

THE SENIOR BEACON

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF
NEPTUNE TOWNSHIP DEPARTMENT OF
SENIOR SERVICES AND
SENIOR CENTER

1607 CORLIES AVENUE
NEPTUNE, NJ 07753

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WWW.NEPTUNETOWNSHIP.ORG

DECEMBER 2020



Happy Holidays

Neptune Township Department of Senior Services and Senior Center is funded in part by a grant from Monmouth County Division on Aging under Title III of the Older Americans Act and does not discriminate in violation of federal regulations.

HEADLINE NEWS

December; holidays approaching. What will they be like this year? Who knows! It is hard to realize we may not see family or friends and to think our "busy lives" kept us from visiting before the pandemic. It's true; you really don't miss something until it's gone.

For some reason this reminded me of a tradition from my childhood. My parents, especially my mother, grew up poor in the hills and hollers of West Virginia. Visiting was a way to catch up, share news and just make sure that there was nothing you had that they might need. This was especially true at Christmastime.

My parents left the mountains to settle on the coast of Virginia where I was born. Our little cul-de-sac of 10 homes kept the hill tradition of being "At Home" on Christmas Day. You see, families would stop by a neighbor's house at the appointed time for a brief visit: a cup of coffee, a sweet (my favorite part) and to wish them a Merry Christmas. Children would compare gifts each with a degree of pride in theirs and envy in others. This continued until each home was visited. Then families returned to their own homes for Christmas dinner.

Missing those whom I have not seen and realizing that some of it is my fault for not making the effort makes me yearn for another simple Christmas of being "At Home." Sure telephones, emails and Zoom are great but something is missing. I recall entering friends' homes from the cold to the sounds of carols, laughter and aroma of fresh pine, roasting turkey and ham. Maybe this past year taught me more than just taking precautions and better care of myself; maybe it taught me the importance of making the time for others in my life.

No matter how or what you celebrate, know that in my heart I will be "At Home" greeting each of you and wishing you the best in the year ahead. But I will also let this be a lesson to never take for granted those who mean much to me.

May your Holidays be happy, the year ahead bright and may we soon be able to be "At Home", together.

Randy



Hanukkah begins at Sundown on Thursday, December 10
Kwanzaa begins on Saturday, December 26



From the Desk of Mayor Robert Lane, Senior Center Liaison

As the year comes to a close I cannot express to you my gratitude for the honor and privilege to serve all of you as the Mayor for 2020. I think we can agree that it was a year like no other, but as Neptune Township neighbors and as Americans we came together during this time of the pandemic like only we could. I am proud of who we are as Neptune and to our civility and care for one another.

Some things may never be the same again as we have had to make changes when we reopened Town Hall. We have installed Plexiglas at all locations for the safety of residents and staff. Unfortunately as we begin again to see numbers increase, **please** remember to do your part to protect others and yourself. Wear your face mask and social distance whenever possible.



Recently we were able to reopen our Township meetings on site to the public. If you feel safe and are well, feel free to attend meetings in person. If in fact you are still hesitant, no problem! We will continue to broadcast them live from the Township website, www.neptunetownship.org.

During the holidays some programs that we normally do unfortunately may not happen and some others may be in other forms. Please check the Township website and sign up for email updates for the most current information.

In closing, on behalf of the entire Township Committee and Township employees; thank you for your support in the past year. We wish everyone a Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, Happy Kwanzaa, and a very Happy New Year. No matter how or what you celebrate; celebrate family, friends, memories, and our nation, the greatest nation on Earth.



May the year ahead be bright with hope and promise.



***PROPERTY TAX REIMBURSEMENT "SENIOR FREEZE"
DEADLINE EXTENDED TO DECEMBER 31***

This property tax relief program reimburses property tax or mobile home site fee increases to citizens over the age of 65 or disabled homeowners. To qualify, you must meet all of the requirements. If you think you may be eligible or need further info, call 1-800-882-6597 or call Ryan at the Center.



All Municipal Offices and Senior Center will be closed
Friday, December 25 for the Christmas Holiday.



HEALTH SURVEYS AND TEMPERATURE CHECKS WILL BE
COMPLETED BEFORE ENTERING THE BUILDING AND/OR
VEHICLES. ALL PARTICIPANTS MUST WEAR A FACE MASK
WHILE IN THE VEHICLES AND/OR IN THE CENTER.

CONGREGATE LUNCH HAS RETURNED AT THE CENTER

Congregate lunches are available at the Center by reservation **only**. Lunches successfully and safely resumed in November. The Center follows all State Covid-19 guidelines. Lunch is offered Monday thru Friday between 11am-1pm. Strict reservation policy. Reservations must be made no later than 11:30am the day before **AT THE LATEST**. Seating limited due to state mandates. Lunch is a \$3.00 requested daily donation. Contact the Center for reservations or further info.



WE'LL MISS HAVING OUR HOLIDAY
CELEBRATIONS AT THE SENIOR
CENTER THIS YEAR BUT, WE DO
HAVE A SURPRISE FOR YOU!!
STOP BY THE CENTER STARTING
DECEMBER 14 BETWEEN
1:00-3:30PM TO PICK IT UP!



WINTER SEASON SAFETY

We want to remind everyone that the key to safety is awareness and preparedness.

- ♦ **Know Your Risk** – Be informed of the hazards of the heavy winds, heavy rain, snow, sleet, and ice, etc.
- ♦ **Make A Plan** – Develop an emergency plan including communication in case of power outages. Register for Telephone Reassurance with the Center and New Jersey's Register Ready Program.
- ♦ **Build A Kit** – Create or update your emergency supply kit and keep important papers safe and handy.

CONGRATS TO LINDA ALSTON!

Our very talented Senior Center artist received 1st place for her piece "Sarah Remembered" in the Monmouth Arts County show which was forwarded to the state competition. Linda's piece won 1st place in the Senior State competition out of 100's of other artists. Congrats Linda! We're so proud of you!



DECEMBER 2020



Neptune
Township - NJ

Where Community, Business & Tourism Prosper

**We are so happy that you are a part of our Senior Center Family.
If we can be of assistance to you and/or your family,
please contact us at anytime. We look forward to having you
visit us in the near future.**

**Randy Bishop, Director
Kristina Torres, Deputy Director**

Recreation/Programming

Lindsay Okuszeki - Coordinator

Outreach Services

Ryan Ugrovics, CSW

Transportation Services

John Lalanis - Driver

David Pyle - Driver

Robert White - Driver

Custodial Services

Ralph Parkman

Doug Johnson

Dining Services

Teresa Richard - Manager

Jennifer Nurse - Aide

Carol McDonald - Aide

Administrative Office

Michelle A. Swift - Administrative Assistant

Sondra Attridge - Senior Programs Representative

And an Army of Dedicated Volunteers!

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U.S. POSTAGE
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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