

Coming up in March/April 2018

BOROUGH BOARDS

MAYOR AND COUNCIL

Thursday, March 1 and April 5
6:30 pm Executive Meetings
8:00 pm Regular Meetings

PLANNING BOARD

7:30 pm March 14 and April 11

SHADE TREE

Wednesdays, March 21 and April 18
7:00 pm at Borough Hall

LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Wednesday, March 21 at 6:30 pm
and April 18 at 6:00 pm at the Library

HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Mondays, March 12 and April 9
7:00 pm at Borough Hall

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE

Mondays, March 19 and April 16
6:30 pm at Borough Hall

BOARD OF HEALTH

Monday, March 19 - 7:30 pm at Borough Hall

ADULT WALK-IN CLINIC

Thursday, March 22 and Thursday, April 26
12:00 pm - 1:00 pm at Borough Hall

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

*Tuesdays, March 13 and March 27
and Tuesdays, April 10 and April 24*

SERVICE GROUPS

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Meetings: Thursdays, March 1 and April 5 at 7:30 pm
Drills: March 9, 21, 27 and April 13, 18, 24 at 7:30 pm

AMBULANCE CORP

First Wednesday, 7:45 pm Meeting, 7:30 pm Drill

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

Mondays, March 5 and April 2
11:30 am in the Solarium of the USR Library

BERGEN HIGHLANDS ROTARY

Mondays, at 12:15 to 1:30 pm at Houlihans in Ramsey.
No meeting on Federal Holidays and last Monday of
the month is a Breakfast Meeting that starts at 7:45 am

SADDLE RIVER VALLEY LIONS CLUB

Tuesdays, March 6 and 20 and April 3 and 17
7:30 pm at Ramsey Country Club

WOMAN'S CLUB

Tuesday, March 6 - 7:00 pm at the Library
Tuesday, April 3 - 7:00 pm at the Library

USR Basketball Association Presents A Little Madness In March

The USR Basketball Association is sponsoring a NCAA Men's College March Madness, Sweet 16 fundraiser at the USR fire house on Friday, March 23 from 7 PM to 11 PM. Enjoy appetizers, food, beer, and soda. The cost is \$50 per person. Feel free to BYOB and let loose to musical entertainment. For more information contact Joe Abbatiello at jabbatiello@verizon.net.

The Official Borough Newsletter
Published by the Mayor and Council



Mayor and Council Message

The Municipal Budget: The municipal budget will be introduced at the Regular Mayor and Council Meeting on Thursday, March 1, 2018 at 8:00 p.m. A public hearing on the budget is scheduled for Thursday, April 5, 2018 at 8:00 p.m. at Borough Hall. Residents are encouraged to attend the public hearing. The Governing Body's goal is to provide our residents with exemplary services while remaining within the state mandated 2% cap. Our municipal taxes remain low for Bergen County while we remain one of the very few towns to provide backdoor garbage and recycling service.

Residents must realize that each tax payment made to the Borough includes payment to the USR schools K – 8, Northern Highlands, the County of Bergen and the USR Library. The Borough has control over only 15% of your taxes. 70% goes to the schools, K-8 and Northern Highlands, 15% to the County and 2% to the Library.

Upper Saddle River is rated by Moody's as Triple A – the highest rating possible. Tax collection is a major driving force behind this rating. The Borough had another record year of collections in 2017. As a result of the Triple A rating, in the last five years, the interest rate has been less than ½ of 1% in the financing of capital improvements programs. This is significant in light of the fact that the State of New Jersey has been downgraded 10 times during the same period. The average annual municipal budget increase has been 1.8 percent in the last five years. Financial stability will remain a major focus as we move forward.

Litigation: Oral argument on the Borough's case involving the eruv was scheduled to be held on January 9, 2018 before U.S. District Court Judge John Michael Vazquez. However, before argument was to begin, Judge Vazquez asked counsel to chambers to discuss the matter and stressed that he believed the case should be mediated or the parties should engage in settlement discussions. He noted that both Mahwah and Montvale, who face similar cases filed before him, were engaged in similar discussions. *As of this writing, both Mahwah and Mont-*

Upper Saddle River Borough Bulletin

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March/April 2018

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vale have settled to allow the eruv, or lechis, to remain in the layout originally planned by the Rockland Eruv Association with a change in the lechis from white PVC pipe to black plastic. These agreements increase the pressure on USR to settle as well.

USR made an extensive and compelling case for its right to keep its poles bare of signs and the PVC pipe lechis used to identify the eruv. These papers, including eight affidavits from various Borough officials, showed that the eruv association did not obtain proper approvals and that USR has worked extensively to keep items off its poles in the past.

However, the Judge's preliminary determination was that, at least for the time being, pending a trial, a 2015 Ordinance relied upon by the Borough may have been approved as part of an effort to keep the eruv from being constructed in USR. *If he found against the Borough he would sign a Preliminary Injunction that would allow the full eruv to be completed along Old Stone Church and Weiss Roads while the rest of the litigation continued.* USR completely disagrees with this preliminary conclusion and was prepared to ask for a hearing or seek a trial, but the *odds of success are not especially promising based upon the judge's initial comments.*

Judge Vazquez stated, "This matter focuses on the First Amendment, which has two requirements: One, that as it applies to the states through the 14th Amendment due process clause, that the Government cannot establish a religion, but at the same time the Government cannot prohibit the free exercise of religion." He again strongly urged the parties to reach a settlement. As a result of the judge's comments, and with the advice of the attorneys, the council agreed to attempt to seek a mutually agreed upon settlement.

These types of federal cases have a statutory fee component so that plaintiff can recoup their legal fees, in addition to damages. The eruv plaintiffs retained one of the largest and most expensive firms in Manhattan, and they claim that they have billed more than \$1 million in the USR case. They have stated that

if we settle now they would largely waive their fees.

Another consideration, the settlement with USR would, after a short period, push the eruv back toward the border, eliminating about half of the eruv's coverage in USR. If the case is litigated and USR loses, the eruv would be placed as originally planned covering a much larger area of town.

Unfortunately, comments made by residents of the three towns at public meetings and on social media have poisoned the Borough's litigation which focuses solely on local ordinances and zoning rather than religion. The public outcry quickly drew the attention of the media, politicians and law enforcement. Mahwah was sued by the NJ Attorney General, Division of Civil Rights, for perceived bias and faces repaying \$3.2 million of Green Acres funding. These factors along with an op-ed piece written by Governor Phil Murphy condemning what he perceives to be anti-Semitism, (<http://jewishstandard.timesofisrael.com/its-time-to-urgently-speak-out-against-anti-semitism-in-all-forms/>) and an op-ed co-authored by Congressman Josh Gottheimer and Senator Cory Booker, (www.northjersey.com/story/opinion/contributors/2017/11/03/opinion-anti-semitism-has-no-home-new-jersey/827372001/), have certainly made a positive outcome less likely.

At this time, settlement negotiations are still ongoing. A special council meeting was held on Wednesday, February 21st to continue discussions. Although further discussions will continue at the March 1st meeting, the Borough has entered into a tentative settlement with the Eruv Plaintiffs. While the full set of terms will be released to the public (negotiations are continuing), in the interim the Borough allowed plastic strips (lechis) to be installed on approximately seven utility poles along Old Stone Church Road the week of February 19, 2018, including the repair of certain existing lechis that had previously been vandalized, all on a **TEMPORARY BASIS**. Under this tentative settlement, in the weeks to come, the lechis will be removed from poles along Old

(Continued on page 2)

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Mayor and Council Message (From page 1)
Stone Church Road and most of Weiss Road and the eruv will be rerouted as close to the New York border as geography will allow. All newly installed lechis will be black plastic, rather than white PVC pipe with silver brackets.

Upper Saddle River has been re-certified as a Sustainable Jersey Bronze Level municipality: Upper Saddle River was named a Sustainable Jersey certified community—one of only 108 in the state in 2011. Upper Saddle River achieved its initial 2011 bronze level certification after completing a rigorous program of sustainable initiatives. Municipalities that earn the certification are considered by their peers, by state government, and by the experts and civic organizations in New Jersey to be among the leading municipalities in the state, for implementing sustainable practices within their community.

The Borough successfully earned recertification in December of 2013 as well. Upper Saddle River is now one of 200 municipalities out of 565 to be certified through Sustainable Jersey.

Sustainable Jersey is a nonprofit organization that provides tools, training and financial incentives to support communities as they pursue sustainability programs. By supporting community efforts to reduce waste, cut green-

house gas emissions, and improve environmental equity, Sustainable Jersey is empowering communities to build a better world for future generations.

To achieve its three successful rounds of certification, Upper Saddle River completed a wide variety of actions. More information can be found at www.SustainableJersey.com

Thanks must be extended to the Upper Saddle River Environmental Committee and Green Team for their commitment to our environment and sustainability. Special thanks to Sofia Hermo and Ellen Ling, who chaired the latest recertification process and Dr. Joanne Florio, Council Liaison. The work required to achieve SJ designation is extensive and quite detailed. The fact that USR has been certified in three consecutive rounds shows the dedication of our volunteers and the collaboration between proactive residents and the Governing Body and Borough staff.

This has been a huge effort spearheaded by the Environmental Committee but also involved our Recreation Commission, the Girl and Boy Scouts, DPW, Shade Tree Commission, Board of Health, our residents and the school administration. Without such widespread outreach on the part of the Environmental Committee and the community's willingness to participate, the impact would be greatly minimized.

Hopper-Goetschius House Museum – Saturday, April 28, 10-4

“How Immigration and the Railroad Shaped Our Towns” —

is the broad theme of the 2018 NW Bergen History Day. Did you know that the farmers in the 1880s were desperate to get a railroad to come through town? Did you know that our population dropped between 1890 and 1920, and would have dropped more if immigrants didn't buy some of the farms. Each of the NW Bergen Museums will have their own story to tell. Buy one ticket to visit all 10 museums and discover some fascinating history. At the Hopper-Goetschius House there will be displays and photos. In the schoolhouse, there will be a map of the world where people can put dots on the countries their families came from — they should cover the globe. You're invited to share your family stories ahead of time to be part of the displays. Tickets to visit the 10 museums, which include three train station museums, are \$10 in advance for adults, \$15 at the door. Children 16 & under are free. Advance tickets are available at The Hermitage in HoHoKus, the Mahwah Museum, and the Ridgewood Schoolhouse Museum. Photos and stories for display or ticket orders can be sent to kayyeomans@optonline.net

USR Library Events

Makers Day @ USR Library – Friday, March 9th @ 5:30-8:30 pm

Drop in and explore! NJ Makers Day is a celebration of maker culture across New Jersey. This all-ages event gives individuals a hands-on learning experience with tinkering, crafting, manufacturing, and STEM-based learning. Embrace the DIY spirit and join us for creating, building... Making!

Concert: “A Tribute to Carole King” – Friday, April 27th @ 7 pm

Join us for an evening performance with the One Fine Tapestry Band as they salute the legendary singer/songwriter Carole King. Sponsored by the Friends of the Library. Registration is required.

Fitness Classes at the library are now FREE to USR cardholders – Registration is required.

Strength & Tone • Monday @ 9:30-10:30 am

Non-impact weight training using light weights and your own body weight for a total conditioning class. 3/5–5/7

Gentle Yoga Stretch • Tuesday @ 10 am–11 am

Learn movements that will improve flexibility, range of motion and balance with the goal to keep participants healthy and active. 3/6–5/8

From the USR Police Department:

The Police Department received the following information from the New Jersey Office of Homeland Security. The topic is something that is very important to any business owner or those responsible for security of business computer systems.

We often think of cyber threats as coming from an anonymous criminal, hundreds of miles away behind a computer screen. However, current and former employees who have intimate and valuable knowledge about a company are also capable of committing a cybercrime. An insider threat occurs when a current or former employee, contractor, or business partner, who has or had authorized access to an organization's network, system, or data, intentionally misuses that access to commit a cybercrime.

The United States Computer Emergency Readiness Team recommends these best practices for addressing these issues and mitigating an insider threat:

- Incorporate insider threat awareness into periodic security training for all employees.
- Implement strict password and account management policies and practices.
- Define explicit security agreements for any cloud services, especially access restrictions and monitoring capabilities.
- Ensure that sensitive information is available only to those who require access.
- Use a log correlation engine or security information and event management (SIEM) system to log, monitor, and audit employee actions.

➤ Develop a formal insider threat mitigation program.

Some statistics:

- 28 percent of electric crime events were known to be caused by insider threats.
- 46 percent of the most costly cybercrime events were a result of an insider threat.
- 34 percent of insider threat cases tried to collect personal identification.

If you should need additional information on this topic, feel free to contact the Upper Saddle River Detective Bureau at (201) 327-2700.

Adult Walk-In Health Clinic

Thursday, March 22 and Thursday, April 26 from noon - 1:00pm at Borough Hall.

Household Hazardous Waste

Household Hazardous Waste Collection will be on Saturday, March 10th at Bergen County Utilities Authority, Foot of Empire Blvd., Moonachie, NJ and Sunday, April 15 at Bergen Community College, 400 Paramus Road, Paramus, NJ. The collection hours are 9am-3pm rain or shine. Free of charge for Bergen County residents, ID required. Visit www.bcua.org for additional information.

Bergen Highlands United Methodist Church Coming Events

Korean Cooking Class

Please join us to learn how to make a healthy Korean noodle dish (potato noodles with vegetables) on April 5, 2018 (6:30-8:00 pm) Register by March 31. Registration fee \$20. Contact info: bergen-highlands@optonline.net 201-327-3960

Best Stuff Sale

Mark your calendars now! On Saturday, April 28, 2018 (9:00-2:00 PM) the Bergen Highlands United Methodist Church will host their annual “Best Stuff Sale”. The sale includes small appliances, small furniture items, toys, games, jewelry, house wares, electronics, collectables, and more all at fantastic bargains. Bergen Highlands United Methodist Church is located at 318 West Saddle River Road in Upper Saddle River, NJ—about one block from Lake Street. For further details, please call the church office at 201-327-3960.

The Woman's Club of Upper Saddle River

The Woman's Club of Upper Saddle River has a busy Spring planned. The winners of the 32nd Poetry and Essay contest will be awarded on March 6th at the Upper Saddle River Library, where they will read their winning entries. A Blizzard Bag Project for homebound Seniors in town who can not get out in winter weather (with most generous support from Inserra Supermarkets) has been started. A Mother's Day Plant Sale of unique plants will be held in May (ordering information available in mid-April on www.usrwomansclub.org). Birthday bags are planned for children at a Shelter. Upcoming events for members include a trip to a Broadway Show, an evening at Board and Brush in Ramsey, Health and Wellness events, a guided tour of MOMA and participation in Lord and Taylor's Charity Shopping Day on March 8th. A Meet and Greet for prospective new members will be held on April 3rd at 7:00 pm at the Bishop House.

A few important winter weather reminders:

During snow and icy weather, garbage and recycling need to be placed curbside. Trucks can't get in and out of driveways. To ensure pickup, please place tightly sealed containers at the curb.

USR Tennis Permits Available for 2018

Tennis permits for the use of the USR tennis courts, located on West Saddle River Road in front of Reynolds School, will be available beginning Monday, April 2, 2018 at Borough Hall or at the Tennis Courts from Tennis Pro Sharron Mattiace. A family membership is \$40.00 and an individual membership is priced at \$25.00. All residents must have a permit and display permit on the new sign up board located at the entrance of the courts. For more information please call the USR Recreation Department at 201-327-3634 or USRRecreation@aol.com. Visit the Boro website at www.USRtoday.org for information about all Recreation programs.



USR Fire Department Safety Tips:

This year, daylight savings time starts on March 11th. Besides changing your clocks, that means it's time to change the battery in your smoke detectors and CO alarms. A smoke detector should be outside every bedroom and sleeping area. CO detectors should be installed in the hallway outside the bedrooms. Unlike smoke or fire, CO is invisible and odorless and you can be overcome quickly and without warning.

USR SENIOR CORNER

It is with Great Pleasure we announce the formation of "The Upper Saddle River Senior Citizen Outreach".

The USR Senior Citizen Outreach goal is to gather information, look for opportunities/events that may be of interest to USR Seniors and create a central place to communicate and deliver this to Seniors in our community. The central place will be the “USR Senior Corner” which will be printed every other month and distributed to Seniors. See the flyer insert with this Bulletin.

We are currently working with our Schools and Boro Hall. Last week, Cavallini School welcomed us to speak with 8th Grade Students at their Community Service Day. We were thrilled to present and discuss how they could get involved.

We are reaching out to all USR Community organizations to request they submit their organization's events/fundraisers/pertinent info for our Seniors to USRSENIORS@yahoo.com for inclusion in the "USR Senior Corner".

We will also be attending various Senior events in our community to relay our information and obtain interest and feedback from Seniors in our community.

The USR Senior Citizen Outreach organization looks forward to working together with our local Community organizations, schools and Boro Hall to make a positive impact on the lives of Seniors in our community.

Mayor Minichetti supports the USR Senior Citizen Outreach recognizing that the organization's hope is to have Seniors more involved in our town events.

We Live Here, We Give Here, We Love Here!

Upper Saddle River Recreation Spring Tennis Clinics Announced

Registration for the Upper Saddle River Recreation spring tennis clinics is now being accepted. There will be two 5 – week sessions to be held at the Wickersham Tennis Courts. The first session will be held on Mondays or Wednesdays beginning the week of March 19th with no lessons the week of school break. The second session will also be held on Mondays or Wednesdays starting the week of April 30th. During the second session an adult group will take place at 7 pm. The cost for the entire 5 week session is \$95. Visit our website to download an application at www.usrtoday.org. For more information please call the USR Recreation Commission at 201-327-3634 or email USRRecreation@aol.com.

USR WASTE COLLECTIONS - MARCH/APRIL 2018		
Garbage: March April	Every Monday & Thursday Every Monday & Thursday	NOTE: Must call by 10am the NEXT DAY to report missed Trash/Recycles.
Recycling: March April	West Side Tuesday, March 6 & March 20 West Side Tuesday, April 3 & April 17	East Side Tuesday, March 13 & March 27 East Side Tuesday, April 10 & April 24 NOTE: Must call by 10am the NEXT DAY to report missed Trash/Recycles.
Curbside White Goods: March April	Thursday, March 1 Thursday, April 5	Call 201-327-2196 x221 to schedule appointment for the appliance at LEAST three days prior to the pickup date.
Curbside Bulky Trash: Friday, March 9		