RUMSON CENTENNIAL EDITION 2007 No. 2

Settled in 1665

In 1882, William Everard Strong built this elaborate mansion on his Meade-Lawns estate on the corner of Avenue of Two Rivers and Rumson Road. After 50 years as an elegant summer home for prominent New Yorkers, it was demolished in the early 1940's when the property was developed into Pine Ridge.

2007 MAYOR'S ADDRESS

The following is a report of the Borough events and activities of 2006.

THE BOROUGH COUNCIL

Over the past year, I have had the distinct pleasure of working with the Council members you see before you. In 2005, we reduced each Council Committee to 3 Council members per Committee, down from 4. In 2006, we saw those same Committees work closely with the different Borough managers, methodically reviewing all aspects of the Borough. Consultants and professionals were brought in to help us analyze and refine the services we provide Rumson's 7,500 residents. The Council did this by continuing to find new ways to be financially accountable and efficient. The Council has and will continue to spend time looking into shared services and cooperative efforts with our schools to help reduce costs for the Borough taxpayer. 2007 looks like it will bring us some of the same challenges we saw last year. Increases in Health Care, Insurance Costs and Fuel Prices will all affect the Borough's budget in 2007.

ORDINANCES

The Borough passed ordinances to improve the parking situation around the schools during school days. The addition of these ordinances will allow us to respond in a safer and timelier manner to emergencies in the neighborhoods surrounding our schools. The Borough will continue monitoring areas around town to assure the safety of all of its residents.

RUMSON'S AFFORDABLE HOUSING PLAN

The New Jersey Council on Affordable Housing ("COAH") has adopted regulations concerning affordable housing. The Borough and its Planning Board have adopted an affordable housing plan, filed that plan with COAH and asked COAH to approve that plan. In 2005, the Borough submitted its 3rd Round Plan to the Council on Affordable Housing in Trenton. The plan is reviewable at Borough Hall. We are awaiting COAH's approval of our plan expected sometime in 2007.

BOROUGH HALL

In 2005, the Council Building Committee hired an architect and, through him, an historical consultant to evaluate the future of Borough Hall. In 2006, an engineering study of our existing Borough Hall was commissioned. The Building Committee has spent considerable time comprehensively researching the best options for the building's design that would improve workplace efficiency and use the most cost effective construction methods. With construction slowing and interest rates at record lows, the timing could not be better for this project. In the coming months, we will schedule meetings with our residents to review the Committee's plan and hope to break ground this year.

2006 saw Thomas Rogers complete his State Certification as a Municipal Clerk. Jane Hartman and Loretta Chebookjian also completed their State Certifications, each as a Municipal Registrar of Vital Statistics.

Records retention, organization and consolidation continue to be a major objective of the management of the Borough. This is a project the Borough has focused on in the past 2 years, and it is now near completion. In 2007, we will be one of 5 towns selected to become part of Monmouth County's research project on records retention.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

2006 was an exciting year for our Police Department. Captain Richard Tobias was sworn in as the Borough's Chief of Police on May 18th, 2006. The Council and Police Committee enthusiastically look forward to working with Rick. We are confident that his energy, expertise and 24 years of service to the residents of Rumson will prove to be a great asset to our community.

On August 17th, 2006, the Borough hired two new police officers. The first officer, Richard Torres was a dispatcher for our police department and grew up here in Rumson. Damien Brennan was an officer in the NYPD and now lives in Monmouth County with his wife and daughter. Both are currently attending the Police Academy and will be patrolling in March. We welcome both new officers and wish them well.

Finally, on August 24th, 2006, Sergeant Scott Paterson was promoted to Lieutenant. Scott has been an officer in the Borough for the past 13 years. His positive leadership and interest in this community continues to be an important asset to the Borough.

FIRE AND EMS

On behalf of the Council, I want to thank and commend Rumson EMS Captain Jen Sapner for her outstanding performance during the past year. Jen has agreed to serve as our EMS Captain for the year 2007 as well, continuing the tradition of excellence that is associated with Rumson EMS. 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

It is also time to thank Fire Chief Joe Ward and Assistant Fire Chief Jymm Fenn for their dedication during the year. At the same time, we welcome our new Fire Chief Jymm Fenn and his new Assistant Chief Joe Ward, and look forward to working with them in 2007. 2006 also marked the 100 Year Anniversary of Rumson Fire Company and included a parade and picnic in Piping Rock Park. Residents and fire companies from the surrounding towns held off the rain clouds for an event enjoyed by all.

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

The Rumson and Oceanic Fire Departments 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 (732-842-3300).

OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

In 2006 Rumson's Office of Emergency Management received State and County approval of the emergency plan for our Borough. We upgraded equipment by replacing our high water evacuation army truck with a newer model. The additions of a flat bottom boat, portable light tower and message board have further enhanced the program. The Emergency AM Radio System is now on the air and will be a source for news in the event of an emergency.

Over the next few months, a new Emergency Alert System will be installed in a number of locations throughout the Borough replacing the outdated horn and siren systems. Primarily used to alert our volunteers, this new system will also alert our residents to flooding or other impending emergencies.

The Council and I take living in such close proximity to the coast seriously, and we want to be as prepared as possible in the event of severe storms or other emergencies.

RUMSON CENTENNIAL COMMITTEE

The Rumson Centennial Committee got together in 2006 to plan all of the festivities celebrating Rumson's 100th Birthday throughout 2007. The first event, "A Winter Cocktail Party", is designed as a major fundraiser for other Centennial gatherings, such as the Centennial Parade and Town Picnic on June 9th, a great big town party in Victory Park with music, fabulous food and plenty of fun. The committee has scheduled a lot of activities all through 2007, and many individuals and businesses are collaborating to make our Centennial a very special year for Rumson.

RUMSON ENDOWMENT FUND

The Rumson Endowment Fund, Inc. was formed in 1997 and has been instrumental in financing a number of projects around town, including the spectacular Bingham Hall renovation and the fantastic upgrades to Victory and Piping Rock Parks, to name just three. These projects were simply beyond the scope of the Borough's fiscal budget, but, through the wonderful generosity of a number of residents, donations to the Endowment Fund made these worthy projects possible.

The 2007 Centennial presents a similar challenge to the Borough's budget, so we ask you to consider the Rumson Endowment Fund in your annual giving plans to help defray the costs of some of the Centennial events. 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 (732-842-3300).

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

RECYCLING

Our recycling program is working very efficiently. During 2006, Rumson recycled 7,500 tons of recyclables. The Borough attempts to recycle all of its cans and bottles, newspaper, mixed paper and cardboard, batteries, leaves and brush. And now, with the help of the Boy Scouts, our Flag Drop continues to be a great success. In 2006, we also added a Borough message board to the Recycling Center to be sure our residents are informed of upcoming Borough events.

WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT

The cost of sewage treatment continues to rise. Therefore, it is important to reduce sewerage flows as much as possible. Our goal has always been to eliminate infiltration and illegal connections, which saves a considerable amount on our annual sewer bill. The Borough Engineer estimates that one sump pump is the equivalent of 30 houses being connected to the sanitary sewer system. It is illegal to have a sump pump connected to the sanitary sewer.

This violation carries a $1,000 fine and/or 90 days in jail; the violation penalty also applies to the plumber. Yard drains and roof drains are two other examples of illegal sewer connections. If you have any of the above, please call your plumber immediately to disconnect the discharge and make other arrangements, such as a storm drain connection with Borough approval. If you would like the Borough to inspect your home for these connections, feel free to contact Borough Hall.

2006 also saw the Borough review and begin to update our sewer pump stations. A contract was awarded in December for the upgrade of the Borough's pump station next to the Recycling Center. We hope to begin the work in February 2007.

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 900 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 900 gifts, providing Christmas cheer to many needy children. This year was a record collection, setting the bar even higher for next year! 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.

Rumson was once again declared a Tree City, U.S.A. Community by the National Arbor Day Foundation for the 17th straight year. 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. 32 trees were planted in 2006.

RECREATION

Throughout 2006, Rumson Recreation continued to expand its offerings and utilize our parks and park facilities. One recreation highlight was the establishment of the new and emerging program, Rumson Crew. Based at Victory Park, Rumson Crew will initially be for high school students who will participate in a spring program on the Navesink River and attend statewide rowing regattas. In December, senior citizens registered for the new Senior Citizen Exercise Program, which will be held at Bingham Hall beginning in January 2007. All of the other established recreation programs (lacrosse, flag football, baseball, softball, basketball, summer hoops, soccer, summer playground and summer camps) continue to flourish. Improvements to our local parks, the highlight of which was the opening of the newly developed Riverside Park, have enhanced the active and passive recreational activities for all members of the community.

RETIREMENTS

Joan E. Walker, a longtime resident of Rumson began her career with the Borough of Rumson as the Court Administrator

Joan Walker was congratulated by former Mayor Charles S. Callman on the occasion of her retirement.

on July 15, 1991. She had the distinct privilege of working under the jurisdiction of Judge William Kirkpatrick followed by Judge Richard Thompson. Joan was a loyal and dedicated employee. She retired on October 31, 2006.

Joseph Raniere, a lifetime resident of Rumson began working for the Borough of Rumson in the Department of Public Works on October 1, 1986 and retired on March 31, 2006.

Linda McClement, also a lifelong resident of Rumson worked part time as the assistant to the Tax Assessor for 11 years. Linda retired on March 10, 2006.

WELCOME NEW COUNCILMAN JOSEPH HEMPHILL

Councilman Joseph Hemphill was appointed to the Borough Council on June 15, 2006 to fill a vacancy created by the resignation of J. Matthews Conaty.

Joseph Hemphill, a lifetime resident of Rumson, attended Holy Cross elementary school and graduated from The Hun School in Princeton. He is a graduate of Parsons College in Fairfield, Iowa with degrees in Economics and Computer Science.

Mr. Hemphill was the Senior Vice President of a regional bank prior to starting his own business 30 years ago, here in Rumson.

Joe and his wife Robin, also a lifetime resident of Rumson, have 2 children who attended Rumson schools.

Mr. Hemphill was honored to be asked to represent the Borough as a Councilman and looks forward to serving the residents of Rumson.

IN MEMORIAM

Geraldine Hunter worked for the Borough of Rumson, part time as the Code Enforcement Officer, Zoning Officer and Zoning Board of Adjustment Secretary for over 11 years. She resigned from her position on June 30, 2000. Ms. Hunter passed away on December 10, 2006.

Former Councilman and good friend Harry Barbee, Jr. passed away suddenly on October 12, 2006. Harry was a longtime resident of Rumson, served with honor and distinction as a Borough Councilman from March 27, 1980 to December 31, 2000. He was a member of the Zoning Board of Adjustment prior to serving on the Council. Harry was a gentleman, and he will be missed.

RUMSON PARKS

The Borough of Rumson has a park program that should make every resident proud. This year the parks department continued its push to rotate field usage. The tremendous recreation and scholastic sports programs press our fields to the limit. Proper planning is essential and required to maintain the condition of our athletic fields.

Riverside Park's improvements, funded by the Borough directly through Green Acres low interest loans and built by Precise Construction, was ready for the 2006 baseball season. The park includes two new ball fields with irrigation, infields, safety fencing and backstops. The fields were converted for use as soccer fields in the fall of 2006. The new parking lot, small playground area and a walking trail along the water are also great additions that the residents of Rumson have enjoyed.

In 2005, the Borough had its Community Center, Bingham Hall, completely rebuilt through the generosity of one of our loyal Rumson residents. 2006 saw the building open on January 1st for the first Council meeting of the year. Since then this great Community Center has welcomed a variety of organizations and is now in full operation, providing a wonderful environment in which to meet.

ROAD AND DRAINAGE PROGRAM

Road and drainage work in 2006 included the repaving of a portion of Bellevue Avenue and a portion of Washington Street. We also completed work on Belknap and Windmill Lanes, and began some other maintenance projects that will be completed as soon as the weather warms. The total cost for these projects was $650,000, and the Borough received grants from the State Transportation Trust Fund of $150,000 to offset these costs.

The Borough has also benefited from a number of road projects done by the County. The latest was the much-awaited completion of the County project to add drainage and repave a section of Bingham Avenue.

BOROUGH EVENTS

MEMORIAL DAY PARADE AND SERVICE

To honor America's servicemen and women, the Borough had its annual Parade and Memorial Day Service at Victory Park. The parade included representatives of many of the Borough's organizations and a number of Rumson's veterans in uniform. Memorial wreaths were placed at the monuments during the service conducted around the recently renovated bandstand.

VETERANS DAY CEREMONY

This year was the second year the Borough held a Veterans Day Ceremony. It was hosted by Dan Edwards, President of the Veteran's Committee and honored all veterans who have served our country, at home and abroad, in the defense of freedom and our American way of life. Mr. Edwards noted the addition of 6 names to the new veterans monument dedicated two years ago. We encourage all of you to join us next November for this important annual ceremony.

CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING

The Rumson Recreation Commission, along with the Tree Lighting Committee volunteers, hosted a festive and flawless tree lighting ceremony on a crisp evening in early December at Victory Park. Hot chocolate and carols preceded the big countdown and the brightly lighted tree put everyone in the holiday spirit. Once again, we thank everyone involved for providing a great family night for our community.

MISCELLANEOUS

This is the time of the year that we like to welcome our new members of the Borough Family – residents, employees and volunteers. We also want to express our deepest appreciation to all the dedicated volunteers and employees who so faithfully served the Borough of Rumson in 2006.

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 Boards, Commissions and Committees for their valuable and conscientious public service during 2006. They donate a great deal of their time to keep Rumson operating efficiently.

Finally, I want to express my deep appreciation to the members of the Borough Council, who donate countless 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 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 the 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 our 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 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

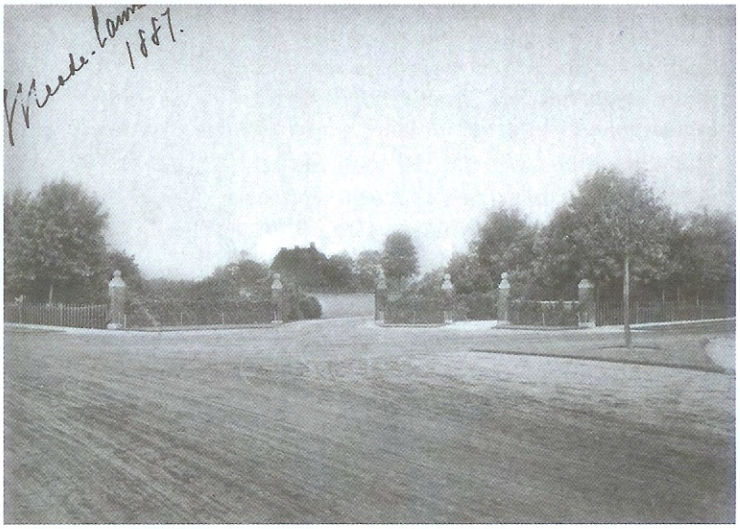
ALL ABOUT RUMSON

The Point: Part I

As we begin our Centennial year, it is interesting to look back on how our peninsula was settled, what it was like throughout history and how it developed into what it is today. During our early years, many different names were used to designate various areas of what is now Rumson. We are familiar with many of them because they live on in street and place names. Sections of Rumson have been called Port Washington, Oceanic, Black Point, Cartontown, Passage Point and West Park. The Rumson Road vicinity was referred to as Seabright, and the designation remained for many years after our incorporation in 1907. Seabright (the original spelling was as one word) was the Mecca for fashionable vacationers from New York City. Its proximity to Long Branch, the most elegant of resorts, made it "THE place to be" from the 1870's until the advent of easier transportation to more exotic locales. A family could travel on an elegant steamboat to Long Branch and then take the Long Branch and Sea Shore Railroad line to the hotels and gracious mansions of Seabright. Most of the socialites built their elegant "cottages" along the oceanfront. However, a few of the more prescient summer residents lobbied for the construction of the Jumping Point Drawbridge, precursor to the Sea Bright Bridge, and built increasingly more elaborate mansions along Rumson Road. Socially conscious people would prefer to boast that they had visited Long Branch or Seabright rather than mention little-known Rumson, and, even though a river divided this area off from the beachfront community, the early residents of the Rumson Road vicinity gave their addresses as Seabright, NJ. One of the earliest New Yorkers to see the potential of our side of the river was William E. Strong.

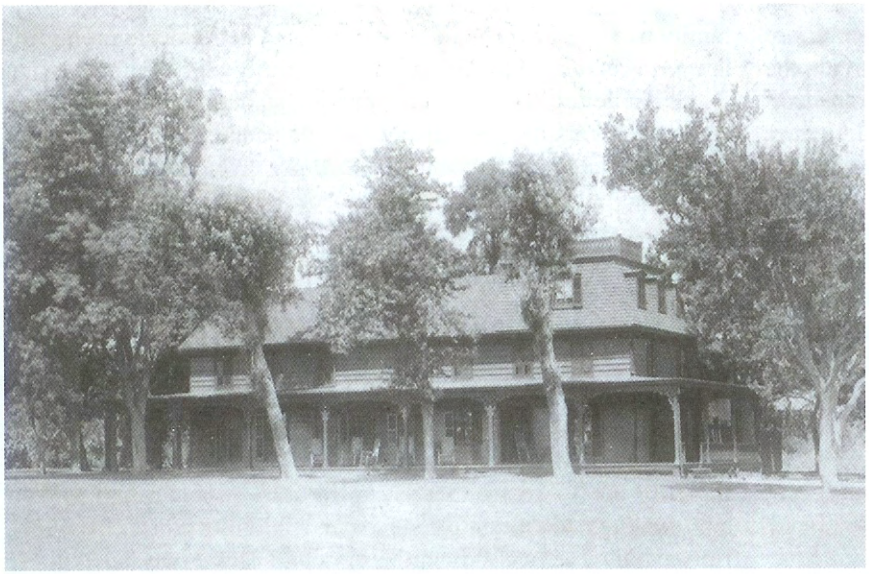
William Everard Strong, was born in Chillicothe, Ohio in 1836. His family tree was filled with famous names; an online genealogy takes his ancestry back to Edward II, Charles I, Louis I, Charlemagne, Coel I ("Old King Cole"), Claudius Caesar and Marcus Antonius, better known as Cleopatra's lover. His English Everard relatives can be found on lists of the peerage and intersect ancestry with the Spencer family and Diana, Princess of Wales. His mother was Annie Massie, a daughter of Revolutionary hero General Nathaniel Massie, who was related to the Byrds, Meades and other prominent Virginia families. He arrived in New York City in 1864 and had a highly successful career in law and finance. In 1873, he married Alice Corbin Smith daughter of Francis Lee Smith and Sarah Gosnell Vowell of Alexandria, Virginia. Alice's family tree was also one of distinction, and her father, a prominent lawyer, was related to the famous Lee family.

Even before his marriage, Mr. Strong sought a vacation home at the Shore, and he purchased nearly 95 acres of land from Albert R. Borden in 1870 for about $275.00 per acre. The property was on the northwest corner of Avenue of Two Rivers and Rumson Road and went west as far as Forrest Avenue; it was a portion of one of the original land parcels that stretched from river to river. Those who live in Pine Ridge on Robin Road, Blossom Road, Tulip Tree Lane and Clover Lane are on what was once farmland of the Borden Farm and Strong Estate. According to *The History of Rumson*, the Bordens had a farmhouse on their property that had originally been on Treadwell property near the North Shrewsbury River, now the Navesink River, east of Avenue of Two Rivers. In 1870, the 15 room, three-story wooden structure was said to be more than 150 years old. It may actually have been the Salter House from Jack's Landing, the original Black Point landing and destination of The Burlington Trail. William Hintelmann, the owner of Hintelmann's Real Estate firm, told researchers in 1944 that his father, John Hintelmann, lived in the house when it was part of the Borden Farm. His father told him that the house originally stood near Jack's Landing, which was about 250 feet east of what is now Island Road. In the 1700's, it may have been used as an inn by John Hartshorne when he operated Jack's Landing and had stage coaches picking up travelers who arrived from New York on boats. The Black Point Inn is mentioned in Hornor's "This Old Monmouth of Ours" as the first summer resort on the New Jersey coast. If this description in *The History of Rumson* is accurate, the long mystery of the location of the Black Point Inn has been solved.

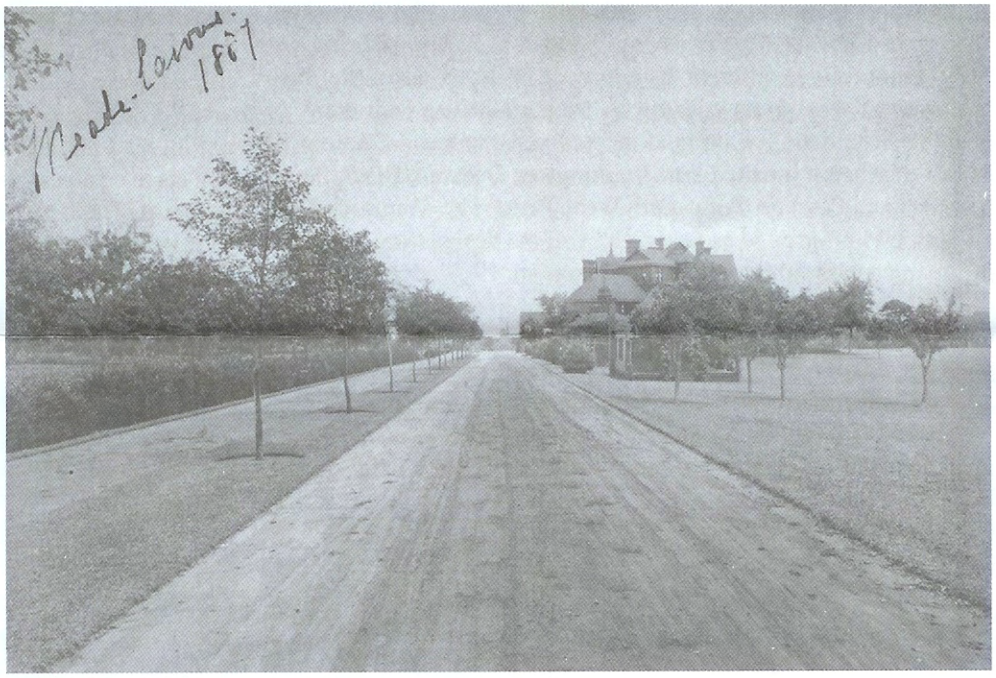


The Rumson Road entry gates to Meade-Lawns in 1887. They existed until recent times.

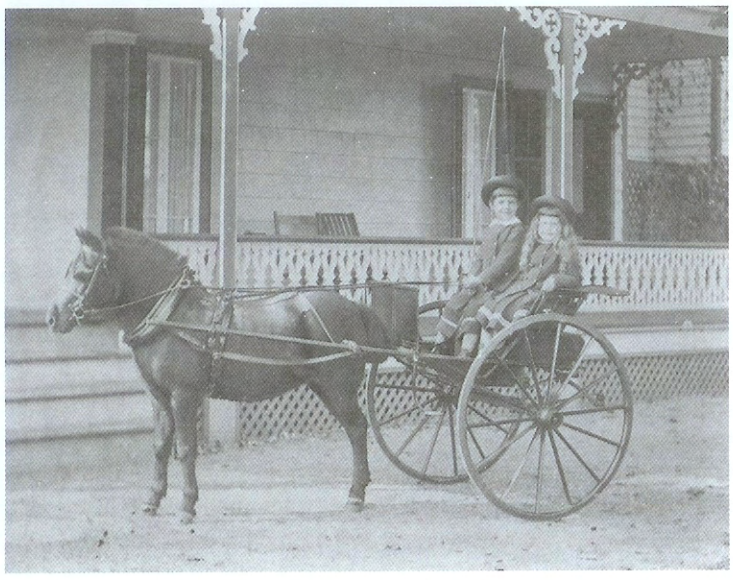
Mr. Strong and his family used the Borden house, which was sited low to the ground and surrounded by porches, during the warm weather months until 1882 when he moved it and began construction of Meade-Lawns, a large shingle style mansion that would blend in perfectly with those that are being built here at this time. It was very grand with its turrets, gables, porches, porte-corcheres and amazing architectural features. Just about anything that could be used to decorate a mansion was featured on this structure.



This building was on the Borden Farm when William E. Strong purchased the property in 1870. It was reputedly 150 years old at the time. The History of Rumson *reported that it once stood at Jack's Landing as the first inn on the New Jersey Coast. Was this the "Black Point Inn"?*



Meade-Lawns was constructed in 1882 by Mr. and Mrs. William E. Strong. This image shows the drive leading up to the mansion.



The two older Strong children, Francis Lee and Anne Massie, in their pony cart around 1880 outside of their original Rumson residence.

Footnote: Many thanks to Michael Steinhorn, Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Love, Richard Scudder, Nancy Haaren, Nancy Battey and William Hintelmann for photos, reminiscences and information.

He constructed a barn and greenhouses that have long since disappeared and a commodious stable/carriage house that is now a beautiful residence at the end of Clover Lane. Many of us remember the grand brick gates that once graced the entry to this estate.

Three children were born to the Strongs during their years at Meade-Lawns. Their only son, Francis Lee Strong, was born in 1873. Two daughters, Anne Massie Strong and Alice Everard Strong, were also born to the family in 1874 and 1876. Tragedy struck the Strong family in April of 1888 when Francis died of a heart problem. In his memory, the family donated a stained glass window to their church, St. George's on the Hill, and it was later moved to St. George's by the River.

Through multiple purchases, Mr. Strong amassed 170 acres of land on what is now the area around Oyster Bay Drive and Avenue of Two Rivers South. He graded the land, bulkheaded the entire shoreline, demolished an existing 1746 farmhouse on the site and had Rumson contractors Pearsall and Bogle build a stunning mansion designed by Charles E. Woods of New York out near the shoreline. What may once have been called "Wright's Point" came to be called "Strong's Point." The Strongs began construction in 1895 and were able to occupy their new summer home in 1896. They named their estate The Point.

In 1893, the Strongs sold Meade-Lawns to Albert Goodwill Spalding. (However, in 1900, Mr. Strong told John C. Olmsted that he had sold part of the Meade-Lawns acreage to William F. Havemeyer, jr.) Albert Goodwill Spalding was famous for his career in baseball and also for manufacturing sporting goods, a business that he shared with his brother, J. Walter Spalding, a summer resident of Monmouth Beach. The pitcher of the Boston Baseball Club made his reputation when his team won the championship for four successive years between 1871-5. He was later manager, secretary and president of the Chicago Whitestockings and was one of the organizers of The National League. Instrumental in the development of the first baseball glove and the catcher's mask, he also was known as the first player to use the overarm pitch. He pitched the first major-league shut-out, founded A.G. Spalding & Bros. in 1876, was the author of *America's National Game* in 1911 and was inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame. Mr. Spalding's wife, Jennie, died suddenly in 1899 after having her appendix removed. Before much time had elapsed, Mr. Spalding married his mistress, Elizabeth Mayer Churchill, and renamed their previously illegitimate child Albert Goodwill Spalding, Jr.

In *Rumson: Shaping a Superlative Community*, Randall Gabrielan reported his research into the continuation of the history of the Borden/Strong estate. The Spaldings relocated to California and sold Meade-Lawns in 1901 to David Lamar, who duplicitously used the name of his brother-in-law on the deed. A stock speculator, Lamar was called the "Wolf of Wall Street" and was known for "unscrupulous bearish raids in the stock market." He made millions, but he was sentenced to two prison terms for his dishonest dealings. After Lamar defaulted on a mortgage, William Strong, the holder of the first mortgage, attempted to foreclose on the property. Unfortunately, Mr. Strong was unable to retrieve his estate, and Mr. Spalding regained title in 1904 at a sheriff's sale. David Lamar was able to stay in residence as he mounted a legal challenge claiming to have entitlement to remaining in the house. The case took three years to settle and went all of the way to the Supreme Court, whose decision finally made it possible for Albert Spalding to sell the property in August of 1907.

The new owners were James and Sophia Williston who had Watson & Hackel, architects from Philadelphia, create a design that remodeled Meade-Lawns into a Colonial Revival mansion. James R. Williston was the head of J.R. Williston & Company, a Wall Street Brokerage located at 11 Wall Street, and a member of the New York Stock Exchange. He and his wife, Sophia, had one daughter, Anna Louise, who married Charles G. Van Schurman at her parents home at 58 Central Park West in 1921. The Willistons later lived at 927 Fifth Avenue. Here in Rumson, Mr. Williston was a member of Rumson Country Club, and he was a member of the Union League and Pilgrim Club in New York. Sadly, Mr. Williston died at the age of 70 on March 15, 1931 as a result of a tragic accident. He had been convalescing after appendix surgery at Monmouth Memorial Hospital, now Monmouth Medical Center, and had a private room. The *New York Times* reported that "Mr. Williston's death resulted from either a jump or fall from a third story window." Hospital officials and the county physician determined that the death was accidental and did not report the incident to the local police. Considering that this accident took place in the Depression years when suicides of wealthy people happened with regularity, speculation about Mr. Williston's demise has been toward the jump scenario. However, when Mrs. Williston passed away only six years later, there were enough funds to enable her to donate $375,000 to Harvard. This does not indicate that Mr. Williston had stared at poverty in his last days. He was a loyal Harvard graduate from the Class of 1882, and Mrs. Williston was able to leave funds to set up a permanent foundation in his memory. The James R. Williston Professor of Investment Banking at the Harvard Graduate School of Business remains a most prestigious professorship to this day.

Because of the Depression, selling her estate in Rumson was not an option, and it was still in her possession upon her passing in March of 1937. Sitting vacant for several years left it unprotected from vandalism and deterioration, and the mansion was badly damaged by a fire that started on the third floor in January of 1938. The house was not restored, and Mrs. Williston's estate sold the property to General Howard S. Borden in 1940. It had left Borden ownership in 1870 and was now Borden property again seventy years later. General Borden worked with realtor William Hintelmann to subdivide and create the Pine Ridge development. What was once the elaborate and elegant Meade-Lawns mansion was demolished to make room for the ranch, Colonial, and Cape Cod type houses that were built on the property in the early 1940's. What happened to the 1720 era building that may have been the Black Point Inn? The *History of Rumson* book says that it was moved again, but it does not give a location. Does the photograph of the Borden farm house look familiar to anyone? Could it possibly be somewhere in town as a much remodeled but still existing structure? If it is, it is a major part of our history. What remnants of Meade-Lawns exist in the backyards of Pine Ridge? What remains of The Point around Oyster Bay Drive and Avenue of Two Rivers South? If anyone has anything to add to this story, please email your editor at avananada@comcast.net.

In future issues, we will return to the story of The Point, and the following questions will be answered. What is The Point? Who made The Point? Who got The Point? Who didn't want The Point? Where is The Point? Where is the rest of The Point? What about the successor of The Point, and where is that structure now? The plot thickens.

RUMSON POLICE DEPARTMENT

An important seasonal reminder: It is unlawful to stand or park any vehicle of any kind, nature or description on any street within the Borough of Rumson during the months of December, January, February and March between the hours of 3:00 am and 5:00 am (Borough Ordinance 7-3.4, Schedule II) Summonses will be issued. This ordinance was enacted to ease the job of the Road Department doing wintertime overnight snow removal, but applies to every night from December 1st through March.31st.

DOG LICENSES

Reminder: Dog Licenses expired on January 31, 2007. 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, 2007.

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.

RUMSON FIRST AID SQUAD

The Rumson First Aid Squad had a very successful year in 2006 and is very excited about the condition of the squad as we enter 2007. We have almost 30 active members on the First Aid Squad, twelve of whom are certified emergency medical technicians (EMT) Two more members recently completed their training and took the challenging national exam. Upon formal certification of these members, the Rumson First Aid Squad will have the highest number of EMT's on active duty in almost 10 years! In addition, there are another four members considering taking the EMT classes and exam in 2007.

In December, we held our annual elections for officers. We elected Jeff Nixon President of the executive board. Jeff is a life-long Rumson resident and is a Sergeant for the Police Department. Jeff has been a member of the Rumson First Aid Squad since 1995. Ed Moran, another life-long resident of Rumson and a hedge fund professional, was elected Vice President. Ed joined the squad in 2006. Pam Gehret and Diane Dupuy were re-elected secretary and treasurer respectively.

Don York, Mike Trivett, Barbara Moorehead, Dan Petrucelli, Sr. and Norman Long were elected to our serve on our Board of Trustees. Don and Mike are employees of the Public Works Department and also volunteer their time as members of the Oceanic Fire Company. Barbara works as a school crossing guard, and Dan is a Lieutenant with our Police Department.

Jen Sapnar was elected to serve another year as captain, a role she has had since April 2005. Bob Kelleher was elected 1st Lieutenant and Jim Hempstead was elected 2nd Lieutenant. Bob works for a large insurance company, and Jim works as a research analyst. Diane Dupuy was elected to serve as Sergeant and recently completed certification to be a CPR instructor.

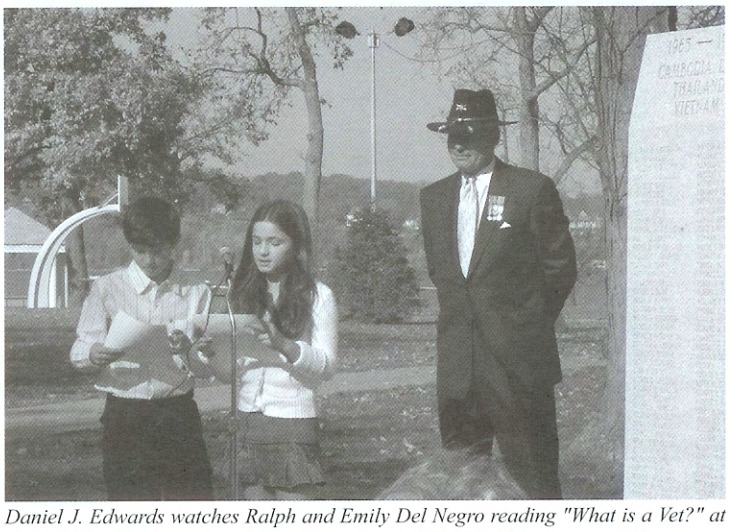
As reported over the course of the year, our members have been very active with training and taking continuing education classes sponsored by local area first aid squads, MONOC or local hospitals. This training was put to the test very recently when we had our first helicopter emergency transport in several years. A local construction worker had fallen and suffered significant trauma. Working together with MONOC, our Police and Fire Departments, we were able to secure a helicopter to transport the patient to Jersey Shore Medical Center. We'd like to thank everyone involved for making this difficult situation run smoothly.

Finally, we recently mailed our Annual Fund Drive letters to all residents. As you may know, we rely on your generosity to help fund our operation, which includes the maintenance of our building and equipment, the procurement of supplies and the training of our membership. We would also like to highlight that one of our two ambulances is beginning to reach the end of its useful life. We have commissioned an "ambulance committee" to begin working up the specifications to purchase a new ambulance. This purchase is probably 18 to 24 months away, but we must start working on the project now. A new ambulance could cost almost $350,000. If you are interested in supporting us, you can make a donation directly to the First Aid Squad by using the return envelope included in our mailer, or you can make a donation through the Rumson Endowment Fund by specifying the First Aid Squad. Alternatively, you can visit us at our website (www.rumsonems.org) and make an electronic donation via PAYPAL. All donations are tax deductible, and we appreciate your continued support.

The Rumson First Aid Squad is a volunteer organization, with all of our members being neighbors and workers in town. We are always looking for additional members; if you are interested in volunteering some time for a worthy cause, please contact us at 732-741-0474 or visit our website at www.rumsonems.org.

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



Daniel J. Edwards watches Ralph and Emily Del Negro reading "What is a Vet?" at the Rumson Veteran's Day Ceremony on November 11, 2006.

VETERANS' DAY CEREMONY

On November 11th, 2006, in what is becoming a cherished tradition, Rumson saluted our Veterans at a ceremony held near the new Veterans' Memorial in Victory Park. Boy Scout Troop 201 posted the colors for the Pledge of Allegiance and stood in respectful silence during the program which was led by Daniel J. Edwards of the Rumson's Veterans organization. The Invocation

and Benediction were offered by The Reverend William F. Feus of St. George's by the River, and Mayor John E. Ekdahl was the guest speaker. Forrestdale student Melissa Cooper read her essay entitled "Trickling Freedom," and Ralph and Emily Del Negro read a poem defining "What is a Vet?" by an anonymous author. It was a picture perfect fall day made all the better by the opportunity to publicly thank those Rumson Veterans who gave so much for their country.

VICTORY PARK TREE LIGHTING

On December 5, 2006, Rumson Recreation sponsored the annual Christmas Tree Lighting in Victory Park. It was a perfect night, and residents enjoyed the carols and musical performances by the Santa hat bedecked Deane-Porter Third Grade Choir, The Rumson-Fair Haven Regional High School Tower Singers and Channel Three Music. Hot chocolate and candy canes were dispensed, and one of the school children was selected by a drawing to press the switch that turned on the lights on the Victory Park Christmas tree. Rumson Recreation Commission member Denise Walker chaired the event as she has for many years. She would like to thank the Rumson Fire Companies and First Aid Squad for their support and for having the fire trucks and ambulances out to add to the feeling of "a real town event." Thanks also to the Deane Porter Third Grade Choir, The Tower Singers and Channel Three Music as well as to Brownie Troop 1052 for setting up luminaries and to the Scouts who helped with the luminaries and served hot chocolate. The Rumson Police Department and Department of Public Works helped make the evening go smoothly. She also wants to thank Dave Ciambrone of Val's Tavern and David Lamb, who helps each year with the technology needed to make this event so special.

The Deane-Porter Third Grade Choir enjoyed performing at the Tree Lighting Ceremony in Victory Park.

OCEANIC FREE LIBRARY

The fund-raising for the children's room is in full swing. We have the Giving Tree up on the wall, and we have about a dozen leaves up with others at the engravers being prepared for display. We also have two rocks in place. Rocks and leaves-what's this about rocks and leaves? The Giving Tree, or Donor Recognition Tree, is our major fund-raising effort as we attempt to modernize and energize the Children's Room. Donors to this campaign have the opportunity to purchase a leaf for the tree or a foundation stone which will be engraved with a personal inscription. Residents are embracing this project designed to improve and enhance the library experience of our youngest patrons. "Oceanic Library Children's Room Fundraiser" brochures contain information about the project and include a donation form for your contribution. They are available at the Library. Our goal is to raise $80,000 with the help and support of our community. Don't forget also that we can benefit as you shop online using IGive.com. We are also accepting matching funds. How wonderful to see the whole community come together for the improvement of the Children's Room, which is being renovated for our Rumson Centennial. We invite everyone to stop in and see the progress as it unfolds.

Works by local artists are on display every month. In December, Ann Danieli's art graced our walls, and Elizabeth Bond's jewelry was a big hit in the display case. January saw artwork by Dr. Charles Sills on the walls and Beverly Hertler's small works in the case. In February, Mary Cooper will have a mixed media showing, and Sandra Roberts will have jewelry in the display case. Jan Wright will share her painting and small works with us in March, and we will have works by Joy Yang on the walls and jewelry by Marty Beaton in the case during the month of April.

In December, William White gave a fascinating talk about his latest book, IN PURSUIT OF GLORY, which continues his series about the Barbary Wars.

We accept only books that are in brand-new condition. Please do not leave any books outside where they will be destroyed by weather conditions.

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS: EVERY TUESDAY

Baby Storytime Series: Ages 10 months-2 years (with parent/caregiver) 10-10:20 am

Toddler Storytime Series: Ages 2-3 (with parent/caregiver) 10:30-10:50 am

Preschool Storytime Series: Ages 3-5 11-11:30 am

School Age Programs: Grades K and up 3:30-4:15 pm

Book Club meets during the fourth week of the month. Please call the Library for details.

Knitting Group meets Friday afternoons at 2:00 pm All levels welcome.

LIBRARY HOURS:

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

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

Saturday 10:00 am-5:00 pm

SHADE TREE COMMISSION

We hope everyone enjoyed the fabulous foliage display that was evident all over town this fall. Of particular note were the Sugar Maples on River Road a bit west of the carriage house with the clock and another grouping on the corner of Rumson Road and Woods End Road. These "hardwood" trees had brilliant color for weeks along with some stunning Red Oaks, Red Maples, Ashes and Zelcovas. Consider planting these "solid oldies but goodies" when adding trees to your yard. The Red and Sugar Maples, as well as Ash trees give us the most color in the upper canopy (over 50'). Zelkovas and Pears give us good color in the 15-30' range. Most of the Oaks, Pin and Willow for example, only give us color in shades of brown.

A few tree reminders from the International Society of Arboriculture "Think Trees" brochure:

Trees need our help in order to survive! Think about it! The trees on our lawns, along our roads and in our parks will not survive without our help. Insects, diseases, buildings, road construction, drought and air pollution are continuously at work to weaken and ultimately kill our trees. Be a steward of the trees in your yard.

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-lacrosse, April-soccer, flag football, summer basketball and various summer camps, September-basketball.

REGISTRATION DEADLINE/TEAM SIZE

The registration deadline for baseball, softball and tee ball was January 19, 2007. All forms received after January 19, 2007 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 we can plan ahead to include all players in our recreation programs.

The lacrosse registration deadline is February 2, 2007. 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

RUMSON CREW

Rumson Recreation is starting a new program for high school age children who would like to have the opportunity to participate in a rowing program. After the initial meeting in September, 50 high school students expressed an interest in this program. A steering committee of parents has been formed and a fundraising committee and public relations committees are now active. It is our hope to offer a winter conditioning program and launch our spring season this year at Victory Park.

On November 11, a ceremony was held at Bingham Hall to christen a rowing shell, "The Harry Barbee," donated by Dan Edwards and his family. The guest speaker for this event was Ted Nash, a former Olympic champion and current Olympic team coach.

Rowing is one of the fastest growing sports in the country. There are currently fifty-seven scholastic rowing programs in New Jersey alone; over 100 colleges now have crew teams. Rumson Recreation has offered some initial funding for this program; however, more money is needed to finance the start up costs. If you would like to make a donation, please send your check to the Rumson Borough Hall payable to the Rumson Endowment Fund and earmarked for Rumson Crew.

RUMSON WOMEN'S CLUB

The Rumson Women's Club met on November 6th. A representative from CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate), a volunteer program that trains and assigns adults to look out for the best interest of children who are in the DYFS system due to neglect or abuse. All of the gifts from the giving tree that was located in the Wachovia bank lobby were donated to CASA. Thanks to all who so generously brought the gifts.

The December 4th meeting was our annual holiday buffet dinner and gift exchange. We had a wonderful time and enjoyed watching each other open our gifts. The non-perishable food donation was a great success. Thank you to Doris Doherty for organizing the food drive.

The January meeting was held on the 8th. We had our "Annual Unwanted Holiday Gift Auction." We each wrapped up a gift from the holidays and other members bid on them. This meeting was, as always, lots of fun.

February and March are regular meetings, which will be held on the 5th of each month. Planning for our yearly gift auction will be a priority at these meetings. The gift auction is our largest fundraiser. The gifts last year ranged from restaurant gift certificates to a LCD TV.

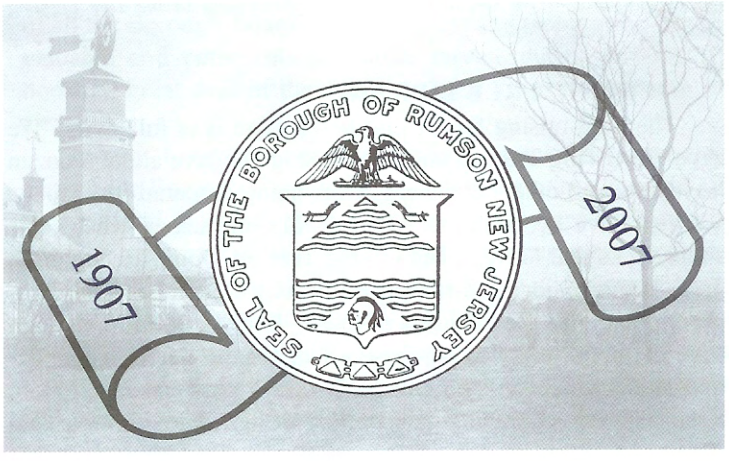
The April meeting will be held on the 2nd. This will put the finishing touches on the gift auction. Any donations of gift items will be greatly appreciated. For more information please contact Thea Davis 732-842-7298.

The gift auction will be held on April 27, 2006 at The Church of the Nativity in Fair Haven. Tickets are $10.00 and can be obtained by contacting any member of the club or Thea Davis. The doors open at 6:30 pm for ticket holders and at 7:00 for door sales of any available tickets. The drawing of the tickets for prizes will begin at 8:00. Bring your own food for supper; beverages will be sold at the auction.

As always new members are welcome to attend any meeting. For information call Pat Ray at 732-495-5369 or Thea Davis at 732-842-7298. All meetings are held at Bingham Hall on the first Monday of the month at 7:30.

www.rumsonnj.gov

Rumson's new website and email system is now in place. Check it out at www.rumsonnj.gov



RUMSON SENIOR CITIZENS CLUB

Back in October, members enjoyed a fun filled Halloween Party. Prizes were presented to winners of both the pumpkin decorating contest and for the funniest, most original and prettiest costumes. The decorated pumpkin winners were Dorothy Burlew, funniest; Margaret Reynolds, prettiest, and Irmgard Thompson for the most original. Costume winners were Jeannette DiSpiito, funniest (and, boy, was she funny!), Peg Connor, most original and Margaret Reynolds, prettiest. Several of the members, headed by Tom Merkel, assisted with decorating and serving at the Rumson Recreation Halloween parade and party. Denise Walker always calls upon the seniors for help, and the seniors want to commend Denise on the terrific joy she does each year. The annual trip to Plaatzl Brauhaus in Pamona, N.Y. to enjoy the Octoberfest concluded the social activities for the month. All trips are arranged by Rosemary Hulse.

Special thanks to the community from President Vivian McCormick and all of the members for making the Annual Holiday Bazaar on December 2nd another huge success! Appreciation is extended to the businesses and merchants who gratuitously donated prizes and to everyone who attended. This is the Club's only fundraiser; thus, it is a very important event. Chairing this year were Margaret Reynolds, Jeanette DiSpirito, and Peg Connor. Vivian also expressed appreciation to Irmgard Thompson for donating the beautiful handmade and decorated Dollhouse and to Walter and Jeanne Cuje for donating the 27" Sharp television. The items in the three grocery baskets were donated by all of the members. The gift auction and these three raffles are what make the fundraiser financially successful. Vivian again wants to express appreciation to each of the members who chaired a table, to those who baked wonderful treats, and to those who filled our tables with jewelry, Christmas gifts, handmade items and almost new treasures. Of course, once again Vienna King treated everyone to gastronomic pleasure by cooking the chili, sausages, and meatballs. Thanks also to John Kondrup, Bill Scalzo and Bob Johnston for overseeing the 50/50 raffles. The Rumson Senior Citizens certainly know how to work together and have fun!

December kept the group very busy. Members brought toys to the December meeting which were donated to the Rumson Department of Public Works for their annual toy drive. Our Seniors are very community oriented and enjoy helping whenever and wherever possible. Margaret Reynolds and her committee members, Lillian Haines, Peg Connor, Jeasnette DiSpirito, Emily Wagner and Jeanne Cuje, organized the annual Holiday Luncheon on December 13th at the Shore Casino. There were more than 50 members and guests in attendance. It made us so happy to have Mayor John Ekdahl and his wife, Lalli, and former Mayor and Honorary Member Chillie Callman join us for the festivity. Margaret Reynolds, proud Grandmom of David and Michael Pizzolato, introduced the boys who provided wonderful entertainment on sax and piano. The brothers led a sing-a-long of holiday tunes. They have entertained the Seniors on other occasions, and are always a great hit. A gift exchange followed the delicious meal, and everyone left filled with holiday spirit.

Rosemary Hulse has arranged for a trip to Hunterdon Hills Playhouse on January 24th. She is also arranging for a St. Patrick's Festival on March 14th at Mike Doolan's in Spring Lake. If you are interested in joining the Seniors at any of these events, please call Rosemary at (732) 842-3368.

President McCormick extends an invitation to all Rumson residents, 55 years or older, to join the fun and activities shared by the Club. Members are also welcome to invite relatives and friends to join. Meetings are held bi-monthly at 11:00 a.m. at Wilson Hall, Rumson Presbyterian Church.

Respectfully Submitted:

Jeanne Cuje

Publicity Chairman

Meeting Dates:
Feb. 12 and 26
Mar. 12 and 26
April 9 and 23
If a meeting must be cancelled due to inclement weather, members will be notified.

Rumson Recreation-- Exercise for Seniors

Any Seniors interested in participating in an exercise program to be offered by Rumson Recreation once each week at Bingham Hall should contact John Hird, Supervisor of Parks and Recreation/Recreation Director at 732-530-6607 or jrhird@comcast.net

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, Borough Clerk/Administrator
Roberta H. Van Anda, Editor

www.rumsonnj.gov

Rumson Borough Hall

(732) 842-3300

Dept of Public Works

(732) 842-8941

CALENDAR

FEBRUARY

1 First Quarter Property Taxes Due
1 & 15 Borough Council, 7:30 pm
3 Rumson Centennial Winter Cocktail Party, 7pm, Rumson Country Club
5 Planning Board, 7:30 pm
7 Shade Tree Commission, 4 pm
19 **PRESIDENTS' DAY: NO GARBAGE COLLECTION, BOROUGH HALL AND OCEANIC LIBRARY CLOSED**
20 Zoning Board, 7:30 pm

MARCH

1 & 15 Borough Council, 7:30 pm
5 Planning Board, 7:30 pm
7 Shade Treee commission, 4 pm
20 Zoning Board, 7:30 pm
21 Recreation Commission, 7:30 pm

APRIL

2 Planning Board, 7:30 pm
4 Shade Tree Commission, 4 pm
5 & 19 Borough Council, 7:30 pm
6 **GOOD FRIDAY: NO GARBAGE COLLECTION, BOROUGH HALL AND OCEANIC LIBRARY CLOSED**
17 Zoning Board, 7:30 pm
18 Recreation Commission, 7:30 pm
21 Rumson day at the Blue Claws
27 Rumson Women's Club Gift Auction, Church of the Nativity, 6:30 pm

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