



Deerfield Township Report

Public Information Service of the Township Committee

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Spring 2006

Charlotte Brago Serves as 2006 Mayor

Charlotte Brago, who is proud of her distinction as one of New Jersey's oldest mayors, continues her record of public service to Deerfield Township by serving as Mayor and Chairperson of the Township Committee in 2006. She was selected as Mayor and received the oath of office for a new three-year term on the Township Committee at the annual reorganization meeting held on January 4



Above: From left - Greg Brago, Gregory Brago, Judge John Casarow, Mayor Charlotte Brago, Tyler Brago, Patricia Brago and Frank Brago as Charlotte takes the oath of office for her new terms as Mayor and Township Committeewoman.

Below: Carol Musso, pictured with her daughters Danielle and Dominique and Judge Casarow, takes the oath of office for her term as Deputy Mayor.

"We look forward to a prosperous 2006. The Township Committee takes this opportunity to thank our dedicated employees, members of our various boards, commissions and fire and rescue companies. All of these people work together to provide services for our community," commented Mrs. Brago. "I realize what an honor it is to be elected to serve in government. We promise to do our best and we wish every a Happy and Health New Year."

Musso Serves as Deputy Mayor

2005 Mayor Carol Musso was selected by the Township Committee to serve as Deputy Mayor this year. Carol will chair the Recreation subcommittee and serve as vice chair of the public information and emergency management subcommittees. The Committee presented Carol with a plaque recognizing her for her service as Mayor. Carol expressed her

thanks to the Committee, employees, volunteers and the public.

Laura Pizzo Re-elected and Takes Oath of Office

Township Committeewoman Laura Pizzo was sworn-in to a new three-year term on the Township Committee. Pictured In the photo to the right

are from left-right, Ava Kelly (baby), Allie Pizzo, Committeewoman Laura, Judge John Casarow, Dominick Pizzo and Nicole Pizzo. Back Row: Devon Pizzo, Drew Pizzo, Jonathan Kelly and Andy Pizzo.



Deerfield Township Clerk Retires ... New Clerk Appointed

Carol Schaper retired after more than 26 years of continuous service to the Township of Deerfield as Municipal Clerk and Administrator.

More than 100 people, including the Township Committee, other township officials, associates from other towns, friends and family members attended a retirement dinner at Centerton Country Club in her honor. Countless others expressed their best wishes to Carol.

The Township Committee lauded her for her outstanding service to the township and its people.

Karen Seifrit, who served as deputy clerk with Carol Schaper, was appointed as the new municipal clerk and administrator.

Karen is married to Donald Seifrit. They have two children, Donald Jr. age 16 and Tyler age 13. She is a graduate of Vineland High School and Taylor Business Institute and worked for the law firms of

Reuss & Cavagnaro and Gruccio, Pepper in Vineland before beginning employment with Deerfield Township in 2002. Karen recently completed municipal clerk classes and earned Registered Municipal Clerk's Certification in December 2005.



**New Municipal Clerk
Karen Seifrit**

Karen comments, "I know have big shoes to fill. Carol Schaper was a great Clerk

and taught me a great deal about being a Municipal Clerk. I thank the Township Committee for their support and confidence in me to continue serving the needs of the Township and its residents."

Emergency Planning Committee

Deerfield Township has an active Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) which is led by John Barbagello, Deerfield Township Emergency Management Director.

This committee, consisting of local and county emergency officials, volunteers and community representatives, assists with emergency response planning. LEPC meetings for 2006 are held in the municipal building: April, 26, 2006 @ 7:30 p.m.

August 23, 2006 @ 7:30 p.m.

November 29, 2006 @ 7:30 p.m.



Left to right: Township Committeeman John Stanzione, Committeewoman Laura Pizzo, outgoing Municipal Clerk Carol Schaper, Mayor Charlotte Brago, Deputy Mayor Carol Musso and Committeeman Cosmo Laurella at the retirement dinner for Carol Schaper.

2006 Budget Approved

The Township Committee has adopted its 2006 local budget in the amount of \$1,865,000. Property owners will see no change in the local purpose tax rate which was set at 1.2 cents per \$100 of assessed property value.

This means that a resident with a home that has an assessed value of \$100,000 will again be paying only \$12 a year in local purpose taxes.

The township appropriated \$70,000 from the capital improvement fund for the purchase of a vehicle for the Deerfield Township Office of Emergency Management and for a new tractor for the public works department.

The budget also funds continued improvements to local roads and a renovation of the tennis, basketball and street hockey courts at Frank LoBiondo, Sr. Recreation Park located on Morton Avenue near the Rosenhayn Fire Hall.

Good management, State aid and increased revenue the Cumberland County Improvement Authority are credited with keeping the local purpose tax rate low. The township receives income from the Improvement Authority according to the host community agreement. The county's solid waste complex is located in the southeastern part Deerfield Township.

Continued on page 3





RVFR Has Successful 2005!

2005 turned to be a very positive year for the Rosenhayn Volunteer Fire & Rescue (RVFR). In all the station responded to more than 650 calls for emergency services in 2005.

Starting the year off right in March, RVFR received a Fire Prevention Education Grant in the amount of \$15,930.00 from the Department of Homeland Security's Fire Prevention Program for the purchase of two robotic units known as "Sparky the Fire Dog" and "Buzz E. Detector."

In May of 2005, RVFR was awarded a grant through the Cumberland County Office of Emergency Management for the procurement of a Foam Trailer. This unit carries 660-gallons of Aqueous Film Forming Foam (AFFF) that is needed for suppressing Class A or Class B fires involving liquids such as gasoline, fuel oil, benzene, mineral spirits or other hydrocarbons. This is a very specialized unit and is the only one of its kind in the region. This unit stands ready to respond wherever it may be needed. This unit is valued at approximately \$65,000.00 and will be known as "Foam-29."

To kick off the summer, we placed a new
continued on page 4

A Sign of the Times

Hundreds of cars a day travel by the Deerfield Township Municipal Building on Landis Avenue in Rosenhayn. Now they can get notice of upcoming meeting dates and times and a greeting from the township from the new message board that has been installed.

Township Committeeman Cosmo Laurella came up with the idea as another way to keep the public informed and encourage the public to participate in its local government and events.



News from Our Senior Center and Association

Our Senior Center continues to provide activities and lunch for our local seniors. Between 30-40 seniors, per day, come and enjoy bingo, line dancing, exercise, and on-line computer use and lots more. We now have a Sing-A-Long the second Tuesday of each month that has been enjoyed by all. Pokereno is played each Wednesday.

Speakers on senior interests are frequent. We also have a foot doctor that comes in regularly, nutrition counseling, hearing tests and blood pressure readings. These are just some of the services we offer.

The Cumberland County Office On Aging has an outreach worker at our center on Mondays and Wednesdays in the morning to help our seniors with any questions they may have or to assist them in filling out paperwork.

The Township hired as a Backup Director for the center, local resident Elaine Duncan.

The seniors recently enjoyed a bus trip to Staten Island and a trip to Longwood Gardens is planned for the Spring. Monthly casino trips are taken and all are welcome. For more information please call (856) 455-6902.

Tax Rate continued from page 2

Taxpayers are reminded that although their real estate tax bills are mailed by the Township and collected by the Township, the only portion of the total tax bill under the control of the Township Committee is the local purpose tax. The township committee does not control the school taxes or county taxes that make up the bulk of your tax bills.



ambulance in service to replace the older of our two ambulances that was manufactured in 1983. This new unit was purchased by the township and built by Road Rescue. This well built and well-equipped unit is expected to serve our residents for years into the future. With the calls for emergency services growing with our township at a rapid rate, this new unit was very much needed.

As September arrived, Rosenhayn Fire & Rescue was named the recipient of another award from the Department of Homeland Security's Commercial Equipment Direct Access Program (CEDAP). This grant award was for a specialized Search Camera Victim Locator system valued at \$14,620.00. This unit is a technical search and rescue device designed to quickly and accurately locate victims of a structural collapse or other confined space situations.

Our highlight of the year came in November of 2005, when we received notice from the Department of Homeland Security's Assistance to Firefighter's Grant Program that we would be awarded \$228,000.00 for the replacement of our first out fire engine that is currently 26 years old. This grant will allow us to replace an older and increasingly unreliable fire engine in order to provide the best possible services to our residents. This new engine is slated for delivery in late March of 2006.

As we venture into 2006 we certainly will look back at 2005 as a very eventful year resulting in grants totaling over \$323,000.00. This has greatly increased our emergency service capabilities while minimizing cost impacts upon our residents. The members of RVFR commit to continuing to pursue future grant funding, training and other opportunities that will allow us to improve the services that we provide the residents of Deerfield Township.

Residents are encouraged to stop by or contact the fire station for a tour or for any questions or concerns that they may have. For more information visit them online at www.rvfr.org.

The Township Committee thanks Rosenhayn Fire Chief Mark Cifaloglio, Rosenhayn Rescue Captain Pete Jilinski and Carmel Fire Chief Larry April and all the fire and rescue volunteers for their service to the community.

Celebrating Special Milestones

The Township Committee would like to recognize those who achieve special milestones in life, education and careers. Please let us know about them by calling or writing to the township clerk at the municipal building or send the information by email to deerfield@deerfieldtownship.org.

- ◆ Vivian Townsend celebrated his 100th birthday
- ◆ Mr. and Mrs. Michael Orlando celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary.

Congratulations and best wishes!

News from Deerfield Township School

Read Across America

The Cat in the Hat visited Deerfield Township School to kick off Read Across America, a month



long celebration of reading and literature planned by Art teacher, Liz Schwab and Librarian, Linda Ferrara.

If you walk through the school, you feel

as though you're walking through the pages of a fairy tale book. Each classroom door is adorned with artwork depicting a different tale. The Cat in the Hat and his little cat "friend" visited each classroom. Then they joined students for lunch of green eggs and ham.

Guest readers entered the building all throughout



the day. Retired teachers, senior citizens and local business people came to the school to "read to a child",

More school news on page 5



School News continued from page 4

the main purpose for NEA's Read Across America Day.

The school's PTO scheduled their annual book fair to coincide with Read Across America. Family Night was filled with delicious desserts, visits by Cinderella, Prince Charming and the Queen of Hearts, flashing cameras and lots of books for family and friends to see at the book fair.

Senior Association Donation

Commitment to enriching the lives of the students of Deerfield Township School is one of the reasons Chief School Administrator, Edythe Austermuhl, Ed.D. and school librarian, Linda Ferrara were invited to a holiday luncheon hosted by the Deerfield Township Senior Citizens' Association.

During the program, Austermuhl was presented a check for \$250 by senior association president Shirley Stringer. This has become an annual contribution made by the association. The money is used to purchase award-winning books for the school library. The books will be officially shelved at the school's annual "Book Shelving" in June. The seniors also donated a basket overflowing with winter necessities and toys for needy students.

Ginger Bread Houses

A research project that involved collecting fun facts about gingerbread houses led to a sweet, messy culminating activity. The sixth grade students at Deerfield Township School built and decorated "gingerbread" houses made with graham crackers, royal icing and lots and lots of candy. Librarian Linda Ferrara, Art teacher Liz Schwab, and sixth grade teachers, Tina Bidic and Sara Fenwick guided students through the process of constructing the houses. Many parents and grandparents were on hand to support the activity.

Get Rid of Abandoned Cars or Trucks

Abandoned and/or junked vehicles being stored on properties in the Townships is an on going problem. The Township Committee would like to take this opportunity to remind our residents that there are companies that will remove any abandoned and/or junked vehicles. These companies can be found in the "Reminder" newspaper, Cumberland/Salem Guide, your local telephone book, etc. Some of these companies will remove the vehicle for free.

Please obey township laws in this regard.

Redevelopment Plan Adopted in Township

The Deerfield Township Land Use Board adopted Resolution #2004-15 on September 29th, 2004, Resolution Of Findings, Conclusions And Decision Of The Deerfield Township Land Use Board Recommending An Area In Need Of Redevelopment. This is the area adjacent to the Cumberland County Solid Waste Complex on East Lebanon Road.



The Township Committee adopted Resolution #04-160 on December 1st, 2004 Designating A Redevelopment Area Pursuant To NJS 40A:12A-6 And Directing The Deerfield Township Land Use Board To Prepare A Redevelopment Plan Pursuant To NJS 40A:12A-7.

The Land Use Board held a public hearing on said draft plan on August 10th, 2005 at their regular meeting. The Township Committee adopted the Redevelopment Plan.

The Cumberland Development Corporation is going to market the zone to help seek appropriate developers for the area.

REDEVELOPMENT PLAN OBJECTIVES

1. To provide for the protection of the environmental amenities that exist within this Redevelopment Area ...

2. Any development that occurs within the redevelopment Area should utilize and respect the environmental attributes that exist within this area. In the case of a large scale greenhouse, the development should include state of the art design and technology to ensure a quality product.

continued on page 6



Redevelopment continued from page 5

3. "To establish public / private partnerships by encouraging "...
4. "To encourage the appropriate and efficient expenditure of public funds by the coordination of public development with land use policies."
5. "To create a Redevelopment Area that serves as an agri-industrial "node" between the villages of Rosenhayn and Carmel.
6. "To promote a desirable visual environment through creative development techniques and good civic design and arrangements."
7. "To promote utilization of renewable energy sources".

It is the goal of the Township Redevelopment Agency, which are the Township Committee members, to keep the public informed as proposed developments are considered for this area.

Recreation News

Harvest Festival Plans

The Deerfield Township Recreation Committee is making plans for the 28th Deerfield Township Harvest Festival coming up this fall. Mark your calendars for a weekend of family fun on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, October 6, 7 and 8.

Thanks to support of the township, the community, sponsors, vendors and visitors, the recreation trust fund has grown significantly to help provide seed money each year to get the festival ready and serving as a "rainy day fund."

Ricochet and the Gin Blossoms



Ricochet, the nationally-known country band, who played inside the fire hall last year due to the rain, will be back again this year as the closing act on Sunday evening, Oct. 8.

The Gin Blossoms, a rock group with hits like "Hey Jealousy" from the 1990's will headline Saturday night, Oct. 7. Look for more news on entertainers in the next few months.

Parade Moves to Saturday!

If you show up for the big festival parade on Sunday this year, you will be a day late. The parade will march down Morton Avenue in Rosenhayn on Saturday, Oct. 7 this year.

Idol Contest – Times Two

The popular festival idol contest will be presented in two parts this year. The preliminary competition will be Friday night, Oct. 6. Finalists in four age categories will return on Sunday afternoon, Oct. 8 to entertain and compete for the first place prizes.

Bunny Alert! Easter Egg Hunt!



Children are invited to the recreation committee sponsored Easter egg hunt at Frank LoBiondo Park, Morton Avenue in Rosenhayn on Saturday, April 8 at 10 AM. Ages - toddler to 10 yr old. Prizes will be awarded. Rain date April 15.

GOT NEWS FOR US?

Send photos and stories by email to deerfield@deerfieldtownship.org.

Township of Deerfield
P.O. Box 350
Rosenhayn, NJ 08352

Bulk Rate
US Postage Paid
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08352
Permit #1

Resident or Box Holder
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