

MyMontvale

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE BOROUGH OF MONTVALE

MyMontvale is produced monthly by
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BOROUGH PREPARES FOR NEW FIREHOUSE



ILLUSTRATION COURTESY OF JOHN DESCANO

The borough's current firehouse will be demolished this spring to make way for a brand new two-story building. Montvale's current building, which dates back to 1955, has suffered structural issues in years past and has insufficiently sized bays that no longer fit the newer model fire engines and firefighting gear, meriting the need for a new building. Designed by Robbie Conley, an architect and former longtime firefighter, the new firehouse – a red and yellow 16,000-square-foot building made up of smooth-face block, brick and stucco

– will be built to last between 50 and 100 years. Conley said at a previous council meeting that the new structure would be adaptable for use if the department becomes a paid one in the future. Amenities of the new building will include a kitchen, locker rooms, a decontamination area where firefighters can rinse off any hazardous materials, and a mezzanine with a large operations area, in addition to training and conference rooms.

Keep Your Health on Track

More Appointments for Busy People

www.hackensackumcpv.com/zoc-doc

**Hackensack University
Medical Group**
Pascack Valley

MAYOR'S MESSAGE JANUARY

We begin this year by welcoming our new Councilmember Mike Weaver to the council and congratulating Councilmember Dieter Koelling on his reelection. Both new members will be valuable assets to the town and I look forward to working with the entire council. We also wish Mayor Roger Fyfe all the best and wish him well in his future endeavors. Mayor Fyfe worked tirelessly and was always there when anyone needed him. Although we disagreed on few policy issues, I have the utmost respect for him as a person; he served Montvale in various capacities for more than 25 years and made his mark on this town. I know he missed many family dinners and functions while being a mayor, and during storms when everyone was concerned about their own homes and family, you would find Mayor Fyfe at borough hall working and calling the utility companies in his usual no-nonsense approach to get services back on. Thank you, Mayor Fyfe.

Now as we turn the page, we will have a very busy year with several major projects already in the works as well as new ones. The DePiero's project is well underway and we are in constant contact with the builders to ensure their adherence to the plans while working with county officials on the traffic and intersection changes. Our firehouse has been modified and expanded several times over the years to save money and fit the needs of the firefighting operation. Time has come to build a new one and ensure we have a safe building for our volunteers and assets for the next 50+ years. I want to thank our Fire Chief Clint Miller for all his efforts to all the committee members and everyone who was involved in this project.

We have a great team of volunteers dedicated to serving our community – our firefighters, Tri-Boro ambulance volunteers and our 220 other behind-the-scenes volunteers that make this community click every day and we thank them. I truly don't think we can prosper and function as a town if it wasn't for all their hard work. Along with the volunteers, all our staff from all departments will do their best to serve the residents and I look forward to working closely with them.

As for communication, it became clear to me residents are interested to learn and know more about our local politics but don't have the time to attend meetings and read minutes. I will be sending out email



Mike Ghassali
Mayor

blasts highlighting the meetings and the ongoing projects for anyone who wants to read them. Please text me or email me your email address to be added to the list if you are interested. We will also have a system in place to coordinate all the communication leaving borough hall through social media, email, TV access, website, newsletters and town hall meetings and ensure synchronized and prompt timed shared information.

Moving forward I will have standing office hours every Tuesday from 5 to 7 p.m. at borough hall. Everyone is invited to stop by and ask and discuss any issue relative to our town. We will try it for a year and if we have to change the day or time will make sure that is communicated clearly. If you can't make the office hours and would like to meet in person, contact me directly at borough hall at 201-391-5700, ext. 217 or email mghassali@montvaleboro.org.

Finding new corporate tenants to fill the available office space will be a challenge if we are not proactive as a community and as a governing body. I plan to visit as many corporate tenants as I can every month to update them and bring them into the loop with our community and ongoing activities. Our Chamber of Commerce does a great job in reaching out and I will be working with them to make these visits. On this same front, I will be creating an Economic Growth and Retention Commission consisting of members from our commercial property owners, residents, brokers, council members and a professional marketing firm to develop a campaign to market Montvale globally and attract new corporations to fill the existing available office space we have. We have to seek out new corporate tenants and work closely with current ones. We will ask the state and county for their support in this process and will keep you posted.

Budget discussions will begin shortly and I encourage residents to attend these meetings as we literally read through and discuss every line item from every department in the borough.

In closing I want to invite all of our residents to any of our Council or Planning Board meetings and participate in the process. There is a lot of information and we will make every effort to synchronize the communication channels and make it easier to decipher.

I wish everyone a happy and healthy New Year.

MONTVALE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Hello Montvale:

Like all of you, I was aghast as I watched the coverage of the massacre in San Bernadino, Ca. My thoughts returned to the 9/11 tragedy and the recent terrorist attacks in Paris, wondering if further coordinated attacks would be following. San Bernadino is Anytown USA, no different than any town in Bergen County including Montvale. Fortunately, it seemed to be the end of that particular incident. However, make no mistake, there are more threats out there. The threat can be religious extremists, violent emotionally disturbed individuals, violent criminals or others who would do harm to innocents. These cowardly attacks have victimized unarmed coworkers, school children and innocent civilians. That said, I am no "fear-monger" but I have the responsibility to take all appropriate measures to prepare for the "worst-case" scenarios. I hope it never will but I always have to be concerned about "it" happening here.

As a law enforcement officer and as the Chief of Police for Mont-



vale, having watched the horrific events unfold, I think about concerns for the safety of our community, the safety of our police officers, and how prepared the Montvale Police Department is to deal with these types of appalling events. We, in conjunction with surrounding police departments, train for the "worst-case" situation. We have a ready relationship with the Bergen County Rapid Deployment Force, Bergen County Sheriff and the Bergen County Prosecutors Office and all of the resources they can provide. We purchase equipment appropriate to the potential challenges we may face. Our officers are diligent and dedicated. There is no better group of municipal police officers than ours. I know that in the face of crisis and adversity they will perform effectively as well as honorably. Again, I hope it is a challenge we will never have to face.

Stay safe,
Chief Jeremy Abrams

TRI-BORO VOLUNTEER AMBULANCE CORPS

The members of the Tri-Boro Volunteer Ambulance Corps., along with our Board of Governors, would like to wish everyone a very happy, healthy and safe New Year! We would also like to thank you, our communities, for your unwavering support throughout the years. With your help we have been able to continue Tri-Boro Ambulance as a volunteer organization 365 days a year, 24/7 staffed by professional N.J. State Certified EMTs who volunteer their time to help their community. Life is precious. Accidents and illness affect all of us at some time in our lives. It is with great pride that we help community members without medical background train to become the best EMTs in Bergen County. From our 16-year-old high school students who step up to learn to be an EMT, to our moms, dads, sisters and brothers from all walks of life, there are exceptional people who live in your community who study on a continuing basis to be there to answer your 9-1-1 call.

It is with great pride that I would like to announce the installation of our 2016 Officers: President Elaine Vercellone, Vice President Michael Riabov, Captain Steve Bressler, Night Lieutenant Joel Slutsky, Day Lieutenant Kole Kilmurray, Treasurer Al Nagy, Recording Secretary Michele Golenischew and Corresponding Secretary Susan Kiley. We welcome in each of our new and continuing officers and wish them and all of our members a great year ahead.



Reminder – the winter cold and snow are here, so make sure to:

- Dress warmly, don't forget a hat and gloves
- Service your car/tires
- Check those shovels and snow blowers to make sure they are ready BEFORE we get a storm.
- Make sure you can access each exit of your home safely, remove clutter that might make it difficult to get to you or those you love in case of a medical emergency.
- Remember to check on your neighbors. If you have a senior next door, check in with them and see if there is anything they need in case of a storm. Possibly help them remove leaves or snow that may be piling up.

Help us keep our community a strong one. To keep up to date on our events and happenings at Tri-Boro Volunteer Ambulance Corp., visit us at www.triboroambulance.org and/or like us on Facebook. If you are a minimum of 16 years of age and are interested in joining the Tri-Boro Volunteer Ambulance Corp., please e-mail us at: office@tbvac.org, or call Elaine Vercellone 201-388-0225. Our membership committee is here to answer any questions you may have.

Thank you for your continuous support!

Elaine Vercellone
President T.B.V.A.C.

MONTVALE PUBLIC LIBRARY

JANUARY'S SPOTLIGHT:

WHAT: Just a reminder that overdue fines for all Montvale Library materials are now 25¢ per day. The maximum fine on a Montvale Library item remains at \$5.

FOR INFORMATION ON LIBRARY SERVICES AND PROGRAMS:

Visit the Montvale Library's website at montvale.bccls.org, email the Library at movlcirc@bccls.org, or telephone the Library at 201-391-5090. Stop by and visit us, too!



LOCAL ASSISTANCE

Thanks very much to all the individuals and families who donated to the Tri-Boro Family Care Fund during the tree lighting ceremony hosted by the Recreation Department.

There is a need for the following items:

- Toothpaste
- Toothbrushes
- Bars of soap
- Shampoo

Many thanks for your continued generosity!

Kathie Bowen
Public Assistance Director

CONGRESSMAN GARRETT'S OFFICE

Every second Thursday of the month, there will be a representative from the Hon. Scott Garrett's office at Borough Hall to address any concerns or questions you may have. Ani Sarajian will be here between 1 and 3 p.m. in Conference Room 1.



SAVANNAH Georgia

"...one of the most beautiful cities in the world!"

6 DAYS - 5 NIGHTS

APRIL 10 - 15, 2016

(Sunday-Friday)

\$599.00 per person *double occupancy*

\$788.00 per person *single occupancy*

\$564.00 per person *triple occupancy*

PACKAGE INCLUDES:

- * 5 Nights lodging
- * 5 Breakfasts
- * Buffet Lunch at The Lady & Sons Restaurant
- * 2 Full course dinners including a Seafood Dinner
- * Guided tour of Historic Savannah
- * Sightseeing Cruise on the Savannah River
- * Mercer - Williams House
- * Savannah History Museum
- * Savannah's River Street District
- * Souvenir gift
- * Luggage handling in Savannah
- * Taxes and meal gratuities
- * Motorcoach transportation

Cancellation insurance available upon request

FOR INFORMATION AND RESERVATIONS CONTACT:

MONTVALE SENIORS

Rosemarie Kelly

56 Erie Avenue

Montvale, NJ 07645

(201) 391-8718



WHITE STAR TOURS

America's Leader in Group Travel

26 E. Lancaster Ave., Reading PA 19607 | 610.775.5000

MONTVALE RECREATION DEPARTMENT

ADULT PROGRAMS:

18+ COMPETITIVE BASKETBALL

Residents 18 years of age and older can participate in this competitive style pick-up game format. This program began on Jan. 6 and will continue through May. Games are played on Wednesday nights from 8 to 10 p.m. in the Fieldstone School gymnasium. Fee: \$50 for residents and \$75 for non-residents.

30+ BASKETBALL

This program is for men and women 30 years of age and older. This program is held on Monday evenings from 8 to 10 p.m. in the Memorial School gymnasium. This pick-up game style program began in September and will continue through May. Fee: \$75 for residents; \$95 for non-residents if space permits.

HATHA YOGA

Yoga will increase flexibility, physical strength and energy. Yoga will also improve concentration, emotional stability and the ability to relieve stress through relaxation. Two, one-day/week classes will be offered in the Recreation Center. The first class meets Monday evenings from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. and began Jan. 4. The second class meets Friday mornings from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. and began Jan. 8. Registration will take place on the first session of each class. Residents and non-residents 18 years of age or older are invited to participate. High school students may participate if registered by an adult. A mat or towel should be brought to each class. Fee: \$80 for residents; \$100 for non-residents for this 8-week class. Instructor: Debra Broadman.

TALKIN' BASEBALL

If talking about baseball as it was in years past is your thing, please join us at our monthly meetings. The group meets the first Wednesday of each month at 8:15 p.m. in the Recreation Center (entrance is behind the community center.) There is no fee for this program.

ADULT VOLLEYBALL

This program is for men and women 18 years of age and older. Adult volleyball will be held in the Memorial School Gymnasium "B" from 8 to 10 p.m. The program began Jan. 5 and is held on Tuesday evenings through May. Fee: \$50 for residents; \$75 for non-residents.

KID'S CORNER:

WINTER SEW COZY

Sewing is a fun filled and exciting art that helps foster the creativity of young girls while teaching them to follow instructions and concentrate on a task. Sewing reinforces hand-eye coordination and develops fine motor and problem solving skills. Best of all, by designing and sewing their own creations, the girls will increase their confidence and self-esteem. Using the latest computerized sewing machines with three speed controls, to accommodate the age and skill level of your future designers, the girls will discover the fun of sewing. The program culminates with a fashion show, where the girls can model their creations for parents and friends. The program is held on Tuesdays and began Jan. 5. All classes are held at the Recreation Center. Fee for the eight-week class is \$80 for residents, \$100 for non-residents. There will be an additional \$30 for materials (paid separately) to the instructor. The instructor for this class is Mrs. Manrique.

TAEKWON-DO

TaeKwon-Do, the Korean art of self-defense, is the scientific use of the body through physical and mental training for self-defense in unarmed combat. Program is offered two days/week for children in grades K-8. The K-4 grade class is offered Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6 to 7 p.m. Classes began Tuesday, Jan. 5. The 5-8 grade class will be offered Tuesdays and Thursdays from 7 to 8 p.m. Classes began Tuesday, Jan. 5. The program is held in the Recreation Center. Fee for this 16-session class is \$120 for residents, \$180 for non-residents (space permitting.) Registration: first day of class. Instructor: Mario Liriano; 5th Degree Black belt.

GIRLS VOLLEYBALL

The girls volleyball program began Tuesday, Jan. 5. This eight-week program is offered to girls in grades 5-8. The girls will play in the Memorial School Gym from 7 to 8 p.m. Registration will take place the first night of the program. Fee: \$80 for residents; \$100 for non-residents. Instructor: volleyball coach Chris Moran.

FIELD USE

Applications and Hold Harmless forms must be completed and returned to the Borough Hall Building Department, c/o Jeff Fette, with liability insurance and payment. Forms are available online and at the Borough Hall front counter. Permits will be given according to availability.

MONTVALE SENIOR CLUB

Happy New Year to all! We are excited and looking forward to an outstanding year here at the Montvale Senior Club located at One Memorial Drive in Montvale. Our bylaws describe our club's purpose – to sponsor good fellowship and wholesome recreation for men and women who have attained their 55th birthday. We just held our election and installation of officers and are looking forward to a very successful year. We invite those of you who are 55 years of age and older to come down on the first

Thursday of the month for our Business meeting. During 2015 our membership increased dramatically and we are enjoying making new friends and renewing old ones.

Did you know we have a dedicated exercise room with a wide variety of equipment available for residents of Montvale? Chair Exercises is a very popular group that meets Monday, Wednesday and Friday at our beautiful center. We invite you to come down and check us out. Our members are looking forward to 2016 featuring exciting

activities, trips, entertaining and educational speakers. There are several ongoing groups such as canasta, crochet, yoga, gardening, computer classes and a variety of others. We just added a book discussion club and you are welcome to join us. If you have a particular interest, come share it with us and we'll develop a program.

We have a five-day bus trip planned to Savannah, Ga., from April 10-15 and it's filling up fast. We invite you to join us as reser-

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SECRETARY

THOMAS HARTEL
John M. Hartel, Co.

Board Members

ANNA BRODLEY
Fish Window Cleaning



Montvale Chamber Of Commerce
2015 PERSON OF THE YEAR
Mayor Roger Fyfe



In December, Mayor Fyfe accepted the Montvale Chamber of Commerce 2015 Person of the Year award. From left are Fyfe and Chamber Co-Presidents Scott Forman and Steven Fox.

Regional Business Networking Kickoff Event
January 27th 5:30 - 7:30 pm, Courtyard Marriott



MONTVALE IN FEBRUARY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Local Mtg. Household Trash Recyclable PickUp		2 Central Planning Board Mtg. 7:30 p.m.	3 West	4 Districts 3, 4	5	6
7	8 East Environmental Commission Mtg.	9 Central Mayor & Council Mtg. 7:30 p.m.	10 West	11 Districts 1, 2	12	13
14	15 East Office closed, President's Day	16 Central Planning Board Mtg. 7:30 p.m.	17 West	18 Districts 3, 4	19	20
21	22 East	23 Central Mayor & Council Mtg. 7:30 p.m.	24 West	25 Districts 1, 2	26	27
28	29 East					

MONTVALE OFFICIALS

ADMINISTRATION

ADMINISTRATOR/MUNICIPAL CLERK

Maureen Iarossi-Alwan - miarossi@montvaleboro.org

MAYOR AND COUNCIL

MAYOR

Mike Ghassali (I) - mghassali@montvaleboro.org

COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Timothy E. Lane (R) - tlane@montvaleboro.org

COUNCIL

Rose Curry (R) - rcurry@montvaleboro.org

Dieter Koelling (R) - dkoelling@montvaleboro.org

Leah J. LaMonica (R) - llamonica@montvaleboro.org

Salvatore J. Talarico (R) - stalarico@montvaleboro.org

Michael Weaver (I) - mweaver@montvaleboro.org

CONTACT INFORMATION

MONTVALE BOROUGH HALL

12 Mercedes Drive, Montvale, NJ 07645

Phone: 201-391-5700

Visit www.montvale.org

SENIOR CLUB

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ations are now open. A deposit of \$100 payable to Montvale Senior Club will reserve you a seat on the bus. Call Rosemarie Kelly at 201-391-8718 and find out more.

There are detailed fliers located at the senior center listing all the activities, meals, guided tours, sightseeing, prices etc. Pick up a copy if you're interested.

In addition there are several educational and historic day trips planned. Our day trip coordinator, Marie Dineen, has many day trips planned and she can be reached at 201-391-1831. We invite residents or past residents of Montvale who are 55 and over to join our club which meets on the first and third Thursdays of the month for our Business and Social meetings. Our dues are only \$10 a year.

As you know we have the services of a new senior van to take seniors to and from their homes for our meetings, doctor appointments and other activities. We are fortunate to have a board member

who attends meetings at the Bergen County Senior Citizens Coordinating Council, Inc. and informs us of any relevant information relating to senior citizens. Our Montvale schools invite the members of our club to all their concerts, shows and related activities. Durelle Voorhees and her team host a Pizza and Bingo evening each month that everyone enjoys and tickets are only \$10. We also offer numerous lunches throughout the year to which our members look forward. Our goal is to provide companionship and relaxation for our seniors in Montvale and keep members abreast of topics that affect the lives and well being of our members. A detailed calendar is available each month featuring all activities at our senior center located at One Memorial Drive in Montvale.

You can reach our president, Steve Ohayon, at montvaleseniors@montvaleboro.org.

Keep Your Health on Track

More Appointments for Busy People

■ **Primary Care**

316 Knickerbocker Road,
Dumont
201.385.6161

■ **Primary Care and Ob/Gyn**

125 Washington Avenue,
Dumont
201.374.2722

■ **OB/Gyn**

260 Old Hook Road, Suite 304,
Westwood
201.781.1750

■ **OB/Gyn**

305 West Grand Avenue,
Montvale
201.746.9150



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