



**RUMSON
CENTENNIAL
EDITION
2007 No. 3**



The Point, the last Rumson residence of William and Alice Strong, was completed in 1896. It stood for nearly 30 years on the peninsula of land that is now bordered by Oyster Bay Drive and Avenue of Two Rivers South. The Point still exists today on Avenue of Two Rivers near Oceanic Library and is the home of Douglas and Peggy Love & their family.

ALL ABOUT RUMSON

In our last issue, the history of one part of Rumson was highlighted, and the William Everard Strong estate, Meade Lawns, that was once located on the corner of Rumson Road and Avenue of Two Rivers was the focus of the narrative. The story ended with the depression era fire at the vacant Williston home followed by its demolition and the creation of the Pine Ridge development by General Howard S. Borden in 1940. We now return to the original owners of Meade Lawns and follow them to their new estate, The Point.

During his time at Meade Lawns, William E. Strong began amassing a large tract of land on the south side of Rumson Road. After selling Meade Lawns to Albert Goodwill Spalding, the Strongs began construction of a new house on their 170 acres that comprised much of the area around what was called Oyster Pond or Oyster Bay and is now known familiarly as "Polly's Pond." (One of Mr. Strong's purchases was from Polly Corlies who was the Polly of "Polly's Pond.") The land that once comprised The Point is now Oyster Bay Drive and Avenue of Two Rivers South. The area was once called Wright's Point, and the 1889 map shows a small house near the river designated as being owned by "Dr. Wright." Logic deducts that it was probably the farmhouse that predated the Strong's mansion. According to information given by Mr. Strong to John Charles Olmsted, the Strongs left Meade Lawns in order to have a "smaller and simpler house that they could leave with less anxiety, and also to gain more seclusion and a broad water view. The view is a remarkably extensive one for inland water, but it is marred by the ugly bare buildings of the village of Seabright." He also remarked that they demolished the 1746 farmhouse and built on its site to take advantage of the large trees that surrounded the old house. The building designed by New York architect Charles E. Woods and constructed by local contractors Pearsall and Bogle was completed in time for the family to enjoy it as their summer home in 1896, and the peninsula came to be called Strong's Point. A well known local landscape architect, Civil War veteran Col. Nathan Barrett, was retained to design the estate's grounds, and planting was done at the time of the construction of the mansion.

Anyone who has wondered why Avenue of Two Rivers does not continue in a straight line on the far side of Shrewsbury Drive will find the explanation fascinating. When Mr. Strong purchased his acreage, Avenue of Two Rivers continued as a dirt road all the way to a boat ramp at the very tip of the estate. It was a public thoroughfare, and anyone was free to go right through the estate dragging their boats along the right of way to the river. This was unacceptable. Mr. Strong went to Freehold and convinced authorities to accept a new road 'one field over' as the public road, so Avenue of Two Rivers South took a detour for aesthetic reasons. The former public road became the main drive of the estate, and the original boat ramp was replaced by river access at the end of the new road.

About five years later, things were changing for the Strongs. Mr. Strong was in the process of retiring from his firm and was thinking 'down the road' about the future of the estate. In 1900, he hired the Frederick Law Olmsted Landscape Architecture firm to design and execute a landscape plan for The Point. The plan was part of an exploration into the possibility of subdividing as a source of income in the future. The landscape drawings survive in the archives of the National Park Service Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site based at the former offices of the Olmsted firm in Brookline, Mass. The drawings show that the estate was

immense and diverse. It consisted of acreage that was eventually carved into well over one hundred current properties. There was a gatehouse, greenhouses, barns, an ice house, a summer house, stable/carriage house, motorcar garage, laundry house and specially designed landscape screened the laundry yard to ensure that Victorian sensibilities prohibiting the public display of intimate garments on the clothesline were not offended. It was a working farm with cattle grazing, crops growing and a water tower for irrigation.

A private dock accommodated visitors who arrived by boat, and their first sight was immaculately tended gardens. The Strongs were surrounded by growing things from the ivies growing around the house and up the walls to the thousands of roses and flowers planted in formal beds on the estate. Planting purchase lists from the Olmsted files show plants that most Rumson gardeners purchase as single specimens being purchased in groups numbered in twenties, thirties, forties and even hundreds. Among them were: over 300 Hydrangeas of many varieties, 31 Service Berries, 70 Woodbines, 45 Indian Currants, 38 Rhododendron Catawbiense hybrids, 1520 plants of Periwinkles. One design repeated itself in eleven beds of mountain honeysuckle, wild hydrangea, downy hydrangea and privet. Another was repeated in fourteen beds of Japan Snowball, Witherod, Stephanandra and fragrant honeysuckle. There were flowering dogwoods, Kousa dogwoods, lilacs, double flowering Chinese Apple trees, 286 Rosa Wichuraiana, (Memorial Rose) and 136 Crimson Rambler roses. The Rose Garden planting list had 35 varieties and an average of 20 plants of each. The driveway, now Oyster Bay Drive, was lined with Oriental Plane, white oaks, white willows, white maples, Norway maples, chestnuts, sycamores, catalpa and honey locusts; some pre-dated the Olmsted designs, and many were newly added. The barren flat property was planted with shade trees; many of them still survive and are showing their age because they are much more than 100 years old. Many were still thriving until recent construction damaged their root systems. Their dead limbs are a testament to how important it is to honor Rumson's stringent tree ordinance that attempts to protect our fine old trees when heavy equipment is being used to disturb the earth near them.

Beyond saving their incredibly detailed and fascinating landscape plans, the Frederick Law Olmsted firm saved their files, and these files exist today in the Library of Congress. The firm designed everything from corporate headquarters to university campus designs to the most lavish estates in the country. Each file is filled with planting plans and all that one would expect to find,



"The view is a remarkably extensive one for inland water, but it is marred by the ugly bare buildings of the village of Sea Bright ... I therefore suggested that a line of trees be planted along his riverfront." J. C. Olmsted, September 24, 1900

but the treasure is in the correspondence and the notes sent back to the office from the representatives in the field. John Charles Olmsted, son of the famous Frederick Law Olmsted, made the trip to The Point on the train from New York City to Seabright. He walked across the bridge and up to the estate or was met by one of the estate gardeners. He got somewhat gossipy in his notes. He noted that Mrs. Strong was the actual owner of the estate and that "Mrs. Strong said she did not care very much for the place and wanted to sell out, but kept it because Mr. Strong liked so much to be there." According to his notes, Mr. Olmsted felt that the Strongs would eventually build another home on undeveloped land, and he estimated the value of those 45 acres to be between \$75,000 and \$100,000. He recorded that the firm's prices often shocked their wealthy clients, and the correspondence clearly indicates various approaches and what could be eliminated to cut costs if clients refused recommended specifications. The notations and descriptions are a snapshot on the social requirements and even the snobbery that had to be considered when designing an estate. "I recommend an enclosed yard where tradesmen's wagons can stand at the kitchen door without obtruding upon the views from the front door." A lattice entry to the garden was "meant to screen the view of the factories of Seabright." There is a letter to Mr. Strong with a pencil sketch of arbors for the rose garden and the caveat, "We should be very glad if you would employ an architect to design these arbors, but, if you do not care to go to the expense, we hope you will not tell anybody that they were designed by us." It is a moot point now as there is no sign anywhere on Oyster Bay Drive of the rose arbors that have long since disappeared...no matter who designed them. By the time that the firm was designing the landscape for St. George's by the River, it seems that Mr. Olmsted lost patience with Mrs. Strong. "She has a middle aged bachelor staying with her as a guest—Mr. Johnson who she habitually calls "Too much Johnson" and rails at, but would feel very lonesome without him. She prizes Johnson very much because he is respectful and says yes to everything and executes some of her orders without argument or merely discussing cost and 'forgets' others." Her demeanor seems to have been somewhat imperious, "She fired questions in such rapid succession that she did not seem to mind whether or not they were answered, her chief idea being to impress me with what she wanted, not to get expert advice as to what it would be best to do."

The lifestyle of the turn of the last century era and experienced at The Point mostly during the warm weather months is one of comfort, travel and socializing. Mr. Strong was a partner in the law firm of Work, Strong & Co. which became Strong, Sturgis & Co. in 1896. He retired from active business in 1902, but he remained a special partner in the firm, which was located at 11 Wall Street. He held a seat in the New York Stock Exchange and was a member of its Governing Committee and a Trustee of the Gratuity Fund. He was a member and Governor of the Union Club and the South Side Sportsman's Club of Long Island. Locally, he was an original investor in the Seabright Lawn and Tennis Club, a member of the Monmouth County Coaching Association and the Lakewood Golf Club and a generous benefactor to St. George's on the Hill, predecessor of St. George's by the River. The Church history names William E. Strong as one of the 'men of faith' who created the parish and served on the vestry and was a senior warden who served the church "with zeal, wit, diplomacy, and with a great deal of Christian common sense." He even gave out candy and oranges at the annual Sunday School Christmas parties.

Throughout the years of their lives, the Strongs appeared in the New York Times Society pages doing charitable work, attending parties and prestigious events and coming and going from the fashionable vacation spots of the day. On December 8, 1892, their daughter Anne made her debut at a party held in their 176 Madison Avenue residence. She and her mother both wore gowns from Paris. The debutante wore pale yellow silk striped with white, and her mother wore gray striped silk finished with black velvet and lace. Also in New York, the family celebrated the wedding of Anne Massie Strong to LtC Moreton Foley Gage, son of Lt. Gen. Hon. Edward Thomas Gage of England on October 8, 1902. He and Anne had two sons, Sir Berkeley Everard Foley Gage and Major Edward Fitzhardinge Peyton Gage.

Sadness struck again as William Everard Strong died suddenly from pneumonia on May 14th, 1905; he was 68 years old. In his memory, Mrs. Alice C. Strong commissioned Walker and Gillette architects from New York to design a new church to be constructed closer to the Seabright Village and more convenient for the parishioners, most of whom were directly across the bridge in Seabright and a long carriage ride from the church on Bellevue Avenue. She and her daughters also donated the organ and the stained glass window of St. George. At the same time, she commissioned the architects to design a Gardener's Cottage and other cottages to be added to the Estate. When she was working on designs for the landscaping of St. George's by the River, Mrs. Strong made it clear that she was unavailable on Saturdays and Sundays because she entertained house guests every week-end when in residence at The Point.

Shortly after her husband's passing, Mrs. Strong made a subdivision of the property that had been contemplated since 1901 when preliminary plans were drawn by the Olmsted firm. Land west of Avenue of Two Rivers South was divided into lots; the drawings included houses, and each of them had a stable and stable yard included in the plan. After the subdivision, The Point still consisted of 100 acres. After his death, Mr. Strong's seat on the Stock Exchange was sold to Nathan Frank on October 8, 1905. It was reported in the NEW YORK TIMES as the "highest price ever paid for admission to that institution". The price was \$85,000.

After her husband's death, Mrs. Strong remained at "The Point" for many years. Her daughter, Alice Everard Strong, a champion tennis player, accompanied her on trips to visit Anne in England and to the various fashionable destinations. In October of 1911, Alice married C. Tiffany Richardson, a founding partner of Auerbach, Pollak & Richardson, at Saranac Lake. She was given away by Anne's husband, Moreton F. Gage, Major of the Fifth Dragoon Guards, and had a wedding breakfast hosted by her sister at her lake cottage. She and her husband had two children, Anne S. Hoversten and C. Tiffany Richardson, Jr.

Again, tragedy struck when Anne Gage came to spend Easter of 1915 with her mother in Lakewood, a fashionable destination of the time. Anne died suddenly from complications due to appendicitis. She was young and beautiful with a husband and two young children; it was a terrible loss. Mrs. Strong continued to come back and forth to "The Point", but, around 1920, she put it on the market for sale. Rumson had been incorporated for 13 years, but the advertisement described it as an estate of 100 acres in Seabright, NJ. The ad offered an option to "sell improvements with 56 acres."

Alice C. Strong lived to be 91 years old and passed away on November 26th of 1939 as the world was sliding into the Second World War. Her lifespan included the Civil War, Reconstruction, Spanish American War, the Gay Nineties, First World War, the

Great Depression and dreadful personal losses. A great deal of her life was spent here in Rumson as well as in New York and on her many travels.

“The Point” was purchased in 1921 by Dr. and Mrs. John Vietor. Dr. Vietor’s parents, George Frederick and Annie Vietor, had a home on Rumson Road just opposite the Tennis Club, and his uncle, Thomas Frederick Vietor, owned the mansion on the corner of Bingham Avenue and Rumson Road, the current Christianson Estate. Mrs. Vietor was Eleanor Emily Woodward, heiress daughter of Orator Frank Woodward, the inventor of many medicinal products and the person who marketed JELLO into a successful commodity and culinary necessity. The Vietors had purchased a house on the northeast corner of Shrewsbury Drive and Navesink Avenue from Dr. Walker Gill Wylie in December of 1919, and they preferred that house to “The Point”.

This is where history gets murky. It seems plausible to connect the dots in this way. William H Hintelmann’s father, Paul, had done some work for Mrs. Strong. Did he hear that The Point was to be either moved or demolished? Somehow, William and William Mears purchased it or simply got the right to remove the mansion in any way that they chose. The person to go to for house moving at that time was Jesse Howland. His company moved between 30 and 50 houses during this period of time. Jesse Howland’s company moved “The Point” about a mile up Avenue of Two Rivers to Hintelmann’s Corners where it still stands at 121 Avenue of Two Rivers. A section of the house was taken off and moved to 77 Waterman Avenue where it became a home for a member of the Howland family. It seems logical to deduct that Mr. Howland was compensated for his efforts in moving “The Point” with a piece of the mansion. But, there may be an entirely different explanation that has been lost to time. That section of “The Point” has long since left the Howland family and was recently on the market for sale with a note on the listing that there are “full approvals for a beautiful new 3,500 sq.ft. home (plans included).” Fortunately, the new owners seem to be interested in restoring the house rather than demolishing their piece of Rumson history.

The Vietors moved their house onto the vacated property and only remained for about six years before moving to Long Island. They sold the estate to Edward W. Scudder, the owner and publisher of the NEWARK EVENING NEWS. Either Mrs. Strong or The Vietors made further subdivisions, because the Scudders purchased an estate of 50 acres. The entire area came to be called “Scudder’s Point”.

In the next issue, we will return to The Point and continue the saga with more information about the original mansion and its replacement, also called The Point.

Footnote: Many thanks to: Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site in Brookline, MA, Randall Gabrielan, Michael Steinhorn, Douglas and Peggy Love, Richard Scudder, Nancy Haaren, Nancy Battey and William Hintelmann for photos, reminiscences and information.

RUMSON POLICE DEPARTMENT

D.A.R.E.

The Rumson Police Department’s DARE program is off to a flying start at Forrestdale School. The program educates the students on Alcohol and Drug Prevention and is currently being taught in the fifth grade. The program encourages the students to interact with our Rumson Police Officers to create a positive relationship. At the same time, students come to understand the perils of addiction.

The D.A.R.E. program depends upon the support of Rumson Residents, so get involved and support not only the D.A.R.E program but all of our community based programs.

Lt. Scott Paterson and Ptl. Ron Vilardi are our DARE officers; they can be reached at Police Headquarters for further information on this program.

TRAFFIC SAFETY

In an effort to educate new drivers, members of the Rumson and Fair Haven Police Departments spent time in April speaking with the Junior and Senior classes at RFH. The main topic of discussion surrounded the laws pertaining to the Provisional Driver’s License. When a 17 year old driver obtains his or her new license, it is considered to be Provisional. Among many things, this means that they are limited to the time of night they can drive as well as to the number of passengers they can have in the vehicle. The students were also informed that the Rumson and Fair Haven Police Departments were going to step up enforcement of these restrictions in an effort to keep teenage drivers safe. Both Police Departments felt that the recent deaths of several teenage drivers and their passengers in Monmouth County made it imperative to reach out to the students hoping to prevent such a tragedy in our area.

RUMSON FIRE DEPARTMENT

I would like to open by thanking Mayor John Ekdahl, Councilman Robert Kammerer, Councilman Shaun Broderick and Borough Administrator Thomas Rogers for their level of commitment to public safety. They have brought the level of fire protection within the Borough of Rumson to where it needs to be and the highest it has ever been.

In 2006 the Rumson Fire Department responded to 317 calls for service. As of March 16th, the Fire Department has answered 131 calls for service, many of these taking place during the February 14th St. Valentine’s Day Ice Storm. At the height of that storm, there were 16 fires burning throughout town due to downed power lines. It was a true test of our capabilities as a department that day, and we made it through with minimal damage to the equipment and no serious civilian or firefighter injuries to report.

February, with its extremely cold temperatures, also produced a major incident in the Borough of Sea Bright where the Fountain Condo Complex fell victim to fire, and the Rumson Fire Department was called to assist. With temperatures in the single digits and a wind chill well below zero, our firefighters fought bravely for almost twelve hours under extreme conditions. We were supported by members of the Rumson EMS, who worked in shifts that day to make sure that our firefighters were provided with proper medical care. As Fire Chief I would like to publicly thank them for sticking with us until the very end on that day. Again, our equipment and manpower suffered no major damage or injury. Other departments who responded, did not fare so well, and they are still making repairs.

2007 will bring about many challenges, and we will rise to meet each and every one of them. With the support of our Mayor and Council, we strive to be the best and to provide you with one of the fastest response times of any volunteer fire department in the State of New Jersey.

Our lights might be bright and our sirens can be loud, but sleep well with this thought, we keep your family safe and make our community proud.

James E. Fenn III Rumson Fire Chief

Joseph P. Ward Rumson Assistant Fire Chief

RUMSON EMS

The Rumson First Aid Squad would like to thank all the residents in town who responded so generously to our annual fund drive petition. This year, we tried something new with our petition letter, and the results were simply outstanding. We are pleased to report that our annual fund drive raised almost the same amount of donations as in prior years but we reached that level in half the time. The donations that we receive are used to supplement the budget allocation we receive from the Borough Council and are used to maintain our equipment and building, purchase supplies and finance the training of our members. If you have not yet had a chance to review our annual fund drive petition appeal and would be interested in making a donation to an extremely important and worthy cause, please visit our website.

One of the most important budget items we are now working on is the procurement of a new ambulance. We currently have two ambulance vehicles that we use to respond to emergencies, and one of them (originally placed in service in 1997) is reaching the end of its useful life. We have formed an ambulance committee to develop new ambulance specifications to be put out for bid, and the town council is looking into issuing a bond to help with the purchase of the new ambulance. The ambulance committee is headed by Joe Truex, who is a member of both the Rumson and Fair Haven First Aid Squads. Joe, who is a past captain of the Fair Haven First Aid Squad, was instrumental in Fair Haven's recent purchase of a new ambulance last year, and we are grateful for his guidance. From the time the specifications are developed, it usually takes about 12 to 18 months before a new ambulance can be placed into service.

The First Aid Squad has also been very busy around town. Two of our members, Diane Dupuy and Jeff Nixon, have recently been certified by the American Red Cross as CPR instructors. Ms. Dupuy has been working on certifying a group of teachers from both Forrestdale and Deane Porter schools in CPR. As many readers of our past reports know, it is imperative to get trained attention to a person in need of CPR as fast as possible. While we hope that these skills will not have to be used anytime soon, knowing that a group of teachers at our local schools have volunteered their time to learn this important skill is just another example of what a great community we all live in.

Finally, we are pleased to report that three of our members have recently become nationally recognized (and certified) emergency medical technicians (EMT's). EMT's receive a significant amount of additional training beyond First Responders, and the Rumson First Aid Squad now has more active EMT's running calls than we have had in the past several years! However, we can never have enough volunteers, so if you are over the age of 16 and are interested in learning more about how you can join the First Aid Squad, please visit our website and click on "volunteer" or call us at 732-741-0474.

RUMSON SHADE TREE COMMISSION

Mulching Trees

Please remember that mulch around trees should start about 6 inches from the trunk, and the maximum depth should be 2-4 inches. NEVER pile mulch up against the trunk; this can cause the decline and death of the tree. Please tell landscapers to be aware of this information. Mulch looks great in gardens, but there is such a thing as too much of a good thing when it comes to mulch around trees.

Watering New Plantings

After the devastating ice storms, many residents will be replanting trees and shrubs this spring. Please remember to water new plantings generously and frequently-especially in hot, sunny weather.

OCEANIC FREE LIBRARY

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

Children's Reading Program begins during the third week in June.

Children's Summer Programs: Our annual Vacation Reading Club and Read-to-Me Clubs begin on June 19th. In addition, every Tuesday there will be our usual fare of children's programs for all ages from babies to school-age children. This year's theme for the summer reading clubs is "GET A CLUE AT YOUR LIBRARY." The Vacation Reading Club is for children who are reading independently. Children who sign up will receive many fun giveaways. Throughout the summer, there will be special programs offered on alternate Tuesdays for school-age children. On August 14, we will be having an end-to-the summer party at the Library. Watch for more details that will be posted about this and other special summertime programs. Be sure to get cool at your library this summer!!!

Children's Room Renovations:

We are in the midst of a capital campaign to improve the Children's Room, and donations are still being sought. We plan to start the renovations this summer. With your help, this effort will be a significant step forward for the Library and for all of the children who spend their time in this very important area of the facility.

Local artists on display:

May: Jim Sanford water colors and Debbie Sidwell jewelry in the case

June: Ron Vantine and Nancy Lubisco artwork in the case

July: Anthony Primo

August: Janine Kimmel watercolors will be on display, and she will read her book and talk about her paintings to the children at the end-of-summer party.

We are happy to accept used books, but they must be in brand-new condition. Please do not leave any books outside where the weather can ruin them.

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 are 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*

*No Saturday hours from June 16-September 8.
Closed Memorial Day and Independence Day

RUMSON GARDEN CLUB PLANT SALE SATURDAY MAY 12

The Rumson Garden Club will hold its annual plant sale on Saturday May 12th from 8 AM to 1 PM at Rumson Borough Hall, 80 East River Road. The event will be held rain or shine, and admission is free. Kathy Carter and Chris Hetzler are co-chairs of the event and are gearing up their committee to make this the best sale ever.

The plant sale will include over 800 exceptional and hardy plants grown by members of the club. A special feature of the sale will be heirloom perennial plants from neighboring properties in Rumson and Locust. A variety of colorful annuals will also be available. Experienced gardeners will be on hand to assist with plant selection and to answer questions.

Proceeds of the sale support the many valuable community programs carried out by the Garden Club each year. The club has had an on-going relationship with the community since its inception over 90 years ago. Among its many projects, the Rumson Garden Club plants and maintains gardens at all of the Rumson traffic islands and Borough signs, and it also plants the Oceanic Free Library window boxes. The club has been active with the Rumson School District where they have established a Millennium Garden at the Forrestdale School Wildlife Habitat as well as educational programs focused on gardening. The plant sale will support all of these endeavors as well as a scholarship which is awarded annually to the RFHRHS senior who plans to study landscape design, horticulture or environmental science. The Rumson Garden Club is a member of The Garden Club of America.

RUMSON RECREATION

Summer Hoops, Fall Soccer, Flag Football and various camp registration continues at the Borough Hall Mondays-Fridays 8:30am-4:30pm.

The **Summer Hoops Basketball Teams** program is for children who are currently in grades 3-8. This is a co-ed basketball program which will run from June 25 through July 27. Coaches will call with specific game times and dates. Games are played outdoors in the evenings at Victory Park/ Forrestdale School.

The **Summer Hoops Basketball Clinic** program is for children who are currently in grades 1-2. This is a co-ed basketball program which will run from June 25 through July 27. All registered players should report to the Forrestdale outdoor basketball courts on June 25 at 6:00 PM. This program is scheduled to run on Monday and Wednesday evenings. Players will be assigned specific time slots when the program begins. Basketball clinic instruction is provided outdoors in the evenings at the Forrestdale School.

The **Fall Soccer** program is for children enrolled in grades K-8 for the 2007-2008 school year. Kindergarten children participate in a Saturday morning clinic, which runs throughout the fall. Practices for grades 1-8 are during the week with games played on Saturdays.

The **Flag Football** program is for children who are 5, 6, 7 & 8 years of age. (Children must be 5 years old prior to August 1, 2007.) The program will run clinics in late August. The coordinator will call with specific dates and times. Games are played on Saturday mornings from 8:00am-12:00noon during September-November. Coaches will call with team assignments and game schedules.

Summer Camps

US Premier Soccer Camp July 9-13

Metro Stars Soccer Camp July 30-August 3

RFH Hoops basketball Camp July 9-13 & July 16-20

Bulldog Field Hockey July 9-13 & July 16-20

Academy International Lacrosse July 16-20 & July 23-27

Shore Lacrosse Camp June 25-29

High School Field Hockey August 6-10

Camp registration flyers will be distributed through the schools with details about each camp. Additional flyers will be available at the Rumson Borough Hall. These forms will be distributed when camp coordinators make them available to us in April/May.

Soccer officials needed: Anyone 14 years old or older who would like to be a paid soccer official for the 2007 season should contact John Hird at 503-6607 or jrhird@comcast.net.

RUMSON WOMEN'S CLUB

The Rumson Women's Club held a regular meeting on February 5th. For Valentine's Day, The Women's Club brought trays of cookies and a popcorn maker to the Atlantic Highlands Nursing Home.

At the March 5th meeting, we had a hypnotist come to entertain us. It was very interesting and lots of fun. For Dr. Seuss Day, the club donated the book *Green Eggs and Ham* to the elementary schools in Rumson, Fair Haven and Atlantic Highlands in honor of Dr. Seuss's birthday. The Oceanic Library also received a copy.

At the April meeting, we were busy planning for the gift auction, which was held on April 27th. The 5th annual gift auction was a great success. As always, the members and guests had a wonderful time. Thank you to all who bought tickets for the lottery apron. This apron is filled with scratch offs and NJ lottery tickets. The money made from the sale of this apron is separate from the overall auction and goes directly into buying calling cards that are then sent to our wounded soldiers at Walter Reed Army Hospital.

The Installation Dinner will be on May 1st at Bingham Hall at 6:30. The June 4th meeting will be our annual reorganization meeting. In addition, we will give out our annual scholarship at the senior awards night at Rumson Fair Haven Regional High School on June 11th.

As always, we meet the first Monday of the month at 7:30, in Bingham Hall, except September and January. We do not meet in the months of July or August. For membership information please contact Pat Ray at 732-495-5369 or Thea Davis at 842-0044. New members are welcomed and encouraged to get involved.



Rumson Fire Department in action at tragic Fountains condominium fire in Sea Bright.



RUMSON SENIOR CITIZENS CLUB

On January 24th, Rosemary Hulse arranged a bus trip to the Hunterdon Hills Playhouse/Dinner Theatre to enjoy the play, "I Do I Do." On March 14th, forty members went to Mike Doolan's to celebrate St. Patty's Day. On May 30th, members will take a trip to the Tropicana in Atlantic City where they will enjoy a show and lunch. As 2nd Vice President, Rosemary has done an outstanding job arranging trips throughout the year.

The Tower Players at the high school invited the seniors to enjoy lunch and the play, *Seussical* on March 25th. This has been an annual event, and the members once again extend their heartfelt appreciation to the Performing Arts Department for their generous invitation. As always, the show was terrific.

Once again, Tom Merkel was responsible for overseeing the senior participation in the Rumson Run. Members sign up to stuff the bags the day before the Run and then serve refreshments on the day of the Run. Our Club enjoys giving a little back to the town that supports all of its efforts. Working with the schools and the Borough is most gratifying.

The 7th Graders at Holy Cross School extended a personal invitation to all of the members, along with senior parishioners at Holy Cross, to enjoy a night of fun, food and dancing on April 27th. Students preparing for Confirmation must do a certain amount of community service work, and they chose to entertain us as a group project. Everyone had a great time.

A Nominating Committee, headed by Emily Wagner presented a slate of officers for the upcoming two years. Installation of Officers will take place at the June Luncheon. President McCormick appointed Past President, Jeanne Cuje, to oversee the installation. Gina Cesario and her committee have arranged for the Luncheon to take place on June 14th at Salt Creek Restaurant in Rumson.

Our First Vice President, Margaret Reynolds, is responsible for activities at the monthly Social meetings. In January she had a penny auction; members played Bingo in February and she organized a Crazy Hat Contest for the March meeting. Winners included: Lillian Haines, Prettiest; Bill Scalzo, Funniest and Jeannette DiSpirito, Most Original. Hats off to Margaret for her effort to make the Social meetings lots of fun. Also, much appreciation goes out to Jean Strohmenger, Fran Merkel and the Kitchen Staff for taking care of the delicious refreshments at the meetings.

Trustee and Life Member, Carmela Pasqua had to step down as the Club's representative to the Office on Aging. For many years, Carmela has attended the monthly meetings in Freehold and brought information and flyers back to the club. President McCormick thanked her for a job well done. She also thanked Lillian Haines for taking the job over. The issues discussed at the Office on Aging are very important to all seniors.

Some of our seniors stay very busy, even when they are not working with the Club. They become involved politically and socially with outside activities and other organizations. The Citizens Police Academy strives to build cooperation and understanding between law enforcement and the residents they serve through classroom discussion and group interaction. It involves a 10-week program which includes the various divisions of the Sheriff's Office, international policing, emergency management, women in law enforcement and the U.S. Marshals Service. One of the graduates from this program was our very own member, Elizabeth Vallis. We are all very proud of her. Elizabeth has taken art and jewelry classes at Brookdale and has won numerous awards for her efforts. She is certainly a model for all seniors, and we congratulate her once again.

An invitation is extended to all Rumson residents, 55 years of age or older, their family members and friends, to join the fun and activities shared by the club. Annual dues are \$10.00, and meetings are held on the second and fourth Mondays of each month at 11:00 a.m. in Wilson Hall at the Rumson Presbyterian Church. The group does not meet during July and August.

Respectfully Submitted:

Jeanne Cuje

Publicity Chairman

Meeting Dates:

May 14th and 21st

June 11th

14th – Installation Luncheon

8th

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

CALENDAR

MAY

- 1 4th quarter property taxes due
- 1 Women’s Club Installation Dinner, Bingham Hall, 6:30 pm
- 2 Shade Tree Commission, 4pm
- 6 Rumson Run, RFHRHS
- 7 Planning Board, 7:30 pm
- 10 & 24 Borough Council, 7:30 pm
- 12 Rumson Garden Club Plant Sale, Borough Hall, 8 am- 1pm
- 14 & 21 Senior Citizens Club, Presbyterian Church, 11 am
- 15 Zoning Board, 7:30 pm
- 16 Recreation Commission, 7:30 pm
- 19 Evening at the Farm, 7:30 pm
- 28 Memorial Day Ceremonies, Victory Park, 10 am

JUNE

- 4 Planning Board, 7:30 pm
- 4 Women’s Club meeting, Bingham Hall, 7:30 pm
- 6 Shade Tree Commission, 4 pm
- 9 Centennial Parade and Picnic in the Park, 1pm
- 11 & 18 Senior Citizens Club meeting, Presbyterian Church, 11 am
- 14 Senior Citizens Installation Luncheon, Salt Creek Grill
- 14 & 28 Borough Council, 7:30 pm
- 16 Canterbury Fair, St. George’s by the River, 9:30am-2:30pm
- 19 Zoning Board, 7:30 pm
- 20 Recreation Commission, 7:30 pm

JULY

- 2 Planning Board, 7:30 pm
- 4 INDEPENDENCE DAY: NO GARBAGE COLLECTION, BOROUGH HALL AND OCEANIC LIBRARY CLOSED
- 12 & 26 Borough Council, 7:30 pm
- 17 Zoning Board, 7:30 pm

MAYOR

John E. Ekdahl

BOROUGH COUNCIL

- Robert Kammerer
- Shaun P. Broderick
- Joan P. DeVoe
- Joseph K. Hemphill
- Mark E. Rubin
- Frank E. Shanley

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Thomas S. Rogers, Borough Clerk/Administrator
Roberta H. Van Anda, Editor

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