

# Bloomsbury Borough Summer 2011 Newsletter

## From the Mayor

With summer on the way, hopefully there will be little of note. A quiet summer is a good summer. That said, stuff still happens. The big issue we are now facing has to do with the Route 579 (Church Street) bridge. But, before we get to that I do want to update you on the budget, the Mill and pending roadwork.

As noted in the last issue, our budget situation remains very tough, and no relief is in sight. Council continues to work on the budget, which we plan to introduce May 24. If you are concerned about the budget, which will be fully adopted in June, please stop by Borough Hall to review the same and leave us your comments. As you may recall, garbage pick-up, a big portion of the budget, may be affected. We are opening bids for our next possible garbage/recycling contract June 9th – we are hopeful the Borough will be able to continue offering this service from your tax dollars. The most likely – but by no means assured – outcome will be some limitation on number of cans that can be put curbside each week (probably 2 standard cans), with recycling becoming bi-weekly. Stay tuned for this ...

With regard to the Mill – despite the fact that no work is occurring to structure itself, work is happening. Our latest redeveloper has submitted applications to the necessary State and County agencies, and we are just waiting for permits to be approved. My understanding is that the agencies are favorably disposed toward the project. About the only good thing to come from this fitful process is that the regulatory agencies are by now very familiar with this project, so there is not nearly as much of a learning curve for them as in the past. Once the permits get approved the redeveloper will move on the architectural drawings and hopefully we can see actual construction work happening before the next snow.

We are also getting ready for some roadwork. Phase I of the Main Street reconstruction is almost ready to begin. Plans have been prepared and we are almost ready, at this writing, to go to bid. As you will recall this work will occur in the segment between Church and Center Streets, and will involve laying down a new asphalt (not chip and seal) roadbed, with drainage, curbing and sidewalk improvements (new sidewalks). Property owners along this stretch may be asked to grant temporary construction easements to permit the construction to occur. Also, we have budgeted funds to seal cracks that have developed in the roadways in the Fawn Run subdivision. We have been soliciting quotes and plan to have this work occur this summer. These roads are 20 years old and no work has been done to them since they were originally laid down, and now numerous large cracks have developed all over the roadway, which will soon lead to much worse problems. We are hoping that sealing these cracks will stabilize the roadways for many more years.

Finally, we have the 579 bridge. Much of what will follow about the bridge was included in an earlier e-mail to residents (if you have not yet signed up for the e-mail alerts, please do so through our Borough website: [www.bloomsburynewjersey.com](http://www.bloomsburynewjersey.com), and many thanks again to volunteer resident

webmaster Jennifer Rittenhouse for her prompt attention to both the website and e-mail service), so you can disregard much of the below if you've already read this.

To better understand this issue, an understanding of the history of this project is important. The bridge was originally constructed by the Lehigh Valley Railroad (LVRR). In 1967 the Board of Public Utility Commissioners ordered the LVRR to reconstruct the bridge, as the same was substandard and deficient. In 1968 the LVRR went bankrupt and the bridge was deemed to be an "orphan bridge" (a status it holds today). The State and County have assumed responsibility – but not ownership – of such orphan bridges. As a consequence of the LVRR bankruptcy the bridge project did not occur, and nothing much happened until 1984, when an inspection showed that the bridge had deteriorated considerably since 1967. The bridge was accordingly closed in March 1984, and the NJDOT provided \$100,000 for "interim repairs", which were made under County supervision. The bridge was then reopened in December 1984. The 1984 "interim repairs" were the last structural work done to this bridge.

The bridge is proposed to now be replaced for the following reasons: (1) it is substandard and not particularly safe, and (2) the State and Federal governments, along with railroads, wish to raise the height of the bridge by one foot to allow for the next generation of railcars to proceed underneath. There can be no doubt that the bridge needs substantial work, if not total replacement.

The Federal government has allocated \$4 Million to replace the bridge. Unfortunately, the federal government has certain design standards that must be followed – otherwise it will not pay for the work. The primary design standard is that the bridge must have two lanes. There are also certain sight distances that must be maintained. The currently proposed plans call for the replacement of the current bridge with a two-lane bridge, raising the elevation of the roadway both north and south of the bridge, removing the traffic light, and encroaching on the Park. To me this creates a straight, uninhibited shot into the Borough – very unsafe. Many of the plan details give us great cause for concern, and we let the County Engineer know of our concerns both in a public meeting and in comments submitted directly to him.

Unfortunately, we cannot just tell the County to fix the bridge and leave everything else alone (well, we did but were advised that it is not possible as a consequence of the Federal design standards). The State does not have any money for this bridge, nor does the County. If we are at a total impasse, and advise the County that we do not want the project to occur (because of all the associated detrimental impacts), the County will not do the project and the Federal government will re-allocate the funds. This means that the bridge will continue "as-is" until the day comes when it must be shut down for safety reasons. Then there will be no guarantees the bridge will ever be repaired or replaced.

In response to our concerns, the County Engineer has come back to us with some plan modifications. These include:

1. weight restricting CR 579 from the Musconetcong River to CR 614, and adding additional signage to reinforce this (along with some additional law enforcement attention);
2. reduce the design speed of the project from 40 mph to 30 mph, and posting a speed limit of 25 mph in the Borough limits;
3. creation of a 3-way stop at the intersection of Staats Road and CR 579;

4. County would repair Milford Road and Willow Ave. prior to the start of construction, and will resurface both when construction is complete (Milford/Willow will be one of the primary detours during construction);

5. limit time of construction to extent possible by prefabricating elements prior to start of construction;

6. creation of a bicycle/walking path from bridge to Park driveway;

7. creation of landscape plan to include landscape buffer;

8. consideration of retaining walls to limit impact of elevating roadway; and

9. review of Church Street to determine whether additional traffic calming elements may be installed.

We have had further meetings with the County Engineer, and we plan to request all of the above plan modifications in a letter to the Freeholders. We will also be seeking some additional traffic calming measures as well.

The bridge issue took on a greater urgency on May 16, when a State DOT inspector – in an action totally unrelated to the County plans to replace the bridge – did one of the State’s periodic (i.e. every 10 years) inspections of the bridge. Apparently, when he hit a beam on the underside of the bridge with his hammer, the hammer went right through said beam – the bridge was closed immediately so an emergency patch repair could be made. These repairs did happen, and the bridge is safe – for now – but clearly this bridge is on its last legs, can fail in the not-so-near future, and the bridge is a key part of a very important north-south route, not only for Borough residents, but for Hunterdon County residents in general. It is essential that we have a safe and secure means of passage.

That said, if all goes according to plan, work will not begin until 2015, and the same is expected to take 6-8 months. THANK YOU to all residents who came out to the public meetings about the bridge, and especially to those who submitted comments to the County. We were heard, and the current plan is greatly improved over what was initially presented. It is still not perfect, and I wish we could make further changes, but all-in-all if we get the plan revisions set forth above, this project will be a clear benefit to the Borough.

That’s it for this issue. Please consider volunteering with one of our many volunteer organizations – Fire Department, Rescue Squad, PTO, Planning Board, Recreation and more. If you have an interest in volunteering and have questions, do not hesitate to reach out to me. Also – our Council meetings are always the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m.; feel free to attend and see what’s happening with your local government. In the meantime, enjoy your summer!

Mark Peck, Mayor

**Bloomsbury Town For Sale**  
**Saturday June 11, 2011 8 to 3 rain or shine**

donations for advertisements can be mailed to:  
Pat Fitzpatrick Pob 355 Bloomsbury, NJ 08804

---

**Community Composting Day**

June 12<sup>th</sup>, 3-5 pm.

Please join Girl Scout Troop 91298

in partnership with The Bloomsbury Environmental Commission  
and The Green Team for a Composting & Environmental Awareness  
Presentation at Tuxhorn Park. There will be fun, environmentally  
friendly activities for kids, discounted composters, a presentation on  
Composting, a bake sale & lots of Bloomsbury Community Spirit!  
Please come & support these great organizations & "Go Green!"

---

Residents.....Just a friendly reminder, from our Zoning Officer  
as summer approaches.....

Bloomsbury has a Property Maintenance Code #101-10

Copies are available on our Town Website or at Borough Hall

Also, before doing any Home Improvements, stop by Town Hall  
& see Larry, our Zoning Officer for a zoning permit!

State building permits will only be issued after a Bloomsbury  
zoning permit has been obtained.

---

**Woo-Hoo! Get the icepacks ready, Over 30 Softball is back!**

**Sunday, July 24, 2011- 3 pm. at the Park.**

Sponsored by: The Bloomsbury Recreation Commission

---

**Coming Soon.....Movie Night at The Park!**

Sponsored by: The Bloomsbury Recreation Commission

Movie date & time will be emailed & posted on The Borough Website.

Our concession stand (aka: Snack Shack) will be open!

Bring a blanket, chairs & enjoy!

Residents..... Bloomsbury Hose Company  
asks you to clean your smoke detector & change the batteries yearly.  
It's recommended to replace smoke & carbon monoxide detectors every 5 years  
to avoid sensor failures. Stay Safe Bloomsbury!

---

The week of June 13 -17, 2011 has been declared  
“Bloomsbury Elementary School 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Good Citizenship Week”

The Town Council has adopted Resolution # 37-11 in support of  
BES 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Class Proclamations.

Residents are urged to participate by following the following ideals;  
“Outside for a Day”, “Conserve Energy for a Day”, “Week of Wonderful Work”,  
“The Healthier the Better”, “No Smokes for Folks”, “Back to the Past”

Full resolution is posted on our Town website.

---

### Attention Pet Owners!

As you walk & exercise your pets throughout town, please be courteous to your neighbors  
& clean up after your pets. For specific regulations, go to the Borough website  
Ordinance # 108-06

---

Here are some websites to help you stay on top of all Bloomsbury has to offer!

Bloomsbury Hose Company & Auxiliary.....[bloomsburyhosecompany.org](http://bloomsburyhosecompany.org)

Bloomsbury Rescue Squad.....[bloomsburyrescue.com](http://bloomsburyrescue.com)

Bloomsbury Elementary School  
[bburyes.com](http://bburyes.com)

Bloomsbury United Methodist Church  
[bloomsburyumc.com](http://bloomsburyumc.com)

First Presbyterian Church of Bloomsbury  
[1stpcob.org](http://1stpcob.org)

Church of the Annunciation  
[parishesonline.com/scripts/hostedsites/Org.asp?ID=6152](http://parishesonline.com/scripts/hostedsites/Org.asp?ID=6152)

## WHAT'S THE PROBLEM WITH LITTER?

When was the last time you saw someone littering? Litter just doesn't appear — it's the result of careless actions. No matter where litter is discarded, it usually ends up in the street, where it washes down storm drains and ultimately flows to local waterways.

Littering is not only unsightly, it's a threat to wildlife and their habitat. Before you flick a cigarette butt out of your window or throw out a plastic bottle, consider this: Cigarette filters have been found in the stomachs of marine life, birds, and other animals, because they thought it was food. Birds and marine life have also been found trapped or tangled in plastic items such as six-pack drink holders, plastic bags and fishing line. Please be considerate, and protect our wildlife and our water.

### YOU CAN HELP!

- Set an example for others, especially children, by not littering.
- Carry a litterbag in your car.
- Make sure trash cans have lids that can be securely fastened.
- If you have curbside trash collection, don't put loose trash in boxes.
- Prevent trash cans from being knocked over by the wind and animals.
- Tie papers in a bundle before placing them in a curbside recycling bin.
- If you own a business, check dumpsters daily to see that top and side doors are closed.
- If you or a family member is involved in a civic group, scouting, or recreational sports program, encourage the group to "adopt" a spot in your town and maintain it on a regular basis.
- Report areas where people have illegally dumped garbage and debris and ask that the material be removed.
- Volunteer to help organize a cleanup.

## WHY SHOULD YOU CARE ABOUT CLEAN WATER?

Stormwater pollution is one of the greatest threats to New Jersey's clean water supply. Clean water provides access to safe drinking water, places for recreation, commercial opportunities, healthy wildlife habitats, and adds beauty to our landscape. Rain washes pollution from streets, parking lots, and lawns into storm drains, then directly to our streams, rivers, lakes and the ocean.

Did you know more than 60 percent of water pollution comes from things such as motor oil, fertilizers, pet waste and detergents? By sharing the responsibility and making small, easy changes in our daily lives, we can keep common pollutants out of stormwater.



[www.cleanwaterNJ.org](http://www.cleanwaterNJ.org)



Thanks to the Washington State Department of Ecology,

**IF YOU LITTER  
IN THE STREET,  
YOU MIGHT AS WELL  
LITTER IN THE RIVER.**



**Rain washes pollutants into storm drains  
and directly into our lakes,  
rivers and the ocean.  
So what can you do?**



[www.cleanwaterNJ.org](http://www.cleanwaterNJ.org)

## LITTER & RECYCLING TIPS

- ▶ Reduce, reuse and recycle materials whenever possible to create less waste, which could end up on our streets and contribute to stormwater pollution.
- ▶ Pick up trash and litter on your property and put it in the trash. Always use a public trash can for trash in public areas. Recycle any reusable materials, especially cans, bottles and paper.
- ▶ NEVER throw litter and debris directly into storm drains. Such debris can wash into waterways and onto beaches, and clogged drains can cause street flooding and traffic congestion.
- ▶ Always put your cigarette butts in ashtrays or solid garbage cans, not on the streets. Remember, our parks, playgrounds and beaches are not ashtrays. When an ashtray or garbage can are not available, store extinguished butts in your cigarette pack until you find a proper receptacle.
- ▶ Empty automobile ashtrays into the trash, not out your car window or directly on the ground. Proper disposal will help keep our waterways clean and minimize the risk of fires.
- ▶ Make sure to properly dispose of leftover household chemicals, paints and automotive fluids. These leftover chemicals should never be thrown away. Take them to a household hazardous waste collection center where they can be recycled. To find a center near you, visit [www.state.nj.us/dep/dshw/rtrp/hhwcpsh.htm](http://www.state.nj.us/dep/dshw/rtrp/hhwcpsh.htm)

Parents who wish to enroll their children may do so by completing the registration portion of this notice and returning it to Bloomsbury Borough Hall or mail it to Bloomsbury Recreation Commission, 91 Brunswick Ave. Bloomsbury NJ 08804. A registration fee of \$80 per single child or \$100 per family must accompany completed form. The program is open to Bloomsbury residents and Bloomsbury Elementary School students. For further information call Chris Smith (908) 479-6808. Registration deadline is Friday July 1, 2011.

**Bloomsbury Summer Recreation Program  
2011 Youth Registration Form**

Name	Grade	Address	Telephone #

Please list any allergies or medical problems that the directors should be aware of during this program (example: allergies, asthma, etc.)

---

Students listed above have parental permission to participate in the summer recreation program. Please list personal health insurance information

_____	_____	_____
Date	Emergency Contact	Emergency Contact
_____	_____	_____
Insurance Co.	Policy#	Parent Signature

Volunteer Services: I can volunteer my talent/time in the following manner: \_\_\_\_\_

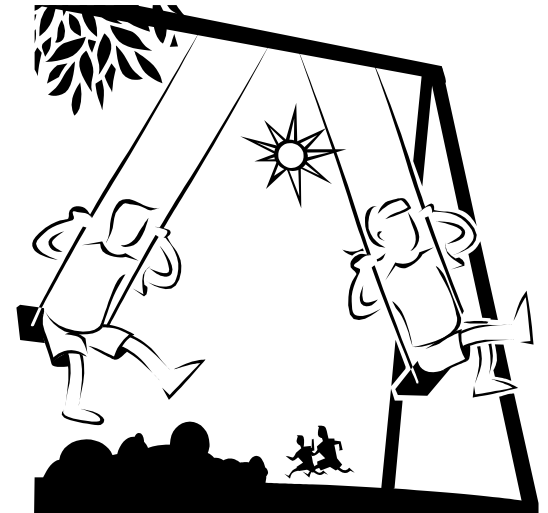
---

Note: Summer Recreation T-shirts will be available for participants. Orders will be taken and fees collected through July 8<sup>th</sup>. Cost \$14.00,

Make checks payable to Bloomsbury Recreation Commission. Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Quantity	Size	Total	Quantity	Size	Total
	Youth 10-12			Adult Medium	
	Youth 14-16			Adult Large	
	Adult Small			Adult X-Large	

# BLOOMSBURY SUMMER RECREATION



**July 5 thru August 5, 2011  
Registrations Due by Friday July 1, 2011**

## 2011 BLOOMSBURY SUMMER

### RECREATION PROGRAM

Sponsored and overseen by the Bloomsbury Recreation

Commission. *Established in 1986.*

#### **Program Dates**

**Tuesday July 5th - Friday August 5th**

**10:00 am – 12:00 noon**

**Bloomsbury Field Pavilion**

**1:00 pm – 3:00 pm**

**Bloomsbury School**

**All-Purpose Room**

On rainy days the program continues at the school.

For all Bloomsbury Residents and Bloomsbury Elementary

School children grades K-8\*. Come join the fun!

This is a flexible program. Attend when you can.

Whether it's morning, afternoon, once a week, whatever fits your schedule. Guests visiting Bloomsbury residents or registered families are welcome to any session provided a guest registration form is filled out completely and accompanied by a daily \$5.00 guest fee.

The recreation program is staffed by a full-time Director and full-time Junior Director, who are assisted by Student aides.

#### **IMPORTANT NOTE:**

Each year, a number of field trips are scheduled for the Summer Rec participants. These trips typically include a local swim club, roller skating and bowling. The cost for participation in the field trips **is not** included in the family registration fee, and is intended to cover the cost of admissions and bus transportation. An additional per-trip fee (typically between \$8.00 and \$10.00 per child) will be collected by the Program Director along with a signed parental permission slip prior to each trip. Due to the large number of children that typically attend these trips, **we need, welcome, encourage and appreciate** any parent who is able to join the trip as a chaperone to help monitor and ensure the children's safety.

Due to the growing enrollment and participation in the field trips, volunteer chaperones are a vital part of the program and will allow the field trip aspect to continue. Chaperones are vital to ensuring fun, safe, well supervised field trips. Each chaperone will be asked to assist in monitoring a small group of the children. If you are interested in attending one or more of the field trips, please notify the program director.

While younger siblings not registered in the program are certainly welcome to attend the field trips with you, please be aware that **the field trip fee will apply to each child attending, including the younger sibling(s).**

### TYPICAL ACTIVITIES

#### **INCLUDE**

Kick-Ball

4-Square

Swim Trip

Roller Skating Trip

Bowling Trip

Beach Day

Nok-Hockey

"Wet Sponge" Dodge Ball

Penny Carnival

Table and Board Games

Afternoon Craft projects

T-shirt Design Contest

**And Many More.....**

The Recreation Program is developed to comply with affirmative action/equal opportunity principles.

# Bloomsbury Borough Townwide Garage Sale Directory

## June 11, 2011

The deadline for listing items in the below directory has been extended to June 3. Please email [webmaster@bloomsburynewjersey.com](mailto:webmaster@bloomsburynewjersey.com) with your house number, street and items for sale if you would like to be included.

This directory lists Bloomsbury residences and items for sale at those residences during the Bloomsbury Borough Townwide Garage Sale on June 11, 2011. It has been compiled in an effort to make pinpointing your text big find a little easier. Enjoy your day garage sale hopping!

Note: This list does not necessarily list all residences participating in the townwide garage sale

House Number	Street	Items for Sale
73	Brunswick Ave. (Access via alley off Center St.)	Craft supplies, small furniture, kitchen items, holiday items, fabric, miscellaneous.  All proceeds to benefit Feline Urban Rescue & Rehab.
82 B	Brunswick Ave.	Plants - proceeds will help fund Eagle Scout Project - Beautification of Point Park
113	Brunswick Ave.	Maclaren Double Stroller, Children's toys, toddler boys clothing and shoes, train table, toy bins, children's DVDs
129	Brunswick Ave.	Antiques, books, records, small furniture, wall hangings, some automotive tools
22	Center St.	Miscellaneous household items, Weber grill, extension ladder
29	Main St.	CDs, household items, books
58	Main St.	Lane Chest, Fender Bass w/amp, Fender Mini w/amp, Two 20" Raleigh bikes, other bikes, thru wall heater/ac, asst'd games/toys/household items
88	Main St. (Rescue Squad)	Craft supplies, small furniture, kitchen items, holiday items, pictures, household items, office supplies, tools, shelving plumbing/Electrical/HVAC supplies
106	Main St.	Baby/Toddler furniture, Crib, Trampoline, children's clothes (Gap, Gymboree...), household items, pack 'n play, outdoor table set....much more
68	North St.	Craft supplies, small furniture, kitchen items, holiday items 2000 Harley FLHTCUI, construction tools/supplies, household goods, Jayco pop up camper, etc.
4	Fawn Run	Household items, games, miscellaneous
54	Lehigh Ave.	Downsizing - Tons of Household stuff - Soup to Nuts incl. Longaberger, Cats Meows, Stampin Up