

Bloomsbury Borough *Newsletter*

SEPTEMBER 2007

FROM THE MAYOR

Recently, tragedy has struck Bloomsbury. The murder of Monica Massaro has saddened all who knew her, and greatly concerns all residents. As we all know by now, the Hunterdon County Prosecutor has confirmed that Adam Leroy Lane, a North Carolina trucker currently in custody in Mass., has been arrested for Monica's murder. He is charged in the Massaro case with first degree murder, second degree burglary, and third degree unlawful weapons possession.

We are grateful to the law enforcement authorities who have tirelessly worked on this case, including the New Jersey State Police, the Hunterdon County Prosecutor's Office, and the Massachusetts police agencies who originally took this criminal into custody. We are especially grateful to the Massachusetts family whose bravery and presence of mind led to this arrest.

While we are grateful for the arrest, our sadness for Monica's murder remains. Our prayers are with Monica and her family, and hope this arrest brings Monica's family and friends some measure of comfort. Let us now trust and hope that this evildoer will be convicted and never sees the light of day again.

I share in many residents' frustrations with the manner law enforcement kept us informed regarding this case. While we have to understand the overriding need of law enforcement to keep details under wraps to preserve the integrity of the investigation – we all wanted a swift arrest, and now we wish for a successful prosecution – I am sure that, with hindsight we would have been much better served by law enforcement being more forthright and letting us know that the search was wide open, rather than giving every inference that this was an acquaintance-type crime. I feel that we were perhaps lulled into a false sense of security. I have shared this thought with the State Police and the Prosecutor.

Moving forward, all residents are urged to remain vigilant and observant (as we always should be) of goings on around you and the community, to take such security steps as they deem appropriate, and to report any suspicious behavior or happenings promptly to the State Police. As a small town with limited funds we are dependent on each other. I also urge everyone to know their neighbors and to keep an eye on the neighborhood. We are a small enough community that we should know when something is out of place. If something is – call the police. Do not assume that someone else will. Do not talk yourself out of it – if something doesn't feel right, go with your gut feeling. Better safe than sorry.

Regrettably, even before the horrific murder we had an upsurge in petty quality of life disturbances. Whether it be paintballs being shot at cars and houses, loud loitering at night, or vandalism at the Park, residents are fed up. While we have ordinances prohibiting this odious behavior, they cannot be enforced unless they are reported. If you observe unlawful behavior, please call the police immediately then call Borough Hall and let us know so we can build a record. Anyone who is caught committing these crimes will be prosecuted severely; our penalties for disorderly type conduct run up to 30 days in jail, \$1,500 in fines and 100 hours community service. I would also remind parents that they can be held liable for the actions of their children. Everyone understands that teens and young adults want to hang out and have fun. If that's all it is there shouldn't be any problems. But if "fun" involves disturbing the peace or vandalizing public property, offenders will be dealt with in a strict and punitive manner.

To this end I have scheduled a community forum for Tuesday evening, September 11, at 7:00 p.m., at the Fire Department's Banquet Hall. I have invited representatives from the State Police and the County Prosecutor, and I encourage everyone to attend. Not only will law enforcement have the opportunity to enlighten us about the murder investigation, but we will also discuss steps the community and individuals can take to enhance security, such as a community watch program. We are also looking into what, if anything, can be done to improve the security situation with the truck stops. I also want to hear residents' opinions regarding policing in the Borough and we will also discuss the possibility of installing security cameras at the Park and elsewhere. I hope to see you on the 11th.

Other News:

Moving on to happier news, our Fire Department celebrated its 100th anniversary. The Fire Department provided a wonderful weekend, with a banquet, parade, picnic and fireworks that were enjoyed by all. Our thanks go to the Fire Department for the weekend, and for their many years of service. I am sure everyone in the Borough joins me in congratulating the Fire Department for their first 100 years, wishing them another 100 years of success, and thanking the firefighters for their dedication and long hours serving us.

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www.BloomsburyNewJersey.com

As often happens, though, we learned a tough lesson during the celebrations – when it is 95 degrees out and your roads are made of chip and seal, keep heavy trucks off the streets.

As many saw, when the parade started up our roads just couldn't handle the stress. The result was, in many areas, a moonscape. Special thanks go out to DPW Supervisor Bob Heinrich and Councilmen Eric Weger and Marc Scheffel for their prompt action in the aftermath of the parade to restore some semblance of order to the roads – while everyone else was at the Park having fun, they were moving gravel to fill potholes and toughen up the roadway.

As an update on the Mill, our redeveloper, Lukas, has obtained all but one permit from the NJDEP and County. He is waiting for his septic permit, which has been deemed complete by the DEP. Once he obtains that (should be within the next month or so) work will finally be able to begin on renovations to the Mill. It will be very good for the Borough to have the Mill restored as a pleasant and attractive gateway to our community.

Also, please be sure to check out the Borough's website (www.bloomsburynewjersey.com), which contains lots of important and relevant information about goings-on in Bloomsbury. Special thanks go to resident Jennifer Rittenhouse, who has volunteered her time and expertise to create the website and serve as webmaster. She has made a site that is head and shoulders above the offerings from our neighbors.

Finally, I wish to extend congratulations to our Clerk/Administrator Lisa Burd for successfully passing her Clerk's exam. Lisa has done an outstanding job for the Borough over the past 2.5 years in her capacity as Acting Clerk. Now, with her passing the test (with superior scores, I must add) she is a full-fledged Clerk. We are fortunate to have someone of Lisa's quality to serve the Borough.

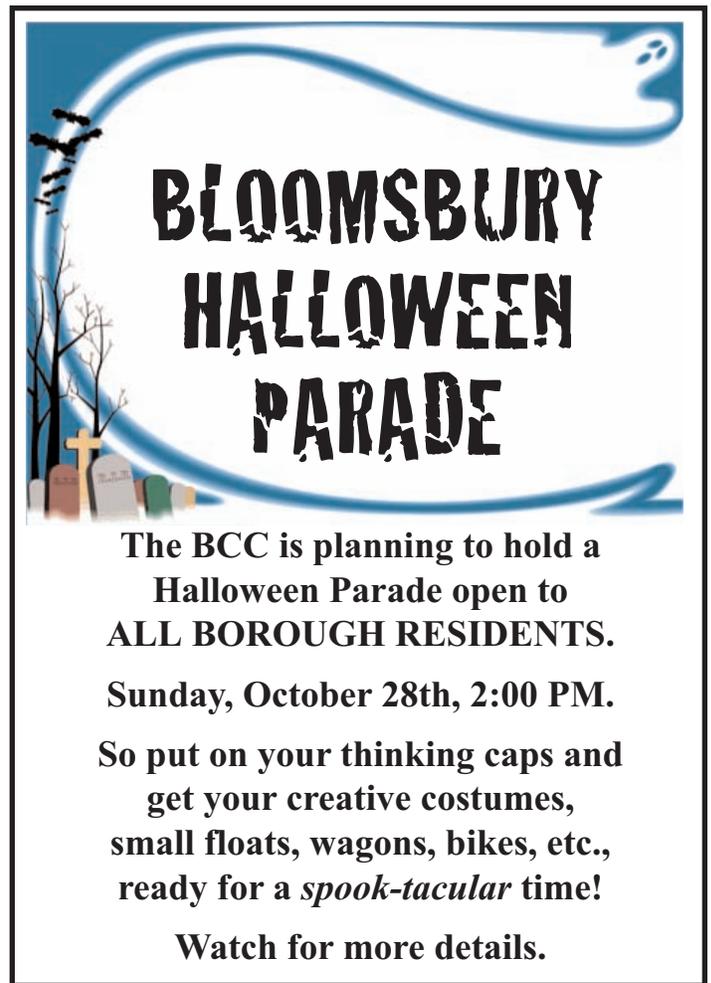
Fall is coming, so that means school is starting – please drive carefully. And please consider volunteering in the Borough. The Fire Department, Rescue Squad, Ladies Auxiliary, PTO, Recreation and other Borough boards and entities all depend on volunteers. They make our community what it is and are dependent on volunteers. Please contribute what you can, whether it is time or money. Your support is appreciated.

Our Council meetings are the 4th Tuesday of every month, and the Planning Board meets on the 3rd Tuesday of the month. If you have time, come on out to one of the meetings and share your thoughts and concerns. In the meantime, let's hope that we have a much quieter autumn!

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

Some residents have expressed an interest in forming a neighborhood watch. A neighborhood watch is a group of citizens who keep an eye out in their neighborhoods for law-breaking and other undesirable activities. The State Police are willing to provide training for a neighborhood watch.

Residents interested in becoming part of a neighborhood watch, or learning more, should contact Borough Hall.

A poster for the Bloomsbury Halloween Parade. The title "BLOOMSBURY HALLOWEEN PARADE" is written in a large, black, jagged, horror-style font. The background is white with a blue, wavy border. On the left side, there are illustrations of a black cat, a ghost, and a graveyard with tombstones and a cross. The text below the title is in a bold, black, sans-serif font.

**The BCC is planning to hold a
Halloween Parade open to
ALL BOROUGH RESIDENTS.
Sunday, October 28th, 2:00 PM.
So put on your thinking caps and
get your creative costumes,
small floats, wagons, bikes, etc.,
ready for a *spook-tacular* time!
Watch for more details.**

IMPORTANT REMINDER

As a reminder- the Borough Park is closed from dusk to dawn. If you notice ANY activity in the park after dark or witness any vandalism or suspicious activity at any time - Dial 9-1-1 and notify the State police immediately.

NOTICE FROM THE WATER DEPARTMENT

If any resident hears a hissing sound near your water meter, vibration in the line, or experience low water pressure, you should report it to the water department immediately as it may indicate a water leak.

FALL IS HERE !!

Leaves will be collected at curbside ONLY.

The street department will not take leaves from your driveway, sidewalks, yards or any other parts of your property.

**OCTOBER 22nd – NOVEMBER 30th
8:00 am TO 1:00 pm**

REMEMBER – leaves only – we will not take sticks, twigs, grass clippings or any other debris.

BRUSH CLEAN UP

(Brush Only)

The Borough will be picking up brush, curbside, this fall.

Brush is to be no longer than 5' in length, butt end to the curb, 3" in diameter or less.

**BRUSH WILL BE PICKED UP DURING THE WEEK OF
OCTOBER 8th, 2007**

Please be sure to have all brush out on Monday, October 8th for pick up.

**BRUSH PUT OUT AFTER WHEN THE 15th, 2007
WILL NOT BE PICKED UP!!**

*****NOTE – Landlords***** - This notice is being sent to all property owners.

It is your responsibility to notify your tenants for brush clean up.

Please help the street department and keep brush in NEAT PILES.

HUNTERDON COUNTY RESIDENTS

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE CLEANUP DAY

WHEN: Saturday, November 10, 2007

WHERE: Hunterdon County Library Complex, State Route 12, Flemington

HOURS: 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

WE WILL ACCEPT UP TO 10 GALLONS OR 80 LBS. OF THE FOLLOWING:

Latex Paint	Oil Based Paint	Paint Thinner	Asbestos Pipe Wrap
Varnish/Stains	Insecticides	Pesticides	Gasoline
Herbicides	Pool Chemicals	Aerosol Cans	Kerosene
Gas/Oil Mix	Photographic Chemicals	Battery Acid	Drain Cleaner
Mercury	Fuel Oil/Sludge	Diesel Fuel	Fluorescent Tubes
Smoke Alarms	Fire Extinguishers		

WE WILL ACCEPT:

Used Motor Oil

Anti-freeze

Automotive and Household Batteries

WE WILL NOT ACCEPT:

Empty Containers

Radioactive Materials

Explosives

Air Conditioners

Pentachlorophenol

PCB's

Silvex

Solid Waste

Tires

Electronics

Propane Tanks

For more information contact: TEL: 908-788-1110 EMAIL: hcua@co.hunterdon.nj.us

US MAIL: Hunterdon County Utilities Authority, PO Box 2900, Flemington, NJ 08822

Bloomsbury Borough *Newsletter*

Borough Clerk
Borough of Bloomsbury
91 Brunswick Avenue, Bloomsbury, NJ 08804

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BLOOMSBURY

Fine Art & Fine Craft Festival

“To promote, cultivate, and foster interest and participation in the arts.”

September 22 & 23

Saturday 10AM - 5PM • Sunday 11AM - 5PM

- ✓ Fine Art
- ✓ Fine Craft
- ✓ Entertainment
- ✓ Children’s Activities
- ✓ Food
- ✓ Free Admission
- ✓ Free Parking

The Festival will take place on tree lined Main Street in the historical residential district.

The two-day juried event will feature 80+ exhibitors from New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and several other states. Work to be displayed includes watercolors, glass, photography, metal, jewelry, fiber, oils, pastels, acrylics, clay, mixed media, floral and wood.

The Festival also features a variety of entertainment, including a children’s activities area.

The Bloomsbury Fine Art & Fine Craft Festival provides funding for the Bloomsbury Elementary School cultural arts programs, while providing area residents and visitors the opportunity to appreciate the visual and performing arts.