

BOROUGH OF FLEMINGTON

DECEMBER 2023 NEWSLETTER

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The Borough Council

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Council: Susan Englehardt
Council: Malik Johnson
Council: Liz Rosseti
Council: Tony Parker

CONTACT INFORMATION

Address

38 Park Avenue
Flemington, NJ 08822

Office Hours

Mon.-Fri. 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Phone

(908) 782-8840

A Word From Police Chief Rotella

With New Year's quickly approaching, here is some important information for those who wish to celebrate the ringing in the New Year with fireworks.

Currently, in New Jersey, all explosives and fireworks are covered under N.J.S.A. 21:3-1 et seq. The law states:

It shall be unlawful for any person to offer for sale, expose for sale, sell, possess or use, or explode any blank cartridge, toy pistol, toy cannon, toy cane or toy gun in which explosives are used; the type of balloon which requires fire underneath to propel the same; firecrackers; torpedoes; skyrockets, Roman candles, bombs, or other fireworks of like construction, or any fireworks containing any explosive or inflammable compound or any tablets or other device commonly used and sold as fireworks containing nitrates, chlorates, oxalates, sulphides of lead, barium, antimony, arsenic, mercury, nitroglycerine, phosphorus or any compound containing any of the same or other explosives, or any substance or combination of substances, or article prepared for the purpose of producing a visible or an audible effect by combustion, explosion, deflagration or detonation, other than aviation and railroad signal light flares.

That said, for all New Jersey residents, the only permissible fireworks are hand-held or ground-based sparklers, snakes, glow worms, and devices and trick noisemakers.

Also, keep in mind the area where you are setting off the fireworks. Fireworks emit sparks and flames, which can easily ignite anything they come in contact with. Fireworks are also one of the leading causes for dogs to run away due to the loud noises and percussion. Be a good neighbor and respect those who live around you.



A MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

PAGE 2

Financially, 2023 has been a very difficult year for the Borough. Our state-permitted debt cap is almost at maximum from prior years of spending, so the Borough is proceeding very cautiously this year and next. However, there are still projects that are in the works that are necessary to complete.

The first one is the new police facility - the most expensive government building in any municipality. When the old State Farm Insurance building was purchased in 2022, there was no true cost proposal brought to the Council. This summer, the NJ Dept. of Corrections (DOC), which has complete jurisdiction over the construction or renovation of all public safety facilities in the state, saw the new facility for the first time. Since then, the DOC as worked hand in hand with the Borough and our architect to design a new prisoner processing center for those arrested. What was estimated in 2022 to cost approximately \$400,000 for this phase is now estimated at \$700,000 after the DOC's requirements. The design was just approved by the DOC and the project will go out to bid. At that point, the Borough will know whether or not we have the funds to complete this very important phase of the project which is required to allow the Police Department to move into the new facility.

The prior administration procured funding in grants and loans for the road work on several streets including Bloomfield Avenue which is, as everyone knows, under heavy construction for at least another year. The State Department of Transportation (DOT) has informed the Borough that if we turn down any funds, we will be at the bottom of their list for the next five years to procure any road funding. Consequently, we will do some of the work now and hold off on any top coat until much later. The much-needed sewer main replacement has been recently awarded to Bloomfield Avenue, so this helps make this project make sense.

Finally, the South Main Street project, a huge priority for 30 years for the Borough, also needs additional funding added to the amount procured thru the DOT's lending arm, the state's "i-bank". In 2020, the Borough only applied for and was awarded the funding to pave the road, redo the curbing on Main Street from the traffic light to the circle. and upgrade the traffic light. However, the biggest problem with Main Street is not above ground but the 100-year-old sewer lines that lie as deep as 20 feet below the street. This project only makes sense if we replace the sewer and not just borrow money to put a band-aid on the street with pretty paving. The Borough will be borrowing funds from the state's Department of Environmental Protections "i-bank" to put in the new infrastructure.

Future newsletters will continue to discuss other funding projects to which the Borough has been committed and the financial and quality of life impacts.



AROUND THE BOROUGH

PAGE 3

“Feral/Stray Cats within Flemington Borough”

Recently there has been concerns about feral/stray cats within Flemington Borough which in turn has started controversy about whose ultimately responsible for stray cats. According to Flemington Boroughs ordinance No. 2012-02, Chapter 6 (which follows the law of the State of New Jersey), outlines all animal rules and regulations. Within Chapter 6-1, **the term “owner/keeper”** is defined as:

“Shall mean any person who shall possess, maintain, house or harbor any pet or otherwise have custody of any pet, whether or not the owner of such pet.”

In other words, if a property owner or renter comes in contact with feral and/or/stray cats and provides any kind of shelter, medical aid, or food, (per State law and Borough Ordinance), the resident or renter is therefore considered the “owner/keeper” of such cat.

Consequently, the Borough of Flemington will not be held liable for the removal of a “harbored” feral/stray cat, instead such responsibility rests on the person who has been maintaining, feeding, sheltering, or caring for the stray cat..

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Our Borough

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A SPECIAL NOTICE FROM THE FLEMINGTON BOROUGH POLICE DEPARTMENT AND OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT FOR THE UPCOMING WINTER SEASON

SNOW EMERGENCY

The Borough will continually monitor weather forecasts and conditions during winter weather events. Based on snowfall, predicted snowfall, and other factors, the Borough may declare a snow emergency, which triggers a variety of responsibilities for the Borough and its citizens. A Snow Emergency declaration activates:

- Emergency operations center
- Public notifications
- Parking Restrictions
- Suspension of trash collection
- Towing of vehicles

PUBLIC NOTIFICATION

When a snow emergency is declared, notification will be made via:

- SMART 911 messaging service (sign up [here](#))
- Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/HistoricFlemingtonNJ>)
- A SMART 911 call and/or text message/email to residents/whose information is on file
- An announcement to media outlet
- Electronic message signs posted at entrances to the Borough, when possible

PARKING RESTRICTIONS / SNOW PLOWING

When roads are snow-covered or a snow emergency has been declared, vehicles may not park along any Borough Roadway. All on-street parking will be suspended whenever roads are snow-covered or during a snow emergency.

- Street brining may begin up to three days prior to an expected snowstorm.
- Snow plowing will begin after 2 inches of accumulation.
- Once snow begins falling, or upon the declaration of a Snow Emergency, all residents should park their cars in the driveway or Borough parking lots. Parking is strictly prohibited on all streets when snow is covered, and car owners will be fined.

Please review the list of designated borough parking lots:

Borough Lot – 38 Park Avenue (access on Court Street) • Borough Lot – Behind 8 Main Street (Borough Garage) • County Lot Main Street (next to Red Vanilla) • County Lot- Park Avenue

- Plows will make multiple passes on streets. Please wait until all snowfall has stopped and your street is clear of all snow before returning cars to the street.

SHOVELING SIDEWALKS

The property owner's or tenant's responsibility is to remove snow and ice from the public sidewalks adjacent to his or her property within 12 daylight hours after the snow/ice has accumulated. If the snow or ice is frozen too hard to shovel, the property owner or tenant must make the sidewalk safe using sand or other abrasives. Failure to comply will result in a ticket being issued for each day the sidewalk remains snow or ice-covered.

Under no circumstance should snow be deposited from your property onto the street. Doing so will result in a fine.

WINTER WEATHER WARNINGS / ALERTS / ADVISORIES

Blizzard Warning: Issued for sustained or gusty winds of 35 mph or more and falling or blowing snow creating visibilities at or below 1/4 mile; these conditions should persist for at least 3 hours.

- **Wind Chill Advisory:** Issued when wind chill temperatures are expected to be a significant inconvenience to life with prolonged exposure, and, if caution is not exercised, could lead to hazardous exposure.
- **Wind Chill Warning:** Issued when wind chill temperatures are expected to be hazardous to life within several minutes of exposure.
- **Winter Storm Warning:** Issued when hazardous winter weather in the form of heavy snow, blizzard conditions, heavy freezing rain, or heavy sleet is imminent or occurring. Winter Storm Warnings are usually issued 12 to 24 hours before the event is expected to begin.
- **Winter Storm Watch:** Alerts the public to the possibility of a blizzard, heavy snow, heavy freezing rain, or heavy sleet. Winter Storm watches are usually issued 12 to 48 hours before the beginning of a Winter Storm.
- **Winter Weather Advisories:** Issued for accumulations of snow, freezing rain, freezing drizzle, and sleet which will cause significant inconveniences and, if caution is not exercised, could lead to life threatening situations.

Samuel Fleming House Museum & Gardens

Friends of Fleming Castle has enjoyed a busy year, with over a dozen events and many hours of volunteer service reaching out to welcome the Flemington community to the heart and start of Flemington. The most popular event this year was our pumpkin decorating and fall celebration.

We are looking forward to welcoming the community again in 2024! Our upcoming events will include a champagne tour on January 13 and historic house tours on February 10 and March 9. We are also planning programming to provide assemblies and short presentations to our local schools. Please contact us if you are an educator, homeschooling parent, or youth leader interested in this type of presentation.

Friends of Fleming Castle is busy preparing for our 7th annual Tricky Tray fundraiser on April 20, 2024. This year, our very popular event will be located at Route 12 County Complex Building Number 1 (314 State Route 12, Flemington). All proceeds from this event are used to sponsor our educational programs, special events, and the mission of the Friends of Fleming Castle.

We are kindly asking that you consider making a donation of any kind. All donations will receive written acknowledgment and be mentioned at the event. Another way to be part of this major fundraiser is by advertising in the program, which many local participants will view.

For more details about any of these events, visit our website at www.samuelfleminghouse.org.

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AROUND THE BOROUGH

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A Message From Our Fire Marshall

The Flemington Fire Department would like to provide a few safety tips as the fall season is well underway and winter Holidays are approaching.

When decorating your home for the holiday season, please take caution when stringing lights or placing decorations on your home. Thoroughly check all your outdoor lights and extension cords for damage, to ensure they work before you put them up. Keep in mind, small rodents and squirrels enjoy chewing on the wires. Also, when using a ladder to put lights up, we encourage you to ensure you have a helper available both to make the job easier and provide you with help, in case of an accident.

Snow may be in the forecast this winter, in the event of any significant snow the Fire department asks that you help us help you. If you have a fire hydrant in front of or near your property, please shovel around it and clear a space 3 feet on all sides. This helps our volunteers locate fire hydrants and speeds up their ability to get the extra water that may be needed to fight a fire.

In the event of a power outage this winter, please use generators safely. Generators should be connected to your home by an approved receptacle or properly hard-wired by a licensed electrician. Never use a generator inside your home or garage; keep the exhaust away from doors and windows. Do not use your gas stove or oven to heat your home if the power is out; they are not designed to be used this way and can result in Carbon Monoxide filling your home. Also, do not bring your charcoal or gas grill indoors for heat or cooking; these are designed for outdoor use only.

Additionally, check your Smoke Detectors, and Carbon Monoxide (CO) Alarms. Every home should have smoke detectors, check that they are under 10 years old and if they have replaceable batteries and the batteries are changed. If you have a home with an attached garage or has gas or oil-burning appliances (stove, water heater, furnace), ensure that you have a working CO alarm. The CDC reports that there are over 420 deaths and over 100,000 emergency room visits from Carbon Monoxide every year. Carbon Monoxide is a colorless, odorless, tasteless gas. Please don't open windows or doors to vent out the carbon monoxide; it makes it harder for responders to locate the source.

Should your CO alarm, Smoke detector, or Fire alarm is activated, exit your home with any pets, call 9-1-1, and wait outside. Please **Do not call the firehouse** for emergencies. The phones are not staffed to take emergency calls and any recorded messages may not be seen for several hours.

The Flemington Fire Department is an all-volunteer Fire Department serving Flemington Borough. If you or someone you know would like to become a volunteer firefighter, please visit our website www.Flemingtonfire.org.



FLEMINGTON COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP (FCP)

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The Flemington Community Partnership (FCP) thanks our businesses and neighbors for coming together to create fantastic fall events, including the Kids Annual Halloween Parade on Main Street, the Witches Walk and Moon Market on Stangl, and the Holiday Home & Business Decorating Contest. We are preparing for a wonderful Holiday Season in our business areas and are working hard to compile an [exciting](#) Calendar of Events for 2023.

Holiday Events for 2023 in Flemington Borough:

- Thursday, 11/16: November Sip & Stroll on Stangl – Friendsgiving theme!
- Thursday, 11/23: The 31st Annual CEA/JFI Turkey Trot. The event is NJ's original Turkey Trot and consists of a 5K Run & 2M Turkey Trot on Main Street.
- Friday, 11/24 - Black Friday Shopping throughout town– Release of the 2023 Holiday Shopping Passport!
AND Black Friday Holiday Market at Stangl Factory, 9 am - 3 pm
- Saturday, 11/25 - Shop Small Saturday - Santa visits Main Street from 12 - 3 pm
- Friday, 12/1 - The Annual Flemington Holiday Tree Lighting with Flemington Borough Pack 61, Hunterdon County Chamber of Commerce, Rotary Club, and Flemington Fire Department.
- Saturday, 12/2 - Annual Hunterdon Holiday Parade, 5 pm. New this year on Saturday! With Special Events in our Stores and Restaurants before and after the parade!
12/2 Visit with Santa on Main Street between 12 and 3 pm
- Sunday, 12/3 - Blizzard Bazaar at Stangl Factory Market, 3 pm - 8 pm
- Saturday 12/8 - Photos with Santa from 11 - 2 pm - Location TBD
- Saturday 12/16 - Photos with Santa from 11 - 2 pm - Location TBD
- Thursday, 12/21 - Stangl Sip & Stroll and Photos with Santa, 5 pm - 9 pm

For more info www.loveflemington.com

The FCP welcomes new Flemington Borough businesses:

Main Street Area:

- Teaberry's moved to 171 Main Street and will reopen in 2024.
- The Corner opened a sister shop for "Modern Kids" called La Petite Ruelle at 48 Main St.
- Millie's Bruncheonette at 144 Main has begun construction work.
- The Men's Salon is moving to 2 North Main Street before the year's end.

Stangl Area:

- Hammer & Stain opened at 7 Stangl Road.
- The 3D Lab opened at 5 Stangl Road.
- Wildflower Yoga Collective opened at 50 Mine Street.
- Boxed Vinyl opened at 26 Central Station.

Highway Area:

- Manhattan Bagel Flemington opened on Route 31 with a drive-thru window.
- Flemington Coffee Shop reopened at 23 Reaville Ave. with a new owner, Chef Roberto.
- Prime IV Hydration & Wellness opened at the Shoppes of Flemington.

Holiday Decorations: Our traditional snowflakes and other decorations are on their way to make the borough bright and festive for the season.

Meet Members of The Boroughs Police Department

<u>Name</u>	<u>Years</u>
Chief Jerry Rotella	25
Lt. Willam Soriano	20
Sgt. Michael Mariaschin	20
Cpl. Louis Hribik	20
Cpl. Bradley Bullman	15
Cpl. Brian McNally	13
Ptl. Dustin Kydd	18
Ptl. Robert Godown	17
Ptl Frank Emanuele	10
Ptl. Cory Garrabrant	10
Ptl. Gregory Zytko	6
Ptl Donald Ala	6
Ptl. Michael Cristadoro	6
Ptl. Gissel Aquino	2
Ptl. Christian Mata	4 mos.
SPOIII Craig Santoro	4
K9 Jaxs	6
K9 Kita	4

*K9 Elza, new to the police department is a German Shepherd scheduled to start her training in December 2023



Scout Me In

Local Cub Scout packs and Scouts USA troops in Flemington have had a busy fall, contributing to many community events. Boys and girls have enjoyed family campouts and a great event with our first responders, journeyed the Yukon trail, and had a blast at a rocket launch.

Join the Scouts at the 101st annual Christmas Tree Lighting & Holiday Celebration on Friday, December 1, at 6 p.m. at Flemington Presbyterian Church. Share joy this holiday season! The very next day, December 2, at 5 p.m., line up on Main Street at the Hunterdon Holiday Parade to see our local packs and troops show their colors and some amazing floats!

Our Flemington Scouts will participate in a Klondike Derby this January to test their Scoutcraft skills and their leadership abilities at different stations. Each team must transport the necessary gear on a homemade sled pulled by the Scouts. And yes, there is an overnight campout! Brrr!

The heritage of Scouting has continued in Flemington since 1948. In February, our own Pack 61 will celebrate its 75th anniversary!

Finally, service is an important component of Scout youth development at all levels. Please support the Scouts during the annual collection drive "Scouting for Food: a National Good Turn for America" in early February.

Scouting is open to girls and boys from kindergarten through high school. Visit www.BeAScout.org to find a local pack or troop and join the adventure!

Flemington/Raritan Shared Court Agreement

Did you know as of June 1, 2023, the Flemington Borough Municipal Court entered a Shared courts agreement with Raritan Township. Updated information can be found at Raritan Township NJ - Municipal Court (raritan-township.com).

All court proceedings are being held virtually every Wednesday unless otherwise notified (you may contact the court to request an in-person court appearance). We are open Monday - Friday, 8:30 am - 4:30 pm to address all inquiries and accept payments at the violations window. Card, cash, check, and/or money orders are accepted forms of payment.



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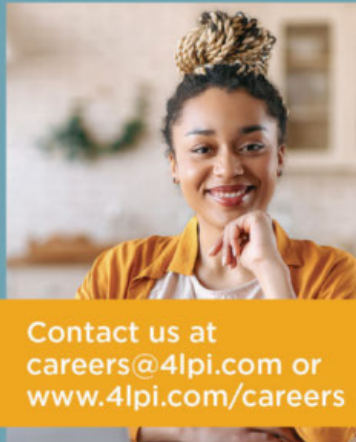
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Borough of Flemington, Flemington, NJ 06-5397

County Planning Board Requests Public Input Revised Growth Management Plan



Did you know Hunterdon County has a dedicated group of volunteers who are members of the County Planning Board? Whenever our local Historic Borough of Flemington's Master Plan is updated, the municipal planning board looks to the county planning board visioning documents for inspiration and to confirm coordination with our own municipal goals.

One of the County Planning Board's responsibilities is to encourage municipal cooperation in matters of mutual and regional concern. The board is currently revising the county Growth Management Plan (GMP).

The plan was last updated in 2007. The GMP is an element of the County's Land Use Master Plan and guides county-level investment, supports municipalities, and provides a shared vision for the county's future land use.

The Planning Board is seeking public comment on the plan and hosting a public meeting on December 7th at 7:00 pm at the County Complex on Route 12 in Flemington (314 State Route 12, Flemington, NJ 08822, Building 1, Assembly Room).

The purpose of the meeting is to present the draft vision statement and preliminary recommendations for the Hunterdon County Growth Management Plan. Members of the public will be given an opportunity to provide comments and help shape the future of the County.

The updated Growth Management Plan can be found on the County website: <https://www.co.hunterdon.nj.us> and at the Growth Management Plan website: <https://hunterdoncountymasterplan.org>. Contact Planning@co.hunterdon.nj.us or (908) 88-1490 for more information.

Written comments may be directed to Katherine Fullerton, Supervising Planner for the County of Hunterdon at the Route 12 County Complex, PO Box 2900, 314 State Route 12, Flemington, New Jersey, 08822, or via email: Planning@co.hunterdon.nj.us.

Department of Public Works

Did you know Flemington Sewer offers its customers a free tele-vised inspection service of existing exterior sanitary sewer lines?

Successful inspections will provide the property owner with the lateral location, depth, and pipe material and note any conditions of concern.

Laterals must be a minimum of 4 inches in diameter to be inspected. Exterior access to the sewer line via a sewer cleanout is preferred but not mandatory.

To request an inspection, please contact Flemington Sewer at (908) 782-8578.





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Borough of Flemington, Flemington, NJ 06-5397



BOROUGH OF FLEMINGTON

38 Park Avenue
Flemington, NJ 08822

Public Art Committee

This past summer, the Borough Council established a Public Art Committee. The purpose of the Public Art Committee is to facilitate the development of public art within the Borough, including murals, sculptures, and similar expressions of art, recognizing such as integral to the vibrancy of the community. The Committee is to ensure that public art contributions to the Borough will complement the building(s) or neighborhood(s) with which they are associated, as well as complement current strategies for economic development, enhance neighborhood and community identity, and educate children and adults alike.

The all-volunteer Committee shall consist of not less than five members appointed by the mayor. It shall be composed of the following: A member of the Borough Council, a member of the Historic Preservation Committee, a member of the Borough Planning Board, and two members at large, one of which shall contain a background in art who may also live outside the Borough.

As per the ordinance, the Public Art Committee shall have the following powers and duties:

- The power to commission and oversee the creation of artwork on private property, except for one and two-family homes, at the directive of the Mayor and Council.
- The authority to hear and review applications for the creation of public art within the Borough, including the erection, painting, and/or installation of murals, sculptures, and similar visual arts, and the authority to render decisions regarding the issuance or denial of permits, therefore.
- The authority to advise the Mayor and Council, the Planning Board, and other agencies of the Borough concerning matters that affect the creation of public art within the Borough.
- The authority to create a non-exclusive list of eligible and appropriate spaces for the potential location of public art within the Borough.
- The authority to develop and to regularly review and update, a public art plan and public art guidelines, which identify, among other things, appropriate spaces and appropriate mediums, respectively, for public art within the Borough.
- The authority to review and recommend public art projects.
- The authority to make recommendations regarding any issues that may arise from a specific public artwork or art project.
- The authority to undertake any other duties or activities that may be assigned to it by the mayor and Council.

Members of the public interested in one of the two public positions are asked to send a letter of interest noting any art background they may have to the mayor. The Public Art Committee is not required to hold regular scheduled meetings. Meetings may be scheduled as necessary.

Letters of interest should be received by December 20, 2023, and may be dropped off at Borough Hall addressed to the Mayor, mailed to 84 Park Avenue, Flemington, NJ 08822, or emailed to the Mayor at mkarrow@historicflemington.com. Please put in the Subject line "Public Art Committee."