these cards available in early 2008. Residents will be able to fill these cards out at their leisure and keep them in their wallets, purses or taped to their refrigerator or phone. While we are researching this and other proposals, we welcome ideas and comments from all members of our community.

At our December meeting, we elected a slate of new line officers for 2008. We elected Bob Kelleher to serve as Captain. Bob has been a resident of Rumson since 2002 and has served as an officer in the First Aid Squad since 2004. He has been our First Lieutenant since 2005. Bob is a claims adjuster for Chubb Insurance, an active coach with various sports in our town's recreation department and an avid marathoner and tri-athlete. Diane Dupuy won election to serve as First Lieutenant. Diane is a six-year resident and is very active with numerous organizations including the Monmouth Day Care Center. She is an avid ice-hockey player. She served in the dual capacity of line officer since last year and Treasurer since 2006. Diane is also an American Red Cross certified CPR instructor. Moira Stodden won election as Second Lieutenant. Moira is a life-long resident of Rumson and works as a medical technician at Riverview Medical Center. She joined the squad in 2006. Joe Truex won election to

serve as Sergeant. Joe has been a member of the First Aid Squad since 2006, when he moved to Rumson from Fair Haven. Joe served as Captain (2005) and President (2004) of the Fair Haven First Aid Squad, and he remains an active member with the Fair Haven First Aid and Fire Departments. We are very pleased that these wonderful residents agreed to volunteer their time in 2008 for these important roles.

At the December meeting, the first aid squad also elected a new slate of executive officers. Ed Moran, a life-long resident of Rumson, will serve as President. Ed works in New York City for a hedge fund management firm and is a director of the Rumson Endowment Fund. We elected our recent Captain Jen Sapnar as Vice President. Jen, a resident since 2002, works as a research assistant for a global packaging company and is an active coach with our town's sports recreation department. She is also an avid tri-athlete. John Wibbelsman, a resident since 1995, won election as Treasurer. John is an investment advisor and one of the primary architects behind the very successful Two Rivers Old Guys lacrosse league, also known as TROG. Finally, Pam Gehret, a resident since 1992 agreed to remain as Secretary for a second year.

As we look forward to 2008, it is a good time to reflect and thank key members of our squad for their contributions over the past year. We would like to offer a special thanks to Jen Sapnar and Jeff Nixon who served as Captain and President respectively. Jen served as Captain of the First Aid Squad from 2005 through 2007, the longest tenure for a captain since the 1970's. Jeff Nixon's term as President of the First Aid Squad is his third as he held the position in 2003 and 2004. Jeff is a life-long resident of Rumson and an active member of the First Aid Squad since 1992. He is also a Sergeant with our Police department. Their dedication to the squad has brought about improvements in all aspects of our operation to allow the squad to bring the highest possible level of service to the Rumson community.

We would also like to offer a special thanks to Danny Petrocelli, Jr. Dan agreed to serve another year as our Engineer, having held the position since 2005. As Engineer, it is his responsibility to make sure all our equipment and ambulances are operational and properly supplied. His work is integral to the efficient application of medical attention during a first aid call. Dan is a life-long resident of Rumson and joined the squad as a cadet. During the past year, Dan completed his training and certification to become an Emergency Medical Technician and is currently studying to become a police officer in Long Branch.

Finally, we would like to offer a special thanks to Don York and Mike Trivett. Don and Mike are employees of Rumson's Public Works Department and have been the primary mechanics for our ambulances. They are instrumental in keeping our ambulances operational through regular maintenance and making repairs at all hours of the day and night. Don and Mike maintain all Borough emergency services vehicles ensuring the necessary equipment is available when needed most. It should be noted that during the course of any emergency, the residents of Rumson can sleep easy knowing these gentlemen remain on call 24 hours a day and will report promptly, should the need for their services arise. Both Don and Mike have been active members in the First Aid Squad since 1999. Their service to the squad includes being members of our Board of Trustees. They are also volunteer firefighters, with Don being a member of the Rumson Fire Company and Mike a member of the Oceanic Hook and Ladder Company. Mike Trivett will serve as the Assistant Chief of the Rumson Fire Department in 2008.

We mailed our 2007 fund drive letter to all Rumson residents recently and appreciate your continued generosity. You can

make donations directly through the mailing or online by going to our website, [www.rumsonems.org](http://www.rumsonems.org). You can also make a donation through the Rumson Endowment Fund by designating the First Aid Squad as the recipient. All donations made to the First Aid Squad are used for the procurement of medical supplies and equipment for our ambulances, training of our all-volunteer staff and the maintenance of our aging building.

We are always looking for new members to join the First Aid Squad. If you are over the age of 18, please visit us at [www.rumsonems.org](http://www.rumsonems.org) or call us at 732-741-0474 and leave a message.

#### **TIPS FOR ELECTION DAY**

- Applications for absentee ballots are available at Borough Hall.
- Curtains around the voting booth are no longer controlled by a lever.
- Don't wait until the last minute to vote; polls close promptly at the designated time.
- It is not possible for those who are infirm to vote from cars outside the polling place: voters must be able to enter the polls. If they are not able to get into the polls, voters should utilize absentee ballots.
- Take your sample ballot along to the polls. It enables you to read the questions being voted on and gives a quick reference as to where you should vote.
- Rumson Country Day School is no longer being used as a polling place. There has been some confusion among District 5 Rumson voters who have previously voted at Rumson Country Day School. Their polling place is now at Congregation B'nai Israel along with District 4. Two tables are set up there for the two Districts. It will save time if you know which district you live in, and this information is clearly given on the top of your sample ballot.
- Rumson Fire House is no longer being used as a polling place. Those who previously voted at the Rumson Fire House now vote at the Borough Hall Court Room.
- Holy Cross School is no longer used as a polling place. Those who previously voted at Holy Cross School now vote at Forrestdale School.
- Oceanic Hook and Ladder Fire House is no longer being used as a polling place. Those who previously voted at the Oceanic Hook and Ladder Fire House now vote at the Borough Hall Court Room.

#### **VETERANS' DAY CEREMONY**

The annual Veterans' Day ceremony took place at Victory Park on November 10, 2007. Each year this ceremony is a heartfelt celebration of the patriotism and devotion of the men and women from this community who have served this nation in the armed forces. Dan Edwards, President of the Rumson Veterans' Committee, hosted the event. Col. John A. Koenig, USMC, grew up in Rumson and is now the Commanding Officer of the 14<sup>th</sup> Marine Regiment in Fort Worth, Texas. Col. Koenig gave a meaningful address at the ceremony. Shortly thereafter, we learned that Col. Koenig was presented with the prestigious Legion of Merit by President George W. Bush. He was cited for "exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding service while serving as Assistant Chief of Staff, G-5, II Marine Expeditionary Force in support of Operation IRAQI FREEDOM... Playing a key role in the coordination and oversight of the civil military operations for the Marines in Al Anbar, his mentorship and guidance provided inspiration to the Marines,

Sailors and civilians deployed throughout the province.” We send Col. Koenig our thanks and congratulations.

## RUMSON HISTORY “ON THE ROAD”



Elsalyn Palmisano, Rumson’s Record Management Consultant/Archivist, shows Claire French, Monmouth County Clerk, the Rumson Centennial exhibit at the New Jersey Historical Commission Annual Conference held at the Marriott Hotel in Trenton on November 17, 2007. Over 300 historians attended the programs and viewed the exhibits.

Ms. Palmisano premiered this display at the 11th Annual Monmouth County Archives Day held October 13, 2007 at the Monmouth County Library Headquarters in Manalapan. This was the first time that the Borough of Rumson exhibited at this event which showcased 70 exhibits from historical societies, museums and state agencies.

## SHADE TREE COMMISSION

### Strangled by the Lights

Christmas is a distant memory, but here is a reminder to homeowners: Remember to remove your outdoor lights that were wrapped around your yard trees. “Tree-wrapping,” winding the cords round and round each trunk and branch, can be harmful if left on year after year. As the trunks and branches grow thicker, the circling cords dig into the bark and impede the movement of food and water up and down the tree.

### Tree Stewardship

Last fall provided a spectacular display of foliage color which lasted into Thanksgiving. Red and Sugar Maples, Ash, Zelkovas (like the one in front of our Borough Hall) and Pears were particularly brilliant. It would be hard to imagine Rumson without this beautiful display each fall. However, take note that with nearly every new home built or remodeled, there is an increasing loss of Rumson’s elegant shade trees, which provide this beauty and much of the character of the town. The Shade Tree Commission would like to encourage each homeowner to replace lost Shade Trees. Each new tree contributes its own beauty and helps to keep the character of our wonderful town as well as it’s quality of life.

### Did You Know?

In a single year, a 10 yr. old tree can absorb as much carbon dioxide as is produced by a car driven 26,000 miles. Trees also produce life-giving oxygen as they take carbon dioxide from the air to grow. Trees stabilize soil and prevent erosion and flooding. This is just the start of a much longer list of why we all need to THINK TREES. ( Information reprinted from the International Society of Arboriculture, [www.isa-arboriculture.org](http://www.isa-arboriculture.org))

## OCEANIC FREE LIBRARY

**Renovations to the Children’s Room are now complete.**

**Please stop by and enjoy the new room.**

Come see our new lighting, the window seat, our wishing well and the magical castle with its own seating. We also have new

tables, chairs and pillows for children to sit on during story hour. Our opening reception was held on Sunday, January 27th and was a great beginning for this beautiful, newly-renovated area.

### Artwork on display

During the month of January, artwork by local watercolorist Bob Stetz was on display. The showcase was filled by an afghan created by the Friday Knitting Group. It will be raffled off to benefit the Library. Come and take a chance on this beautiful and original knitted afghan, and see the other raffle items that are on display.

In February, abstract paintings by Sheilanga Casey will be on display on the walls, and her jewelry will be in the showcase. Graziella Smith will loan her art for the month of March, and Daidra Carsman’s jewelry will be in the case. April will find us decorated by the oil paintings of Ross Jahnig. The showcase will display jewelry by Robin Milne and Lois Rosenthal.

### CHILDREN’S PROGRAMS: EVERY TUESDAY

- Baby Storytime Series-Ages 10 months to 2 years (with parent/caregiver) 10:00-10:20 am
- Toddler Storytime Series-Ages 2-3 (with parent/caregiver) 10:30-10:50 am
- Preschool Storytime Series-Ages 3-5 11:00-11:30 am
- School Age Programs-Grades K-5 3:30-4:15 pm

### LIBRARY HOURS:

Monday/Thursday 1:00 pm-7:00 pm

Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday 10:00 am-5:00 pm

Saturdays 10:00 am-2:00 pm

Closed: Tuesday, February 12, Lincoln’s Birthday; Monday, February 8, Presidents’ Day; Friday, March 21,

Good Friday; Saturday, March 22, Easter.

- Book Club meets fourth week of the month. Call Library for details.
- Knitting Group meets Friday afternoons at 2:00 pm. All skill levels welcome.
- We accept books that are in brand-new condition. PLEASE DO NOT LEAVE BOOKS OUTSIDE, because the weather will ruin them.

**Oceanic Free Library 732-842-2692**

## RUMSON WOMENS’ CLUB

The Rumson Womens’ Club is holding its annual Gift Auction on April 11, 2008 at the Church of the Nativity on Ridge Road in Fair Haven. This event is being done to benefit local charities supported by the Club. The gifts have been donated by area businesses and individuals and range from gift cards for local restaurants to fabulous gift baskets with a variety of items. Last year, the gift items included a high definition TV as well as a guitar donated and signed by Jon Bon Jovi. It is a great evening to enjoy while helping others. Tickets are being sold on a ‘first come, first serve’ basis. To purchase tickets or donate a gift for the auction, contact Ann Marie Hohmann at 732-530-1773.

## NEWCOMERS’ CLUB

The Newcomers’ Club of Rumson, Fair Haven, Little Silver and Shrewsbury will hold their annual “The Lucky Name” on Wednesday, February 27th at Shadowbrook in Shrewsbury. Traditionally, this is the Newcomers’ biggest fundraising event of the season and showcases local merchants and their donations in a raffle/auction format. This event features a Chance Auction, Silent Auction, 50/50 and a Grand Raffle Prize. Ticket packages are available, and the entry fee for the event is \$48. Proceeds from this event will go to benefit The Parker Family Health Center, Red Bank.

The Newcomers' Club is a non-profit social and charitable organization. The purpose of the club is to make new residents' transition to the area easier by organizing monthly activities and introducing them to the establishments and resources in the area.

For information contact either Fundraising Chair: Mitsie Butler, (732) 842-6337 or Christine Sullivan, (732) 741-5830.

### **DOG LICENSES**

Reminder: Dog Licenses expired on January 31, 2008. There will no longer be a renewal form in the Borough Bulletin. Renewals and new licenses must be applied for at Borough Hall. In order for a license to be issued, rabies shots must be valid through October 31, 2008.

Summonses are automatically generated on non-renewed dog licenses. Therefore, it is suggested that dog owners notify the Borough Offices when a dog passes away to avoid receiving a summons for non-renewal of that dog's license.

### **NO DOGS ALLOWED IN BOROUGH PARKS**

For the safety of the children and residents of Rumson, the Borough does not allow dogs, on leash or off, in any of the Borough parks or on school properties. Thank you for your cooperation. In accordance with General Borough Ordinance 5-8.7 A

### **RUMSON GARDEN CLUB**

The Rumson Garden Club (RGC) held its annual Christmas Greens Workshop on Dec. 8<sup>th</sup>. The RGC members decorated wreaths and made holiday centerpieces which were given to the Rumson Borough Hall, Oceanic Library, Parker Family Clinic, Love, Inc., Aslan Youth Ministry, The Monmouth Youth Detention Center and other organizations. We also distributed candy bags to the residents of the King James Care Center.

#### **Mark Your Calendars**

The Rumson Garden Club Annual Plant Sale will be held on Sat. May 10, 2008 behind the Rumson Borough Hall. As always, there will be a selection of perennial plants from members' gardens as well lovely flower arrangements for Mothers Day.

### **RUMSON RECREATION**

#### **Sports Registration Dates**

Registration forms for the various sports programs in town are distributed to children through the public schools. Residents with children who do not attend the local public schools may register at the Rumson Borough Hall Mondays through Fridays from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm.

Registration forms are typically available as follows: December-baseball/softball/tee ball, January-crew & lacrosse, April-crew, soccer, flag football, summer basketball and various summer camps, September-crew & basketball.

#### **Registration Deadline/Team Size**

The registration deadline for baseball, softball and tee ball was January 18, 2008. All forms received after January 18, 2008 must include an additional \$10 late fee. Additional forms may be completed at the Rumson Borough Hall. This program is for children in grades K-8.

Recreation teams that play in traveling team leagues will have a limited roster size of twelve players per team. Rumson teams are at a disadvantage when they have rosters of sixteen players who have to compete with other towns with twelve player rosters. Players on travel teams must play within the designated age guidelines (not

grade) required by the various leagues. Please register on time for all of the sports programs so that we can plan ahead to include all players in our recreation programs.

The lacrosse registration deadline is February 1, 2008. Late registration forms may be completed at the Rumson Borough Hall-8:30-4:30 PM Mondays -Fridays. This program is for children in grades K-8.

Additional information about recreation programs may be found on the town website [www.rumsonnj.gov](http://www.rumsonnj.gov)

### **BOY SCOUT TROOP 201**

Boys in Rumson Boy Scout Troop 201 were tested on their commitment to "Be Prepared" and "Do A Good Turn Daily" in November. During a backpacking trip, two very lost hikers appeared at their camp in Harriman State Park in New York after dark. The young man and woman had no compass, flashlights, or food and were unprepared to spend the night in below-freezing temperatures. According to Brian Wilson, Scoutmaster, the huge loop the couple planned on hiking would have brought them right back to their camp. The Troop pulled out maps, "lent" them flashlights and a compass and headed them in the right direction. Optimistically, the boys asked them to leave the equipment in a truck they had parked at the trailhead. Next morning, they were pleased to discover their equipment in the truck, confirming that the couple had made it back safely!

In a bittersweet transition, Gary Juncosa retired as Scoutmaster of Troop 201 after five years of dedicated, tireless, and fun leadership. Everyone misses his sharp wit, and the adults miss his famous campsite cuisine, with paella a favorite! Brian Wilson, Boy Scout extraordinaire, has assumed the helm, and already has overseen campouts to West Point, Ockanickon and Harriman. He is, for the second time, heading the Troop's preparations for the wilderness hiking experience at Philmont Scout Reservation next June. His deep commitment promises to keep Rumson Troop 201 going strong for many years to come!

In December, the Troop was treated to hands-on first aid training, courtesy of Rumson First Aid Squad volunteers. Jen Sapnar, Bob Kelleher, Diane Dupuy, and Mark Burdge brought in equipment and helped the boys simulate and treat such emergencies as broken bones, hypothermia and the need for CPR. We're lucky to have such a responsive and talented team when we need them. Thank you to all.

Also in December, the Troop took a day trip to Ellis Island and the Statue of Liberty. This was the first time that many of the boys had visited either landmark. They enjoyed the interactive software that allowed them to view the names of relatives who had moved through the immigration process at Ellis Island.

Congratulations to Troop 201's new Eagle Scout, Michael Roig of Rumson. Michael led his fellow Scouts in collecting and repairing 25 bicycles, which they donated to St. Anthony's Church in Red Bank. The bicycles will be distributed to individuals needing them for transportation to and from work.

**WANTED: BOYS WHO CRAVE ADVENTURE, INDEPENDENCE, AND LEADERSHIP!** Rumson Boy Scout Troop 201 fosters life changing experiences! Any boy who has completed fifth grade, is 11 years old, or who has earned the Arrow of Light is welcome to join us any Wednesday night from 7:30-9 pm at Forrestdale School. For more information, call Jamie Roberts, 732-758-0454.



The Seniors Holiday Bazaar was co-chaired by Carolyn Ott and Peg Connor. Lillian Haines and Jeanne Cuje co-chaired the Gift Auction. Once again, it was a huge success. President Vivian McCormick thanked all of the members who worked so hard to prepare for their only fundraiser. Special thanks to the community for supporting the event each year and to all of the merchants who so generously donated the prizes that made our Bazaar so successful. Proceeds from this fundraiser are used to provide refreshments at all social meetings, give grants to graduating RFH seniors, subsidize trips, give gifts for shut-ins and to help us create our two luncheons each year.

Seniors brought toys to the December meeting which were donated to the annual collection by the Rumson Department of Public Works.

This year's annual Holiday Luncheon was held at the Salt Creek Grille. Lillian Haines chaired the event. President McCormick thanked Lillian and her committee and welcomed Mayor John Ekdahl, his wife, Lolly and ex-Mayor, Chillie Callman. A wonderful time was had by all and it put everyone into the holiday spirit.

Winners of prizes for the annual Halloween costume and decorated pumpkin contests were: prettiest costume, Dolores Ryan; funniest, Betty and Art Newman; and most original, Peg Connor. Prettiest pumpkin, Irmgard Thompson; funniest, Gina Cesario; and most original, Jeanne Cuje. Diane Cross and Peg Horn coordinated a group of twelve seniors to help Denise Walker with the annual Halloween Parade, sponsored by the Rumson Recreation.

One of the Club traditions is to provide a special cake for a member who celebrates his or her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday. In November, life member, Doris Robinson was so honored. Members are also recognized with special cakes on their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversaries. Congratulations went to Gloria and Buddy Bush on their 63<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary on October 8<sup>th</sup>.

Dottie Burlew represents the group at the Monmouth County Office on Aging. She brings the information back to the group monthly. She presented an informative presentation about reverse mortgages and also provided members with the monthly bulletin.

The Tower Players at RFH extended an invitation to all members to be their guests to enjoy the fall production of

"*Snow White and the Seven Seamstresses.*" Everyone had a wonderful time and certainly enjoyed the show.

Due to illness, Margery Hroncich found it necessary to resign as Recording Secretary. Fran Haydick volunteered to assume her responsibilities and was unanimously voted into the office.

Members went on a trip on January 17<sup>th</sup> to see "*Barefoot In the Park*" at the Hunterdon Hills Playhouse, where they also enjoyed a delightful lunch.

Second Vice President Marge Bergman arranges all outside activities. She is working on a trip for March 12<sup>th</sup>. Members will enjoy a terrific Irish show and, of course, corned beef and cabbage. This is one of our favorite annual trips.

Several of our members are supporting the Seniors at Holy Cross where the participants are knitting scarves for soldiers in Iraq. The club has always actively supported any organization which asks for their help. Our members are very community oriented.

Condolences were extended to Teresa Brennan in the loss of her husband, Jack, who was a life member of the club. Sympathy also went out to the family of member, Catherine Miller.

Members meet bi-monthly at 11:00 a.m. in Wilson Hall at the Rumson Presbyterian Church on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Mondays of the month. All Rumson Seniors, 55 and over, their family members and friends are invited to join this very active group.

Respectfully Submitted:

*Jeanne Cuje*

Publicity Chairman

**Schedule of Meetings:**

February 11 and 25

March 10 and 24

April 14 and 28

If a meeting must be cancelled due to inclement weather, members will be notified.

## MAYOR

John E. Ekdahl

## BOROUGH COUNCIL

Robert Kammerer

Shaun P. Broderick

Joan P. DeVoe

Joseph K. Hemphill

Mark E. Rubin

Frank E. Shanley

## ADMINISTRATION

Thomas S. Rogers, Municipal Clerk/Administrator

Roberta H. Van Anda, Editor

[www.rumsonnj.gov](http://www.rumsonnj.gov)

## RUMSON BOROUGH HALL

(732) 842-3300

## DEPT OF PUBLIC WORKS

(732) 842-8941

## CALENDAR

### FEBRUARY

- 4 Planning Board, 7:30 pm
- 11 & 25 Senior Citizens Club, Presbyterian Church, 11:00 am
- 12 & 26 Borough Council, 7:30 pm
- 18 **PRESIDENTS' DAY: NO GARBAGE COLLECTION, BOROUGH HALL AND LIBRARY CLOSED**
- 19 Zoning Board, 7:30 pm

### MARCH

- 3 Planning Board, 7:30 pm
- 5 Shade Tree Commission, 4:00 pm
- 10 & 24 Senior Citizens Club, Presbyterian Church, 11:00 am
- 11 & 25 Borough Council, 7:30 pm
- 18 Zoning Board, 7:30 pm
- 19 Recreation Commission, 7:30 pm
- 21 **GOOD FRIDAY: NO GARBAGE COLLECTION, BOROUGH HALL AND LIBRARY CLOSED**

### APRIL

- 7 Planning Board, 7:30 pm
- 1 Zoning Board, 7:30 pm
- 8 & 22 Borough Council
- 11 Rumson Women's Club Gift Auction, Church of the Nativity
- 14 & 28 Senior Citizens Club, Presbyterian Church, 11:00 am
- 16 Recreation Commission, 7:30 pm

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