

WATER CONSERVATION 2002

The summer of 2002 has been the driest summer of record in the Township of Mahwah. The entire state of New Jersey is presently suffering through the most severe drought conditions in decades. The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) and the Township of Mahwah Water Department have established emergency water conservation regulations which mandate water conservation by residential and commercial users.

Many residents have asked why the Township restricts water usage every summer and what is the Township doing to improve this situation. All of Mahwah's water comes from groundwater wells located in the Township. These wells produce water from the Ramapo Valley Aquifer under the Ramapo River and from the Brunswick Aquifer which is an interconnected deep bedrock aquifer east of

the Ramapo River. These aquifers are replenished by rainfall and by the flow of the Ramapo River. Lack of rainfall and river flow result in mandatory conservation measures to protect the Township's water supply.

The NJDEP and the United States Geological Survey (USGS) have determined that the capacity of these aquifers has been fully allocated and that the amounts of water diverted will remain limited to the amounts of water set forth in existing allocation permits. Thus, even with additional new and improved wells, the Township cannot increase the amount of water which can be pumped during peak summer usage. Water conservation regulations are required so that peak demand does not exceed the allocation amounts permitted by NJDEP. The data from NJDEP shows that the Township of Mahwah has the second highest per capita water usage in the entire state and that approximately 30 percent of peak water

usage goes to lawn watering. The Mahwah allocation permit also includes an amount of less than one million gallons per day for delivery to Ramsey during the remaining two years of a contract with Ramsey. This delivery amount was reduced when Allendale Borough was deleted from Mahwah's delivery system. The Mahwah allocation permit allows diversion of approximately 5 million gallons per day (even though the Township wells have a pumping capacity over 8 million gallons per day.)

Voluntary and mandatory water conservation measures (and additional rainfall) will immediately help our situation. The Township's long range Water Capital Plan should provide relief in the near future. The Township Water Department has expended millions of dollars on recent infrastructure improvements which should ease restrictions in future summers.

In 2001 the Township completed construction of a 3 million gallon storage

tank and pump station in Rio Vista so that the distribution systems would have greater storage capacity to meet peak demand. A transmission main was installed in Darlington Avenue to help deliver this water into the Township's distribution lines. A 20 inch diameter transmission line is near completion and will help transfer water between the west and east side water systems. Water line upgrades were installed this year in Cragmere, West Mahwah and other neighborhoods to improve volume and pressure for customers. Two of the Township's water tanks have been refurbished to guarantee adequate storage capacity.

Most importantly, the Township has negotiated and obtained a long term supplemental supply via an interconnection with United Water New Jersey. United Water has constructed a transmission line to the Mahwah border on East Crescent Avenue at the Apple Ridge Golf Course. The Township has installed an underground booster

station which will deliver a supplemental water supply of up to 3 million gallons per day.

This additional 3MGD added to Mahwah's allocation of 5 MGD will enable the Township to meet peak daily demand and to stay under the diversion limits set by NJDEP. The East Crescent Booster Station should also improve water pressure to customers in the eastern part of the Township.

Although the Township's water delivery system will be vastly improved before the summer of 2003, voluntary and mandatory state and local water regulations will remain important factors in the Township's ability to deliver sufficient potable water and fire protection services.

Current state and municipal water conservation regulations are available at www.njdrought.org and www.mahwahtwp.org . Copies of the regulations are also available at the Township Clerk's Office.

O.E.M. EXPANDS PREPAREDNESS PROGRAM

The office of Emergency Management started reorganizing its staff and preparedness plan in the fall of 1998. The Township has continuously maintained an O.E.M. office and an approved emergency operation plan meeting both State and Federal requirements.

The O.E.M. staff recognized a need to expand its preparedness to handle larger and more frequent day to day emergencies. It expanded its staff with a recruiting drive for more volunteers bringing it up to the present level of sixteen-(16) active members. Along with the membership drive the operation center was redesigned by staff members and construction was completed in the year 2000.

The renovated center was looking good and training drills were occurring twice a month. Then came the World Trade Center attack and the word "Terrorism". After the attack the staff again recognized a need

to expand our plan. An annex for terrorism has been developed, and we have worked with the Mahwah School system in reviewing its plans. A committee was also established and has been meeting with some of the major corporations in the township to assist them in planning and developing emergency guide lines and conducting actual exercises so they too will be prepared for the future. With the public concern so high regarding the Indian Point Nuclear Power Plant our O.E.M. hosted a training and planning meeting to gain more information. The event was attended by seventy eight (78) officers from Bergen County towns that border Rockland County. The information received was very helpful in clarifying prior concerns regarding Indian Point.

As conditions change the O.E.M. staff will continue to adapt our plans to be prepared for future emergencies.

RADIO COMMUNICATIONS UPGRADE COMPLETED

During 2001 and 2002 the Township completed a total renovation and upgrade of the Police and Emergency Services Radio Room and communication technology. The new Police Radio Room provides improved communication to officers throughout the Township. The outfitting of a redundant Office of Emergency Management Radio Room has also been completed to assure continuous emergency and safety communications.

EMERGENCY SERVICE DAY

On Saturday, October 12, 2002, the Mahwah Fire Department, Ambulance Corps, Police Department and Office of Emergency Management will be hosting an Emergency Services Day.

The day will begin with the VFW Memorial Post #7124 flag burning ceremony. All of the Township's fire and ambulance apparatus will be on display. The Fire Prevention Bureau and the Office of Emergency Management will be

providing information
on how to handle
various emergencies.
Rescue Co. #1 and
HAZMAT Co. #2 will
perform live
demonstrations.

Residents can meet their
hometown heroes while
viewing all the
equipment and
apparatus. Learn
valuable life saving
techniques and practice
fire safety. Learn what
to do in an emergency.

**Take a few minutes of
your time to meet those
that dedicate their lives
to ensure the safety of
your family!**

Saturday, October 12,
2002
11 am – 4 pm
Bergen County Law &
Public Safety Institute
281 Campgaw Road
Mahwah, NJ 07430

**OFFICE OF THE
MUNICIPAL CLERK
ELECTIONS**

Upcoming Election

General Election

Tuesday, November 5,
2002 6:00AM to
8:00PM

Voter Registration Date

In addition our normal
business hours of
8:00AM to 4:00PM, the
Municipal Clerk's
Office will be open on
the following dates until
9:00PM for voter
registration:

General Election

Monday, October 7,
2002

**Deadline to Register to
Vote**

General Election

Monday, October 7,
2002 9:00PM

Absentee Ballots

Requests for Absentee
Ballots by mail must be
received in the Bergen
County Clerk's Office in
Hackensack 7 days
before an election.

Voters may vote in
person at the Bergen
County Clerk's Office
up until 3:00PM the day
before an election.

Absentee Ballot Request
forms are available in
the Municipal Clerk's
Office.

Referendum

Included on the
November 5, 2002 ballot
will be a referendum
question to the voters

whether Ordinance No.
1422 which provides
\$2,500,000 funding for
construction of active
and passive recreation
facilities at the proposed
13 acre Airmont Avenue
Park should be affirmed.

DOG LICENSING

Dogs over 7 months of
age are required to be
licensed by January 1st
each year. A Rabies
Certificate, showing the
vaccination is valid for
the entire year for which
the dog is being
licensed, must be
provided. If applicable,
a Spayed or Neutered
Certificate must be
provided. If your dog is
not altered or you are
not able to provide
written documentation
from a veterinarian, an
additional \$3.00 fee will
be added to the \$7.00
licensing fee.

Starting Thursday,
January 2, 2003, Dog
Licenses will be
available for sale. After
February 15, 2003, a
\$10.00 late fee per
animal is added to the
licensing fee.

The Municipal Clerk's
Office will be open from
8:00AM to 8:00PM on
Tuesday, January 21,
2002, Monday, January
27, 2003, Monday,
February 3, 2003 and
Monday, February 10
2003 for Dog Licensing.

Dog licenses may be
renewed in person or by
mail. If renewing by
mail, include a SELF-
ADDRESSED,
STAMPED envelope
and check made payable
to the Township of
Mahwah. Mail your
request to the Municipal
Clerk, Township of
Mahwah, 300B Route
17 South, Mahwah, New
Jersey 07430. Include a
copy of the Rabies
Vaccination Certificate
(if applicable), Proof of
Spaying or Neutering (if
applicable), your name,
address and telephone
number plus your dog's
name, breed, age and
color. DO NOT send
cash. If you have any
questions, contact the
Municipal Clerk's
Office at 529-3730.

Free rabies
vaccinations are
available to Mahwah
resident dogs from the
following veterinarians:
Dr. James French
845/357-0317
Dr. James Hill 891-1310
Dr. Frank Kavanaugh
327-1877

Dr. Lawrence Ness
845/368-3455
It is recommended that
the above veterinarians
be contacted as days and
times which
vaccinations are
administered may vary.

**RECREATION
COMMITTEE**

The 8th Annual Mahwah Day held at Commodore Perry Field started the Fall season of events planned by the Recreation Committee.

**The Annual Mahwah
5K Run/Tot Trot**

The Tot Trot for Kids 6 years and under was held on Saturday, September 21, 2002 at Mahwah Day. This fundraising event will benefit the Mahwah Schools Foundation.

The 5th annual Mahwah 5K run took place on Sunday, September 22, 2002. The event was held at Darlington County Park.

**Mahwah Recreation
Annual Halloween
Costume Parade**

This annual event will be held rain or shine on Thursday, October 31, 2002 at Commodore Perry Field beginning at 6 PM. Children will be judged by age group, prizes will be awarded and free refreshments will be available to all children and adults attending.

**Annual Veterans Day
Service**

The annual Township of Mahwah Veterans Day Service will be

held on Monday, November 11, 2002 at Veterans Memorial Park, located at Franklin Turnpike on Miller Road and E. Ramapo Avenue beginning promptly at 11 AM. This event is sponsored by the Mahwah Veterans of Foreign Wars Post # 7124 and the Township of Mahwah Recreation Committee.

**Annual Tree
Lighting**

The Annual Township of Mahwah Tree Lighting will be held on Sunday, December 1, 2002 at Co #1 Firehouse at Miller Road and Franklin Turnpike beginning at 5 PM. Musical entertainment, refreshments and gifts for all children will be provided. This event is sponsored by The Township Recreation Committee and Mahwah Fire Department Co #1.

**Update on
Continental
Soldiers Park**

The construction of Continental Soldiers Park on Ramapo Valley Road (Route 202) is progressing at a rapid pace with completion and use scheduled for October of 2002. This new 53 acre park will include a

football field, soccer field, baseball field and a softball field. Also in the design are a tot lot playground, bocce courts and a roller sports park. The passive uses within the park will include a 16 acre lake, access to the Ramapo River as well as both paved and mulch walking paths.

**CONSTRUCTION
UPDATE**

**MUNICIPAL
BUILDING AND
SENIOR CENTER**

The new Municipal building and Senior Center on Corporate Drive will be completed by the end of the year with occupancy expected in January, 2003. The new facility will enable the Township to provide efficient consolidated services and the Township will no longer pay rent for leased office space. An expanded seniors program will start in 2003.

**WATER AND
SEWER
INFRASTRUCTURE**

**WATER
DEPARTMENT
CAPITAL
IMPROVEMENTS**

During the 2001-2002 construction seasons the Township Water Department completed the 3 million gallon storage tank on Rio Vista and a transmission line in Darlington Avenue. Existing water storage tanks were also refurbished.

Undersized water mains in various streets in the Cragmere area and in the West Mahwah area were upgraded and replaced with larger diameter pipes which should improve the volume and pressure of water delivered in these areas. The individual house connections to these new lines have been installed by the contractor, Montana Construction. The contractor is now completing the restoration of the roadways where construction took place.

A separate water main project was awarded to Viola Contracting

Company for installation of a new 20 inch diameter water main between Sharp Plaza and the Franklin Turnpike. By state law the Township is required to award contracts to the lowest bidder.

Unfortunately, this lowest bidder filed for bankruptcy during the construction period and was unable to complete the project. The Township has been before the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for several months with the contractor and the bonding company which guaranteed the performance of the contractor. The Township anticipates that a replacement contractor will take over this project, correct faulty work and complete restoration work this Fall. The contractor's failures have caused great inconvenience and suffering to the residents and businesses along the route of the new line.

The Township Administration and Water Department appreciate the frustration and the patience of all those residents and property owners affected by this project. The Township hopes to

conclude this project and to restore disturbed areas this Fall.

The most important water capital project in 2002 is the completion of the East Crescent Avenue Interconnection and Booster Station. When fully operational this station will improve pressure in the eastern section of the Township and will augment the Township's water supply by up to 3 million gallons per day to meet peak demands.

SANITARY SEWER

**PHASE FOUR
SANITARY SEWERS
COMPLETED**

Approximately 210 properties in the Phase Four Sanitary Sewer Project now have operational sanitary sewer mains available for connection. The repaving of disturbed roadways in the affected neighborhoods will be completed this Fall. All property owners in the Project will receive a letter advising them whether they will have either a gravity or ejector pump line servicing their property. The owners will have one year from the date

of the letter to connect to the new sewer main unless the property satisfies a requirement for exemption. The owner is responsible for retaining a contractor to connect the individual sewer lateral. A sanitary sewer assessment committee will be established later this year to fix the amount of assessment to be paid by each owner. The owners will receive notice of the assessment committee meetings.

PHASE FIVE SANITARY SEWERS

The Township is currently conducting a survey of areas in the Township which presently do not have sanitary sewers. The Township Engineer and the Township Council will review the results of the survey to determine whether or not it is feasible to extend sanitary sewer mains to additional areas of the Township.

HUMAN SERVICES/AFFORDABLE HOUSING

In the Spring Newsletter we asked our senior population to let us know some of the activities they would like to have the Township incorporate into the Senior Citizen Center. Overwhelming, the most popular choice was for an exercise program; this was followed by computer training classes. Having exercise equipment (bikes, treadmills, etc) was the third most popular activity. The fourth group – all closely rated in popularity – were line dancing, Tai Chi, Yoga, crafts, card games (especially bridge), and Bingo. The last three activities, again with approximately the same number of people requesting them, were art, square dancing and self-defense programs.

The most popular write-in category was scheduled trips during the day, evening and weekends. Other write-in requests included discussion groups on current events, history, movies, health and government issues.

Speakers on various topics including investing was also suggested.

While we cannot promise all of the above, this gives us a good idea of what our population is interested in. Thank you for your terrific response to our survey.

As a reminder, the Human Services Department covers many different avenues such as:

... Administering the Affordable Housing Program for Mahwah Township including dispersing new applications at Town hall Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:30 a.m. through 4:00 p.m – for information call 529-2140.

... Our Senior and Disabled Transportation system is available to seniors and disabled individuals who need transportation for food, clothing, shopping, rides to Midland

Park Senior Center, doctor's appointments or for other appointments within our daily

schedule, Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. For appointments and information, you may contact Access Transportation at 529-2691.

... If you are in need of food or clothing, please call Human Services for a referral for

The Center for Food Action or The Ramapo Reformed Church Clothes Closet.

... In the latter part of January 2003 any Senior Citizen or disabled individual earning under approximately \$45,000 (filing uncomplicated returns) may call Human Services for an appointment to have their taxes filled out by an AARP trained tax person.

Down on the Farm

“Mahwah’s Farming Past,” a new exhibit, opens in September at the Mahwah Museum, 201 Franklin Turnpike at Miller Road.

When Grandpa was a boy, everyone farmed in Mahwah—not as a profession, but as a way of life. To be sure, there were some large farms which supplied New York City with fresh milk, butter and produce; but most farming in Mahwah was done on a small scale, essentially to feed one’s own family.

Aspects of this bygone rural life are highlighted in the Museum’s exhibit:

- Engineers will be intrigued by an old fanning mill and other antique equipment that illustrates ingenious ways farmers improved their efficiency.
- A 1920s kitchen, pantry, and parlor display will demonstrate home life in rural Mahwah.

- Special features on “woman’s work” include displays on butter making, laundering, sewing, and “putting up preserves.”
- A display of vintage country clothing will leave you glad of your present-day wardrobe.
- Can you guess what Mahwah’s “winter crop” was? You’ll be surprised to learn how it was harvested.
- The exhibit also touches on the changes in farming techniques over the years, from Lenape agriculture and colonial farming to the methods used on the great old “estate farms” of the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

In conjunction with the exhibit, the Museum is establishing a photo album and catalogue of farming structures which still remain in Mahwah today. Visitors are invited to contribute

photos and information to make the listing as comprehensive as possible.

To learn more about Mahwah’s history as an agricultural community, come to the Museum on Wednesdays, 6-8 pm or Sundays, 1-4 pm, from mid-September through December 2002. You can also call the Museum at (201) 512-0099 to schedule special visits by seniors, schools, scouts or other groups.

The Old Station Museum is now purely a Railroad Museum and is open every Sunday 2-4 pm through October.

Mahwah Historic Preservation Commission awarded CLG Status and Grant

After many months of waiting, the Mahwah Historic Preservation Commission learned that it has been recognized as a Certified Local Government and has been awarded a grant of \$39,117. Mahwah joins 36 other New Jersey municipalities who have CLG status, three of them being in Bergen County. "We look forward to working with a Township that has so many historic resources." says George Chidley, CLG Coordinator for NJ.

A local government can participate in the CLG program when the State Historic Preservation Officer certifies that the municipality has established its own historic preservation commission and it meets Federal and State Standards.

The grant, with no matching required, will enable the Township to hire a professional to provide technical assistance to the Commission, update a portion of the historic sites survey, publish design guidelines and ordinance booklets and

send one member to a course in the field of historic preservation.

The Commission is especially enthused that along with attending each of the Commission meetings, the professional will be available to consult with and provide technical assistance to owners of Mahwah historic properties. Chairman Drago anticipates that the Technical Assistant will be on board by October. Requests to meet with the specialist should be faxed or E-mailed to the Township at dstorms@mahwahtwp.org. A regular schedule will be announced in local papers.

CLG funding comes from the Historic Preservation Fund, a Federal grants program appropriated by the US Congress and administered by the National Parks Service. The NPS provides the financial support to State Historic Preservation Offices and the National Trust for Historic Preservation. State Historic Preservation Offices are required to award 10% of their annual HPF monies to CLG's in their states. This year's

Memories of Mahwah ornament will feature the Joyce Kilmer house. Past years' ornaments are still available for sale at the municipal building.

TOWNSHIP WEBSITE

Just a reminder. The Township now has its own website www.mahwahtwp.org. The Township web site contains emergency notices, agendas and minutes for the meetings of the Boards and Commissions. It is an informational guide for Township resources, events, history and services. There are links to the Police Department and other organizations as well as a directory of Township email addressed for municipal officers. We invite you to browse through the site.

LIBRARY UPDATES

Now is the time to fall back into the Mahwah Public Library. Sunday afternoon concerts resume on Sunday September 29th at 2:00 PM with the Tri-County Connection Barbershop Quartet. New York City pianist Susanna Nason meets Palm Desert Poet Dessa Reed for a program called "Poetry and Piano" on Sunday October 27th at 2:00 PM. On Sunday October 20th at 2:00 PM violinist Anat Malkin will perform in recital. Karen Luschar will be "Singing for Victory" (the songs of World War II) on Sunday November 3rd at 2:00 PM. Performers Sam and Suzy Andrews will present a program called "Some of Our Favorite Things" (an eclectic mix of music and song) on Sunday November 17th at 2:00 PM. On Sunday December 8th at 2:00 PM David Kennedy will perform Dylan Thomas' "A Child's Christmas in Wales".

In addition members of the Society of Creative Anachronisms will demonstrate various medieval arts including arms and armor on Sunday September 15th

at 2:00 PM. Adult craft workshops resume in September with Silk Painting. Other crafts include soap making, glass etching, canvas rug stenciling, beading, decoupage, tile painting, and more. The summers popular 'Tween Crafts will continue during the school year on some of the days that the schools are closed. These crafts called "Take a Break" are for children grades 4 through 6. The library will begin Family Craft programs for parent and child in the fall. (Call the library for times for each workshop. Participants must pre-register and there is a non-refundable fee required.) Mahwah Movies film series resumes with the films of "Laurel and Hardy" Thursday afternoons at 1:30 PM (the library will provide popcorn and drink). The New Jersey Writer's Collective (an ongoing support group for adult writers at all levels) will hold its first of weekly meetings on Tuesday September 28th at 6:30 PM. Children's storytime and crafts will resume with registration beginning Monday September 23rd. Storyteller Julia Paqual will be at the library

with Halloween pumpkin stories on Wednesday October 30th at 4:00 PM. Poohsday at the Movies is Tuesday October 15th at 4:00 PM. The first and third Monday nights in September and October are Drop-In Bedtime Storytimes for ages 3 to 6 years. Come in PJs and bring your favorite stuffed animal.

There is something for every age and every family. Just come to the library for more information and to sign up. The Mahwah Public Library is located at 100 Ridge Road. For library and program information call (201) 529-READ or visit the library web site www.bccls.org/mahwah/. Library hours are Monday through Wednesday 10AM – 9 PM, Thursday through Saturday 10 AM – 5 PM, and Sunday 1 PM – 5 PM (school year only). Please make arrangements for your children to be picked up well before closing time. Keep in mind that Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays the library closes at 5:00 PM. The library staff is unable to provide adult supervision after closing.

BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE

The Township Council has established a committee of council persons and residents chaired by Councilwoman Lisa DiGiulio to suggest projects which would improve the appearance of locations throughout the Township. The Committee has made recommendations to the Township Council for improvement of Veterans Park, the train station and the Franklin Turnpike/Miller Road intersections. The implementation of these plans should start next year. In the meantime the Committee is working on improvement of aesthetics along the Franklin Turnpike.

The Committee's mission is to improve the aesthetics throughout the entire Township. The Committee will be working with residents and business owners to improve aesthetics and code enforcement in all neighborhoods. Suggestions, participation and donations of material to the community are

encouraged and appreciated.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The sub-committee on transportation is looking for volunteers. If you take public transportation we would like a person who could represent the interests and needs of each user group. The committee is now accepting applications of interested parties. We would like an individual who could represent rail commuters, another individual to represent bus commuters, and an individual to represent car poolers. The committee intends to include members within our business community involved in the area of public transportation. Members of the business community are encouraged to make application to the committee.

To make application to the committee, simply send a fax or letter of interest to the Transportation Sub-Committee at the offices of Mahwah Township.

Township of Mahwah
300B Route 17 South
Mahwah, NJ 07430

Fax (201) 512-0537