

# Bloomsbury Borough

*Newsletter*

DECEMBER 2009

## FROM THE MAYOR

Dear Residents:

The Holiday Season is upon us. Although this is a wonderful time, full of fun and family, we must ask everyone to be aware of the snow plowing procedures and other winter procedures – mainly, when you are clearing your driveway, please do not blow or throw snow into the roadway – please put the snow to the side. Our plow crews will thank you for that.

As you are likely aware, once there is more than an inch (2") of snow on the ground we call out our plows. Borough ordinances require that all vehicles must be off the street once there is sufficient snow on the ground so our plows can get through. Vehicles will be ticketed and towed if they are in the roadway and inhibit plowing efforts. For those of you without driveways, however, the Borough has entered into an agreement with European Country Kitchens ("ECK") for use of their lot at 96-98 North Street.

Accordingly, if you need off-street parking you may use the lot located at 96-98 North Street (the lot across from the rescue squad, accessed via Gardner Street and North Street) during any winter weather event. Parking is at your own risk, so please use caution when using this lot and understand that you are parking there at your own risk. Thank you to ECK for their neighborliness.

Our neighbors in Franklin Township, Warren County, are currently considering a land use application to develop a tract of land for a truck depot; this property is located just north of the exit 6 interchange for Route 78. The present proposal calls for 350 individual truck bays, with 450 surface parking truck spots. The depot is anticipated to operate 24/7, so if there are three (3) shifts that handle but one (1) truck per day, then there would be 1050 trucks per day (single trip; for round trips double the number). There are only 1440 minutes in the day – this means that a truck will be coming through the Borough every 65 seconds or so. As there is no direct access to the site from Route 78, all trucks will have to get off the highway at exit 7, in Bloomsbury, and proceed to Asbury-Bloomsbury Road. This is obviously unacceptable, and the Borough Council has retained a traffic engineer to represent the Borough's interests, and we will fight this project to the end.

On a related matter, the Route 173 bridge deck was slated for rehabilitation starting in September, 2009. This project was deferred to spring of 2010. So be prepared for the incon-

venience next year. As with the prior schedule we will request additional State Police patrols to help moderate the impact to the Borough.

Many of you are interested in the progress of the Mill. The Borough Council is presently willing to give the Mill to a qualified person who will: (1) rehabilitate the building while maintaining its historic integrity, (2) has the wherewithal to do so, and (3) will do so in a reasonable time frame. We have had some encouraging contacts and we are hopeful that the Mill will be rehabilitated soon.

Concerning the Water Company, the State Board of Public Utilities has had preliminary hearings, and the final hearing is anticipated for January 2010. BPU approval is necessary for the sale to occur. We do not anticipate any problems with the ongoing BPU process, and look forward to being able to ensure the reliable and safe provision of drinking and other water in the next year, without a noticeable increase in water use rates.

I encourage residents to attend our Council meetings, which occur every 4th Tuesday at 7 p.m., to share their thoughts and opinions. And, as always, please consider volunteering for our many local organizations that enhance our quality of life and keep our taxes low – the Fire Department, Rescue Squad, Recreation Commission, Planning Board and all other local groups. Enjoy this holiday season and please continue to let the Council and I know of any and all of your concerns.

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## CHRISTMAS TREE PICK-UP WILL BE ANNOUNCED

Borough Offices in the Municipal Building  
91 Brunswick Ave.  
Bloomsbury, NJ 08804  
Phone: 908-479-4200 • Fax: 908-479-1418  
[www.bloomsburynewjersey.com](http://www.bloomsburynewjersey.com)

# ATTENTION DOG AND CAT OWNERS

## FREE RABIES CLINIC

Saturday, January 23, 2009

TIME: 12:00PM-1:00PM

BLOOMSBURY FIREHOUSE

*PLEASE USE PET CARRIERS OR LEASHES.*

If you have any questions  
please call the Borough Hall at 479-4200.



### FROM THE OFFICE OF OEM

The Office of Emergency Management ran a table top exercise in October which focused on the Shelter, Care and Reception, Standard Operating Procedures for Bloomsbury. This information is helpful to citizens to keep on hand for any possible situations in which the State Police would call for an Evacuation of the Borough in response to a natural or man-made hazard.

**Get a Kit.....Make a Kit.....Be Informed!**

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

**Everyone should have an emergency kit.**

**Sign up for the Special Needs registry at:**

[www.registerready.nj.gov](http://www.registerready.nj.gov)

**If you are or know of a citizen who would find it difficult to evacuate**

Learn to recognize the CIVIL DEFENSE SIREN which will be activated for test runs in 2010. Finally, be involved-be a good neighbor!

## Notice to Bloomsbury Residents:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is evaluating alternatives for the removal of the Bloomsbury Dam. The Musconetcong River is listed as a National and Scenic River. The objective of this effort is to improve residential fish migration by allowing movement above and below the dam. In addition, removing the dam will restore the river to a more natural condition and benefit other aquatic species including: macroinvertebrates, reptiles and amphibians. This project is in the information gathering stage **and *we are soliciting comments from the public*** and resource agencies identifying the removal of the Bloomsbury Dam. In accordance with NEPA, an Environmental Assessment or Environmental Impact Statement will be prepared accordingly, discussing the selected plan of action.

We are inviting you to participate in the scoping of this study. Please review the Scoping Summary and provide any relevant information & comments, to Mr. Mark Eberle of the Environmental Resources Branch at, (215) 656-6562.

### Scoping Summary (Enclosure #1) Bloomsbury Dam Removal, Bloomsbury, New Jersey

The project site is a run of the river dam (Figures 1 – 8) located on the Musconetcong River between the Borough of Bloomsbury in Hunterdon County and Greenwich Township in Warren County, New Jersey. The Bloomsbury Dam (“the dam”) is 7 feet high and 125 feet long and is composed of concrete. The dam is located approximately 7.5 miles upriver from the confluence of the Musconetcong River and the Delaware River. There are three existing dams located between the dam and the confluence of the two rivers. Beginning at the confluence and moving upriver toward Bloomsbury, the dams are the Finesville Dam, Hughesville Dam, and Warren Glen Dam. The Natural Resources Conservation Service is currently preparing a feasibility study for the removal of the Finesville Dam.

This project is part of an overall effort to restore the lower Musconetcong River to its natural, free-flowing condition by removing the four dams that are closest to the confluence with the Delaware River. The removal of all the dams would open approximately 13 miles of the river for the passage of diadromous fish and would significantly improve the water quality, as well as, aquatic habitats within the river. The removal of the Bloomsbury Dam will connect approximately 8 miles of stream to the next impediment (Asbury Dam).

Bloomsbury Dam is being investigated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Philadelphia District (Corps) as a target for removal because of the ecological benefits of removing the dam and both dam owners have expressed interest in dam removal. In addition, real estate issues prevent the two downstream dams (Hughesville and Warren Glen) from being considered for removal at this time.

This project will investigate, select, design and construct the best alternative to remove the dam. However, existing conditions such as the historical and cultural aspects of the dam, the chemical composition of sediment behind the dam, and the potential for increased downstream flood hazard risk may influence the selection of a recommended plan.

The project will be conducted under the authority of Section 206 of the Water Development Resource Act (WRDA) of 1996 (Public Law 104-303). Under Section 206, the Corps must cost-share the funding for the design and implementation of the project with a non-Federal sponsor. The cost share will be 65% Federal funding and 35% non-Federal funding. To date, a non-Federal sponsor has not been identified for the project.

During the feasibility phase of the project, the Corps will evaluate the potential environmental, engineering, and other issues associated with the proposed dam removal. During the next phase of the project (Design and Implementation), the Corps will complete an Environmental Assessment to serve as the decision document for the selection of a recommended plan in accordance with the appropriate policies and procedures specified in the Corps of Engineers Regulations (ER).

The Corps Project Delivery Team (PDT) has developed the following three alternatives as an initial list of actions recommended for more detailed investigations:

- **No Action**
- **Complete Dam Removal**
- **Dam Removal with Partial Remnants**

The Corps completed an internal review of available alternatives and is now seeking comments from external sources. Again, these three alternatives, including the no action alternative, are in the preliminary planning stages, and the Corps will review all available information prior to selecting a preferred alternative.

#### **1. No Action.**

The "no action" alternative would not remove the dam and would not result in fish passage or water quality/habitat improvements.

#### **2. Complete Dam Removal**

This alternative involves the removal of approximately the entire concrete dam (125-foot in length, 7-foot high) and adjacent abutments. The Corps will remove debris to an appropriate offsite location for disposal. Analysis of this alternative will consider the impact of sediment transport, including quantity and quality of built-up sediment behind the existing dam. The site under this alternative will be left in a nearly natural, pre-dam state. The purpose of this alternative is primarily to restore a natural river ecosystem with significant improvement to aquatic habitat.

#### **3. Dam Removal with Partial Remnants**

This alternative involves the removal of only a portion of the concrete dam. The Corps will remove debris to an appropriate offsite location for disposal. Analysis of this alternative will consider the impact of sediment transport, including quantity and quality of built-up sediment behind the existing dam. The site under this alternative will restore fish passage on the Musconetcong River while preserving any necessary, structural, historical or cultural aspects of the dam. The purpose of this alternative is primarily to restore a natural river ecosystem with significant improvement to aquatic habitat.

## The US CENSUS is coming....

In March of 2010, census forms will be delivered to every residence in the US. This information collected helps determine where \$400 Billion of federal funding will be spent.

PLEASE, it requires you to fill out the form accounting for everyone living at your address, personal Data is protected under federal law.

WHEN, you receive yours, ANSWER the 10 QUESTIONS & MAIL BACK ASAP in the POSTAGE PAID enveloped provided.

IF you DON'T, you may receive a visit from a census taker asking the same questions on the form. Your quick anticipated action is appreciated.

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## CIVIL DEFENSE SIREN DRILL

In response to any potential catastrophe that would require the evacuation of residents in Bloomsbury, there is a need to sound a Civil Defense Siren. Consequently, there will be a "practice" sounding of the Civil Defense Siren on Saturday, January 16th, 2010 at noon.

Citizens will be notified prior to each "practice" siren via the Bloomsbury Newsletter, The Hunterdon County Democrat and Bloomsburys website:

[www.BloomsburyBorough.com](http://www.BloomsburyBorough.com)

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## HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE CLEANUP

Saturday, March 13, 2010  
9:00am - 1:00pm

## COMPUTER & ELECTRONICS COLLECTION DAY

Saturday, April 10, 2010  
9:00am - 1:00pm

For more info call: 908-788-1110  
Hunterdon County Complex  
314 St. Rt. 12 East, Flemington, NJ

## ALL VEHICLES MUST BE REMOVED FROM BOROUGH STREETS IN THE BOROUGH WHEN MORE THAN TWO INCHES OF FROZEN PRECIPITATION FALL!!!

### Borough Winter Ordinances

The Mayor and Common Council of the Borough of Bloomsbury announce that in order to comply with Borough ordinances:

- Beginning on November 15 and ending on March 31 there shall be NO PARKING on the Southerly side of Brunswick Avenue from its intersection with Church Street to its intersection with State Highway 173 during and following any period of frozen precipitation (e.g. snow, sleet, etc.) for so long as the roadway is not entirely free of accumulations of frozen precipitation. The Borough is empowered to tow any vehicle from Brunswick Avenue and impound it, which shall be released only upon payment of all fees and charges incurred as a result of towing said vehicle. The fine for any individual or corporation or other entity which violates this ordinance shall be subject to a fine not exceeding \$500.00. (Adopted April 11, 2000)
- *All motor vehicles must be removed from all streets in the Borough when more than two inches of frozen precipitation fall* and must remain off the street until 12 hours after cessation of frozen precipitation events. If the vehicle is not removed from the streets, the Borough is entitled to tow said vehicle from the streets and impound said vehicle, which shall be released only upon payment of all fees and charges incurred as a result of towing said vehicle. The fine for any individual or corporation or other entity which violates this ordinance shall be subject to a fine not exceeding \$500.00. (Ordinance #113-78, Amended March 13, 2001)
- Every property owner must make sure that the entire sidewalk, both width and length, adjoining, crossing or located on their property is free of snow and ice at all times. Every property owner will be allowed 24 hours following the cessation of snow to comply. The snow or ice cannot be placed on public streets. Failure to comply will result in a fine of not less than \$50.00 or more than \$500.00 for a first offense. Subsequent offenses, regardless of the year in which they occur, shall result in a fine of not less than \$100.00 nor more than \$1,000. Every 24-hour period or part thereof during which there is a failure to comply, shall constitute a separate and distinct offense. (Adopted April 11, 1978)

**THE "REC NEWS"**  
**Bloomsbury Recreation Commission**

Well, another year of recreation is drawing to a close...and what a year it was! Many of our children, some new to the program and some seasoned veterans, participated in a wide range of programs and activities, learning and competing on playing fields all over the region. Soccer just ended, with the 2009/10 Basketball, Wrestling and Cheerleading seasons in full swing. Keep an eye out for the quarterly newsletters coming home with the students of BES. You can also visit the GTRA Recreation website for up-to-date information and forms at:  
<http://www.greenwichtownship.org/gtrc/>

As in years past, this holiday season, the BRC will be sponsoring the "Light Up Bloomsbury" Luminary Sale. Luminaries can be delivered right to your door, with the entire town lighting their luminaries on Christmas Eve. It makes a great setting for a family stroll through town. What a wonderful site! Order forms will be sent home with the children from school, placed in your mailboxes, and will also be available at Boro Hall. All proceeds go to the youth activities such as the annual Easter Egg Hunt and the Summer Recreation Program.

In January, we will be reorganizing for the 2010 season. There are several open seats available, with a significant need to fill them. The program only exists due to the volunteer efforts of the Commission and our supporters. Won't you take a moment and consider joining us and helping create a positive, memorable childhood experience for all of our kids? What you get out of it will far exceed what you invest in it (and that's a better deal than anything you can find on Wall Street these days!). The BRC meets the first Tuesday of every other month beginning in January. Meetings are held in Borough Hall and are open to the public. Stop by and see what's in the works.

We would like to wish everybody a safe, healthy and happy holiday season, and look forward to providing our children with another exciting year of fun in 2010!

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**Drop order form with payment by December 15, 2009 at the Boro office, or mail to:**

**"Light Up Bloomsbury" Luminary Sale**  
**91 Brunswick Avenue**  
**Bloomsbury, NJ 08804**

Make checks payable to "Bloomsbury Recreation Commission"

_____ 1/2 Dozen Luminaries @ \$5.00 each	= \$ _____
_____ Dozen Luminaries @ \$9.00 per dozen	= \$ _____
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>= \$ _____</b>

**NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_ **PHONE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_