**BURNHAM PARK**

**ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER**

Winter 2012  Volume, 54, no. 1

Burnham Park Association Board of Trustees

TRUSTEES:

Joe Attamante  
(Vice President, Newsletter Author, Arbor Day Coordinator)  
(973) 538-7860

Imre Bajusz  
(w) 862-778-6243

Debbie Bruen  
(Secretary) 201-919-6105

Sharon Cain  
(Newsletter Designer) 539-2039

Christopher/ Jennifer Carcich  
(Moms & Tots) 451-9090

Bill Claxton  267-2706

Johnathan Darwell/Suzanne Mutz  
Darwell (T-shirt chair, Admiral Advisor) 656-0190

Elihu Davison/Sheira Greenwald  539-9015

Mary Ann Gazal  538-0822

Kay Kribs  539-9312

John Mahoney Codd  
Susan Mellen  
(Newsletter Distributor) 401-9244

Buffy O’Brien (Flier Designer) 539-6461

Bill Pezzuti (Webmaster) 644-0421

Lynn Siebert  
(President, Newsletter Editor)  
540-1586

Don Siebert  
(Treasurer) 540-1586

Edwin Villhauer  539-7128

Douglas Vorolieff (Addler Chief)

Sonya Williams (Membership Chair)  
862-242-8942

ALTERNATES:

Marla Weetall Moster  292-3026

Scott/Deborah Wild  455-1520

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**BPA Elections**

At our November 22nd meeting, a unanimous vote elected the people listed below to our Board of Trustees for 2011-2012. As a vibrant, all-volunteer organization, we appreciate and value those who give their time, talents and energies to serve our community with such dedication!

This year, we have added three new trustees: John Mahoney Codd, Douglas Vorolieff and Don Siebert, all of whom have been active in BPA for years. We also have two new officers: Sonya Williams will serve as Membership Chair (succeeding Jen Carcich) and Don Siebert will serve as Treasurer (succeeding Bill Claxton). Our special thanks to Bill and Jen for their years of hard work, their dedication and selfless commitment to BPA. Both have done a fantastic job, enabling BPA to continue to grow, remain solvent and thrive for all these years! (We’re delighted that they are remaining on our Board!).

**2011-2012 Board of Trustees/ Burnham Park Association:**

Joseph Attamante, Vice President; Imre Bajusz; Debbie/Scott Bruen, Secretary; Sharon Cain, Newsletter graphic designer; Jennifer/Christopher Carcich (Moms & Tots); Bill/Kathy Claxton; John Mahoney Codd; Jonathan Darwell/Suzanne Mutz-Darwell; Elihu Davison/Sheira Greenwald; Mary Ann Gazal; Kay Kribs; Susan Mellen; Buffy O’Brien; Bill Pezzuti. Webmaster; Lynn Siebert, President; Don Siebert, Treasurer; Edwin Villhauer; Douglas Vorolieff; Sonya Williams, Membership Chair.

www.burnhampark.org
New to the Neighborhood or Just Curious?...
A little background on BPA:

The BPA is an all-volunteer civic organization – in continuous existence since 1948 (!) – and comprised of households/individuals interested in the Burnham Park community and surrounding area. Membership is open to all who care about Burnham Park and its surroundings and who share a sense of stewardship of the land, a willingness to help sustain the natural and historic resources of the area and an interest in promoting and fostering a sense of community. Most of our members live in the immediate area which spans approximately 450 homes on the streets surrounding Burnham Park (Edgehill, Ferndale, Fairmount, Log, East Lake, West Lake, Burnham Parkway, Hillcrest, Edgar, Dorothy Drive, Grace Way, Upper Field, Mendham, Midland, Springview, etc.) but there are other members who live in adjoining areas (Alexander Hamilton, Cutler Park, Washington Valley, etc.) who have worked hard with BPA on issues such as goose control, riparian buffer zone, traffic control, and development issues over the years.

**Thinking about becoming a member?**
Membership is simple: Fill out the slip at the bottom of the newsletter and send it to our Membership Chair, Sonya Williams at 21 West Lake Blvd., Morristown, NJ 07960. BPA has consciously kept dues affordable...$10 is the basic membership level - although many choose to give additional amounts (sometimes for specific purposes such as tree planting, etc.). Annual dues help to fund our newsletter, our annual Arbor Day plantings, special projects (like adding a bench to the park), and the like. Members have no official duties but are welcome and encouraged to participate in BPA events and activities, to the degree they wish. Members include residents of both Morristown and Morris Township.

**What is the difference between a Trustee and a Member?**
Trustees serve as ambassadors for the organization, attend monthly meetings and assume responsibility for an area of their interest. Some trustees have served on the playground planning committee, the traffic/road configuration committee, established the Moms & Tots, participated actively in goose control efforts (addling), monitored the aerator restoration or investigated the conditions of the riparian buffer zone. Still others work behind the scenes (and don’t necessarily attend regular meetings), writing/editing/designing and distributing the newsletter, maintaining/updating the website, ordering the food for our events, coordinating our Tshirt/sweatshirt orders, following local planning board issues, etc. No one is compelled to take on a job ... any work is entirely voluntary and dependent on the interests of the individual trustee. We are very fortunate to have so many talented and public minded individuals who contribute their talents to our community!

**What about BPA meetings?**
These are held monthly except during December (too crazy with the holidays) and over the summer (June-August- since so many people are away on vacation). Alerts are sent if and when special issues demanding urgent attention arise during these times.

Meetings are open to all BP area residents whether or not they are officially members. Contact a trustee to find out the time, date and location of the next meeting. We also hope to have that information posted on our website in the coming year.

If you have additional questions, contact Dr. Lynn Siebert, President, at (973) 540-1586 or Joseph Attamante, Vice President at (973) 538-7863.

**The Burnham Family: a little more history...**
Those attending the Burnham Park Centennial on May 21, 2011 met some of the Burnham Family heirs. The senior family member at the time, Burnham Carter Jr., was unable to attend the celebration due to ill health. We are sorry to report that he passed away August 29, 2011 in Old Lyme, CT. His obituary is one of an exemplary and inspiring life...so typical of this family of public benefactors. You can access it via Google or check out this link: http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/theday/obituary.aspx?n=burnhamcarter&pid=153398370&fhid=4174

BPA Vice President Joe Attamante has been tireless in his search for more information on the Burnham “homestead” and found that it was a 20 room gable house...“beautifully landscaped and sheltered from the street by fine old trees...” built in 1840 by Gordon Burnham (father of Frederick, donor of Burnham Park) located at 344 Speedwell Ave., Morristown. The 41 acre property became Frederick’s home and then was occupied by members of the Condict family and then by Edward F. Broderick and his wife after which the property was then unfortunately razed in 1962 to make room for the 74 unit “Lakeview Apartments.” Additionally, Frederick G. Burnham built a home in 1868 located on 10.5 acres on Mills St. with one entrance on Sussex Ave. in the “Sherman Hills” area...and one subsequent reference lists a home owned by Frederick Burnham known as “Ridgewood Hall” on Sussex Ave as destroyed by fire. A third property owned by Frederick Burnham was 118 acres, of which 30+ became Burnham Park, located along and above Burnham Parkway, the remaining acreage of which became, over the years, many of the homes between the park and Western Avenue. The Morris County Heritage Commission, the County office of Planning and Development and, in particular, Jan Williams, Cultural and Historic Resources Specialist, has been helping in the research on this topic.
The Fountains of Burnham slated to return!

Thanks to the persistent efforts of Trustee Susan Mellen, we have learned:

At the end of June, the Morristown Town Council passed the ordinance to replacing the defunct aerators in Burnham pond and money has been set aside for that purpose. In addition the project was awarded an on-call electrician for two years, so electrical work will not have to be bid out. The electrician has already scoped out the situation. We are hopeful that the new aerators will be installed and functioning this coming summer. Special thanks go to Jeff Hartke, Town of Morristown's Engineer and head of the Department of Public Works for his persistence in getting this project approved and to Morristown's Mayor Doherty for his support. The water quality in the pond and the beauty of the area will both be greatly enhanced by the return of these “fountain” aerators.

Tail Wagging the Dog?

HONEYWELL's Mixed Use Plan might change Township Master Plan

Current Facts of the Plan: The latest plans submitted in May call for 259 residential units (instead of original 313). The 250 room hotel was eliminated but an alternate proposal still on the table calls for a 150-200 unit CCRC (Continuing Care Retirement Community) which would lower the number of market value condos to 202. 200,000 sq.ft. of office space would be leased if no CCRC is built...300,000 sq. ft. of office space would be in the plan with a CCRC. Once the entire project is finished, Honeywell would have about 550,000 sq. ft. of total space. Two styles of residential units would be constructed, ranging from $400,000 to $550,000 in price.

The Issues at Hand/Why We Should Be Concerned: Honeywell continues to lobby for a change in the Township Master Plan which would allow mixed use development, including residential buildings and a possible CCRC on its 147 acre site. The Township’s Technical Coordinating Committee(TCC), comprised of the Planning Board Attorney, the Township Planner and Township Engineer, is at work drafting an amendment to the Master Plan which would allow this mixed use despite considerable and well reasoned opposition from the surrounding community.

Michele Demarest, spokesperson for Citizens for Better Planning in Morris Township (CBPMT) summed up some of the objections/concerns in the Nov. 24th issue of the Morris NewsBee, “The Technical Coordinating Committee is concurrently writing the amendment and the companion zone ordinance that will make Honeywell’s wish list (mixed use zoning) a law for our Township. This is grossly premature since none of our elected, appointed or hired officials on the Technical Coordinating Committee has received input from the experts who have been hired to provide independent reports. In order to prevent one-sided planning and rubber-stamping of the draft plan by the Planning Board, it is essential that the public be invited further into the planning process.”

CBPMT also noted that the Planning Board has rejected suggestions from citizens for more transparency and increased citizen involvement in the process of Master Plan change. Demarest added, “The process of changing the Master Plan was set in motion by an informal request from Honeywell International, whose property value would

continued on page 4
The December 18th Sunday Star Ledger had a scathing editorial about the Department of Environmental Protection’s proposed “Waiver Rule” which it labeled “the most dangerous, overreaching and potentially corrupting document in Trenton.”!!!

Fueled by the construction industry and others, it is an “audacious move by Gov. Chris Christie, the single greatest threat to decades of work to protect New Jersey’s air, wildlife and water.”

“Under a proposal by the state Department of Environmental Protection, the agency could waive environmental rules for individuals, towns and businesses. Ninety eight existing regulations can be bypassed if the DEP commissioner finds them to be “unduly burdensome” or in conflict with other rules. Here are some potential consequences:

- **Water supply:** A 300 foot buffer zone now protects waterways from runoff. The DEP could waive any or all of that under the proposed regulation, allowing a housing development or shopping center to be built too close to our water supply.

- **Wetlands:** A 150 foot buffer zone guards threatened or endangered species of the wetlands. If a waiver is granted and more land is cleared for development, the water and surrounding plant and animal habitat could be polluted with toxins such as fertilizer, oil or gasoline. Protected wetlands are designed to work as nature’s filter system, cleaning up water before it moves downstream.

- **Clean Air:** New gas plants could be built in places such as Newark’s Ironbound – which is already stricken with air pollution – with fewer restrictions or regulations from the DEP, creating an opportunity for more toxic emissions.

- **Flooding:** Proposed regulations could permit more houses to be built in flood zones and further upstream from the zones, exacerbating the flooding in the existing homes.”

Even if the waiver rule is defeated, “some legislators are proposing smaller waivers – stealth written into unrelated bills – that could achieve the same effect, giving the Christie administration the power to waive rules never meant to be waived.”

It’s true that overregulation and red tape can be problematic “but every environmental rule comes with a backstory: It’s illegal to dump chemicals into rivers specifically because chemicals were being dumped into rivers. The cost of properly disposing of those chemicals should be considered as a cost of doing business. The waiver rule and its piecemeal partners are dangerous because they are so sweeping, so subjective. Power to overturn volumes of protection is placed in one office which can define words like ‘unduly burdensome’ any way it wants. That concentration of authority is an invitation to corruption – if not by this administration, then possibly the next one….”

Environmental laws protect more than plants and animals. They defend our air, food and water – the foundations of health – from abuse; they are hurdles by design. The ability to simply overturn rules we deem inconvenient invalidates them all.”

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**MOM AND TOT EVENTS:**

Do you have children? Babies, toddlers, preschoolers, school age children and their families are all members of Morristown Moms & Tots & More! We hold numerous weekly events both during the day and the evening so working parents are welcome to join. Don’t miss out on dinner playdates- it saves you from cooking once a week.

Our group holds Mom’s Night Out, Dad’s Night Out, CPR class in the fall and even has an adult kickball team. Go to www.bigtent.com and search for us using zip code 07960- fill out the online application, and Jen Carcich will call you to explain everything. Enjoy your families!

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www.burnhampark.org
Skip the Frack, Jack

The Tennessee Gas Pipeline Company is proposing a pipeline that would cut through some of the most sensitive lands and critical water supply areas in the Highlands. This project will destroy public parklands to export gas from the Marcellus Shale. Gas in the pipeline will be produced through fracking, a dangerous drilling technique that threatens our water supply by releasing unregulated effluent laced with chemicals.

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) will be releasing the Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) on the Northeast Upgrade Project. Legally, FERC is not required to hold public hearings on the document but can if there is "substantial environmental controversy" and significant public interest. **Write to FERC now and urge that public hearings be held on this project!**

The pipeline crosses underneath the Delaware River and Monksville Reservoir, potentially impacting drinking water supplies for millions of people. In New Jersey, about 50% of the project is located on public lands including the Appalachian Trail, High Point State Park, and Ramapo County Reservation. If pushed through, this pipeline will destroy critical habitat, threaten our water supply, and clear cut forests on state land.

Please make your voice heard by requesting public hearings be held on this dangerous project! Follow this link: https://secure3.convio.net/scnj/site/Advocacy?cmd=display&page=UserAction&id=993 to the NJ Sierra Club’s website to add your name to a written request that will be sent to FERC. It is unacceptable to put our water supply at risk by further shredding the Highlands core forests and watersheds, in addition to the cumulative potential impacts of fracking, for the sake of interstate shipping of natural gas. This company should not get away with destroying our public land for a second time!

Check www.njhighlandscoalition.org for updates on this matter.

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**TOWER POWER?**

**Update on the Susquehanna-Roseland power line**

Some good news from the National Park Service (NPS), which oversees the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area, an area which would have been crossed (and damaged) by this project, is the NPS decision in favor of the “no-build” option which would not allow the line to cross the Recreation Area. However, the decision by the White House to fast-track this, among a handful of infrastructure projects to create jobs, remains very worrisome. Additional hearings will be held and you can follow the issue by checking out various websites such as Stop the Lines and NJ Highlands Coalition. Aside from destruction of scenic areas, imposition of very high powered transmission lines (with potential health implications) and the enormity of the towers necessary to support such lines, there is also the concern that this energy is ultimately from dirty coal rather than from clean, renewable sources. To appreciate the impact of the physically huge towers which will cut an unsightly swath through pristine lands, see the diagram below.

[Diagram of proposed vs. existing tower sizes]

**Courtesy of** http://stopthelines.com/downloads/STL%20Flyer.pdf
A Dirty Business:
Clean Water Rules in jeopardy

On another front, the December 18th Star Ledger also reported on the high stakes battle currently underway in Trenton between developers and environmentalists on the matter of clean water. Headed for a vote in the lame duck session is the effort to negate clean water regulations adopted and approved in 2008 to curtail development by limiting sewer lines and septic systems on more than 300,000 sensitive acres across the state. Builders complain that the rules are unwieldy and need rewriting... but the federal EPA indicated that such changes would put NJ in violation of the Clean Water Act. Deep pocketed builders, developers and real estate brokers pump hundreds of thousands of dollars into elections to undo regulations safeguarding drinking water in order to promote more development. Where sewers go, development follows...The argument that more development leads to more jobs is a bit hollow when developers neglect investing in redevelopment projects in existing towns and cities. There is concern that when there is less public attention to such matters during a lame duck session, this weakening of clean water standards will be easier to sneak through.

TOO BIG TO FAIL?
Greystone Preservation efforts

Preserve Greystone, a local advocacy group, seeks to preserve the Greystone Park Psychiatric Hospital on the border of Parsippany and Morris Plains, for the architectural value of the buildings, the green space and the history of psychiatric care through more than a century. “Greystone is an architectural treasure with a legacy of enlightened mental healthcare more people should know about, and a later history of sad lives and bad treatment that no one should forget,” said Preserve Greystone Secretary Adam McGovern. ..Greystone’s majestic main building had the largest footprint of any building in the country until the Pentagon was completed. Check out the December 8, 2011 issue of the Morris NewsBee for its article on preservation efforts, or visit www.preservegreystone.org or email PreserveGstone@gmail.com for more information.
**Attorney at Law**

**WILLIAM H. CLAXTON**  
Member NJ & KY Bars  
32 Dorothy Drive  
Morristown, NJ 07960  
973-267-2706  
Fax 973-539-3359

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Fax 973-377-7835  
Email: Debbie.Bruen@coldwellbankermoves.com

**JOHN A. BARTHOLOMEW**  
WEICHERT REALTORS  
Sales Representative  
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Morris Plains, NJ 07950  
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