

Upper Saddle River Borough Bulletin

Kenneth A Gabbert
Mayor 2004 - 2011

Upper Saddle River, New Jersey 07458
www.usrtoday.org

December 2011

A Message from the Mayor

Dear Neighbors,

You have given me many joys over the past eight years as I have had the privilege to serve as Mayor of Upper Saddle River. And as we have all experienced, we have had our share of challenges. On December 1, 2011 I will preside over my last USR Council Meeting as your Mayor. In January Mayor Elect Joanne Minichetti will be sworn in as our new Mayor – we are in very competent hands.

Over the past eight years our USR family has undergone much the same traumas, changes, challenges and joys as our individual families. Municipal finances are stressed as are many of our family finances. Reducing staff and expenses while maintaining the Borough Quality of Life is rather similar to the scaling back and making more effective spending choices that you have been doing in your homes. The transition we are experiencing in government is not over. While we were able to reduce staff, negotiate more favorable contracts, curtail debt, and keep the 17 percent of your taxes that cover all municipal services stable; our financial challenge, as with your families' challenges, will continue for many years.

We have a wonderful community that is made possible by a thousand active volunteers and our full and part-time Borough Staff. Volunteers that serve our emergency services, recreation programs, schools, scouts, religious organizations, and the many clubs, boards and commissions, all make USR what it is today. Basically, those great conditions that brought you to the Borough continue due to your making for a better community and your caring to make sure your leaders make the difficult decisions to keep USR on the right track.

As I look to the future, Upper Saddle River is my home. My family doubled in size over my eight years as Mayor; last month granddaughter Emily Elizabeth became our latest addition. I look forward to

continuing to serve our community. Thank you for electing me four times to the Borough Council and twice as your Mayor. May you and your family continue to enjoy all the opportunities our community has to offer.

Join me in support for Mayor Elect Minichetti and her well qualified council. They are good people who care about the long term success of USR and are representatives you can count on to keep municipal expenses under control.

All the best and may your family have a Blessed Christmas and a Happy Hanukkah.

Sincerely,

Ken Gabbert - kgabbert2@juno.com
38 Schindler Court, USR.

How to Access Important Information

In an effort to provide reliable communications with residents and businesses in the Borough, the Police Department has implemented Swiftreach Networks, Inc. as their Emergency Notification service provider.

Swift911™ is a system that makes phone calls to specific people or areas in the event of an emergency or for sharing important information. With the Swift911 system, residents can register their cell phone numbers and e-mail addresses as well as their home phone numbers to receive information multiple ways. In the event of a power outage or other emergency, residents can receive Reverse 9-1-1 calls via cell phones in addition to home phones which may not be available. Residents must register their information in order to receive this extended service.

It is simple to do. Residents are encouraged to visit the Borough website, www.usrtoday.org, or www.usrpd.net, and click on Swift911 to fill out the form on-line to register or add additional contact information. This portal can also be used to update your contact information or remove it. If anyone is unable to complete the on-line registration, they can stop by Borough Hall, the Police Department or the USR Library for assistance.

In addition, the Police Department has a new Facebook page, offering real time information regarding traffic and roadwork. Simply visit Facebook and search Upper Saddle River Police Department. Once becoming a "fan" of the page, residents will receive notifications as they are posted.

Also please check out the home page of www.usrtoday.org. On the bottom left hand corner is a twitter feed, USRupdates, which offers information on many important topics. Residents do not need to have a Twitter account to read this feed; it is available on the lower left hand corner of the website.

USR Tree Lighting and Toy Drive

The annual Upper Saddle River Tree Lighting, hosted by the Saddle River Valley Junior Woman's Club, will be held on Saturday, December 3, 2011 at 4:00 p.m. in front of Borough Hall. Please join us for holiday music and refreshments. A special guest, from the North Pole, will be arriving on the fire truck.

Brighten the holidays for those less fortunate by bringing an unwrapped toy for the children of Foster & Adoptive Family Services (www.fafsonline.org). Please call Debbie Musolino at 201-760-0103 if you have any questions.

Menorah Lighting & Hanukkah Party

The SRVJCO will hold its annual Menorah Lighting in front of Borough Hall on December 20th at 5:00 p.m. All are welcome to attend. The Menorah will be lit each subsequent night of Hanukkah, families are welcome to share in this. If interested please email srvjco@yahoo.com. The SRVJCO will hold its annual Hanukkah Party for children up to age 12 on December 21st from 4:00-5:30 p.m. at the YJCC in Washington Township. A nominal fee will be charged for non-members. Finally, the SRVJCO will celebrate its 20th Anniversary with a party on January 20, 2012 at 7:30 p.m. at the Woodcliff Lake Hilton. All are welcome. For more information, please contact srvjco@yahoo.com.

Shelter Our Sisters Holiday Collection

The Saddle River Valley Junior Woman's Club will have a holiday giving tree in support of Shelter Our Sisters, for victims of domestic violence, (www.shelteroursisters.org) at the Saddle River Post Office. The tree is adorned with ornaments of holiday "wish list items" for those staying at the shelter. Make a spirit brighter by visiting the post office and donating an item on the wish list. Please contact Alexandra Vargas at 201-962-7574 with any questions. Happy Holidays! We appreciate your support.

Hopper-Goetschius House Museum

Come share the magic of the Holiday season at the Hopper-Goetschius House Museum on Sunday, December 11th from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Children can visit Santa in the Dutch barn from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Each child is asked to bring a canned good or non-perishable food item for the needy when visiting Santa.

Chestnuts will be roasting on the open fire while mulled cider brews in the house. The house will be decorated for the season. Items donated by descendants of the Hopper and the Goetschius families will be displayed. In the school house decorated for the holidays of a century ago, children can listen to a reading of Clement Clarke Moore's 1848 "Twas the Night Before Christmas," at 1:30, 2:30 and 3:30 p.m.

A special raffle will be drawn at 4:00 p.m. offering seven prizes including a Ginger Bread House made by Austrian baker Madeline Cudina, an 18" Fitz & Floyd figurine of St. Nicholas on his horse, two fabulous gift baskets and three stuffed animals. For tickets call Joe Dobias at 201-327-2457 or Kay Yeomans at 201-327-2236.

"Wine Down for Hunger and Homelessness"

The SRVJWC will be holding a Wine Pairing Dinner and silent auction fundraising event on February 16, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. at Seasons in Washington Township. This high-profile event features Dan Amatuzzi, Wine Director of Eataly in NYC and Private Wine Consultant to Mario Batali, who will guide us through a unique wine and food pairing. The evening will include a cocktail hour, premium open bar, a four-course dinner with paired wines and a silent auction. Proceeds raised at the event will benefit The Center for Food Action's work in our local community. We are currently seeking silent auction donations, sponsorships, and advertisers to assist in making this a successful event. If you would like to make a contribution or need more information, please call Julie at 201-962-7138.

Tickets are available now! Tickets purchased before December 1st are \$100.00 per person or \$200.00 per couple. After December 1st tickets are \$125.00 per person or \$250.00 per couple. You can purchase tickets on our website at www.srvjwc.org or mail your check payable to SRVJWC to P.O. Box 101, Saddle River, NJ 07458.

Generators

For important information regarding the use of generators, please visit the Borough website, www.usrtoday.org.

For safety reasons, the Building Department advises all residents to have generators installed by a professional.

For further information, please call the Building Official at 201-934-3966.

UPPER SADDLE RIVER WASTE COLLECTIONS, DECEMBER 2011

Garbage: There is **town-wide Garbage Pick-up** on Mondays and Thursdays. **Please be sure to have your garbage out by 6:30 a.m.** They will not stop back to pick up missed garbage if it was not out on time.

****There will be garbage collection on Monday, December 26th and Monday, January 2nd.**

****In inclement weather, all garbage must be brought to the road. The trucks will not drive up or down driveways, even if they have been plowed.**

CURB SIDE PICK UP

Recycling: <u>W. Saddle River Rd. & west</u>	<u>East of W. Saddle River Rd.</u>
Tuesday, December 6	Tuesday, December 13
Tuesday, December 20	Tuesday, December 27

Large Appliances: Thursday, December 1st by appointment only. Please call 201-327-2196 to schedule a pick-up. The next pick-up will be January, 2012.

Bulky Trash: The next collection will be in March 2012.

If you have any questions, call 201-327-2196 Monday - Friday, between 8:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

A Note from Chief Rotella

Hopefully, our recent "early" snowstorm is not an indication of the weather that might be in store for us this coming year. With winter just around the corner, it is a perfect time for us to begin preparing for future snowstorms. Slick roadways, covered with ice and snow, and poor visibility have historically created potentially dangerous driving conditions. The DPW does an excellent job plowing roads, but it is up to you to use common sense, monitor the weather, travel only when necessary, keep your speed down, and drive defensively.

Here are some additional tips that drivers may want to consider:

- Get your vehicle serviced. Make sure the tires, windshield wipers, battery, electrical system, cooling system, and brakes are in good condition.
- Clear snow and ice from all windows, lights, hood, and roof areas. Remember, it's the law. Drivers can be issued a ticket for failing to clear ice and snow from their vehicle. Snow and ice on windows also can obstruct a driver's view.
- Leave plenty of room for stopping, and be mindful of the speed limit, focusing your attention as far ahead as possible
- Slow down your vehicle by decelerating earlier, instead of just using your brakes.
- Drive with care, even if you think a roadway has been cleared.
- Avoid unnecessary lane changes. Changing lanes on a slick roadway can cause you to lose control of your vehicle.
- Make up a winter driving kit. Items in the kit should include, but are not limited to, an ice scraper, blankets, a first aid kit, a small shovel, jumper cables, warm clothes, a flashlight, and road flares.
- Never warm up your vehicle inside an enclosed area, such as a garage. Carbon monoxide poisoning can occur.
- Stay alert for children that may be sleigh riding. A driver will have difficulty stopping and reacting to sudden events, if roadway conditions are poor.

Most importantly, always wear your seatbelt.

I hope the above safety tips keep you and your families safe this winter.

Have a safe and joyful Holiday Season and Happy New Year.

Chief Patrick Rotella

For Your Safety

By ordinance, residents are required to clear snow away from the fire hydrants on their property. This will allow the Fire Department access in case of emergency.

Kindergarten Registration

Parents of Kindergarten age children (having attained the age of 5 years on or before October 1st) are invited to attend a Kindergarten Orientation Program. The meeting will be held in the Travers Multipurpose Room on Wednesday, January 18, 2012, from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Registration procedures, a typical day in Kindergarten, and curriculum will be discussed.

If you would like to attend, please RSVP to Mrs. Finn, Reynolds School Secretary at 201-961-6300 or e-mail cfinn@usrschoolsk8.com by Friday, January 13, 2012.

Dog/Cat Licenses Due in Jan. 2012

Upper Saddle River dogs and cats are due for their annual licenses. The new 2012 certificates and tags will be available at the Borough Hall starting Tuesday, January 3, 2012. Licenses are required for all dogs and cats that have had rabies shots. You may mail in a completed application with your payment to expedite the process and the tags and certificates will be mailed to you in January. Proof of rabies immunization, which must be valid through the 10th month of the licensing year as required by the State of New Jersey, and proof of neutering/spaying documentation is required.

Please enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope and all necessary papers. All papers will be returned to you. Checks in the correct amount should be made payable to Borough of Upper Saddle River.

Upper Saddle River's basic licensing fee for dogs is \$15.00. Licensing for cats is \$5.00. There is an additional charge of \$3.00 for a non-neutered cat or dog. This fee is established by the state to help control the stray animal problem. **There is a \$5.00 late fee for dogs and cats registered after February 15th.**

All dog owners are reminded to pick up after their dogs and dispose of their waste in a proper receptacle when taking them for a walk.

USR Environmental Committee

On Thursday, December 8th at 7:30 p.m., the USR Environmental Committee and the Cavallini Greenies are presenting the film "Bag It" at the USR Library. For more information, visit www.usrtoday.org.

Cultural Center

The holidays are a great time to share the magic of live theater with your family. The Saddle River Valley Cultural Center is presenting many fun and exciting productions. Don't forget to check out our camps offered when school is out!

12 Dancing Princesses will be performed on Saturday, December 3rd at 3:00 p.m. This show is for ages 3 and up. Advance tickets are \$12.00. **This show will be held at the Old Stone Church Educational building located at 500 East Saddle River Road.*

Nutcracker Suite will be performed on Saturday, December 10th at 3:00 p.m. This show is for ages 4 and up. Advance tickets are \$12.00.

A Christmas Carol will be performed on Sunday, December 18th at 3:00 p.m. This show is for ages 8 and up. Advance tickets are \$12.00.

School's Out Camps

Wednesday, December 28th and Thursday, December 29th

Register for camps and purchase tickets online at www.srvcc.org. If you have any questions, please email the office at srvcc.org or call 201-825-3366.

Upper Saddle River Directory

If you are a resident of Upper Saddle River and are not currently listed, please send your name, address, phone number to USR Directory c/o USR Library, 245 Lake Street, Upper Saddle River, NJ 07458 or email it to usrdirectory@yahoo.com. If you are new in town, please send the name of the previous owner also.

For information on advertising or being listed in the professional section, please contact Barbara Hymans at 201-825-8091.



USR Library Annual Holiday Party, Cookie Bake-off & More!

All Upper Saddle River families are invited to the 18th Annual Holiday Party on December 3rd from 1:30-3:30 p.m. Sing and sway to the seasonal music of the North Jersey Concert Band, enjoy refreshments and holiday crafts for children.

Enter our Cookie Bake-off contest or our Family Gingerbread House contest and win a prize. Forms and contest rules are in the library or on our website: uppersaddleriverlibrary.org. Wear your most outrageous holiday sweater and the library elves will choose a winner. Stop by our Craft Boutique featuring gifts, books and educational toys. All proceeds benefit the Friends of the Library.

Youth Guidance Council Seeks Volunteers

The Upper Saddle River Youth Guidance Council is a group of dedicated volunteers working with our schools and children. Our purpose is to assist in developing and managing programs, such as DARE (Drug Abuse Resistance Education), to improve the welfare of all the children in our community.

We are looking for two new members to join our team. If you would like to be part of a hard working group dedicated to enhancing our children's educational experience, working closely with our schools and other civic organizations, please contact Robyn Ranges at 201-818-6163, or rranges@verizon.net. She will gladly provide more information about our programs and how to join the YGC.

2012 DOG/CAT LICENSE APPLICATION

Borough of Upper Saddle River, 376 W. Saddle River Road, Upper Saddle River, NJ 07458

Owner's Name _____ Date _____

Address _____ Tel # _____

Dog: Name _____ Sex _____ **Cat:** Name _____ Sex _____

Color _____ Hair (long/short) _____ Color _____ Hair (long/short) _____

Breed _____ DOB _____ Breed _____ DOB _____

License Fee Dogs \$15.00

License Fee Cats \$5.00

Non-neutered Dog Additional \$3.00

Non-neutered Cat Additional \$3.00

There is a \$5.00 late fee for licenses obtained after February 15, 2012.

Proof of rabies vaccination (valid through the month of October 2012) and proof of neutering is required for all dogs and cats.

Checks or exact change would be appreciated.

Coming Up In December 2011

BOROUGH BOARDS

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 1
6:30 p.m. Mayor and Council Executive Session at Borough Hall
8:00 p.m. Mayor and Council Regular Meeting. at Borough Hall
MONDAY, DECEMBER 5
8:00 p.m. USR Bd. Of Ed. Meeting at Cavallini Media Center
MONDAY, DECEMBER 12
7:00 p.m. Historic Preservation Comm. Meeting at Borough Hall
8:00 p.m. NHRHS Bd of Ed. Meeting at NHRHS Library
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14
7:30 p.m. Planning Board Work Session at Borough Hall
MONDAY, DECEMBER 19
8:00 p.m. USR Bd. Of Ed. Meeting at Cavallini Media Center
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21
7:00 p.m. Shade Tree Commission Regular Meeting
7:30 p.m. Library Board of Trustees Meeting at Library
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 29
7:30 p.m. Planning Board Regular Meeting at Borough Hall

SERVICE GROUPS

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 1
8:00 p.m. Fire Department Meeting
MONDAY, DECEMBER 5
11:30 a.m. Friends of the Library Meeting at Library
7:00 p.m. Historical Society Mtg. at Old Stone Church Ed. Bldg.
MONDAYS, DECEMBER 5, 12, 19 & 26
12:00 noon Bergen Highlands Rotary, Houlihans, Ramsey
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 6
7:30 p.m. Lions Club Meeting at Double Tree Hotel, Mahwah
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7
7:30 p.m. Rescue Squad Meeting
7:45 p.m. Ambulance Corps Meeting
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8
7:30 p.m. Rescue Squad Drill
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9
7:30 p.m. Fire Department Drill
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13
7:30 p.m. Rescue Squad Drill
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 20
12:00 - 1:00 p.m. Adult Walk-In Clinic**
7:30 p.m. Lions Club Meeting at Double Tree Hotel, Mahwah
7:30 p.m. Rescue Squad Drill
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14
7:30 p.m. Fire Department Drill
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 27
7:30 p.m. Rescue Squad Drill
7:30 p.m. Fire Department Drill
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 28
7:30 p.m. Ambulance Corps Drill

Municipal Court in Session, Borough Hall at 5:00 p.m.

Tuesday, December 13

****please note change in date**

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RESIDENT
UPPER SADDLE RIVER
NEW JERSEY 07458

CARRIER PRESORT

PSRST STD
ECRWSS
U.S. POSTAGE PAID,
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Mayor and Council
Borough Hall
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