



## TOWNSHIP OF PEQUANNOCK

## A Message From Mayor Melissa Florance-Lynch

I am honored to serve as the Mayor of Pequannock Township for 2014.

After a long cold winter, spring is finally here! The Township Council would like to thank our DPW employees for all their hard work and exceptional service they provided to our community during the harsh winter months. With the amount of snowfall and bitter cold temperatures they sure had their work cut out for them and did an amazing job.

Also, a heartfelt thank you to our Police Department and to all the men and women who volunteer on our Fire Department and First Aid Squad. Your dedication is noticed. Thank you for keeping our community safe.

Work is underway at Plaza 23 to accommodate Stop & Shop in the space where A&P used to be. Stop & Shop management has already reached out to the Township to begin planning for their grand opening which is expected to be in May. This year marks their 100th anniversary and the Pompton Plains store will be the first one they open in 2014. The Township of Pequannock welcomes them.

We recently held a public informational meeting for all the residents and business owners who will be impacted by the long awaited sewer extension project, commonly referred to as, "The Village Area Sewer Project". Construction will begin in April and last approximately 18 months. This project will extend sanitary sewers to the Village, the Pompton Plains Business District, portions of Route 23 and PV School. Recent revisions of this project have also added properties that will be served along Leeland Ave. and on Route 23. The total estimated cost of this project is approximately \$16,100,000 and will bring 400 more property owners up on sanitary sewers. Expect traffic impacts and detours during construction. Police will identify necessary road closures and detours. Please allow extra time to travel locally. Road surfaces, during construction, will be rough, but patched regularly and full road resurfacing will be done at the end of the project. Access to businesses will be blocked for short periods with advance notice given. Access to individual homes will be blocked for short periods and there will be some noise impact from construction equipment and the dewatering process. We will communicate to the community during the project using e-mail notifications, AM 1620 Radio Station, Channel 77 and the Township Website. We will also use the Police Department Nixle for any Emergency Information.

We are holding our Annual Riverbank Cleanup on Saturday April 5th from 9:00 am - 1:00 pm. Volunteers are still needed for this cleanup day. Donate as much time as you can: No need to commit to the entire 4 hours. Whatever time you can give will be appreciated. Just report to the Senior House, adjacent to Town Hall at 9:00 am (until noon). We will deploy volunteers to designated cleanup areas. For more information you can contact the Parks and Recreation Office at 973-835-5700 ext. 145.



## Mayor's Message

In late February, the DEP announced De-snagging Grants for the Passaic River Basin totaling \$3,000,000 to 36 local governments. Pequannock received funding for both grant applications submitted totaling \$400,000. A joint application with Lincoln Park for the East Ditch/Beaver Brook received \$150,000 in grant funding and a continuation of the Ramapo, Pequannock and Wanaque project received \$250,000 in funding. These applications were submitted jointly with Lincoln Park and with Pompton Lakes & Riverdale. The process of obtaining permits is already underway. DEP also indicated that the permit process will be expedited for these projects.

We continue to work closely with our District 40 leaders, State Senator, Kevin O'Toole, and our Assemblymen, Scott Rumana and Dave Russo, to ensure continual pressure and communication is put forth to the DEP and to our Governor regarding the lowering of the reservoirs before the rainy season. Senator Kevin O'Toole recently sent a letter on behalf of his District and on behalf of residents in the Passaic River Basin regarding the reservoirs that feed into the Passaic River. Given the amount of snowfall this past winter, and as we enter the spring season with melting snow and eventual rainfall, the communities in this area will once again be at risk for potential flooding issues. The request to DEP Commissioner Bob Martin and Governor Christie is to begin the process now of lowering the reservoirs that feed into the Passaic River Basin in advance of the rainy season. I thank all the residents for your notes and letters. I know many residents have taken action by sending their own letters to the Governor and Commissioner Martin and should continue to do so. We will be following up to ensure a process to lower the reservoirs is in place.

On March 6th, the Army Corps of Engineers and DEP presented their re-evaluation of the Passaic River Basin projects during a meeting of mayors and other local officials in Pequannock. This was the completion of the Phase 1 study which evaluated long-term flood risk management alternatives to help Passaic River Basin communities deal with chronic flooding. A field of 6 projects was narrowed down to 3. They are: 1) Dual Inlet-Newark Bay Outlet Tunnel. 2) Nonstructural measures such as flood-proofing, elevation of homes, and private property buyouts. 3) Alternative 14A: Levees and floodwalls combined with the nonstructural measures. In the second phase, Army Corps will perform more detailed engineering, hydrology, hydraulics and cost benefit analyses. The Army Corps and DEP are holding public meetings now to discuss the Phase I report and discuss next steps. For more information visit www.nan.usace.army.mil/Passaic

The long awaited West Franklin Avenue Improvement Project is underway. The underground work, water main and drainage construction is complete. Work has begun on the remaining improvements which include a sidewalk on the North side, curbs, drainage and full pavement reconstruction of the road.

Bids have been reviewed, and a contract has been awarded for the Boulevard Sidewalk Project. Available funding will complete about 50% of the remaining sidewalks on the west side from Sunset Road to Ackerson Avenue. We will also do sidewalks on the East side from Sunset Road to Park Avenue.



## Mayor's Message

We are getting ready to mail out a Township Resident Survey. Look for it in the mail. We would like to have your input on projects and initiatives moving forward.

Have you registered your "Property Tax Reward Card" yet? Back in September, the Township mailed out, to every resident, a letter and reward card to launch a new Shop Local incentive program that allows residents, as well as visitors to our community, to shop at many of our local businesses using the reward card, and in turn receive a percentage of their purchase amount back as a property tax credit. Visitors can receive a yearly rebate check for the amount of savings, subject to a small processing fee. This means the more you shop in town, the more you reduce your property tax bill. This program has proven successful both as a savings to residents, and a way to encourage increased shopping in local businesses. If you did not receive the card and letter in the mail you can go down to the Clerk's Office at the Municipal Building to pick one up. To date about 1,400 families have registered their cards and there has been a total tax credit savings of about \$18,000. There are currently 27 businesses signed up providing discounts to our residents and local shoppers. To register your card go to www.propertytaxcard.com. For more information on our Township Economic Development Committee, visit their Website at www.pickpequannock.com. "Like" us on the EDC Facebook page at Pick Pequannock.

Don't forget that Memorial Day is just around the corner. We will hold our annual Memorial Day Parade on Monday May 26th at 10:00 am. There is a lovely tribute and Memorial Service directly after the Parade at the First Reformed Church Cemetery. It would be great if the community could join in this to help honor our veterans and current soldiers. These brave men and women have sacrificed so much for their country to protect our freedom.

The Township Council will continue to make tough fiscal decisions to control spending and protect your taxpayer dollars. We realize these are still financially hard times for most and will work hard to minimize any potential increases, without sacrificing services. I am pleased to report that The Township Council has finished its 2014 budget review and is scheduled to introduce our Municipal Budget with no tax increase. Our property taxes are made up of the Municipal, the School, and the County Tax levies. The Municipal tax, controlled by the Township Council, and the Morris County tax, controlled by the Freeholders will not increase. The School tax, controlled by the Board of Education, should only increase slightly. The school budget goes to the voters on April 23rd.

Please feel free to contact me anytime at 973-809-4401 or e-mail me at mlynch@peqtwp.org if you have questions or concerns.

Mayor Melissa Florance-Lynch



## **Department of Public Works**

Congratulations to Ken Casio on his retirement from the Public Works Department after 25 years of dedicated service to the Township. Thank you and good luck, Ken!!

The Public Works Department welcomes Brian Cahill to its staff. Brian, a resident of Pompton Lakes, is experienced in vehicle repair and maintenance. We believe Brian will be an asset to the Township for many years to come.

Thank you to Adrian Pritchett for once again, donating his time and his crane to set new generators at Well #1 (Dunn Place) and Well #2 (Ridge Road). Both of these generators are now online and ready to provide power if needed. All Township water facilities are now equipped with backup power.

## **Tax & Utility Department**

The **Property Tax Reimbursement** Booklets (Senior Tax Freeze) have been mailed out by the State of New Jersey. To be eligible for the reimbursement you must meet all of the following requirements:

- You were age 65 or older as of December 31, 2012, or if under age 65, you were receiving Federal Social Security disability benefits as of December 31, 2012 and December 31, 2013;
- You have lived in New Jersey continuously since December 31, 2002 or earlier, as either a homeowner or a renter;
- You have owned and lived in your home since December 31. 2009 or earlier;
- You paid the full amount of the 2012 property taxes due on your home by June 1, 2013 and paid the 2013 property taxes by June 1, 2014;
- Your total annual income for 2012 did not exceed \$82,880 and for 2013 did not exceed \$84,289. Note: with very few exceptions, all income received during the year must be taken into account to determine eligibility (including social security, pension, etc.)

Eligibility requirements including income limits and benefits available under this program may be changed by the State Budget. Any changes to the 2013 eligibility requirements will not be finalized until the completion of the State Budget that must be adopted by July 1, 2014.

First time filers may not be eligible for the 2013 reimbursement as the Pequannock Township tax rate decreased between 2012 and 2013.

For more information call the Property Tax Reimbursement Hotline: 1-800-822-6597 or visit the State website: www.state.nj.us/treasure/taxation/ptr/index.shtml

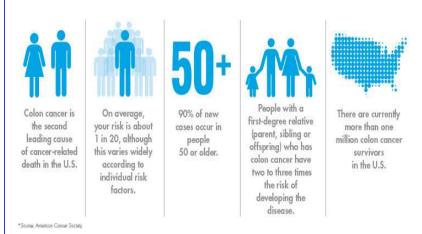
#### Tax & Utility Payments

Tax and utility bills can be paid online at the Pequannock Township website <a href="www.peqtwp.org">www.peqtwp.org</a> under the option Online Services and Payments. If you choose to pay by Checking Account ACH Payment (e-Check), please double check your account number and the bank's routing number to ensure your payment can be properly processed.

## **Health Department News**

## March is Colon Cancer Awareness Month!

### Colon Cancer At-A-Glance\*





In both men and women, colorectal cancer is the third most commonly diagnosed cancer and the third leading cause of cancer death. Colorectal cancer screenings save lives. Screening can find precancerous polyps—abnormal growths in the colon or rectum—so that they can be removed before turning into cancer. Screening also helps find colorectal cancer at an early stage, when treatment often leads to a cure. About nine out of every 10 people whose colorectal cancers are found early and treated appropriately are still alive five years later.

If you are aged 50 or older, get screened now.

http://www.cdc.gov/Cancer/colorectal/basic\_info/

Keeping up with the times is what the Health Department is all about! Please *Follow* or *Like* us on...







Go to www.peqtwp.org/health to get connected~



#### **Environmental Commission**

The Pequannock Environmental Commission, with thanks to Public Works

Department of Centralia, Washington, wants you to know,

What Not to Flush!



#### Avoid drain pain - don't flush these things!

Just because the package says "flushable" doesn't mean it's true. Many items marketed as disposable and/or flushable do not degrade like toilet paper, and they wind up clogging pipes, tangling pumps and causing messy sewer and septic backups. The clogs in sewer systems can cause backups into streets, businesses and homes. Our sewers and septic systems are designed to dispose of very specific things. Using your toilet as a disposal for many modern products will often result in blockages. The drains that connect your home to the sewer main or your septic system are only big enough to carry water, toilet paper and human waste - often no wider than 4 inches.

#### What NOT to flush:

- Diapers (cloth, disposable, "flushable") Wash cloths, towels
- Facial tissues
- Baby wipes, disinfectant wipes, moist wipes, etc.
- Toilet bowl scrub pads
- Swiffer's
- Napkins (paper or cloth), paper towels
- Dental floss
- Egg shells, nutshells, and coffee grounds
- Fats, oils, and greases
- Food items containing seeds and peelings
- Hair

- Sanitary napkins, tampons, condoms, or any nonorganic material
- Vitamins, medicines or other pharmaceuticals
- Wash cloths, towels, rags (any cloth item)
- Clothing
- Sheet plastic or plastic of any kind



## **Environmental Commission**

#### So what CAN I do?

- Avoid purchasing "flushable" items. Clean with a sponge or a rag that you can reuse.
- Compost your food waste items.
- Try to limit or eliminate your garbage disposal use

Discard hazardous materials such as used motor oil, antifreeze, etc. at the MCMUA Household Hazardous Waste Facility or at MCMUA Household Hazardous Waste Events, <a href="http://mcmua.com/sw\_hhw\_events.asp">http://mcmua.com/sw\_hhw\_events.asp</a>. If it is not Hazardous Waste and it can't be reused, recycled or composted, please place it in the garbage.

What should be flushed? Just toilet paper and human waste.

What about wet wipes? If you must use a "wet wipe" type of product rather than just toilet paper, these should be disposed of in the garbage, not down the toilet. While many "flushable wipes" package's says that it will disintegrate like toilet paper that generally is not accurate. If you are connected to the sewer system these items can cause messy sewage backups into your home, neighbors' homes, local businesses or the street. If you have your own septic system they can cause blockages that can cause backups into your home. If you are concerned about odors, please try a lined garbage can with a well-fitting lid, a "diaper genie" style of container, wrap your wipes in pet waste bags or reused plastic grocery bags, or perhaps look into installing an after-market bidet on your toilet.

The flush ability test: Take two bowls of water. Place toilet paper in one, and place the item in question in the other. Swish both items in the water. Wait and hour, then swish again. The toilet paper should have significantly disintegrated by then, while the other item (for example, Kleenex, wipes, napkins, etc.) will likely remain intact. Unless the item disintegrates at the rate of toilet paper, it should be placed in the garbage and not down the toilet. Otherwise, you risk a blockage.

#### Grease and your pipes don't mix

Proper disposal of your cooking oil and other greases and fats may save you from a sewage backup in your home.

#### These items contribute to blockages and backups:

- Butter and margarine
- Cooking oil
- Food scraps with grease, butter or oil on them
- Lard
- Meat fats, grease and juices
- Sauces with grease, butter or oil in them
- Shortening

#### Take these simple steps to stop clogs at home:

- Pour cooking oils and grease in a container and dispose of it in the garbage.
- Place meat and greasy food scraps in the garbage, not down the garbage disposal. It can contribute to blockages.
- Wipe pots and dishes with a used paper towel or napkin to remove grease.
- Most importantly: grease goes in the garbage, not in your sink.



## **Environmental Commission**

Stephen J Gerace Elementary School's Environmental Club looks at this issue



Stephen J Gerace Elementary School's Environmental Club learned how single and two ply toilet paper and "Flushable" wipes break down. Using four clear containers filled about half way with water they tested how each item breaks down. With single ply toilet paper placed in a container, after a little shaking, it broke up almost instantly. In the next container, the double ply toilet paper did not break down as easily as the single ply toilet paper but it did eventually break down. These two toilet papers are deemed safe to flush. They broke down and should not cause problems in septic or sewer systems. In the last two containers the students put a "flushable" wipe from two different manufacturers. After some shaking, some resting (for about an hour) and more shaking, these "flushable" wipes would not break down. The students were able to remove them from the testing containers, and the wipes looked almost identical to when they put them into the container. They did not break down at all. The students learned that even though the wipes say "flushable", they do not break down like toilet paper and can cause clogs and problems in sewers and septic systems.



## **Department of Parks & Recreation**

Easter Egg Hunt
Saturday, April 12
11 a.m.—1 p.m.
Egg Hunt, Easter Bunny &
Jellybean Guessing Game
\$5.00 Per Child



## Remember Bring Your Own Basket



# Spring Fling Meet & Greet Activity Open House

Saturday April 26

11 am - 1pm Hillview Front Field

Meet our program Instructors, Coaches & Camp Leaders Learn about our 2014 spring and summer programs. PV Park, Woodland Lake, Swim team, Day camps, Sports camps, Mind & Body programs, Trips etc. Local vendors, Face painting, Spin & Balloon Art Fun for everyone

Thank you for all your support.

Parks & Recreation Department Staff 973-835-5700

Denise Furfaro, Director of Parks and Recreation x125 or dfurfaro@peqtwp.org Barbara Meloy, E- Marketing/ Administrator x145 or bmeloy@peqtwp.org Heidi Robak, Program Coordinator x158 or hrobak@peqtwp.org



## Office of Emergency Management (OEM)

As spring approaches, so does the flood season. Residents need to prepare in advance for potential flooding. Here are a few reminders to help prepare for possible flooding.

All residents are strongly encouraged to register their cell phones on the updated reverse 9-1-1 system. A quick link to registration is on the township web page. The link can be accessed by clicking on the FLOOD INFORMATION tab located on the left side of the page. Once you have entered the flood information page, simply click on the REVERSE-911-REGISTRATION link. This will allow you to register to receive messages by cell phone, text messages, e-mail, and work phone. The information is immediately entered into the reverse 9-1-1 system so there is no delay in service. Your home phone number is automatically entered in the system so even if you do not register, you will continue to receive notifications on your home telephone. This newer system will help residents receive information when it is needed the most.

Emergency information can also be found on the township radio station, 1620 AM. Information such as road closures, river forecasts, and evacuation notices are broadcasted on a continuous loop. This same information can also be found by calling 973-835-4225. The information is updated on a regular basis.

And finally, please follow the evacuation notices. If you are requested to evacuate, leave as quickly as possible. Do not wait until you need to be evacuated by truck or boat. It is dangerous for both the residents and the fire department members who assist with the evacuations. During Hurricane Irene, several residents were not able to be evacuated due to the dangerous conditions. When you chose to ignore the evacuation request, you are putting you and your family, as well as the volunteer fire departments and first aid squad in danger. Emergency shelters are set up when you are requested to evacuate.

We were spared any flooding events last year. Hopefully we will have the same luck this year. Have a safe and dry spring.

## Fair Housing —Pequannock Township

If you are interested in possibly purchasing an affordable housing unit in Pequannock Township in the future, consider putting your name on Fair Housing's Interested Persons List. Here is how you can put your name on the list:

Request an Interested Person Questionnaire. You can obtain one from the Township's Web site, **www.peqtwp.org** and navigate to Fair Housing.

Request one by phone, by calling 973-835-5700, ext. 198 and leave your name and address. A form will be mailed to you.

Request a form be e-mailed to you. You can e-mail Gail DeGraw, Secretary, at gdegraw@peqtwp.org and request a form.

Once on the list, your household will stay on the list for one year. If you have not been called within that time frame regarding your interest in an affordable housing unit, a letter will be sent to you requesting if you would like to stay on the list with a new form enclosed. If you would like to continue being on the list, complete the form and include the necessary documentation (a copy of your latest W-2) and mail in. If not, simply do nothing and your name will be removed from the list after 30 days.

As always, you may leave an e-mail or telephone message with any questions you may have and someone will get back to you. If you need more information, please call Fair Housing at 973-835-5700, ext. 198, or e-mail Gail DeGraw at gdegraw@peqtwp.org.

## **Pequannock Township Public Library**

#### 2014 CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

## APRIL Registration for all April programs will begin Tues., March 18.

#### April Fools!

Tues., April 1, 4:30-5:30 pm. For grades 3 & up.

#### Little Chicks

Session 1: 2 & 3 year olds & a parent Mon., April 7, 6:15-6:45 pm or 7-7:30 pm Session 2: 4 & 5 year olds & a parent Mon., April 14, 6:15-6:45 pm or 7-7:30 pm





#### Let's Bloom Together! Flower Planting Program

With: Michael Bedrick (aka Marigold Mike) Mon., April 28, 7-8 pm. For grades K-3.

#### MAY

Registration for all May programs will begin Tues., April 22.

#### My Little Garden

Session 1: 2 & 3 year olds & a parent Mon., May 5, 6:15-6:45 pm or 7-7:30 pm Session 2: 4 & 5 year olds & a parent Mon., May 12, 6:15-6:45 pm or 7-7:30 pm



## Rainbowlicious

Celebrating Children's Book Series, *Pinkalicious* Wed., May 7, 3:30-4:30 pm. For grades K - 2.

#### Your Best Coaches

Parent/Guardian
Appreciation Program
With: Louisa Luisi,
Children's Book Author
Tues., May 13, 7-8 pm
For grades K – 4 and their parents/guardians.



## A Registration for June programs will begin Tues., May 20.

#### **Time for Fireflies**

Session 1: 2 & 3 year olds & a parent Mon., June 2, 6:15-6:45 pm or 7-7:30 pm Session 2: 4 & 5 year olds & a parent Mon., June 9, 6:15-6:45 pm or 7-7:30 pm

#### **TEEN TIME PROGRAMS**

For Grades 6 & Up

Registration for all Teen programs begins

Tues., January 21.

#### **APRIL**

Recycled Treasures Wed., April 30, 3:30-4:30 pm



#### MAY

**Let's Crochet!** Wed., May 21, 3:30-4:30 pm

#### **Tech Help Thursdays**

Does Windows have you confused? Do you have questions about Word, Excel, or any Microsoft Office program? Questions about your computer in general? One Thursday evening every month we will be offering half hour appointments to help you with your questions! This is a free program, but preregistration is required. Sign up at the reference desk.

FOR PEQUANNOCK PATRONS ONLY.



## **Construction Department**

#### **House Numbers**

Emergency vehicles responding to a call will be looking for house numbers! In daylight and at night, the operator of an emergency vehicle must search the façade of a dwelling and locate the number to determine where the emergency is.

The Township Code, Section 84, requires that house numbers be at least three inches in height and placed on the left or right of the door and at least five feet from the door saddle. When they are properly located emergency response time is improved.

Visible house numbers assist not only the emergency response teams (fire companies, ambulance corps, and police department) in emergencies such as flood, but also visitors and neighbors (as well as township inspectors). The number identifies the specific location and the sequence of numbers provides the direction.

\* \* \* \*

#### **National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)**

It is strongly recommended to maintain flood insurance coverage. Please be aware that your normal homeowner's insurance policy will not cover losses due to flooding. Because of this fact, and due to the high likelihood of flooding, Pequannock Township participates in the NFIP, which makes flood insurance available to everyone in Pequannock Township. The NFIP is administered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), which works closely with nearly 90 private insurance companies to offer flood insurance to property owners and renters. The NFIP offers flood insurance, which can be purchased through property and casualty insurance agents. Rates are set and do not differ from company to company or agent to agent. These rates depend on many factors, which include the date and type of construction of your home, along with building's level of risk.

Homes and buildings in high-risk flood areas with mortgages from federally regulated or insured lenders are required to have flood insurance. Homes and businesses located in moderate-to-low risk areas that have mortgages from federally regulated or insured lenders are typically not required to have flood insurance. However, flood insurance is highly recommended because 25% of all flood claims occur in moderate-to-low risk flood areas. Note that you have 26% chance of experiencing a flood during the life of a 30 year mortgage. Don't wait until it is too late as there is a 30 day waiting period before coverage goes into effect.

Lower cost flood insurance from the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) is available in low-to-moderate risk areas and you may also qualify for the even lower cost Preferred Risk Policy (PRP). Contact your insurance agent to learn more about how to convert to the PRP. If you do not have an agent or your agent does not write flood insurance policies, the NFIP has a toll free number 1-888-379-9531 or visit the following website, <a href="www.floodsmart.gov">www.floodsmart.gov</a>.

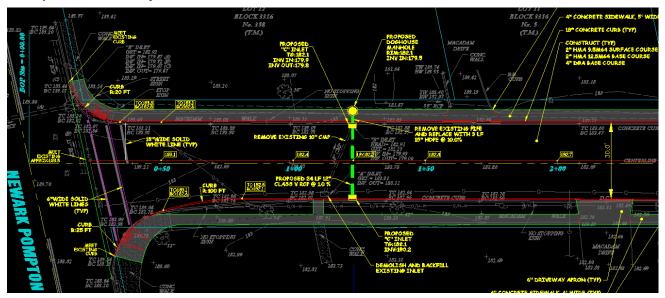
Flood insurance claims can include increased cost of compliance funding. This provision provides additional coverage to help underwrite a flood protection project that is required by code as a condition to rebuild the flooded building. It can also be used to help pay the non-federal portion of a cost-shared retrofitting project. The Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2004 provides for this coverage to be made available, in most cases, for insured structures for which offers of mitigation assistance have been made under certain federally funded mitigation programs.

## **Engineering Department**

#### **Busy Spring Planned**

As we approach the summer of 2014, there are several projects planned for construction. The Village Sewer Project will kick off in April. Sidewalks are proposed for portions of the Boulevard, West Franklin will be completed, Jefferson Street will be reconstructed, and pedestrian improvements are planned for the southern end of the Turnpike.

The Engineering Department is happy to announce the plans and bid specifications for the Boulevard Sidewalk project and the Jefferson Street Reconstruction were all generated "in-house" saving significant design and management fees. We now have a library of details and specifications tailored specific to Pequannock. Here is a peek at a portion of our preliminary Jefferson Street plans:



The Jefferson Street project is funded in part from a FY2012 NJDOT local aid grant. The plan replaces drainage and sidewalks from the Turnpike to Washington Park. New curbs and pavement are proposed from the Turnpike to just past the existing railroad crossing. This project will be completed in the summer of 2014.

\* \* \* \*

With all the new construction planned, combined with road repair necessitated by the harsh winter, we anticipate minor traffic inconveniences near the areas of activity. Please support our workforce by exercising caution when passing active construction zones. These folks work very hard under difficult conditions. Remember these are our neighbors and someone's parent.

\* \* \* \*

The preliminary dates are set for the rain garden training class and construction. The classroom session will be held on April 12, 2014. Folks from the Rutgers Cooperative Extension will tell us how a rain garden functions, the benefits to clean water and flood mitigation, and provide specific instruction on constructing a rain garden on your property. The second half day session will be held on May 10, 2014, weather permitting. This is where the real fun happens. We will be constructing an active rain garden near the Township Library. Upon completion of the two day session, you will receive certification as a Rain Garden Specialist (RGS). The program is free, but if you can, we ask that you bring a couple plants to the second session. The Township will provide most of the plants from the sustainability grant, but it is nice to have your hand picked plants as part of our garden.

The Township is overseeing the project, but we are happy to say a local Boy Scout will be championing the program as part of earning the rank of Eagle Scout. Anyone interested in the program can sign up by contacting Anna Lee at the Public Works Annex. Anna can be reached at 973-835-5700 x189 during regular business hours.



## **More Health Department News**

## **Pequannock Schools Unite To Fight Hunger**

The month of March will be a busy time for the Pequannock Township Health Department who has partnered up with Pequannock Elementary Schools and PV Middle School to target Hunger in NJ. During the whole month of March, which is also National Nutrition Month, all schools will doing their part in collecting healthy food items for their month long food drive. All schools participating were enriched with valuable education provided by the Community Food Bank (CFBNI) Educator who gave daunting statistics of the reality of hunger in NJ. Pequannock students learned that, "nearly 400,000 children in NJ are food insecure" and that "1 out of 5 kids go hungry in NJ". Donations received will benefit both our local pantry as well as the CFBNI, which supports programs like, Back Pack programs, Kids Café, and the Emergency Assistance Pantry that help feed families all over NJ. Together, the Pequannock Health Department, Pequannock Schools and their very successful Read to Feed campaign will join forces to gather as much healthy foods during March's National Nutrition Month. If you wish to join us in our efforts, feel free to donate to any student collecting food and needed items or bring them directly to the Health Department at, 530 Newark Pompton Turnpike, Pompton NJ, 07444 or call 973-835-5700 ext. 115. For a list of needed items please contact us or go directly to our website @ www.pegtwp.org/health. Any little bit helps!

For more information, contact: Christie Jaime @ 973-835-5700 ext. 115. Email: <a href="mailto:cnavea@peqtwp.org">cnavea@peqtwp.org</a>. For a direct flyer and link to online donation please log on to the webpage at www.peqtwp.org/health.



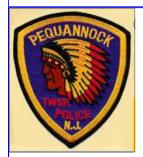
Reminder: All grass, leaves and brush will be collected at curbside every Monday starting with the first Monday of April through the last Monday of December.

Material MUST be prepared and placed curbside in the following manner or it will NOT be collected. No landscaping barrels are permitted. No items in excess of 40 lbs. will be collected (Must be able to be handled by one person). Place all material in either unlined garbage pails or in BIODEGRADABLE paper bags, not to exceed 40 pounds in weight. Plastic bags, even those labeled "biodegradable", are not acceptable. Brush (no larger than four inches in diameter) may also be bundled and tied not to exceed four feet in length, forty pounds, or two inches in diameter so as to be picked up and handled by one person.

Residents are reminded to properly prepare material and place curbside by 6:00 a.m. on collection day.



## **Police Department News**



The Pequannock Police Department, in conjunction with Jersey Battered Women's Service, has a team of specially-trained volunteer advocates available to meet confidentially with victims of domestic violence at police headquarters 24-hours a day, 7 days a week. The volunteer advocates, who are civilian members of the community, work in conjunction with the police to provide support, information, and referrals to victims of domestic violence at police headquarters. The advocates also discuss with the victim their legal rights in regard to obtaining a Temporary Restraining Order. CRT volunteers, whose identities are kept anonymous, are available 24-hours a day to meet

with victims. The volunteer advocates are trained to empower victims to make decisions about their own lives.

Applicants must be 25 years of age or older, have access to transportation, possess a valid driver's license, be willing to serve on an on-call shift basis, and submit to background investigations and fingerprinting. The 40-hour intensive mandatory training course will be provided to successful applicants. Jersey Battered Women's Service will be conducting a training beginning in September, in the Morristown area. Prior knowledge of domestic violence is not required. The Pequannock Police Department and Jersey Battered Women's Service are committed to culturally diverse teams to better serve the community. Bi-lingual capability is a plus.

To request a CRT application, please contact Lt. Daniel Comune of the Pequannock Police Department at 973-835-1700. If you or someone you know is a victim of domestic violence, you can stop by the Pequannock Police Headquarters, at 530 Newark Pompton Turnpike, during normal business hours, and ask to speak to Lt. Daniel Comune.

JBWS is a Morris County-based not-for-profit organization whose mission is the prevention of domestic violence. If you or someone you know is a victim of domestic violence, you can call the Jersey Battered Women's Service Confidential Domestic Violence Hotline at 1-877-RU-ABUSED, 24-hours a day, 7-days a week. For more information about Jersey Battered Women's Service, visit <a href="https://www.jbws.org">www.jbws.org</a>.

\* \* \* \*

Before our children take their first bicycle ride of the spring, please be a positive role model and encourage the use of helmets. The statistics with respect to head injuries sustained as a result of bicycle accidents are overwhelming. This fact alone should be sufficient for parents to require their children to wear a helmet but if it is not, New Jersey law demands it. So please, in the interest of your child's welfare, the best way to keep him or her safe while bicycling is for you to demand that a helmet be worn. Relying on your police to enforce this parental responsibility is not practical or sufficient.

The Pequannock Police Department provides certified child safety seat installation instruction to residents of the township. Certified officers can assist with new installations and check seats that have already been installed. For an appointment contact the Pequannock Police Traffic Bureau at 973-825-1700.



### **Parks & Recreation**

We have Great News....
The Pequannock Township Parks &
Recreation Dept.
In conjunction with:
The First Reformed Church of Pompton
Plains

Is proud to announce our:

# 2<sup>nd</sup> Season Family Farmers Market!

Township of Pequannock 530 Newark Pompton Tpke. Pompton Plains, NJ 07444

PHONE: 973-835-5700 FAX: 973-835-1152

HOURS: Monday-Friday 8:30 a.m.—4:30 p.m. Second Tuesday of Each Month: 8:30 a.m.—7:30 p.m.

The Friday following the second Tuesday 8:30 a.m.—1 p.m.

Please join us opening Day: Thursday, June 5, 2013 \* In front of Town Hall Market will be open Thursdays June 5-September 18, 2-7pm

## Message from your Program Coordinator:

The Pequannock Family Farmers Market was created with the intention, of providing the Township with a family venue that would be fun, healthy and pro-community.

The ever-changing technology, texting, emailing, twittering etc. has created an information gap.

In the hopes of informing our community; the Market is designed to be used as a platform to promote our Township Committees, Departments, Local Businesses, Near & Dear Charities, Artists, Schools and as another way to unite and bring our Town and our Community together.

If you are interested in participating in the market this season or have any ideas, questions or concerns, please e-mail
Heidi Robak
Program Coordinator
hrobak@peqtwp.org