

THE BOROUGH OF PEAPACK & GLADSTONE PG POST

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PUBLISHED BY THE BOROUGH OF PEAPACK & GLADSTONE



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BOROUGH HALL HOURS

ADMINISTRATION/ CLERK	Monday to Thursday 8:00am - 4:30pm Friday 8:00am - 1:00pm
CONSTRUCTION	Monday to Thursday 8:00am - 4:30pm Friday 8:00am - 1:00pm
TAX/SEWER COLLECTION	Monday to Thursday 10:00am - 2:00pm Friday 9:00am - 1:00pm
POLICE FRONT DESK	Monday to Thursday 8:00am - 4:30pm Friday 8:00am - 1:00pm

NOTES FROM THE MAYOR

BY MAYOR MARK A. CORIGLIANO



Navigating the Geese Dilemma: Understanding and Managing the Borough's Overpopulation

As you have likely learned, either through our meetings, minutes, social media, articles in The Bernardville News, mass media, or from your neighbors, the Borough has been dealing with a vexing issue of an overpopulation of Canada Geese in Liberty Park. The intent of this article is to provide some context to what you may have heard and correct some of the rumors, most of them incorrect, that have circulated.

Our Borough has been dealing with a geese issue for over 20 years now. We have had geese residing in our Park on-and-off since then, but it was since the renovation of the Park a few years ago that the resident population of geese grew substantially. This increase in population mirrored the increase in the population of these birds, an invasive species, in New Jersey overall.

In 2023, the Borough Council and Administration recognized that geese residing in our Park were creating conditions that made the Park unusable, unhealthy and unsafe for our residents. The population of geese in the Park had grown to nearly 60 birds, which is untenable for a less than two acres area. Droppings were everywhere...on the footpaths, by the Tot Lot, on benches and on adjacent residential and Borough properties. Most detrimentally, the feces had contaminated our small pond to the point that maintaining a healthy aquatic and plant population was impossible. Further, the large population of geese were sometimes aggressive towards people and caused other health and safety concerns that the Council felt compelled to address. Numerous remediation measures, both to discourage the geese from nesting in our Park and to protect the plantings and lawn, were unsuccessful.

Frustrated, our research led us to the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Services – Wildlife Services. The USDA has trained biologists experienced in dealing with the significant growth in invasive Canada Geese, not only in New Jersey, but nationwide.

In 2024, Council member Jamie Murphy, who is a practicing veterinarian and guided much of our research, referred a USDA-managed remediation plan to the Council. The USDA advised that the geese occupying Liberty Park were resident geese and not migratory geese, and that they were indeed invasive. Relocation was not an option (even assuming any other town would have them) and culling the geese during molting season was deemed by the USDA the appropriate course of action with non-lethal measures be used thereafter. The euthanizing was to be done using CO2 which puts the geese to sleep in under a minute and is recognized as an approved veterinary practice. After careful review of all options, it was determined that the USDA's culling of the resident geese was the only means to 'reset' the Park and once again make it usable by, and safe for, our residents. This same process was effectuated successfully in other towns in New Jersey, all of which now are effectively managing their geese populations.



CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Navigating the Geese Dilemma: Understanding and Managing the Borough's Infestation

CONTINUED

The cost of the contract was \$8,752 a year, renewable yearly for five years. The contract was approved in early March and the USDA promptly started their work of mapping the nests and adding eggs. Adding is considered by the USDA to be a humane and widely used process that prevents an egg from hatching. Meanwhile, the damage to our Park worsened, with the lawn decimated and many plantings and grass around the pond eaten away.

At about this time, animal rights activists learned of the USDA plan and looked to stop the work and the actions of the Council. Our Council meetings were filled with many objecting to this plan, the majority of whom were not residents. There were some residents who objected to the plan, but those residents who spoke to us (both publicly and privately) in support of the plan far outnumbered those who advocated against it. Whether a resident or not, most of the folks who spoke to us, either against the plan or not, were polite and respectful.

Councilmembers met with one group, the Animal Protection League of NJ, to see if they might offer some other viable options, but unfortunately most had been tried or were not practical. Many other well-meaning but impractical suggestions came in including erecting a 6-foot-high solid fence around the berm of the pond to removing all the grass in the Park.

Unfortunately, this civility was blemished by a handful of people who were boisterous, disrespectful, insulting and not acting in the spirit in which the Mayor and the Council conduct the business of the Borough. A few had to be asked to leave our meetings, others formed a social media campaign that posted mean-spirited photos and messages about some of the Council members.

Much misinformation and many untruths were spread. Still, others left disparaging messages or sent mean spirited emails to the Council, including a few who threatened the Council members and their families, as well as harassing a Council member's place of employment. In the heat of all this, you may have seen me speaking on one of the major media networks, most of whom covered the issue.



Then it all came to a prompt end. As July rolled around and the geese started molting, it was expected that the USDA's culling would soon occur, however our entire population of geese suddenly disappeared. A seemingly well-funded operation removed the geese population from our park in the dead of night. We were surprised by this, and despite a police investigation, no culprits were identified. Later, a few residents have come forward since saying they saw something happening at night in the rear of the Park but did not report it. The Borough also found evidence of some activity as well.

The positive aspect of this (illegal) action has been that our Park has been mostly free of geese since then, and it has flourished. The pond has started to clear up (although it will take months to fully recover), the grass and plantings are growing, and one does not have to navigate goose droppings at every step. People are using the Park again for its intended purpose. Our resident neighbors to the Park are as thrilled as the Council. Yes, there have been a few isolated incidents of geese coming back

to the Park in smaller numbers, but, thus far, they departed soon after, presumably having been discouraged by our non-lethal remediation measures. Further, since we had not exhausted our budget with the USDA, their biologists have been regularly monitoring and treating the Park with their own non-lethal measures.

The Council, along with the biologists supervising the USDA efforts, are unsure if this will hold up and geese will not look to call Liberty Park home again. We are encouraged that it does, and that the geese do not reinhabit the Park as they did before. Of course, we do not mind a handful visiting now and again...we are just not accepting of the considerable number that were living in the Park.

The Council is regularly monitoring the situation, guided by those at the USDA and will base future plans, including a renewal of the USDA contact, on how things proceed in the future, while keeping the health and safety of our residents and enjoyment of the Park at the forefront of our decision-making process.



POLICE DEPARTMENT SPOTLIGHT

DETECTIVE NICK ORTIZ



Nick Ortiz, a Bronx native, grew up with a passion for sports and community. A proud graduate of Mount St. Michael Academy, Nick excelled in baseball, serving as team captain and earning the title of Most Valuable Player. His talents led him to Centenary University in Hackettstown, New Jersey, where he was recruited to play baseball and earned conference honorable mention recognition.

Nick pursued his academic interests with a BA in Criminal Justice, along with a certificate in Criminalistics. His path to law enforcement continued at Camden County Police Academy, where he received his Police Training Certificate. In 2018, Nick began his career with the Peapack and Gladstone Police Department and now serves as Detective for the Borough.

When he's not on duty, Nick enjoys staying active through paintball, darts, and men's softball. He's also a fan of go-karting, video games, motorcycle riding, and is an avid sneaker collector.

ADOPT-A-TREE PROGRAM

BY ISABEL CORBIN

For over a decade, the Borough has worked towards maintaining a healthy tree canopy through its Community Forestry Management Plan. This effort, led by the Peapack and Gladstone Environmental Commission and the Shade Tree Commission, has been made possible by the ongoing support of the Borough Council, Department of Public Works, Somerset County Road Department, and the New Jersey Forest Service.

The Adopt-A-Tree Program focuses on enhancing tree cover along key streets in the Borough, including Main Street, Mendham Road, Mosle Road, Old Chester Road, Willow Avenue, Pottersville Road, and Holland Avenue. In the past, trees like Oaks, Maples, London Plane, Ginkgo, and Copper Beech have been planted. While the trees are free to adopt and will be installed by the Department of Public Works, homeowners are responsible for their care, including watering and trimming.

Interested in participating? Simply email Isabel Corbin at isabelcorbin@gmail.com with your name, street address, and preferred tree species. Your request will be forwarded to the PG Environmental and Shade Tree Commissions. Thank you for helping us grow a greener Peapack and Gladstone!



RECYCLING DON'TS

SARAH JANE NOLL,
CERTIFIED RECYCLING PROFESSIONAL



- ✓ Don't bag recyclables – *put in recycling containers*
- ✓ Don't tie cardboard and newspapers – *put in recycling containers*
- ✓ Don't recycle shredded paper – take to Somerset Co. collection day (www.co.somerset.nj.us/recycle)
- ✓ Don't recycle batteries – *throw in the trash* or *take to a store that recycles batteries*
- ✓ Don't recycle aerosol or pressurized containers – *throw in the trash*
- ✓ Don't recycle baby diapers (used or new) – *throw in the trash*
- ✓ Don't recycle propane tanks. – take to Somerset Co. collection day (www.co.somerset.nj.us/recycle)
- ✓ Don't recycle flowerpots or trays – *throw in the trash*
- ✓ Don't recycle light bulbs or Pyrex – *throw in the trash*
- ✓ Don't recycle plastic bags – *throw in the trash*
- ✓ Don't recycle hardcover books – *throw in the trash*
- ✓ Don't recycle plastic wrap or shrink wrap – *throw in the trash*
- ✓ Don't recycle hard plastics – *throw in the trash*

FLU SHOT CLINIC DATES

The Bernards Township Health Department has scheduled seasonal flu shot clinics to take place in October. The clinics will take place on:

- Wednesday, October 9 from 9:00 am - 11:00am at St. James Church, 184 S. Finley Ave., Basking Ridge
- Thursday, October 17 from 9:00 am - 11:00am at Garabrant Center, 4 Wilson St., Mendham
- Friday, October 25 from 9:00 am - 11:00am at Peapack-Gladstone Borough Hall, 1 School St., Peapack
- Wednesday, October 30 from 3:00 pm - 5:00pm at the Bernardsville Library, 1 Anderson Hill Rd., Bernardsville

The flu is a vaccine-preventable, contagious, respiratory illness caused by a virus and is characterized by sudden onset with fever, headache, aches, chills, and extreme exhaustion. All vaccine used at the BTHD clinics is trivalent which means that it protects against 3 flu viruses: two influenza A viruses and 1 influenza B virus. All clinics are open to those 4 years old through adults and appointments are not required.

The cost of the flu shot is \$25 for residents and \$35 for non-residents. There is no charge for those with a valid Medicare Part B card. Participants should consult with their doctor before receiving the flu vaccine. For additional information, call (908) 204-3069.

New Jersey law requires that children up to 59 months of age attending any licensed child-care center or pre-school facility, must receive at least one dose of influenza vaccine between September 1st and December 31st of each year. To assist parents in obtaining this vaccination for their pre-school child, the Bernards Township Health Department has scheduled our Seasonal Flu Shot clinics to include children who are age 4 and older in addition to administering flu shots to adults.

The Bernards Township Health Department is the contractual health agency serving Bernards Township, Bernardsville Borough, Chester Borough, Long Hill Township, Mendham Borough, and Peapack and Gladstone Borough.



PG RECREATION

DAN DOLAN, RECREATION COORDINATOR

2024 Fall & 2025 Winter Programs

PG Kiddie Soccer

Fall 2024 is underway with "PG Kiddie Soccer" for Peapack and Gladstone kids, ages 3 ½ - 6 years old. Each Saturday morning our future Major League Soccer and National Women's Soccer League players learn the basics during the 8-week program! *Kiddie Soccer, was the first soccer program in New Jersey for preschool-age children, and still focuses solely on that age group.*

Halloween

Calling all Ghouls, Goblins, and other costumed individuals! The annual *Peapack and Gladstone Halloween Parade* is set for Sunday, October 27th at 3:00 pm. We meet in the Peapack and Gladstone Bank Parking lot at 2:45 pm. Then our costumed trick or treaters march to the Municipal Field where they get a snack, and revel with family and friends.

Somerset Hills Youth Basketball

Recreation and Travel Team Ratings will be in October for Peapack and Gladstone, as well as Bernardsville kids in grades 4 through 8. Travel Teams are formed by grade, playing in the competitive Junior Basketball League. Recreational Teams are combined grade teams playing in the Recreational Intertown League with Somerville, Readington, Bedminster, Middlesex, Bound Brook, and several others (ex: 3rd and 4th; 5th and 6th; 7th and 8th grades).

Youth Open Gym

Youth Open Gym Returns mid-November for kids in Grades 1 through 8. Look for updates in PG Notify. Adult Open Gym is now underway, weekdays from 10:00 am – 1:00 pm; Sundays 10:00 am -12:30 pm. You must be 18 years old to enter the gym.

Santa's Visit - SAVE THE DATE

The PRC Live Nativity and Santa's Visit is set for Sunday, December 8th at 5:00 pm. More information to follow.



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WELCOME KATHLEEN McTIERNAN

With Tina's retirement earlier this year, please join us in welcoming Kathleen McTiernan to our finance team! Since her start in June 2024, those who have met Kathleen have admired her amazing work ethic and professionalism. With a wealth of experience as an Office Administrator and a proven track record in Accounts Receivable and Payable, Kathleen brings a strong skill set to our team. Her background in managing office operations, coordinating budgets, and providing exceptional customer service makes her a valuable asset to our finance department.

Kathleen's expertise will undoubtedly enhance our operational efficiency and contribute to our ongoing success. We look forward to her fresh perspective and the positive impact she will make in this role with the Borough. Please join us in extending a warm welcome to Kathleen as she embarks on this exciting new chapter with us!



GENERAL ELECTION – NOVEMBER 5, 2024

This is what you need to know to VOTE

The 2024 General Election is almost here!

The deadline to register to vote in New Jersey is Tuesday, October 15, 2024. Even if you know that you are registered, now is a great time to head to vote.nj.gov, and make sure that all of your information is up to date.

If you are not registered you can pick up a form at the Borough Clerk's office, located at 1 School Street, Peapack, NJ 07977, and mail it to Somerset County. You can also visit the Somerset County voter registration site by scanning the QR code below for additional information and to print out a form you can mail in.



Voters have three ways to Vote:

- **Election Day** – Tuesday, November 5 at Borough Hall: 1 School St., Peapack, NJ
- **In person at ANY early voting site in Somerset County** from Saturday, October 26 through Sunday, November 3, 2024 (check our [website www.peapackgladstone.org](https://www.peapackgladstone.org) to see early voting sites in Somerset County with times opened)
- **Using a mail-in ballot** any time before 8:00 pm on Tuesday, November 5, 2024

The County is always looking for Poll Workers, you can find more information on becoming a poll worker at:

<https://www.co.somerset.nj.us/government/affiliated-agencies/election-board/poll-worker-information>



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BOROUGH HOLIDAYS

October 14th - Columbus Day

November 11th - Veteran's Day

November 28th & 29th - Thanksgiving Holiday

December 24th & 25th - Christmas Holiday

✓ October 25th - Flu Shots at P&G Municipal Bld.



RECYCLING SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER 2024						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

OCTOBER 2024						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

NOVEMBER 2024						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

DECEMBER 2024						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

HISTORICAL PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

LIBRARY COLLECTION UPDATE

As the great Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis once said, *“If we don’t care about our past, we cannot hope for the future.”*

This past summer the Historical Preservation Committee of Peapack and Gladstone embarked on a mission in collaboration with The Historical Society of Somerset Hills. With our library closing for renovation, the HPCPG was faced with the task of gathering, sorting, and determining the fate of our vast collection of town historical documents, memorabilia, photographs, and other treasures that had been kept in the Library Conference room. Such a monumental task was made even more challenging with the absence of a suitable and safe local venue for these priceless items from our town’s history. Adding to the challenge was the Committee’s desire to work towards creating a digital archive of these incredible pieces.

Enter the The Historical Society of the Somerset Hills located in the Brick Academy Museum in Basking Ridge. Over the course of a few hot summer days, members of our Committee along with the help of P&G’s DPW, packed, wrapped, and transported approximately 45 boxes containing elements of our town’s vibrant history to their new home at Brick Academy Museum. Some of the items include a collection of original black and white framed photographs of Blairsden Mansion and Natirar during their final days of construction from 1900 to 1903 taken by the renowned Wurts Brothers

of New York, as well as a plethora of documents, photographs, and ceramic dinner pieces from the Kate Macy Ladd Convalescent Home which was located at Natirar prior to its purchase by the King of Morocco in 1983. Among the more fragile items were letters written to the family of Prime Minister William Gladstone recounting the request that he be the namesake of the area once known as Upper Peapack. Of course, no collection of town history would be complete without some items detailing the extensive impact of the Lackawana Railroad including maps of the mill race, train schedules, and ledgers. The THSSH now has ownership of these items and has already begun the process of digitizing the entire inventory. While these historical items are now housed in Basking Ridge, our town will continue to have unlimited access to the entire collection for seasonal displays, programs, or other local events.

The HPCPG is forever grateful to the members and volunteers at THSSH for this amazing collaborative project. If you’d like to see some of these items on display, plans are in the works for an exhibit on Natirar to be held this fall at the Brick Academy Museum. Check out their website at www.somersetillshistoricalociety.org for more information. If you’d like to get involved in the archiving and digitizing of historical items or if you’d like to volunteer with the HPCPG, please go to our website www.peapackgladstone.org and look under the Forms tab for the Citizen Leadership Form.



LITHIUM BATTERY SAFETY

Lithium-ion batteries supply power to many kinds of devices including smart phones, laptops, e-scooters and e-bikes, e-cigarettes, smoke alarms, toys, and even cars. If not used correctly, or if damaged, these batteries can catch on fire or explode.

The Problem

- These batteries store a large amount of energy in a small amount of space.
- Sometimes batteries are not used the right way; batteries not designed for a specific use can be dangerous.
- Like any product, a small number of these batteries are defective. They can overheat, catch fire, or explode.

Safety Tips

- Purchase and use devices that are listed by a qualified testing laboratory.
- Always follow the manufacturer's instructions.
- Only use the battery that is designed for the device.
- Put batteries in the device the right way.
- Only use the charging cord that came with the device.
- Do not charge a device under your pillow, on your bed, or on a couch.
- Do not keep charging the device or device battery after it is fully charged.
- Keep batteries at room temperature when possible. Do not charge them at temperatures below 32°F (0°C) or above 105°F (40°C).
- Store batteries away from anything that can catch fire.

Signs of a Problem

Stop using the battery if you notice these problems: odor, change in color, too much heat, change in shape, leaking, or odd noises. If it is safe to do so, move the device away from anything that can catch fire. **Call 9-1-1.**

Battery Disposal

- Do not put lithium-ion batteries in the trash.
- Recycling is always the best option. Take them to a battery recycling location or contact your community for disposal instructions.
- Do not put discarded batteries in piles.

Charging an E-bike

Charge your battery in a flat, dry area away from children, direct sunlight, liquids, tripping hazards, and in a location where the e-bike is not at risk of falling.



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CONSTRUCTION DEPARTMENT REMINDERS

ROOF AND SIDING PERMITS FOR SINGLE FAMILY HOMES

As of March 5, 2018 roofing and siding permits are no longer needed for single-family homes only. If the single-family house is attached to another house(s), such as a townhouse, condo, or row house, then a permit is required.

UPDATE TO THE AUTOMATIC RAIN SENSOR LAW

P.L. 2023 C.299 was adopted January, 16, 2024 concerning automatic lawn sprinkler systems. The new law updates P.L. 2000, C.107 which mandates that any newly installed automatic lawn sprinkler system must be equipped with an automatic rain sensor device or switch that overrides the irrigation cycle after adequate rainfall.



The PG POST is published three times a year to provide the residents of Peapack and Gladstone with relevant news and information about what is happening locally.

EDITORS: Nancy Bretzger and Matthew Ghiretti
DESIGN AND PRODUCTION: Harriet L. Donnelly & e5 Marketing, Inc.

COMMENTS/SUGGESTIONS: please email us at newsletter@peapackgladstone.org

THE BOROUGH OF PEAPACK & GLADSTONE

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Peapack, NJ 07977

PRSR STD
ECRWSS
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
EDDM RETAIL



School House Trail, preserved land near the P&G Municipal Building with walking trails and nature observation

Local
Postal Customer