

# LACKA - NEWS

SPRING 1997

**WELCOME** to a new season and the Spring 1997 Edition of LACKA-NEWS. We hope you will find the articles in this issue useful.

## **SEWER SYSTEM EXTENSION vs. SEPTIC MANAGEMENT UPDATE**

The recently-formed Lake Lackawanna Environmental Committee has made some progress in addressing the pollution generated from the many septic systems within Lake Lackawanna's immediate watershed. We mailed a sewer survey to all area residents in December 1996 which requested people to indicate their interest in extending the new Byram sewer system to Lake Lackawanna or implementation of a septic management program, which is currently being used in the Cranberry Lake area. We also asked whether respondents would like to attend a public meeting to discuss the options.

To date, 136 families have responded to the survey. 100 would like to see the sewer system extended to Lake Lackawanna, while 32 families would not. Only 26 families are interested in septic management, while 82 are not. Many want further information on how septic management would operate. 115 families would be interested in a public meeting.

We forwarded a summary of the results to Mayor Bowe. The Mayor put us in touch with Ron Gatti, Township Manager, and Margaret McGarrity, who is Vice Chairperson of the Byram Township Environmental Commission. With their help and endorsement, we have applied for an \$18,000 State grant for a study by an environmental services consultant to determine whether sewer extension or septic management would best meet our needs. The results from this proposed study would be presented at a public meeting. We will keep you advised of future developments.

## **LIFEGUARDS NEEDED**

LLIC needs certified lifeguards for the 1997 summer season. Please contact Gary Smith at 347-6373 for further information.

## **BYRAM Township 200th BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION KICK-OFF**

**SUNDAY, MAY 18th 1997 - 1:00-4:00 PM**

**MEETING HOUSE at WATERLOO VILLAGE**

**\$16/person - \$30/couple - \$5/child**

(Admission to Village included in ticket cost)

In 1998 Byram Township will celebrate its 200th birthday. On May 18th, the Byram Township Bicentennial Committee will kick off the celebrations with a reception at the Meeting House in Waterloo Village. Art work of local historical sites by David Rush will be exhibited. There will be hors d'oeuvres, wine and soda served, as well as music and entertainment for children. Guided walking tours of the village will also be offered.

***Come and join the celebration!***

Contact Ginny Lepore (691-2752) for tickets

## **LLIC DIRECTOR VACANCIES**

Lake Lackawanna Investment Company currently has two vacancies on the Board of Directors. LLIC is seeking applications from residents who are interested in serving as directors. It entails hard work, no pay, and no discount on LLIC dues. However, most directors find helping our community to be a worthwhile experience. *If you are interested, please send us a letter stating your qualifications and why you are interested in serving. Please mail your response to:*

Lake Lackawanna Investment Company,  
P.O. Box 89, Stanhope, NJ 07874



## BUG ZAPPERS PROTECT MOSQUITOES

Spring is here, and for many residents it's time to get out the bug zappers. The continuous snap, crackle and pop from a zapper on a summer evening has convinced many homeowners that the traps are effective in reducing mosquitoes and no-see-ums. Recent studies by scientists at the University of Delaware have shown that bug zappers actually kill more beneficial insects (some of which eat mosquitoes) than biting bugs. This reduction in beneficial insects reduces the food for fish, frogs, birds and bats which feed on mosquitoes and other biting insects. This reduction in food also results in a reduction in population of mosquito eaters, which actually increases the amount of mosquitoes and other biting insects.

## PROTECTING our Precious WATER & LAKE WE are the PROBLEM and the SOLUTION

Pollution enters our lake and groundwater supplies in many forms. Most of these can be avoided by using common sense and making small changes. Lawn fertilizers, weed and bug killers, soil erosion, lawn chemicals, oils and fluids from cars and trucks, road salts, animal waste and faulty septic systems all contribute to the problem.

Many residents complain about the condition of the lake in front of their homes. Most are unaware that they are contributing to the pollution and nutrients that cause excessive weed and algae growth. Following simple steps can protect and enhance water quality.

## LAWN FERTILIZER, PESTICIDES, INSECTICIDES

Don't guess - soil test! Most people buy lawn fertilizer without any idea of what they really need. Only a soil test can determine the proper type and amount of lawn fertilizer to use. Remember, *more isn't better*, avoid overuse. NEVER APPLY LAWN AND GARDEN PRODUCTS BEFORE A HEAVY RAIN.

## HEALTHY LAWN...HEALTHY LAKE

A complete line of chemical free fertilizers•weed killers•and •pesticides can be found at *Wild Bird Crossing, Olde Lafayette Village, Rts 15 & 94*, phone 201-300-1312.

*WORK WITH NATURE, NOT AGAINST IT.*

**REMINDER - IF YOU HAVE NOT HAD YOUR SEPTIC SYSTEM PUMPED OR INSPECTED IN THE LAST 3 YEARS, DO SO NOW!**

## GOOD FOOD and FUN HAD BY ALL

The LLIC Clubhouse Committee sponsored a Ravioli and Meatball Dinner on March 22nd. Approximately 70 Lake Lackawanna residents came to visit with neighbors and partake in Rich Gramo's special recipes. The great turn-out for this event gave the Committee a chance to "show off" all of the renovations since last year, especially the remodeled kitchen. Several people suggested ideas for future community "gatherings", which tells us everyone had a good time. So, keep your eyes open for announcements of upcoming events.

The Clubhouse Committee wishes to thank everyone for their support and compliments. A special thanks to all the volunteers who helped make this event a success, especially Ricky Hoffman, Billy Koellhoeffer and Andrea Runne. Also, many thanks to everyone who brought desserts to share, especially the Poth's who donated TCBY frozen yogurt for all.

*Remember, the Clubhouse is available for rentals. Contact Rich Gramo at 347-1458 if you are interested.*

The kitchen still needs a few items. If anyone has extra and/or used items to donate, please call Hank Runne at 691-6546. Items particularly needed are a microwave, silverware, utensils, coffee maker, and tea pot.

## WELCOME TO THE COMMUNITY

We welcome the following families to Lake Lackawanna:

- Dan, Marcie, Ryan and Travis Herrmann
- Jake and Mindy Drake

## **LACKA-NEWS Staff:**

**Editor:**

**Richard Volk**

**Contributors:**

**Gail Hoffman, Virginia Lepore and David Shepherd**



## WE ASKED OUR MAYORAL CANDIDATES

We asked Mayor Richard Bowe, who is running for re-election and his opponent, Michael Marotte, to submit answers to the following questions. We appreciate their responses.

### *1. What steps would you take to insure that commercial growth does not harm the rural character of Byram Township?*

#### **MAYOR RICHARD BOWE**

Commercial growth in Byram will not harm the rural character of the township if we adhere to 3 standards: (1) We must limit commercial growth to non-residential areas of the township; (2) We must insist that any commercial development meet state of the art Federal and State Environmental Regulations; and (3) We must vigorously oppose variances which would permit the establishment or expansion of commercial enterprises in our residential districts. I have applied these standards since I became Mayor in 1985 and will continue to do so.

#### **MICHAEL J. MAROTTE**

First and foremost, I would insure that future commercial growth fits in with the character of the town. Clearly, by way of example, the proposed asphalt plant does not fit within that vision. Likewise, large scale condominium developments, which the mayor has favored in the past, will clearly harm the rural character of Byram Township. All future development projects must be looked at closely to determine the impact on our town. Commercial ratables are not the panacea as was once thought. Recent studies have proven that certain types of commercial development, in time, become an economic burden to a small town because of the increased burden placed on community services.

### *2. What are your thoughts on extending the sewer system to residential neighborhoods of Byram?*

The ultimate decision on expanding our sewer system to residential neighborhoods must be made by the citizens whose neighborhoods would be affected. Sewer service to our homes would eliminate the expenses we would face in case of a failure to our septic systems, BUT (and it's a big BUT) we will face an immediate and continuing increase in our cost of living because of the user fees and capital costs associated with having the service. Also, remember that our supply of drinking water is, in part, recharged by our septic systems. We must make certain that by taking the recharge water away from our aquifer we are not jeopardizing our potable water supply. When we are able to offer sewer service to residential areas, I intend to seek a non-binding referendum on the subject to allow citizen input into the decision making process. I also intend to undertake engineering studies to ascertain the effect an expanded sewer system would have on our potable water supply.

I was against the sewer system which was approved by the mayor for several reasons. First, I do not believe that extending the sewer system to the residential neighborhoods of Byram has ever been contemplated. It may be impossible from both an economic and engineering standpoint. I believe the sewer system was installed to allow for large scale development in this town. Existing businesses are against the sewer system because, understandably, they do not want to have to pay for the hook-up. These businesses have already paid for permitted septic systems and thus have no incentive to hook-up. The sewer system does, however, benefit developers who wish to come in and develop large scale, high density projects, such as condominiums.



**3. What are your thoughts on the proposed asphalt plant, which would be located behind Byram Plaza?**

**MAYOR RICHARD BOWE**

Like many of my friends and neighbors, I have serious concerns about the environmental, aesthetic and public safety issues related to the proposed asphalt plant on the Kero Quarry property. Nevertheless, I must, as Mayor, refrain from making further comment at this time. If I expressed an opinion before the applicant had an opportunity to present its case to the town council, I would be placing the town in legal jeopardy by subjecting it to the charge that I made a decision before the applicant had an opportunity to present its case.

**MICHAEL J. MAROTTE**

Clearly, I am against it. An asphalt plant in Byram is not a permitted use under our current zoning laws. In addition, it has the potential to cause a myriad of environmental problems. There is no doubt it will cause increased traffic, noise pollution and air pollution. In addition, the presence of an asphalt plant will likely discourage the types of future development projects which would otherwise benefit Byram. As was indicated at a recent planning board meeting, the owners of the proposed Shop Rite development are very much against the asphalt plant for obvious reasons. No commercial developer, or residential developer for that matter, would be interested in locating near such an industrial complex. Of course, certain types of commercial development, such as warehouses and other industrial projects would be oblivious to the presence of an asphalt plant, but that is not the kind of development I want to see in our town.

**4. Since our school enrollment is close to capacity, do you believe that the developers of new subdivisions should contribute to the cost of school additions and/or expansion?**

With regard to the impact on our schools which might result from further development, I recently exchanged correspondence with Jim Di Renzo, Byram's Chief School Administrator, on that very subject. The Byram Board of Education is planning to commission a study that would examine the demographics of our community and the ability of our schools to handle the growth. I have suggested to Mr. Di Renzo that any such study commission include a member of the Township governing body as well as a member of the Township Planning Board. By working as a municipal "team" rather than as separate groups where the right hand may not know what the left hand is doing, we can present a unified front to the developers. I always try to use this unified approach to problem solving.

There is support for such a requirement in our laws. As new development impacts an overburdened school system, or the infrastructure of the town, the developer can and should be made to contribute funds to off-set the negative impact of the proposed development

***We appreciate the time taken by both candidates to answer our questions***



## COMMUNITY NEWS

### BEACH YARD SALE

We are planning a garage/yard sale at the Beach on a Saturday in May. This is a chance for you to clean out your attic, basement, closets or garage. It is also an opportunity for shoppers to find some bargains.

If you would like to participate, please call Donna Koenig at 691-8761, so that she can determine the best Saturday for the sale. Participants will pay a share of advertising costs.

### LLIC MEMBERSHIP DUES

*This year there will be only one open registration period at the clubhouse on Saturday May 3rd, from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM. This will be the last day to obtain the early registration discount. You can also mail your registrations to: LLIC, POST OFFICE BOX 89, STANHOPE, NJ 07874*

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