Mayor’s Message

Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, and Happy Holidays to all! I hope you enjoyed our Traditional Tree Lighting on Sunday, December 2nd and that you will consider contributing to the annual Department of Public Works Toy Drive which benefits children through the Salvation Army and Family and Children’s Services. Our DPW team donates their time to support this worthwhile annual event.

I would like to invite everyone to attend our annual Borough Council Reorganization Meeting at 12 noon on January 1, 2019 in Bingham Hall. This year, we will be honoring resident Dr. Arthur Ashkin, a 2018 Nobel Prize Winner.

Rumson Resident Dr. Arthur Ashkin Nobel Prize Winner

Dr. Arthur Ashkin, a long-time Rumson resident, was recently awarded Sweden’s Royal Academy of Sciences 2018 Nobel Prize in Physics. Dr. Ashkin, a former Bell Labs scientist, received the award for his ground-breaking work in the field of laser physics.

Dr. Ashkin has the distinction of being the oldest person ever named a Nobel Laureate and shares the 2018 prize with Gérard Mourou from École Polytechnique in France and the University of Michigan, and Donna Strickland from the University of Waterloo in Canada.

Born in 1922 in Brooklyn, New York, Dr. Ashkin earned an undergraduate degree in physics from Columbia in 1947. He then received a Ph.D. in nuclear physics from Cornell University in 1952. At Cornell, Dr. Ashkin met his wife Aline. They have been married for more than sixty years and have three children and five grandchildren.

He joined Bell Labs and started his work on manipulation of microparticles with laser light in the late 1960s which resulted in the invention of optical tweezers in 1986. Joining Bell Labs brought Dr. Ashkin and his family to Rumson where they still reside.

He also pioneered the optical trapping process that eventually was used to manipulate atoms, molecules, and biological cells. The key phenomenon is the radiation pressure of light, which can be dissected down into optical gradient and scattering forces.

Dr. Ashkin retired from Bell Labs in 1992 after a 40-year career during which he contributed to many areas of experimental physics. He has authored many research papers and holds 47 patents. He was the recipient of the Joseph F. Keithley Award For Advances in Measurement Science in 2003 and the Harvey Prize in 2004. He was elected to the National Academy of Engineering in 1984 and to the National Academy of Sciences in 1996. Currently, he continues work in his home lab.

New Safety Measures at Deane-Porter and Forrestdale Schools

The Rumson Police Department at the request of Rumson School Superintendent Dr. John Bormann has implemented a new program to enhance the security at the Deane-Porter and Forrestdale schools. A Class III Special Law Enforcement Officer is now employed and will be present during school hours.

The Class III program was established by State law to provide the option of having armed, uniformed security within schools. The program will be funded by the Rumson School District. The new class of police officer position, commonly referred to as a SLEO III, will be held by a recently retired police officer. The officer will have full police authority while working within the schools and will receive specialized school resource training. The SLEO III will work with and alongside Rumson Police Department patrol officers, who currently perform daily, random walkthroughs of each school.

School safety and security are priorities for our Police Department. They will continue to conduct active shooter drills and site security assessments in order to maintain and improve the layers of security of our schools.

Historic Preservation Commission 2018 Awards

The Historic Preservation Commission was pleased to present the 2018 awards to Kristen and John Hall for Restoration/Rehabilitation and to Roberta H. Van Anda for Preservation Champion.

The Restoration/Rehabilitation award honors a resident who has restored an older structure where major original features have been carefully preserved or replicated for original use.

In 2013, John and Kristen Hall purchased 86 Buena Vista Avenue, also known as “Box Lawn” which was built in the 1880s and used primarily a summer home. They completed extensive work to the outside of the home removing the deteriorated siding and installing new cedar shingles on the entire home and garage.

They installed new wooden windows throughout and replaced metal sliding doors that had been installed over the years with period wooden doors. Exterior iron railings were replaced with weather-resistant wood railings to match the original wooden railings of the wraparound porches. They also completed extensive renovation to the interior of the home and added new landscaping.

The Rumson Police Department worked with and alongside Rumson Police Department patrol officers, who currently perform daily, random walkthroughs of each school.

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The Preservation Champion award honors an individual dedicated to preserving Rumson’s heritage. The 2018 award was presented to Roberta H. Van Anda.

Roberta, also known as “Bobbie,” is a local historian and author. She lived most of her life in Rumson and was a teacher at the RFH Regional High School and at the Rumson Country Day School.

For over a decade she was the Editor of the Rumson Borough Bulletin. She researched and wrote many in-depth articles of famous Rumson homes. These articles can be found on the Historic Preservation Commission website. Bobbie recently authored the book “Legendary Locals of Rumson”.

Bobbie continues to be a valuable resource to the Historic Preservation Commission in our work and is a wealth of information. The Commission thanks Bobbie for her continued support and dedication to the preservation of Rumson’s history.

The Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) wishes to remind residents that the nomination form for the 2019 Awards will be available on the HPC website beginning January 2019 through March 31, 2019.

Rumson Shade Tree Commission Receives Green Community Achievement Award

The NJ Department of Environmental Protection awarded Rumson’s Shade Tree Commission with a 2018 Green Communities Achievement Award in recognition of its exemplary work in urban and community forestry.

Shade Tree Commission Chairman Stephen Barrett accepted the award from New Jersey Forest Service Urban and Community Forestry Coordinator Carrie Sargeant, and New Jersey Parks and Forestry Director Olivia Glenn.

2018 has been a busy year for the Shade Tree Commission. They sponsor an annual Arbor Day celebration with the Deane-Porter kindergarten class where they explain the importance of trees.

This year they planted an ornamental white fringe tree on campus. In addition to the NJDEP award, the Commission was awarded a $10,000 NJ State grant to assess and inventory trees in several sections of the Borough. This information will be useful in the planning, maintenance and care of the Borough’s street trees.

The DPW Toy Drive
Friday, December 7, 3:30pm - 6:00pm
Saturday, December 8, 9:00am - 1:00pm

Other Announcements & Reminders
Leaves Only Reminder – Only leaves will be collected during the month of December. Brush and branches will not be picked up again until Spring.

Piping Rock Park Update – Please visit the Borough website for the latest photographs of the progress at Piping Rock Park.

January 1, 2019 Borough Council Reorganization Meeting
12:00 noon at Bingham Hall. We will be honoring Nobel Prize winner Dr. Arthur Ashkin at this meeting.