



TOWNSHIP OF READINGTON

MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

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Dear Readington Residents:

Is it too late to wish you all a Happy New Year? I hope not!

A resident told me the other day that Readington is like Disneyland—a lot happens beneath the surface which keeps Readington running smoothly and the public is unaware that it is happening. In these newsletters, I hope to be able to share with you some of these things and the people who make Readington run. For example, the folks who keep our streets plowed slept on cots in the Municipal Garage for short shifts during Winter Storm Jonas so that they could get back out quickly to keep our roads clear and assist emergency vehicles responding to calls if needed.

As always, I welcome your comments and questions at bafort@readingtontwp-nj.org.

Till next time,
Betty Ann Fort

Office of Emergency Management

By Mayor Betty Ann Fort



I was sitting in Joel Kerwin's office in the Municipal Building on the Friday before Winter Storm Jonas. Papers were scattered over his desk and he was on the phone with all of the Township's Fire Chiefs, checking to see which firehouses would be manned if we lost power and they were needed to be used as warming stations. He was checking weather forecasts and we were going over notices to put out on the Township's website.

Joel Kerwin is a Township resident and retired Chatham police officer, and is in charge of Readington's Office of Emergency Management. He is also head of CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) whose volunteer members are trained to help out in times of need. Many of you may have met CERT members during Hurricane Sandy, when they spent endless hours volunteering to help our community, including distributing ice and water at the Municipal Building.

Joel is one of Readington's almost invisible employees who works very hard to keep us all safe during emergencies. And with this high-stress job, what does Joel do for relaxation? He bakes beautiful and delicious cakes!

READINGTON DOG PARK

Several years ago, Readington residents Kevin and Nancy Devine, with help from the Township and support from Scout Troops and private citizens, started the Readington Dog Park at Hillcrest Park, which attracted dog owners from all over the area. Sadly, Kevin passed away suddenly last year, and running the Dog Park became, understandably, too much for Nancy alone.

A group of Dog Park members approached the Township to see if the Township could run the dog park. So, happily, the Dog Park will continue under the aegis of our Recreation Commission and the Director, Gabrielle Bolarakis, with a volunteer committee overseeing the daily operation of the park.

Please check the Recreation website at readingtontwp.org to find out when the Grand Re-Opening will take place and how to register your dog for lots of doggie fun!



Township of Readington
509 Route 523
Whitehouse Station, NJ 08889
www.readingtontwp.org

Bulk Rate
Permit #504

PAGE 2

MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR



TRAFFIC SAFETY

BY MAYOR BETTY ANN FORT

Police Chief Donaruma, Lieutenant Greco and I met recently with County officials to discuss ways to improve safety and reduce accidents at the intersection of County Route 523, Pleasant Run Road, Stanton Road and Springtown Road, one of the more dangerous intersections in the Township. The County informed us that they are studying this intersection, but in the meantime, we determined that increased and improved signage would be helpful, since speed and sight distances seem to be problems at this site. We are proceeding with these improvements.

In addition, Chief Donaruma and Lieutenant Greco met with Committeeman John Broten and me to discuss ways to approach the State Department of Transportation to discuss ways to make the median crossovers on Route 22 safer. I will keep you informed of any progress we make.

Electronics Recycling OFF for Now

We are sorry for the inconvenience, but due to changes in market conditions for the resale of elements in recycled electronics, we can no longer accept ANY electronics at our Recycling Center. We cannot continue to collect e-waste free of charge without the much-needed amendments to the State Electronics Waste Management Act. Currently, the cost to the Township is prohibitive.

The County will be scheduling a collection date in the Spring at the County Complex on Route 12. Check the County website for updates.

If you are interested in the future of e-waste collection, contact your local Assemblyperson, Senator and the Governor regarding the "New Jersey Electronics Waste Management Act". Tell them you don't want our electronic waste to contaminate our landfills!

SO, YOU WANT TO VOLUNTEER?

You have a little extra time. It looks like fun to dress in 18th Century costumes and dip candles with Readington schoolchildren. Or you want to help clear brush from our hiking trails. Or pouring over blueprints and site plans for new buildings looks interesting. Or flashing lights and sirens have always intrigued you. Readington is always looking for good volunteers, so here's how to get started.

It is always a good idea to attend a few meetings of the Board, Committee or group that catches your interest. Talk to members, see what goes on, ask questions. Meeting dates are posted on the Township website (readingtontwp.org). If you are still interested, fill out a "Citizen Leadership" form, available on the Township website under "Forms, Permits, Licenses" and submit it. When a vacancy occurs, you will probably be called in for an interview.

To volunteer for one of our Emergency Services, contact one of our four Fire Chiefs or the Chief of Whitehouse Rescue Squad.