

A Lot Accomplished in First Year, A Lot Still to Do!

y fellow residents of Atlantic Highlands, this first year went by so fast I cannot believe it! It seems as though we just got started. However, I have been blessed to work with a council of honest, God-fearing, townloving individuals. They have truly made my job much easier!

Government moves very slowly. Restrictions are placed on everything we do in Government when we try to get things done. In my opinion, the cumbersome roadblocks in place by Federal, State and County rules and regulations, really were created to make jobs for those who lobbied the politicians. If the private sector were restricted and regulated as much as Government is, nothing would ever get done on time or at budget costs.

MAYOR Frederick J. Rast

In spite of these roadblocks, our council team, working together in a non-partisan manner, were able to get a few things done. Those projects we started but never finished were not due to lack of trying. Your council and our professionals in Borough Hall, are a hard-working team. We were successful in many things: We were able to protect our water supply system by repairing one of the two wells that were down and repairing the million-gallon water tank before a disaster occurred, although we still must drill a new well to replace the old well that is over 100 years old and no longer can be used.

We were able to find a truly economical way to institute our town's reverse 911 emergency warning system (which still has some bugs to be worked out). First estimates were for over \$30,000 to set up — we got it for less than \$5,000 per year, plus in the near future we may be able to tie into

the county's system.

Atlantic Highlands

Beacon

Mayor's Message:

Page 1

- "A Lot Accomplished in First Year. A Lot Still to Do!"
- The Facts on the Borough Hall Renovation Project

New Animal Control Ordinance in

Borough News:

Eff	ect	Doas	& C	ats N	/lust	Ве	
1 1 1 mmm	ensed		Marie.				2
Mess	3253322	486 Sec.	280 J		(1000
Website State of the	age (c siden	a kata waxay	muc	HIGH	iario	5	-
			4.4.	•••••	•		
Atten		1.7		33.2000			. 2
St. Ag	nes l	arisi	ı Bid	s Fa	rewe	ell to	
its	First	Scho	ol Bı	ıildir	1g	•••••	. 3

Ž.		S			ı		ï	i			S	t	3	ı	_			H	i		ij	c	2	_	·	•		E	÷	ż			1	Ċ	ı	ä	i	ł	ï	į.	ŝ	8	ं		
ŕ	Ÿ	۳																																							Ž.				
ŝ	Ó		2	Ò	S	:	1	n	ı	1	г	ı	i	1	c	1	1	8	1	2	c	1	1	۵	i	11	a	il	À	ı	3	le	4	1	١	c	ì	ı	ı	9	7		Š,	3	į
Ž.	Ç	F	ï,	9			Ī	_		Į,	•	0		•	2	•			Š		5						7	ï	_		Ţ		7			Ĭ		Ϊ.		•	Ċ.			1	
ì		C	١	^	r	,	ŧ	Ĭ	Ė	ı	•	1	r	ì		'n	'n	ċ	ä	Ä	ï	ł	٠,	u		ċ	ú	Ġ		ď.	ē	ij		è	ď		ď	Ů,	8	4	ij			ò	į
ŀ		ĭ																								7	Ç,						å			á	ä	3			Ç.	Š		Ç	١
e S			Ò		Ţ	E	١	E	1	1	1	3	Ì	1	Ċ	e	ï	li	ï	1	Ó	ĺ	•	3	C	ż	11	T	ľ	S	1	1	Ċ	2		١.	Ò	1	١		ì	H		3	
ŝ		×	ű		37	1	ø		÷	:3		• •	37		ď.					ð,	23					×		P	٧.			٤,		ŀ	Ĭ.					•	7		•	1	
Š		p	Ú	H	ģ	ı	1	tl	ı	٠	1	Н	ı	i	'n	h	ı	l	ä	r	1	d	Ś	٠	•	3	ti	Ü	c	ł	P	r	ıſ	•	٠	ſ	3	i	Ü	h	n	c	1		
Ď.														-	_				0					٠.			• •						13			ď		•	Ī	•	X	٠	•	₫	ï
Č.			÷	٠,٠		١.	-	_	ч	•	٠	•		٠	ı	=	٦.	-	•	ч		,	٩.	1.	м	١.	r	٠,	•	-	ı		ŀ	•				٠.				1	١.	С	

Library News......5 Foreclosure Alone Is Not Grounds for Eviction 6

A.H. Recreation Schedule 2009..... 8

Here are the facts on the Borough Hall renovation project

recent article in the Asbury Park
Press reporting that your Mayor and Council are considering a renovation of Borough Hall — at a projected cost of \$5.5 million - has stirred some controversy in the Borough, Unfortunately, since most residents of the Borough do not attend the bi-weekly Mayor and Council meetings, the discussions taking place around the Borough do not include the entire reason why this renovation needs to take place.

Borough Hall was constructed approximately 39 years ago and has served the Borough well over the years. However, over the past few years, we have found that the building was poorly constructed in many areas. Back in the 1960s, the installation of a hot water heating system was the up-to-date system to install. Even in today's buildings, a properly measured and installed hot water system would still be an excellent source of heat. However, over the years the current system has developed many leaks.

For many years these problems have existed in Borough Hall and every approach has failed to fix the problem. There has been, and still is, an extensive amount of mold continually forming in Borough Hall. We have Borough employees fix one area and then soon after another area is in need of repairs.

For years, the employees have been complaining about the mold problem. The Borough has spent over \$400,000

New Animal Control Ordinances in Effect — Dogs & Cats Must Be Licensed —

In 2008 The Borough modified its Animal Control Ordinances. The complete document can be found on the Borough web-site at www.ahnj.com — in the government section.

DOG LICENSING REQUIREMENTS

Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 4:19-15.2a. municipalities are mandated to issue annual dog licenses to all dogs sevenmonths-of-age or over, for a licensing period beginning between January and June. In order to receive a dog license, the dog owner must first supply a rables vaccination certificate signed by a licensed veterinarian indicating that the animal's duration of immunity extends throughout at least the first 10 months of the 12-month licensing period. Dogs that have a duration of immunity which expires prior to the 10-month period should receive a booster vaccination prior to the issuance of a license.

Atlantic Highlands has staggered the expiration date of the dog license with all expirations occurring no later

Attention Residents

please refrain from putting any shop towels, paper towels, grease, oil, and any large items into the sewer system.

These items are causing our sewers pumps to clog up and back up into the sewer system.

In 2008 and the first few weeks of 2009, we have spent an additional \$7,200 of your money in maintenance to unclog these sewer pumps.

Thanks for your cooperation in this matter.

Atlantic Highlands Water/Sewer Department

than June 30 in the calendar year following issuance, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 4:19-15.3a. Implementation of this system will allow flexibility in setting the expiration date of the license, which will benefit dog owners by allowing better matching of the dog license expiration date with the rabies vaccine schedule of the dog.

An exemption will be granted to the vaccination requirement for a dog that a licensed veterinarian certifies in writing, cannot be inoculated due to a infirmity, physical condition or regimen of therapy. Such certification must be for a specific medical condition and not because the veterinarian or owner does not want to vaccinate the animal before the previous duration of immunity lapses.

DOG LICENSING FEES

Dog license fee, shall be ten (\$10) dollars for each dog, plus one (\$1) dollar for N.J. registration and twenty (20¢) cents for N.J. Pilot Clinic Fund, plus three (\$3) dollars for non-neutered dogs only for N.J. Pet Population Control. An additional late fee of five (\$5) dollars per dog license shall be paid by all persons purchasing a license 30 days after expiration of such license.

RABIES CLINIC

Free Rabies Clinic will be held on Thursday, March 19 from 6 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. at the Fire House on East Mount Ave.

Dogs used as guides for blind persons and commonly known as "Seeing Eye" dogs shall be licensed and registered as other dogs except that the owner or keeper of such dog shall not be required to pay any fee.

CAT LICENSING

No person shall own, keep, harbor or maintain any cat within the Municipality, over seven months of age, unless such cat is vaccinated and has obtained a license from the Municipal Clerk. Proof of licensing shall be produced by any person owning, keeping, harboring or maintaining a cat upon request by any health official, police officer, animal control officer or other authorized person.

EXCEPTION

Any cat may be exempted from the requirements of such vaccination upon presentation of a veterinarian's certificate stating that because of an infirmity or other physical condition or regimen of therapy, the inoculation of such cat shall be deemed inadvisable.

CAT LICENSE FEE

The cat license fee shall be five (\$5) dollars for spayed cats and eight (\$8) dollars for non-spayed cats. An additional late fee of two (\$2) dollars per cat license shall be paid by all persons purchasing a license 30 days after expiration of such license.

For questions or further information, call Dwayne at 732-291-1444 ext 613.

Message to Atlantic Highlands Residents:

It has come to the attention of the Borough that many walkways have not been maintained during the recent inclement weather we have been having.

Per Borough Ordinance 112-1 the removal of snow and ice must be removed from the front of commercial and residence sidewalks within 24 hours after the snow ceases.

Failure to do so will result in the issue of a summons. If for some unforeseen reason the snow or ice is not able to be removed they can contact my office at 732-291-1122.

Theresa Radigan Code Enforcement Officer Borough of Atlantic Highlands

Don't be duped by Telemarketing Scams

The New Jersey State P.B.A. has been receiving an increased amount of complaints regarding the practices of telemarketers calling on behalf of Law Enforcement Groups.

THE N.J. STATE PBA AND ALL ITS 360 LOCAL ASSOCIATIONS THROUGHOUT NEW JERSEY DO NOT UTILIZE TELEMARKETING SCHEMES FOR ANY PURPOSE WHATSOEVER.

The State P.B.A. is very proud of the relationship that we have built within our communities and will not betray the trust of our citizens by engaging in high pressure and inherently deceptive fund raising schemes.

Anyone receiving a suspicious or harassing telephone call from a telemarketer should make every effort to record the caller's name, phone number and name of the group they are calling on behalf of. The call should then be reported to the N.J. Division of Consumer Affairs Hotline. (800) 242-5846.

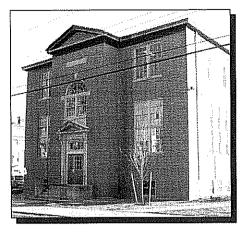
Courtesy of Atlantic Highlands PBA Local 242

ST. AGNES PARISH BIDS FAREWELL TO ITS FIRST SCHOOL BUILDING

The campus of St. Agnes Parish will continue its renovations with the demolition of the old school building, more recently known as the "minigym." The parish will eventually replace the building area with a prayer grotto and garden dedicated to the Biessed Mother.

As the cornerstone was carefully removed, Paul Anderson came to watch. In addition to his work on the St. Agnes Finance Council and other ministries and his status as a long-time parishioner, Paul also had sentimental reasons for his presence — he attended elementary school in the





building.

"Will I miss seeing the school when I drive past"? Paul asked. "Sure I will. In reality though it's a building; just mortar and bricks. What's really important are the things my classmates and I learned here... to love our God, to love our Faith, and to love each other. And, oh yes, all those wonderful memories."

A small metal box found inside the cornerstone contained treasures including a 1914 penny, a 1921 quarter, a 1921 silver dollar and an Indian Head nickel. There was also a coin commemorating the Golden Jubilee celebrated at St. James parish in 1924. A crumbled newspaper from the day was also part of the treasure.

With the assistance of the environmental firm — Recycling the Past Architectural Salvage — the process of disassembling the building began on Thursday, January 29. During the salvage of the mini-gym, "Recycling the Past" will be filmed for a television documentary about recycling building materials by the Do-It-Yourself Network and The National Association of Home Builders. Anderson was also interviewed for his historical perspective. The building was erected in 1924 and was used as St. Agnes School until the new building was opened in 1967. It has been used for gym classes until the opening of the Parish Center in 2007.

Skip the Plastic Bag, Free Cloth Shopping Bag Available Now!

o help cut down on the amount of plastic bags that ends up in our local waterways and woodlands, the Borough of Atlantic Highlands is offering to every borough resident a free cloth shopping bag, courtesy of N.J. Clean Communities!

You can obtain your free cloth bag inside Borough Hall during normal business hours. All we ask is that you provide your name and proof of address. Please, one bag per resident. Hurry, supplies are very limited!!

These bags are light-weight, but fullsized shopping bags. They are branded with the borough's logo and an encouraging message that "Atlantic Highlands is a Clean Community!"

By using your free cloth bag while shopping you are helping to keep our environment healthy. Did you know

that it can take up to 1,000 years for a single plastic bag to decompose? Plastics don't biodegrade, they photodegrade, breaking down into tiny toxic pieces that contaminate soil and water, or harm wildlife.



Mayor's Message

continued from page 1

We were able to install and complete the Skate Board Park as promised to our residents for many years.

The Bayshore Trail is nearly completed in Atlantic Highlands. We still need to complete the trail through our Fireman's Field that has been delayed due to environmental restrictions and pending litigation with the Gas Company.

We have greatly reduced the ground water infiltration into our sewer system, thus saving thousands of dollars by reducing the amount of liquids and solids treated by the Middletown Sewer Treatment plant. Simply put, we have been paying for clean water metered as sewerage when it is piped to Middletown. We pay a lot of money treating clean water as though it is sewerage.

We have, through our hardworking committees and volunteer groups, been able to improve the quality of life for our residents by keeping the fireworks, the Fireman's Fair, holiday decorations lining our streets, the Memorial Day Parade, and many other things. Our Chamber of Commerce has been revitalized by an inspired leader and the support of our elected officials, who actively and aggressively support the many business in town.

Although we cannot allow Scouts and other youth groups to camp in Lenape Woods, we are still working on it. The real delay is from Middletown Township, which still has not decided if it is going to relinquish full control of the wooded area — mainly within their town but owned by Atlantic Highlands — to us so we can allow camping. It seems their town does not allow camping, so we cannot until we have full control of the land we paid millions of dollars for! Two private owners would take a couple of days to make a decision, instead of eight months!

We finally are making progress in fighting the mold in Borough Hall. We think the most sensible and economical way to correct our mold problem in Borough Hall — as well as build a new library — is renovating the existing building with a sensible addition.

Due to the new State and Federal regulations, the cost of building a new Borough Hall and Library, would prove to be an astronomical amount of money. If we renovate, correct the moisture problem and expand the existing structure, those regulations will not apply and will cost us much less to get the job done.

We have stopped political interference in our various utilities, commissions and committees.

The only promises I make to our people is that the Council and I will continue to serve all of you, without prejudice, malice, political slant and on the high morale ground to the best of our ability.

In Borough Hall's operations, by allowing the professionals to do their jobs without micro managing from our council, morale has increased — and so has productivity.

Since Jan 1, 2008, I have insisted that no one except current elected officials and town employees be allowed in the Borough's work areas. The heads of the various commissions, utilities and committees are allowed access to confidential papers and workspace of our Town Hall, on an asneeded basis only!

On Day One — Jan. 1, 2008 — I had locks and codes changed and demanded that no more political petitions be allowed on the counters of Borough Hall. In the past such petitions implied that the town officials were endorsing one political view or another.

No longer are we allowing the town quarterly newsletter to be a venue where the political views of the Mayor and Council members are expressed.

I have reminded everyone that the Council and I were elected to serve equally all of our town's people, regardless of their political affiliations. We will not subject our citizens to our own political views, while in our official capacity.

Our team has set goals to support bringing back the old "Hometown Traditions" that made us, as long-time residents of Atlantic Highlands, love our community so much. The Santa Clause rekindling by the First Aid Squad has brought joy to all. The direct involvement of our Mayor and Council brings back memories I have of Mayors Waldron Smith and Everett Curry visiting my home when I was a young boy, along with Councilman dressed as elves during Christmas time.

We are trying to set up an "old tradition" of ice-skating in the harbor. Mother Nature has not cooperated yet and we have had some technical problems.

Next year, I would like to find some place in our town where we can have a safe sledding hill. When I was a child, Mount Avenue was always blocked off during heavy snows. I am not suggesting we do that again but I bet we can find some private land, some place where we could at least have a "kiddy hill" safe for the little ones to enjoy. After all, our children are our greatest asset.

We are in very hard economic times. It has dramatically hurt all of us. God only knows when it will get better but at least Atlantic Highlands can remain an oasis where people can enjoy life, raise their families, be protected by our fine Police, Fire and First Aid personnel and be thankful they have this lovely community to come home to at the end of the day.

The only promises I make to our people is that the Council and I will continue to serve all of you, without prejudice, malice, political slant and on the high morale ground to the best of our ability.

You know we have seven churches in town — their clergy do wonderful things for our community. I ask them all to pray for us as elected officials to give us the guidance and strength to do the best job possible for our community.

God Bless you and your loved ones and God Bless and keep our United States strong and safe for all of us and our children.

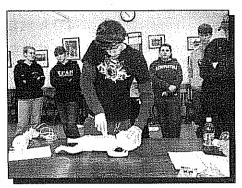
ATLANTIC HIGHLANDS STUDENTS GIVING BACK AS FIRST AID CADETS



President Barack Obama's urging of Americans to "find meaning in something greater than themselves" is already in play with a group of Atlantic Highlands teenagers who are part of the Atlantic Highlands First Aid & Safety Squad's Cadets program.

"The cadets bring youthful energy to our squad and increase the dynamics of our already diverse and interesting membership," said Andrew Crawford, captain of the AHFAS and one of the Cadet advisers.

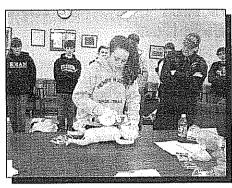
The Cadet program of the Atlantic Highlands First Aid & Safety Squad is



open to students between the ages of 14 and 17. Members participate in group outings, learn basic first aid and CPR skills, and, once they're 16-years old can ride on real emergency calls. Cadet members meet once a month under the guidance of advisers Tom Hayden, Bill Mount, and Crawford.

The program is designed to give students a taste of the all-volunteer organization, while also learning important people and medical skills that could come into play later.

"We are developing the emergency responders of tomorrow and being able



to reach them at such a young age helps to ensure that quality emergency care continues in the future," Hayden said.

The Atlantic Highlands First Aid & Safety Squad is an all-volunteer organization that provides free around-the-clock emergency medical service and rescue operations to the area. The AHFAS operates on donations from the borough and the residents. For information about the organization, becoming a volunteer, or the cadet program call the squad's non-emergency number (732) 291-8118 or log onto ahfirstaid.org.

Library News -

Looking for a Job?

The Monmouth County Library can help in two ways. They have resources available at the Career Information center at the Eastern Branch, 1001 Route 35 in Shrewsbury, and they have an online link to many topics for those choosing a career, job hunting, employment projections, and résumé writing.

For more information or to schedule an appointment with the Career Center Librarian, call the library at 732-683-8980. For the online job links go to the Monmouth County Library's home page at www.monmouthcounty.lib.org and click on "Services and Collections" and then "Career Center."

2008 — Record breaking year

Circulation at the Library during 2008 was highest ever with 38,731 items having circulated during the year. Not only were new high totals reached with book and DVD rentals, but computer usage

also broke old records. Nearly one-half of the residents of Atlantic Highlands have library cards — there are 2,137 current users.

"Make Your Own Video Game" Workshops

In January, Black Rocket Productions conducted a two-week workshop in which participants ages 8-and-up studied the essential components of designing their own video game, learning conceptualization, play experience, challenge levels, graphics and elements, music and sound, software, and simple coding, all while having fun. Last summer, a similar program had been offered. The response was so enthusiastic, the library has decided to offer more programs at both beginner and intermediate levels this year.

Laptops Donated to Library

A big thank you to the Buddy Franklin

and the Mitre Corporation who arranged for 10 used laptops to be donated to the Library. Mr. Franklin, who works for Mitre is also a member of the Cesaria Masonic Lodge of Keyport, became aware of the need when he was approached by Slim Faller of the Monmouth Lodge of Atlantic Highlands for our Legos Robotics Class (see following.)

Lego Workshops

Gladys Rios, of Port Monmouth, who heads up First Lego Team #1324, conducted several workshops in January for children 9-and-up. The participants learned how to build and program a robot using Legos. The team is looking to form a competition team and is looking for new members. The Library plans to offer more of these programs in the future; if you are interested in participating, please call the Library at 732-291-1956.

Foreclosure Alone Is Not Grounds for Eviction

Tenants have a right to stay in their homes during a foreclosure and after resale of the property

In 1994, the New Jersey Supreme Court held that the Anti-Eviction Act protects tenants even when the property where they live is in foreclosure or has been foreclosed. A bank or other lender that forecloses on a residential property covered by the Act takes that property with the tenants still in it. And if the lender resells the property to another owner, that owner also takes the property still occupied by its tenants.

Residential tenants in New Jersey cannot be evicted solely because the property where they live is in foreclosure or has been foreclosed. In general, New Jersey law protects tenants against eviction from their homes so long as they:

- · pay the rent,
- respect the peace and quiet of their neighbors,
- avoid willful or grossly negligent damage to the property, and
- obey the reasonable rules they have agreed to in writing.

The laws protecting tenants from eviction apply throughout foreclosure proceedings and continue to have effect even after a new owner buys the property.

If you feel that you are at risk of being evicted from your rental home because of a foreclosure, here are some numbers you can call for help:

Legal Services of New Jersey 888-576-5529

New Jersey Tenants' Organization 201-342-3775

Department of the Public Advocate, Division of Citizen Relations 609-826-5070

Borough Hall

continued from page 1

during past years addressing the problems and getting studies done. None of these costly efforts have worked to date. Simply put, we are not able to get to the root of the problem and yet we continue to put good money over bad money. We can only band-aid a problem for so long and exhaust all options before a permanent solution needs to be found.

- The mold in Borough Hall is being caused by many reasons. The hot water heating/air conditioning system in the building has multiple leaks inside the walls and ceilings.
- The construction of the building was such that the building was not properly insulated and sealed for moisture.
- There were no French drains or exterior drain system built around the building.
- The building's foundation was not sealed consistent with acceptable sealing practices, such as black tar, membrane and then another coat of black tar. The builders just painted black tar-type paint on the foundation.
- There was no underground drainage system installed and flooding occurs from below the basement slab.

Furthermore, over the years previous administrations were against having any shrubbery or trees cut away from the building so the sunlight could dry out areas surrounding the building after heavy rains. As such, the shrubbery and trees have become overgrown and unmanageable. The area needs improvement.

As a resident of the town, I only found out about the problems when I became a Councilman in 2001. Plans were made to tear down the old building and build a new Borough Hall which was originally estimated at over \$11 million in costs.

Currently one Union has given notice to the Borough that they are contemplating taking legal action against the Borough if work to address the issue is not taken and for allowing an unhealthy work environment for Union members to work in for many years.

We must correct the problems before we have to pay hundreds of thousands of dollars to lawyers, possibly millions in damages and millions to correct the problem. We need to provide our employees with a safe working environment so the day-to-day business can be accomplished and provide you, the residents, with a safe Borough Hall for you to conduct business.

Often times, being the elected leader requires tough and unpopular decisions that must be made. So recently, I have asked for a sensible survey of our facility with the understanding that I want to have the most inexpensive way to properly address the problems and protect the work environment.

Previous plans discussed included building a new Borough Hall and Library on land that would be purchased in another location in the Borough. Those plans would have cost in the area of \$11 or \$12 million. In addition the acquired property would cost about \$1 million and would take a currently taxed property off the books. This absolutely made no sense to me.

I asked for a recent survey, with the understanding that we were going to stay in Borough Hall and renovate the existing building plus expand the existing Library. The current location of Borough Hall is in the center of town. It is the "hub of our administrative offices" with the Fire and First Aid Building, Police Headquarters and Library. It makes total sense for us to remain where we are.

An independent survey identified that it would cost approximately \$3 million to correct the current problems in Borough Hall, without Borough Hall being expanded in any way and without an expanded Library. Keeping everything physically the same way it is now, in the same footprint with the undersized library, we would be spending approximately \$3 million.

We contracted with an architectural

continued on page 7

firm and made it extremely clear to them that we wanted to find the most economical way for us to correct the problems in Borough Hall and build a substantial Library as an addition to the current Borough Hall. We also want to make the renovated Borough Hall and Library to be much more energy efficient.

The end result is that the completed project with the new Library and expanded Police Headquarters has been estimated by the architectural firm as being approximately \$4.3 million for the base project. In addition, one rendition they had was to add new cells in the Police Department and a drive in Sally Port. We are discouraging both of these unneeded expenses.

Further, at the suggestion of Councilman Jake Hoffmann, we asked for a cost evaluation to build a "vanilla box." (empty space) under the library that has heat and electric installed for future expansion if needed. We were surprised to find out that the additional cost to complete this space would be \$240,000 added to the whole project that could be used in the future. For this additional money, it would make no sense for us not to include this in the project. Some of this proposed space has been set aside to allow the Borough to store mandatory files that we currently house off site at a cost of approximately \$7,000 per year, thus making them readily accessible.

The end result is that the completed project, even with an ornate library patio which was added to the design as well as the empty space for future expansion, was estimated at \$4.9 million. Therefore, for \$1.9 million above the absolute required costs of correcting the existing problems in Borough Hall, we would have a new and expanded Library, expansion capabilities, and a totally renovated building.

These renovations include all new windows, an elevator to satisfy handicap accessible requirements, insulation that does not exist in the current building which would keep our energy costs lower, four separate forced hot air heating and air conditioning units, as well as required ADA compliance structural changes to the building, an expanded Police Head-

quarters and court room to satisfy the new mandates for security. The renovations will have the ability to be zoned with separate heating and air conditioning units that would allow some units to be turned down completely while others are running, thus saving energy costs.

...for \$1.9 million above the absolute required costs of correcting the existing problems in Borough Hall, we would have a new and expanded Library, expansion capabilities, and a totally renovated building.

Unfortunately, because many of our residents do not attend Council Meetings, there have been rumors circulating around town that the expenditure of money was far too exorbitant. If we were to build a new building, rather than renovate the old, the State of New Jersey's new regulations would increase the costs by millions. If we renovate the existing building we are not bound by many of the new, in my opinion over restrictive, regulations that exist.

Over the years we have received violation after violation that Borough Hall is not handicapped accessible and we have paid fines. The new renovations would satisfy all of the ADA problems of today plus add much needed space.

The town has bonding capabilities above what this new renovation would cost. In addition we are researching grants of monies that would also reduce the total cost to all of us for this renovation. As an example, under the Smart Growth Policies in the State of New Jersey, we are going to apply for credits because the new heating and air conditioning units, combined with the added insulation, would make the building much more energy efficient. This allows us to apply for grants that would pay for a portion of the heating and air conditioning systems.

Further, because we are building a new Library, we have been advised that there is possible grant money available for new libraries on the State and Federal level. Also under the economic stimulation package provided by State and Federal Government, we are applying for some additional funding based on the fact that we are renovating our Borough Hall, improving security to our court room and improving Police Headquarters. We will also apply to the Monmouth County Community Block Grant Program for the much needed ADA improvements.

I realize that none of the grant money is guaranteed at this time; however we will immediately apply for all such grants to make our out-of-pocket expenses less. We are also going to have a public forum, to discuss all of these facts with anyone from the general public that is interested.

As I said before, many of the people who are spreading rumors are doing so without having a command of the true facts and knowledge as to how much effort has gone into reducing the potential cost to our Borough.

The key point to remember is if we were to do nothing to change the size of Police Headquarters, nothing to change the size of the Library and no changes to the interior of the building, other than ADA and the mold problems, it is estimated that the cost would be approximately \$3 million. Why would we ever consider spending \$3 million, without getting everything else we need for now while taking into consideration future expansion? By spending perhaps another \$2 to \$2.5 million, we accomplish what I feel is essential to running good government. The dollar quote that was in the newspaper of \$5.5 million was including engineering and professional fees. Unfortunately these fees are going to be paid no matter if we go forward with a renovation project or simply keep putting a band aid on the problems.

During these tough economic times, any expenditure of money is frightening, but also during these tough economic times we found that we can get contractors to do more work for less money. We are hoping that if we act quickly and lock in contractors now, we may be able to save a lot more money. My intention is to try and bring the entire project down in costs, even including the professional fees, to as close to an even \$5 million as possible.

Mayor Frederick J. Rast III



PRSRT STD ECR U.S. Postage PAID Atlantic Highlands New Jersey 07716 Permit No.62

Postal Patron Atlantic Highlands New Jersey 07716

Atlantic Highlands Recreation Schedule 2009

Check the recreation link of www.nhnj.com for all up-to-date information.

Events

- April 4th is our Easter Egg Hunt to be held at Fireman's Field (rain date April 5th).
- May 16th is the Town-wide Garage Sale (rain date May 17th). To get your house on the map, register at Town Hall during the month of April.
- Our Summer Concert Series is held June through September at the Harbor gazebo every Sunday evening.

Sports

Basketball

The season began on January 5th and ends on March 15th.

 The Basketball Shoot out will be held on March 28th.

Soccer

Look out for soccer sign-ups to start on March 21st at AH Elementary School.

• The season begins in August.

Events to Watch For

- Outdoor movie nights this summer.
- Organized bus trips to the theatre in New York City through out the year.
- · Family whiffle ball tournament.

- Atlantic Highlands Day at Keansburg Water Park.
- YARTS programs for different age groups (sewing, paint and play, crazy concoctions).
- Sports Clinics Tennis, Field Hockey, Basketball, Softball.
- October 31st is our annual Halloween Parade beginning at the Harbor and marching down First Avenue to the Firehouse.
- December 5th is our Holiday Tree Lighting at the Harbor followed by a visit from Santa at the first Aid Squad (rain date December 6th).

Summer Recreation

Our summer recreation program is held at Fireman's Field House July 6th through August 14th from 9:00 am to noon for ages 5-13.

- Application deadline to sign up is June 20th.
- Applications for counselors will be accepted at Town Hall starting in May.

Atlantic Highlands Recreation is an all volunteer committee. We are always looking for activities we could bring to all age groups of our community. If you should have any ideas or suggestions please contact us at:

recreation@ahnj.com

Atlantic Highlands Beacon

Published Quarterly

Email articles to: dharris@ahni.com

Publication subject to space limits and editorial needs.

Editor: Dwayne M. Harris

Borough Government

Mavor:

Frederick J. Rast, III

Council President

Louis Fligor

Council

John C. Archibald, Jr. Roy Dellosso Peter T. Doyle

Jacob Hoffman

Robert Sutton

Adam Hubeny – Administrator

Website: www.ahnj.com