



TOWNSHIP OF READINGTON

MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

VOLUME 1 ISSUE 2

SEPTEMBER 2015

Greetings. Well, I had every intention of getting out a Summer newsletter, but here it is early Fall. Summer was just too brief and too much fun. But it isn't as if nothing has been happening here in Readington.

The Fall Recreation brochure is now online (readingtontwp.org). Our Rec Director, Gabrielle Bolarakis, and the Rec Committee have put together lots of activities for children and adults - for both athletes and those of us for whom walking and chewing gum at the same time is a challenge. Take a look and sign up!

Betty Ann Fort
Mayor

Again, always feel free to email me at mayor@readingtontwp-nj.com with questions or comments.

NEW DOG IN TOWN

Canine Officer Polis, a 16 month old German Shepherd, has joined Readington's Police Dept. Polis is partnered with Sgt. Carlos Ferreiro and is described as a multi-purpose Patrol and Narcotics dog. Together they are trained to find narcotics and locate missing persons, as well as perform routine patrol operations. Polis joins Canine Officer Ronan, who is partnered with Cpl. Chris Heycock. Polis has already had many successful searches and helps keep Readington a safe place to live!



Pains in Our Ash(es)

By Environmental Commission Chair Steve Foster

The Emerald Ash Borer has arrived in Readington Township. This invasive Asian insect has been spreading eastward from Michigan since 2002. The impact has been likened to the chestnut blight and Dutch elm disease which devastated rural and urban areas in the last century. Unlike other borers, the EAB typically kills a healthy ash tree in two to five years and stressed trees sooner. In a rural community like ours the numbers of trees can be significant given the old growth forests and farmstead watersheds and hedgerows. The first indications of EAB can be the defoliation of large upper branches, which occurs one growing season after the initial infestation. Examples of diseased trees can already be seen in the Stanton and Three Bridges area of the Township. For more information, see the Township website at www.readingtontwp.org

PIPELINE SUMMER

By Committeeman John Broten

Year 2015 may be remembered as "Pipeline Summer" here in Readington. Since work first began in March with clearing, the last few months have seen extensive grading and excavating as TRANSCO has been installing a third 42' natural gas pipeline alongside two (2) existing pipelines through the Township. The project is known as the Leidy Southeast Pleasant Run Loop and runs from the Stanton area east along Pleasant Run to the Neshanic Station area at the border with Branchburg. The pipeline crosses approx. 75 parcels of property where TRANSCO has negotiated easements with individual property owners. Six (6) properties owned by Readington Township are impacted, including the Bouman-Stickney Farmstead on Dreahook Rd. The new pipeline crosses several roads in the

Township, including Rt. 523, Barley Sheaf, Rt. 629 and US 202. Most of the road crossings are done by boring under the roads and placing the pipe with no disruption to traffic. Some portions of the construction are approaching completion and restoration work will begin soon. To date, TRANSCO has managed the project very effectively and has been responsive to Township and citizen concerns when issues have arisen. They expect that the entire project, including restoration work, will be completed by mid October. Township officials have met with TRANSCO to review the company's restoration plans and reinforce the need for quality restoration to return affected lands to their pre-project state.



Township of Readington
509 Route 523
Whitehouse Station, NJ 08889

Bulk Rate
Permit #504

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MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR



EMERGENCY SERVICES

BY COMMITTEEMAN SAM TROPELLO



At the July 6th Township Committee meeting, a resolution was passed to purchase a new Heavy Rescue Truck for the Whitehouse Rescue Squad. The Squad will utilize equipment from the old truck to outfit the new vehicle. This purchase will help ensure that our Rescue Squad's excellent response time record will continue.

A resolution was also passed honoring volunteer fireman, **Randy Simerson**, for 50 years of service with Whitehouse Fire Co. Randy was honored at a surprise party held at the firehouse. Readington is so fortunate to have volunteers like Randy Simerson among us. Randy, we thank you for your outstanding record and service to our community.

WHITEHOUSE MECHANICSVILLE HISTORIC DISTRICT TOUR SUNDAY, SEPT. 27

On Sunday, Sept. 27, the Readington Township Historic Preservation Commission will celebrate the listing of Whitehouse-Mechanicsville on the National Register of Historic Places with a walking tour of the district with Historian Dennis Bertland. All are welcome. The tour will commence at 2:00 PM, rain or shine, at the East Whitehouse Fire Dept., 93 Old Hwy, Whitehouse. Refreshments will be served. *Submitted by Erin Brennan*

What is Happening with the Merck Property?

We know that the property is under contract to a group of developers. A committee has met with them to let them know that we are looking forward to working with them to find a use, or uses, for the property that will be beneficial to all - will make money for the developers and will bring quality ratables and jobs to Readington.