

M A N T U A T o w n s h i p N e w s

The Official Newsletter of Mantua Township

Fall 2010

MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR



2010 "Bark in the Park"
Dog Parade

2010 BUDGET

The Township Committee recently passed our 2010 budget. This was the most difficult budget I have ever been involved with during my 14 years on Township Committee. Drastic reductions in state aid (over \$325,000), rising health insurance costs, rising insurance costs, and drastic reductions in revenue due to the slow economy made the budget very difficult. However, the Township Committee recognized the difficult economic times the residents were facing and we were committed to providing a zero tax increase budget from the municipal portion of your tax bill.

It was very difficult to achieve this zero budget but it was achieved through the hard work of the Township Committee and Township department heads. In order to achieve the zero budget, the Township Committee had to ask that the local Policemen Benevolent Association, the union representing our police officers, to reopen their contract and grant concessions to the Township. In a show of their continued commitment to our residents in everything they do, our local department agreed to reopen their contract and granted concessions to assist the Township during this difficult budget crisis. Unfortunately, in order to achieve the zero tax increase, the Township had to lay off employees and I am very sad to report that we did have to institute eight layoffs from the Township. We have every belief that these layoffs will not affect the level of services you receive from the Township but if you do have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me.

I can assure that with the current state of the economy, not only at the local level but at the state level, we anticipate further drastic reductions in state aid for next year's budget cycle. The Township Committee anticipates next year's budget being just as difficult as this year's and we expect that there will be more drastic cuts. We will make every effort to continue the level of service which you receive and deserve as the residents of Mantua Township and we will strive to continue to make Mantua Township a great community in which to live.

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For the latest news and updates on
activities, check out our website:

www.mantuatownship.com

PET REGISTRATION

Pet Registration will start on Monday, January 3, 2011. Pet Registration fliers are expected to be mailed to all pet owners in Mantua Township in December 2010. If you have not received one please contact the Clerk's Office at 856-468-1500 extensions 110 or 113 or visit www.mantuatownship.com and one will be mailed to you.

Cats and dogs in Mantua Township must be registered annually with the Township of Mantua. A list of costs can be found on the registration fliers or on the Township of Mantua Web site. All cats and dogs must have a current rabies vaccination good through September 30, 2011 to be registered.

There are new pet registration fees. Cats and dogs that are spayed/neutered will be \$10.00 per pet.

If you registered your pet(s) in 2010, you have until April 30, 2010 to re-register the pet(s). A \$10.00 late fee will be assessed for any pet owner who fails to re-register pets after April 30, 2011.

Anyone who fails to re-register a pet after June 20, 2011 will be in violation of Township Ordinance and is subject to a fine and possible court appearance.

If you registered a pet(s) in 2010, but as of today no longer have your pet(s) you will need to contact the Township Clerk's Office at 856-468-1500 extensions 110 or 113 so we can remove your record from our files and avoid late notices and or violations and fines.

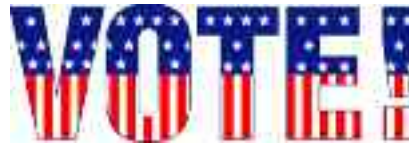
FREE RABIES CLINIC

The annual Free Rabies Clinic will be held from 8:00 a.m. on Saturday, April 2, 2011 at the Mantua Township Public Works Garage.

ELECTIONS

The General Election will be held Tuesday, November 2, 2010. Polls open at 6:00 a.m. and close at 8:00 p.m.

Anyone who is not able to vote at the polls on Election Day or any other elections can now do so by picking up a Vote By Mail ballot application in the Office of the Township Clerk during normal business hours. Also available are voter registration forms.



If you have voted for either the Primary Election in June or the General Election in November at the J. Mason Tomlin School as a voter in Voting Districts 1, 10 and 11 in the past please be advised the voting location has moved to the Incarnation Church Parish Hall on Main Street for those elections only.

If you have any questions about voting, registering to vote or how to vote by absentee or vote by mail, please contact the Township Clerk's Office at 856-468-1500 extensions 110 or 113 or the Gloucester County Board of Elections at 856-384-4500 during normal business hours.

SAVE THE DATE

VETERANS' DAY MEMORIAL

Thursday, November 11, 2010

11:00 a.m.

Veterans' Memorial

(in front of the Municipal Building)

HOLIDAY TREE LIGHTING

Thursday, December 2, 2010

7:00 p.m.

Chestnut Branch Park

(Rain date Friday, December 3)

If you have any questions regarding the above events, please visit our website or call: 468-1500, ext. 555 or 468-1500, ext. 600

MTPD Reminder

The Mantua Township Police Department would like remind all residents that as cold weather approaches, per L.O. 143-22 there is no parking on ANY Township Street during snow emergencies, or any snow storm that requires that snowplows be used. We ask that all vehicles, portable Basketball nets, Boats and RV's be removed from all highways, streets and cul-de-sacs to prevent damage and allow our Public Works Department and other government agencies to effectively plow and clear all highways, streets and cul-de-sacs within the Township safely and timely. Please keep your vehicles clear of the road until the snow has stopped, AND plows have cleared your street.

This past winter, three severe snowstorms struck our area, which dumped over ten feet of snow throughout the region. Motor vehicles, Boats and RV's that remained parked on Township streets and cul-de-sacs coupled with residents and contracted snow removers depositing snow on Township streets severely limited/created:

- 1) Effectively remove snow from the roadways
- 2) Emergency vehicle response
- 3) School Bus pick up and delivery

- 4) Increased damage claims
- 5) Increased wear on Township snow removal equipment
- 6) Restricts travel in and through the Township.

And, L.O. 350-28 prohibits the depositing of snow on any roadway within the Township either by shovel, snow blower, plow or any other means from any driveway, sidewalk or other private property onto any street within the Township.

To ensure the safety and welfare of all residents, and to assist in the prompt clearing of snow from the roadways, the Mantua Township Police Department is asking that all residents be mindful of these ordinances, as the violations carry a fine and/or the removal of the vehicle from the roadway at the owner's expense. Please take the necessary measures to ensure you are compliant for any future storms.

Thank you,
 Chief Rodney J. Sawyer
 Mantua Township Police

THE MANTUA TOWNSHIP MUSEUM IS OPEN

The Mantua Township Museum, located in the Norris Street School Building, opened on June 12, 2010. This facility was originally used to educate students in Mantua Township until 1940. Over a hundred local Family Genealogies are available for review. Additionally, current and former residents can receive guidance in searching their family trees. Our Goal is to preserve the History of the Township, its Family's and artifacts for future Generations.



Awesome Mantua Artifacts to See!

The Museum will be open the first Monday of each month from 7:00 P.M. to 9:00 P.M. and on the third Saturday of each month from 10:00 A.M. to 12 Noon. Appointments can be made for other openings by calling Glenn Lore at 468-3277 or Dolores Allen at 468-1469.

The Mantua Historical Committee Meetings are held on the First Monday of the Month at 7:30 p.m. in the Municipal Building. Questions and information, please contact Glenn Lore at 468-3277 or Dolores Allen at 856-468-1469.



PROCLAMATIONS

April 2010

Honoring Sergeant First Class Paul Coleman Sr. on his retirement and career with Mantua Township Police Department

Honoring Sergeant Jeff Ferry and K-9 Rocky for outstanding service with Mantua Township Police Department

Honoring Cyle J. Hanker, Boy Scout Troop 74 of Woodbury for attaining the rank of Eagle Scout

May 2010

Proclaiming Paint the Town Purple for 2010 for the Relay for Life event

Memorial Day Proclamation honoring Chief Ray Albert Blount, U.S. Navy

July 2010

Honoring Cassandra Lenkowski, Clearview graduate of 2010, for her Group III State

Championship in the 400 meter hurdles.

August 2010

Honoring Madison Welsh for her being crowned New Jersey Preteen National Teenager 2010

Proclaiming September 2010 as Histiocytosis Awareness month in the Township of Mantua

Z O N I N G O F F I C E

Just a reminder that Zoning permits are required for all fences, sheds, and pools as well as the standard additions and new houses, ect. Permit applications are available at the construction office and can be left there for review. All applications must be in duplicate with two drawings showing work to be performed. Completed applications can be dropped off whenever the Municipal Building is open for business and the Zoning Officer will call you when your application is reviewed. No more standing in lines (unless you want to).

SHARED SERVICES CONTINUE TO SAVE TAX DOLLARS

Mantua Township- Mayor Tim Chell and Committeeman Bob Zimmerman were joined in September by Gloucester County Freeholder Director Stephen Sweeney and Deputy Director Bob Damminger during a roundtable event to discuss the cost-saving effectiveness of Shared Serves between the county and municipalities.

Currently, the Mantua Township is involved in several Shared Service Agreements with Gloucester County, including Emergency Medical Services, 911 Dispatch, Stormwater/Deicer Storage facility, trash disposal and public works equipment, which in 2009 totaled \$1.22 million in savings to local tax payers. Mantua Township is home to a regional salt storage shed and an Emergency Medical Service station.

“If we didn't have those savings, the tax impact for our residents would have been drastic,” said Mayor Chell. “What this does and what this shows is we can have home rule in New Jersey, and it's a very strong tradition of home rule, but we don't have to have home rule to a fault. There are ways the county can do things better than the local municipality, more cost effective than the local municipality and that's where this county has taken leadership.”

Additional tax dollars are expected to be saved as more Shared Service opportunities come online. An additional \$213,000.00 will be saved annually once Gloucester County fully implements the Office of the Gloucester County Tax Assessor by early 2013.

Mayor Chell explained that if the Mantua Township had to perform a mandated revaluation of property here the cost of borrowing the funds would easily exceeded \$500,000.00, not including the hiring of additional staff.

The partnership also includes Open Space Preservation, where this Shared Service Agreement between Mantua Township and the Gloucester County saved local taxes totaling \$17,798.00 in 2009 alone.



Mantua Township is one of only two Gloucester County municipalities which did not raise taxes in 2010. Glassboro was the other town.

“The Gloucester County Freeholder Board has enabled the taxpayers of our county to save almost \$30 million dollars through shared services. We are proud to be one of the lead communities in Gloucester County, and have been able to save our residents about \$1.22 million from our budget here in Mantua through this initiative,” said Committeeman Bob Zimmerman. “We will strive to be a leader in an effort to reduce the size of government, save tax dollars and continue to provide our residents with exceptional services.”

Freeholder Director Sweeney said County-wide Shared Services here in Mantua and elsewhere save tax payers to the tune of about \$24.3 million dollars in 2009.

“Every dollar that is saved through a shared or regionalized service is money that government does not have to ask for from its tax payers,” Director and State Senate President Sweeney said. “The bottom line is that government can save money by being innovative without impacting the quality of the services citizens use on a day to day basis.”

MANTUA TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE UPDATES

Mantua Township, located in the heart of Gloucester County, understands that "Going Green" is a continual process. We have committed ourselves and our work to being more environmentally responsible and pledge to help make the process easy for the public to embrace as well. Through education, smart decisions and a strong commitment, we can ensure a safe and beautiful community for generations to come.

Mantua Township Mayor Tim Chell put out the call to all municipal employees to decrease the municipality's impact on the environment while maintaining a high level of customer service and quality of life for our residents. He was joined in this effort by Deputy Mayor Pete Scirroto, Committeewoman Lorraine Beckett, Committeewoman Sharon Lawrence and myself. Today, we are proud to say that the mission is being achieved in the areas of recycling, paper usage, integration of hybrid vehicles, open land preservation, residential solar and wind energy, waste disposal, and the first in New Jersey to install a solar paneled traffic signal.

In the Department of Public Works, Mantua has converted to single-stream recycling. We saw how ineffective that the small, yellow recycling cans were when the bill arrived for tonnage costs associated with trash disposal. The cans were also insufficiently sized for consumer use and splitting recyclable materials was often confusing. With the introduction of 45-gallon, single-stream recycling carts, recycling has become easier for residents. Additionally, the township implemented the use of vegetative waste carts to be used for the recycling of household yard vegetation such as: grass clippings, weeds, flowers and small plants. The overall tonnage bill has gone down and people are asking for more recycling carts in this proactive community effort.

Township Administration also implemented strategies to cut down on the use of paper products. All employees were asked to bring in their own mugs or cups in order to eliminate the purchasing and use of paper products. We are also cutting down on paper use in the Township Clerk's Office by insisting on double-sided copying. To further this cause, Mantua is working with the State of New Jersey to be certified in digitalizing all public records under the local goal of E-First: the sending of any public record electronically if it is available in that capacity prior to making a paper reproduction. Finally, the township participates in an Earth Day Shred Event where residents are encouraged to bring in paper products such as bags, boxes and confidential documents, etc. to be shredded and recycled.

Last year, the Mantua Township Police Department purchased its first hybrid vehicle--a 2010 Ford Escape Hybrid--with the long-range goal of making the entire municipal fleet more environmentally friendly.

To combat sprawl in the community the township has worked with the County of Gloucester and the state to preserve farmland and open space. We are currently working with the Township of Deptford and Gloucester County to consider preserving the former Maple Ridge Golf Course for passive recreation. The land was previously slated for a large-scale development project of single-family homes and townhouses.

The Township Committee recently overhauled its Land Use laws to streamline the application and approval process for residents interested in installing solar panels. We are also working on adjusting local laws concerning roof-top wind mills--a renewable energy source growing in popularity.

And to ensure Mantua Township is doing all it can, we have joined the Federal Environmental Protection Agency's Waste Wise program, a free service which assists small governments and small businesses with innovative, non-costly means of refuse disposal.

As recently as the beginning of this past August, Mantua Township was the first community in New Jersey to install a solar powered traffic signal. With the assistance of the Gloucester County Freeholders, a grant was obtained through the Department of Energy. This solar paneled light will save our tax payers in energy costs and benefit the environment. We have plans to transition other traffic signals in our community over to solar powered energy in the very near future.

Mantua Township has done a lot to reduce our carbon footprint and environmental impact to create a more sustainable and responsible community. We recognize that we have a long way to go, but we are committed to promoting a "green" ethic in our community.

DID YOU KNOW?

NOTARY PUBLIC

A Notary Public is available free of charge to the public Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. in the Office of the Township Clerk, 401 Main Street, Mantua, New Jersey 08051.

VITAL RECORDS

Copies of Marriage, Death and Birth records can be obtained from the Registrar of Vital Statistics located in the Office of the Township Clerk Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. at 401 Main Street, Mantua, New Jersey 08051. To obtain a copy of a Vital Record the requestor must have a valid government issued picture identification and all other necessary support documentation as required by State law to obtain a vital record. All requests must be made in person.

Fees for copies are \$7.00 for the first copy and \$5.00 for additional copies of that vital record. For more information please contact the Township Registrar and Deputy Registrar at 856-468-1500 extensions 110 and 113.

TRAFFIC COMPLAINTS

Township residents can report general traffic complaints, including speeding, parking, traffic tie-ups, etc. to traffic@mantuatownship.com.

YOUR FEEDBACK

Township residents are always invited to send their comments and/or suggestions about the newsletter by emailing them to: newsletter@mantuatownship.com.

Mantua Township News
Township of Mantua
401 Main Street
Mantua, NJ 08051

Telephone Directory

Emergency	911
Police (non-emergency)	468-1920
Administrator	468-1500
Clerk	468-1500
Finance	468-1850
Bureau of Fire Safety	468-9050
Clean Communities	468-9088
Code Enforcement	468-9088
Construction	468-9050
Municipal Court	468-3078
MUA	468-1111
Public Works	468-1502
Recycling	468-9088
Tax Assessment	468-3898
Tax Collection	468-5892
Zoning	468-1323
Board of Health	468-1500 ext. 122
Economic Development	468-1500 ext. 122
Veterans' Commission	468-7879

Mantua Township Committee

Timothy Chell	468-8108
<i>Mayor</i>	
Pete Scirrotto	468-7524
<i>Deputy Mayor</i>	
Lorraine Beckett	468-6749
<i>Committee Member</i>	
Sharon Lawrence	468-8945
<i>Committee Member</i>	
Robert Zimmerman	464-1859
<i>Committee Member</i>	
Michael Datz	468-1500
<i>Administrator</i>	

Email Directory

Police: mantuapd@mantuatownship.com
Detective Bureau: mantuadb@mantuatownship.com
Public Works: publicworks@mantuatownship.com

www.mantuatownship.com
www.mantuamua.com