



# Sea Bright Sea Breeze

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## Unspoken Heroes

By now you have all heard about the devastating fire at The Fountains condominium on Feb. 5. But what you may not have heard about was the outpouring of community spirit from Sea Bright and the surrounding areas.

The brave work of our firefighters and police officers who rescued Debra Yuhasz from her burning apartment and fought freezing temperatures and high winds to bring the fire under control and keep it from spreading deserves special recognition and thanks. As does the Red Cross, which quickly organized shelter and help for displaced residents.

And so do the following unspoken heroes:

The SPCA personnel who brought animal cages to Borough Hall for the residents' pets. Stanley Arasin, who generously opened his home next to The Fountains to residents and emergency personnel.

Bain's Hardware, which donated supplies to aid in the firefighting effort.

MerriMakers, Dunkin Donuts, 7-11, Donovans, Andy K's, the Mad Hatter, Angelica's, McLoones, the Salt Creek Grille, and other local restaurants supplied hot food and drinks to residents and emergency personnel.

Sea Bright Ladies Auxiliary members who pitched in and helped in myriad ways, including providing and serving food and drinks to the firefighters, and even directing traffic in the frigid weather.

Sea Bright summer residents who flooded Borough Hall with phone calls offering to let displaced Fountains residents stay in their homes while they got back on their feet.

These people and businesses, as well as the countless others who pitched in, are testament to the great spirit and heart of Sea Bright.

## Bridge Over Troubled Water

The differences over the demolition and rebuilding, or repairing, of the Highlands/Sea Bright drawbridge are as wide and deep as the river it spans.

The Department of Transportation says it bases its decision to replace the existing movable bridge with a 65-foot-high, fixed-span bridge on three considerations:

**Safety** - "The existing bridge is at the end of its service life, and will soon be subject to weight restrictions if it remains open," according to Kris Kolluri, the DOT's Commissioner of Transportation.

**Reliability** - The existing bridge is subject to frequent mechanical failures, as well as closures on hot days when the expansion of steel makes it impossible to open or close the bridge. "This level of reliability is unacceptable for an official evacuation route," Kolluri adds.

**Cost efficiency** - The estimated overall project cost



hovers at \$120 million, of which \$99.5 million would be spent on construction. "The state spent nearly \$1 million last year alone to keep the existing bridge in service. Repairing it will cost more than \$50 million, and could only be expected to add about 10 years to its life," Kolluri says. "After that, the bridge will still need to be replaced, at a significantly higher cost."

Both Highlands and Sea Bright borough councils vehemently disagree, and have passed resolutions opposing the DOT's plan. The councils argue that the drawbridge is historically significant, and that a new bridge will be an eyesore, interrupt the view of Twin Lights, and negatively affect boat navigation (8 percent of boats will not be able

to sail beneath the fixed span bridge, according to Coast Guard reports).

Safety is another key concern. The black ice that will form on a 65-foot bridge creates hazardous driving conditions, the councils argue, and pedestrians will be at risk. "Having pedestrians cross Ocean Avenue with an increased volume of cars coming off a new bridge is an invitation to disaster," states Sea Bright Councilman Tom Scriven.

Scriven notes that the Sea Bright Council supports repairing the bridge now, and addressing a new bridge again down the road. "Can't we build a bridge in 10 years, using newer technology, that's better than the one we can build now?" he asks. The Sea Bright Borough Council also questions whether the state agency has given the public the same version of study findings about the bridge's condition that the DOT received.

(continued page 2)

## Mayor Greets 2007

The start of a new year is the perfect time to reflect on past achievements and look forward to meeting new challenges and opportunities.

That's what Mayor Jo-Ann Kalaka-Adams did in her annual New Year's message, presented at the Sea Bright

Reorganization meeting held Jan. 6, 2007.

Mayor Kalaka-Adams thanked "all who contribute to the betterment of Sea Bright," including council members; the fire, first aid, and police departments; members of the planning/zoning board;

the Sea Bright board of education; the library, recreation, and beautification committees, as well as "the many others who contribute to our various events in other unselfish and unpublicized ways.

"Know that your efforts are  
continued page 2)



## Come Join the Keith McHeffey 3 Mile Fun Run!

10 am ~ Sunday ~ March, 11  
Donovan's Reef, Sea Bright

**Registration**  
\$20 by March 1st  
\$25 Day of Race

**Pre-register online:**  
[www.kdmfoundation.com](http://www.kdmfoundation.com)

## 2007 Reorganization Day



Dina Long (right), joined by her family, sworn in as re-elected council woman by Freeholder Barbara McMorrow.



William "Jack" Keeler (right) sworn in as re-elected councilman by Assemblyman Steve Corodemus.



Scott Arnette re-appointed as borough attorney.



Craig "Bubba" Clark acknowledged by Assemblyman Steve Corodemus for years of dedicated service.



Kevin Lovgren promoted to Corporal of the Sea Bright Police Department.



Mayor honors Vince Miller, who retired as Seabreeze editor after 18 years of service.

## Bridge Over Troubled Water *(cont. from cover story)*

Both Sea Bright and Highlands have passed resolutions opposing the demolition of the existing bridge and have hired Janine Bauer, a New York-based attorney, to represent them in dealing with the issue.

As of press time, the DOT's plan was put on hold as the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) temporarily denied approval to proceed.

"The old bridge can't be saved," admits Amy Cradic, DEP Assistant Commissioner for Natural

and Historic Resources in a Jan. 25, 2007, letter. But she argues that the DOT must provide more information about building an alternative – perhaps a lower, 55-foot-high moveable bridge.

Kolluri says he plans to meet with Highlands and Sea Bright mayors and other officials to provide proof that the current bridge is not structurally safe and is beyond repair.

The Sea Bright Council stands unanimously against the build-

ing of a new bridge, and urges residents who also oppose the bridge to write to the DOT.

**U.S. DOT**  
400 7th Street. S. W.  
Washington, D.C. 20590

**Or email:**  
[dot.comments@dot.gov](mailto:dot.comments@dot.gov)

## Mayor Greets 2007 *(cont. from cover story)*

truly appreciated," she said.

As she enters her fourth year of office, Kalaka-Adams acknowledged the financial challenges ahead.

"The greatest concern of Sea Bright residents is to maintain a wonderful community with a great quality of life, but also to keep our expenses (taxes) in check," she said. "In this regard unfortunately there are many expenses that on the municipal level, we cannot control. But those we can control, we must." Kalaka-Adams pointed to continued efforts to change the "unfair funding formula" for Shore Regional High School, and progress the town has made in challenging and obtaining budget reductions.

Kalaka-Adams shared some additional good news on the financial front: "For 2007, in no case will there be an increase in the contractual amounts, and in



Mayor Jo-Ann Kalaka-Adams gives her speech at the Reorganization Meeting

most cases I have obtained reductions," for required professional services. She also reported

**"The greatest concern of Sea Bright residents is to maintain a wonderful community with a great quality of life..."**

pursuing shared services with other towns as another cost-cutting measure.

If there is a cloud in Sea Bright's

future, it is the state lawsuit regarding beach access, which is "very unfortunate and surprising for the state to sue one of its own towns," Kalaka-Adams noted. "I intend to explore alternatives to lengthy and expensive litigation on this matter."

The Smart Growth study, expanding and beautifying the beachfront and boardwalk, creating additional uses and recreational opportunities, building a cell tower, and exploring additional public/private partnerships to benefit the town are all on the Mayor's to-do list for the coming year. "But we will proceed with such projects by means of applying for grants and other methods of funding to offset the costs so as not to create additional tax burdens," the Mayor added.

And finally, the Mayor reminded us, "Sea Bright is the place to be, now more than ever."

## Line Dancing at its Best!

From ages 7 to 70, folks were gettin' in line and out on the dance floor for some great music and dance action!

The Sea Bright Recreation Committee is currently sponsoring a new line dancing program featuring professional dance instructor, Leslie Clare, who leads the group with her easy-to-learn, foot-tappin', heel-stompin', honky-tonk fun! Line dancing is no longer just for country fans; this popular form of dance now includes many musical styles including pop, contemporary - and a few Irish dances. Classes are held every Thursday from 7pm - 8:30 pm at the Sea Bright gym. To sign up, please call the Recreation Department: (732) 842-0099 ext. 27.



## Police Provide Peace of Mind

The Sea Bright Police Department's new Well Being Check Program provides an extra sense of security for seniors and/or disabled residents living alone. Under the program, a police department member will phone participants weekly to determine their well being and if they need any kind of assistance. Officers also will call participants before imminent severe storms. If officers are not able to make telephone contact within three attempts, a patrol unit will visit the resident's home.



Well Being Check Program participants provide the police department with their emergency contact information and medical history. This information is placed in a heavyweight "refrigerator card" that is visible to all officers and emergency service personnel.

To help administer the program, volunteers are needed to run small errands - such as picking up prescriptions or food - for program participants.

If you are interested in participating in the Well Being Check Program, or volunteering to help, please call Detective John Arias, Sea Bright Police Department, (732) 842-0010.

## DIIP Pipes Up

Here's the latest on the Downtown Infrastructure Improvement Project (DIIP), according to Councilwoman Maria Fernandes. The sewer portion of the project is now complete, and "we are ready to move on to the storm water pipe phase," she says. The borough engineer has submitted the documentation to the Department of Environmental Protection for the required permits and the project will then go out to bid. While Fernandes could not give a definite date for the pipe work to begin, she estimates "it will be soon."

### Smart Growth Update

Residents are encouraged to attend the Smart Growth Public Forum Meeting, held Sat., Feb. 24, 2007 at 1:00 p.m. in the Recreation Center. The firm of Phillips Preiss Shapiro Associates Inc. will present the two smart growth plans - Municipal Facilities and Downtown Oceanfront.

## Off-Leash Dog Area Proposed

Dogs do so much good for our community: they give us a sense of optimism, safeguard us from loneliness, and break down the barriers that isolate us from one another. Their presence improves our well-being, protects us from danger, and teaches us about caring, love, and responsibility. And they ask for so little in return.

As public areas are becoming more dog-restricted, the need grows for a designated area where our loyal "family members" can receive the much needed exercise and socialization - which is essential for the health and well-being of our pets.

Sea Bright Recreation Chairwoman Joan Osgoodby has approached the Monmouth County Park System with a request to add an off-leash dog area in the Wolf Hill Recreation Park in Oceanport. Osgoodby states, "The 91 acre Wolf Hill Park, which is owned by the Monmouth County Park System, is convenient to many Sea Brighters because it is located right next to our Elementary schools."

Osgoodby met with the Monmouth County Board of Recreation Commissioners on February 5th to discuss the issue. Osgoodby reported, "The board appeared very receptive to the idea. They said they would give the proposal consideration."

**YOU CAN HELP...** please show your support. Write to:  
**Mr. Ed Loud, MCPS Recreation Director, 805 Newman Springs Rd, Lincroft, NJ 07738**



Joan Osgoodby and her Bernese Mountain Dog, Mojo.

## Put Your Eggs in One Basket

Bring your basket and be prepared to hunt for more than 2,000 eggs at this year's Easter Egg Hunt, Saturday, April 7, 11 a.m., at the Sea Bright Municipal Beach Playground. Sponsored by the Sea Bright Recreation Committee, this year's event features prizes for finders of the elusive Golden Eggs, and a special guest appearance by The Easter Bunny. No rain date: if the weather doesn't cooperate, the Hunt will take place at the Municipal gym.

# Shooting The Breeze

When I moved to Sea Bright 17 years ago, I knew no one and nothing about the town. Then, one afternoon I went to my mailbox and found my very first issue of "The Seabreeze" mixed in with the bills and junk mail. I read it cover to cover, devouring news of my new hometown. I learned the names of the council people, what community events were on the horizon, when to put my newspapers out for recycling. And I eagerly waited for each issue to arrive.

So it is with great personal pleasure and pride that I accepted the job of Seabreeze editor when Vince Miller put down his red pen after 18 years of publishing this newsletter. Vince leaves some big shoes to fill -- each issue he published was packed with as much community news as the pages could hold. His perspectives were always balanced, the articles always interesting and informative.

As your new editor, I invite you to get involved in the Seabreeze. What issues should we cover? What kinds of articles do you want to read? Please email your ideas, comments, feedback:

[SeaBreezeEditor@aol.com](mailto:SeaBreezeEditor@aol.com)



I hope you'll continue to read and enjoy each issue, the way I have for the last 17 years.

*Felecia Stratton*



## Seniors Seek Seniors

Sea Bright residents 55 years+ are invited to join the Sea Bright Seniors Club.

Meetings take place the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of every month at 1:30 p.m. in the Sea Bright Gym. Make new friends and enjoy activities such as bingo, bus trips, coffee, cake and chit-chat.

For information on joining, contact President Lois Canneto (732) 922-2722, or Council liaison Maria Fernandes (732) 747-9249.



## Sea Bright Seniors ~ 2007 Bus Trips

**May 1** "Music on the Blue Danube," an Ace in the Hole Production at The Brownstone, Paterson, N.J. Bus leaves the Municipal Parking Lot at 9:30 a.m. Members: \$35; guests: \$40.

**July 12** "Summer Musical," at the Hunterdon Hills Playhouse. Bus leaves the municipal lot at 9:30 a.m. Members: \$47; guests: \$52.

**Aug. 2** "Gypsy," at the Westchester Music Theater. Bus leaves the municipal lot at 9 a.m. Members: \$49; guests: \$54.

**Oct. 4** "The Sunshine Boys," at the Fiesta Luncheon Theater, Wood-Ridge, N.J. Bus leaves municipal lot at 9:30 a.m. Members: \$35; guests: \$40

**Dec. 13** "Christmas Show," at Doolans in Spring Lake. Bus leaves the municipal lot at 9:30 a.m. Members: \$35; guests: \$40.

**Be at the parking lot 15 minutes before departure time. Registration fee includes transportation, lunch, and show, and must be paid in advance. Make checks payable to Sea Bright Seniors and mail to:**

**Barbara Compton, 19 Sandpiper Lane, Sea Bright, NJ, 07760.**



**Questions?  
Call Barbara at (732) 741-8867**



## THE SEA BRIGHT SEABREEZE

### Editor

Felecia Stratton

### Advisors

Joan Osgoodby  
Brian P. Kelly  
Michael Warmington

### Members of Council

William J. Keeler.... (732) 842-2354  
Peggy Bills..... (732) 383-5411  
Maria Fernandes .... (732) 747-9249  
Brian P. Kelly ..... (732) 450-8852  
Dina Long ..... (732) 842-0099  
Thomas E. Scriven... (732) 842-6496

### Mayor

Jo-Ann Kalaka-Adams  
732-842-0099

### Borough Clerk

Maryann Smeltzer  
732-842-0099

[WWW.SEABRIGHTNJ.ORG](http://WWW.SEABRIGHTNJ.ORG)

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