



# Haddon Press

## Message from Mayor Randall W. Teague



Welcome to the first installment of the *Haddon Press* for 2010. The *Press* is a valuable instrument that allows the Township and the School District to communicate directly with

our citizens. The *Press* also allows us to update the public on various issues in town. The most commonly asked question I hear is "What is going on with the Dy-Dee site?" While you may not visibly see a lot happening at the Dy-Dee site, significant progress is occurring.

For any municipality, redevelopment can be a very complex, costly and time consuming issue, especially when the site to be redeveloped has been abandoned for more than twenty years and is contaminated. With regard to the Dy-Dee site, the Redevelopment Agreement with Fieldstone Associates also requires the acquisition of a number of properties surrounding the site, which has made the process even more complicated and time consuming.

During the acquisition period, we discovered that several properties included within the site to be developed, are, like Dy-Dee, also contaminated. This has complicated the acquisition of these properties. There was also a property owner, Sulock (State Farm), challenging its inclusion within the site. I am happy to report that we have settled out of court with Mr. Sulock and purchased his property at the end of December.

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## We Can't Move Forward Until You Mail It Back.



## Message from Commissioner John C. Foley

While most citizens understand the importance of voting, they underestimate the importance of participating in our nation's census. From my perspective as the Commissioner responsible for Revenue and Finance, I encourage all of our residents to complete their census in order for Haddon Township to receive appropriate state and federal funding. Residents are urged to promptly complete and return the forms by mail when they receive them this March.

Did you know that the Township of Haddon had significant under-reporting in the last census? The Philadelphia Census Bureau reports that we had only a 64% rate of return. Over the past decade, approximately \$10,000 in government

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# United States® Census 2010

## IT'S EASY BEING GREEN!

### At the 2nd Annual Haddon Township Green Event.

The Township of Haddon invites all residents to "get their green on" at the second annual GREEN EVENT being held on April 24, 2010 in the Westmont Theatre parking lot. The Green Event will take place rain or shine between the hours of 10 am and 2 pm. Last year, hundreds of residents came out and learned how to make substantive changes in their lives to make Haddon Township a more sustainable community.

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They will be vacating the property in March and moving their offices to a nearby location.

An environmental investigation and clean-up for a site such as Dy-Dee can take years and cost millions of dollars. The environmental investigation alone for the Dy-Dee site will total over two million dollars. We have been successful in obtaining grants from the State for the entire amount of the environmental investigation.

**Haddon Township has already received over two and a half million dollars in grant funding.**

In addition, we have successfully pursued a Brownfield Development Area designation through the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and were one of only three municipalities in the state awarded BDA status for 2009. **The BDA designation enables us to streamline the environmental investigation and clean up through DEP and provides 75% funding for the remediation of the site (Fieldstone Associates will pay the remaining 25%).**

Recently, our Remedial Action Work Plan for the Dy-Dee site was approved by the DEP. What does this mean? As soon as the ground thaws, the clean-up of the Dy-Dee site will finally begin. After more than twenty years, our goal of a “clean” Dy-Dee site will be realized.

Fieldstone Associates are pursuing final site plan approvals before the Planning and Zoning board. Once site plan approval is given, the remediation is completed and the final properties acquired; the site will be sold to Fieldstone Associates. In turn, the Township’s acquisition bond will be paid off and construction can begin. The Towne Center at Haddon will revitalize this area as a transit village and will become a catalyst for economic growth for our downtown. The plan consists of residential housing, commercial retail space and accessory parking facilities.

The revitalization of Haddon Avenue is a top priority of this Administration. We are working diligently on plans that will generate long-term sustainable revenue for our town for years to come. Our vision is for a more cohesive, attractive and vibrant downtown---one we can walk to, gather around and prosper from.

As your Mayor, I am more than willing to listen to your suggestions or concerns. Please feel free to contact me at **856-854-1176 ext. 4111** or at **MayorTeague@HaddonTwp.com**.

## Message from Commissioner Paul Dougherty



Just as the 1960’s saw the dominance of television over newspapers, the Internet has taken over as the key communication tool of our time. Utilizing this tool to its full extent is one of the most effective ways, we as a Township can reach a broader public audience.

In a move designed to make the public’s interaction with local government more in-line with modern demands, the Township of Haddon will launch a new website with a customer service-oriented design and improved online services. The new website, set to launch mid-March, will allow residents, businesses and visitors easier access to general Township information, schedules, calendars and topics specific to various departments and agencies as well as local community events and activities.

Significant emphasis has been placed on providing online services that will allow tasks to be done from home or work without making special trips to the Municipal Building. Online systems will include access to Township minutes & agendas, permits and licenses, and paying your taxes on-line. Residents or visitors will be able to sign up to electronically to receive news alerts, water and sewer bill reminders and notification of local events. The website will also provide updates and status reports on major town projects and issues.



For residents accustomed to conducting daily business via a computer, on-line service 24/7 has become essential. This new website will increase productivity by stream lining many

government clerical functions and in turn save the Township valuable time and money.

Mayor Teague, Commissioner Foley and I are proud of our municipal programs and services and will continue to work to provide the highest quality of responsive services to our residents and visitors. The new website will be continuously updated and new information will be added as we continue our efforts to provide outstanding customer service. We hope that you will have an opportunity to visit the newly designed Township website next month at [www.HaddonTwp.com](http://www.HaddonTwp.com) and find out more about what Haddon Township has to offer. If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact me at **PDougherty@HaddonTwp.com** or **856-854-1176 ext. 4112**.

financial support was lost for each person who did not return his census, resulting in as much as 40 million dollars in lost funding opportunities for our Township. This under-reporting resulted in lost opportunities for Title 1 funding, Head Start programs, federal road construction projects, senior citizen programs and public health initiatives. With the tremendous growth and changes in our community over the past decade and our ambitious plans for the future of this town, it is imperative that we receive appropriate representation and adequate government funding through an accurate census. When you do the math, it's easy to see what an accurate count of residents can do for our community. Better infrastructure...more services...a brighter tomorrow for everyone.

With one of the shortest questionnaires in history, the 2010 Census asks for name, gender, age, race, ethnicity, relationship, and whether you own or rent your home. It takes only about 10



minutes for the average household to complete. You are required by law to respond to the 2010 Census questionnaire. All responses are used for statistical purposes only and kept strictly confidential. The Census Bureau is prohibited by law from sharing personal information with anyone, including any government or law enforcement agencies.

**Reasons for residents to participate are:**

- The federal government uses census numbers to allocate more than \$300 billion in federal funds annually for community programs and services, such as education, housing and community development, health care services for the elderly, job training and more.
- State and local governments use census information for planning and allocating funds for new school construction, libraries and other public buildings, highway safety and public transportation systems, new roads and bridges, location of police and fire departments, and many other projects. An accurate count is needed for Haddon Township to get sufficient federal and state funds for township and school district services.
- Community organizations use census information to develop social service programs, community action projects, senior lunch programs and child-care centers.



**IT'S IN OUR HANDS**

- The numbers help businesses identify where to locate factories, shopping centers, movie theaters, banks and offices—activities that often lead to new jobs.
- The census totals are used to determine how many seats each state will have in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Residents who need help completing the census form can also visit the Census

Questionnaire Assistance Center at Rohrer Library to receive help. For more information, call **212-356-3100**.

So, please complete your census form and return it as soon as you can. Don't forget - **CENSUS 2010 – WE CAN'T MOVE FORWARD UNTIL YOU MAIL IT BACK.**

**Haddon Township Turkey Trot**—Once again the Haddon Township Board of Commissioners hosted the annual Haddon Township Turkey Trot on the Saturday after Thanksgiving. This year's event was our most successful race yet. There were 466 entrants and over \$6,000.00 was donated to the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation. Special thanks go to our many volunteers who helped register runners and walkers, managed traffic flow and helped with the one mile fun run. We would especially like to acknowledge the support we received from the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation for all its help with spreading the word about the race.



*Michael Block accepts check on behalf of the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation*

If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact me at **JFoley@HaddonTwp.com**. or at **856-854-1176 ext. 4156**.

**It's Easy Being Green!** *(continued from page 1)*

This event is promising to be bigger and greener than the 2009 Event! Residents will be able to recycle with GOODWILL, HABITAT FOR HUMANITY's ReSTORE, Almost Home Animal Shelter, MCC on-site document shredding and electronic equipment collection. Learn how to compost with Commissioner John Foley and purchase a composting receptacle to remove organic material from the waste stream. The Township has also aligned with the Regional Urban Partnership on Sustainability and the Center for Transformation (CFT) to bring awareness to issues of environmental equity. Purchase heirloom seedlings and rain barrels to benefit CFT's urban Junior Gardener program. Bring the kids and have a blast making art from trash with Studio LuLu. More details to be announced at a later date. For information, contact Barbara Prince at **bprince@HaddonTwp.com** or **856-854-1825**.

## Participate in your Local Government

In addition to the elected Board of Commissioners, Haddon Township has several other boards and commissions that citizens are encouraged to join. These additional boards/commissions include the Planning/Zoning Board, the Rent Control Board, the Housing Authority Board, the Environmental Commission, the Shade Tree Commission, the Community Dispute Resolution Committee, the Business Improvement District Advisory Board, and the Civic Celebration Committee.

On October 19, 2009, the State of New Jersey introduced the "Citizen Service Act" which required municipalities to standardize the application process for its various boards and commissions. To meet these new requirements, Haddon Township has created a new Citizen Leadership Form which citizens can download from our website or pick up from the Tax Office at the Municipal Building. To apply to one of these boards/commissions, applicants must submit this form, a letter of interest, and a resume to the Mayor. More information on the specific boards/commissions can be found on our website.

If you have any questions please contact Denise P. Adams at **856-854-1176 ext. 4155** or **dadams@HaddonTwp.com**.

## Rabies Vaccination Clinic



On Saturday, March 27th, from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm, the Township of Haddon will conduct a free public rabies vaccination clinic for healthy dogs and cats at the Haddon Township Public Works Garage, 504 Oneida Avenue. Dog and cat licenses that are required by Haddon Township can be purchased at the clinic with cash or check made payable to the Township of Haddon. The license fees for neutered animals are \$12 for a dog and \$11 for a cat. Non-neutered animal license fees are \$15 for a dog and \$14 for a cat. For further information please contact Margaret King at **856-854-1176, ext. 4151** or email her at **mking@HaddonTwp.com**.

## Students Gain Valuable Experience

This summer, high school and college students can again gain experience in several key communication fields through volunteer opportunities in the Community Activities Office. Students can strengthen their resume, while they learn about

# Business Improvement District



**That Simple. That Good.**

**treno**, a new stop on Haddon Avenue is serving-up wood-fired pizza, house-made pasta and an affordable selection of vino. Powered by P.J.W. Restaurant Group, the owners of P.J. Whelihan's Pub, The ChopHouse, The Pour House and Platz's Restaurant, **treno** continues the tradition of serving quality food with a back-to-basics attitude.

**treno's** menu features small and large plates designed for sharing, along with a dozen specialty pizzas starting at \$8. "We wanted to open a restaurant where guests can enjoy simple, familiar food and cocktails in a fun and casual atmosphere, any night of the week", says owner Bob Platzer. There is a pizza for everyone, ranging from the simple, fresh and rustic margherita to the house-made sausage topped with greens, garlic and ricotta.

**treno** also holds surprises for people searching for a unique dining experience. Executive Chef Todd Fuller, who earned his stripes with Stephen Starr and Marc Vetri, prepares house made fennel salami, sopressata and coppa. On display as you enter the restaurant, the homemade salamis tease guests' palates and hint at the hidden gems on **treno's** menu.

Inside **treno**, busy pizzaiolas stationed near the white tiled hearth combined with hand painted wall art create a casual, relaxed atmosphere. Guests looking to socialize can meet next to the fireplace on the enclosed patio, or host private parties for up to 200 guests.

**treno's** impressive drink menu ranges from the familiar to the adventurous, without being overwhelming. Specialty cocktails, plus over two dozen wines starting at \$5 a glass, reinforce treno's commitment to quality and affordably.

**treno** is located at 233 Haddon Avenue in the heart of the Westmont Business District. Open for dinner Monday through Thursday from 5:30 to 11 pm; Friday and Saturday from 5:30 pm until 12 midnight; and Sunday from 5:30 to 10 pm. For private parties and more information, please call **856-833-9233** or visit **trenopizzabar.com**

the fields of public relations, journalism, digital media and special events planning. Video filming and production volunteers are needed for public service announcements and event coverage for Haddon Township's Channel 19 and Channel 46. Additionally, volunteer opportunities are available in Early Childhood, Recreation or Physical Education through our Summer Recreation program.

Students who are interested in contributing to their community and learning more about their desired profession are encouraged to contact Pat Thieringer, Community Activities Coordinator to learn more at **856-854-0926** or [pthieringer@haddon.k12.nj.us](mailto:pthieringer@haddon.k12.nj.us).

### Swimming Pool Requirements

With the summer months approaching quickly, it is time for outdoor activities, including swimming. An average of 280 children under the age of 5 drown each year in swimming pools, and there is an increasing number of deaths in inexpensive, inflatable pools. Parents need to be aware that any pool poses a risk to young children. The sides of inflatable pools are flexible and sometimes slanted or low, so it may be easier for a child to climb inside.



All residents should be aware of safety policies for swimming pools. As of January 17, 2006 section 3109.2 of the International Building

code and section AG102.1 of the International Residential Code 2000 define a swimming pool as "any structure intended for swimming or recreational bathing that can hold water 24 inches or more in depth. This includes in-ground, above ground, and on ground inflatable swimming pools, hot tubs and spas." This includes any pool that is "CAPABLE" of being more than 24" in depth including the commonly used blow-up pool.

We regret to inform you that this means your blow-up pool requires a building permit and a proper 5' pool barrier. Additionally, the filter system must be wired in accordance with 2008 NEC. If it is not, an electrical permit may also be required to install the proper outlet.

If you have any questions, please contact Ed Toussaint or Bonnie Richards in the Construction Office at **856-854-1176 Ext. 4122**, or at [brichards@HaddonTwp.com](mailto:brichards@HaddonTwp.com)

## BREW YOUR OWN BOTTLE

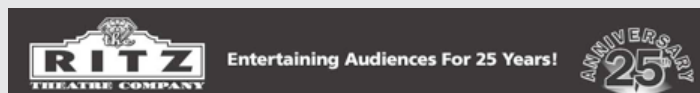
New Business Coming Soon to Haddon Township!



Brew Your Own Bottle, set to open this spring will be Haddon Township's local one stop brew shop, conveniently located at 162 Haddon Avenue in the Westmont Business District. BYOB will offer a huge selection

of high quality beer and wine making supplies and a knowledgeable staff to help customers brew their own great wine or beer. Classes will be offered to first time brewers on the ins and outs of the art of beer and wine making and learn to create their very own bottle. The kitchen will also be available to any customer who would rather make a mess in BYOB's kitchen and not theirs. BYOB will also store the beer and wine in on-site vats until it is ready to be bottled. Their hands-on staff will help customers finish the process by creating a label and fastening it to the bottle. Look for Brew Your Own Bottle's grand opening this spring once renovations have been completed at 162 Haddon Ave.

For more information, contact Brett Mullin at [brettmullin@comcast.net](mailto:brettmullin@comcast.net)



For twenty-five years the Ritz Theatre Company has delighted in providing Delaware Valley audiences with entertainment and access to the arts. They are pleased to present their 25th Anniversary Season filled with musicals, comedies and drama, all set in a 1927 Vaudeville House full of charm and memories of times gone by.

The Ritz Theatre's 2010, 25th Anniversary Season opened in January with the sensational dance inspired musical *A Chorus Line*. Next, the Brewster sisters serve up their special elderberry wine in the hilarious comedy *Arsenic and Old Lace*, starring Ginna Higgins and Susan Dewey, followed by the door slamming comedy *Noises Off*, starring Ellen Sheinkin. In June they get things going into high gear as they bring a special presentation of *The Exonerated in our Black Box* Theatre space and the 25th Anniversary Reunion Concert, featuring many favorite performers from the first 25 years! Then it is old fashioned musical fun with *The Producers*. The fall season gets underway with the powerful *Twelve Angry Men*, and they close with the hilarious, Monty Python's *Spamalot!*

Tickets are \$17-\$30. Group rates available. Student rush seats \$10, 10 minutes before curtain with student ID. Assistive listening devices available, handicapped accessible. All seats reserved. Advanced reservations: Ritz 24 hour ticket hotline **856-858-5230**. Buy tickets on line at: [www.ritztheatreco.org](http://www.ritztheatreco.org)

## Crystal Lake Pool



**Pre-Season Hours:** Beginning on Memorial Day weekend, Saturday, May 29, 2010—June 18, 2010

**Weekdays:** Closed

**Weekends:** Noon to 6:00 pm

**Summer Season Hours:** Saturday, June 19th – Monday, September 6th (Labor Day)

**Weekdays:** Noon to 8 pm

**Weekends:** 10 am to 8 pm

**Learn to Swim Program:** Monday, June 21st through Thursday, July 1st at 10:00 am to 11:00 am

Rates for the season are to be determined. Further information on pool registration will be available after April 15, 2010 through the township website at [www.HaddonTwp.com](http://www.HaddonTwp.com) or call 854-1176, ext. 4120.

## Storm water Management



In accordance with the Township's Tier A Municipal Storm water General Permit, the Governing Body has adopted various Ordinances to regulate the impact of storm water and pollutants on the environment. As part of our required Local Public Education Program, we are highlighting the requirements

and environmental benefits of these Ordinances. The following describes the Ordinances in the Municipal Code:

**Pet Waste:** This Ordinance requires all pet owners to pick up and properly dispose of pet waste dropped on public or private property. This requirement prevents fecal contamination from impacting our local waterways.

**Litter:** This Ordinance states that it is unlawful to throw, drop, discard, or otherwise place litter of any nature on any public or private property, other than a litter receptacle. This requirement has been adopted to prevent all types of litter from cluttering public streets and private property and prevents litter from impacting our waterways.

**Improper Disposal of Waste:** This Ordinance states that it is illegal to dispose of waste in any place other than a proper solid waste storage container. The purpose of this Ordinance is to prevent unsanitary conditions and groundwater pollution.

**Wildlife Feeding:** Feeding of water fowl on municipal park land or property is prohibited by Ordinance. The purpose of

this Ordinance is reduce water fowl population in response to health concerns regarding bacteria from fecal matter which is harmful to humans and fish populations.

**Yard Waste:** This Ordinance has been created to establish a system for the placement and collection of leaves, brush, and other yard wastes. The purpose of the Ordinance is to keep leaves, grass and other yard waste out of the storm water inlets and piping, and ultimately out of our waterways.

**Illicit Connections:** It is unlawful to connect any pipe or discharge to the municipal storm sewer system that is intended to discard, spill, or dump any substance other than storm water or groundwater (via sump discharge) into the system. The purpose of this Ordinance is to prevent contamination of our streams and waterways which receive discharge from our storm sewers.

The transport of pollutants into local streams and water bodies can result in the destruction of fish, wildlife, and habitats; threats to public health and the loss of recreational and aesthetic value.

The Governing Body has enacted the above listed Ordinances to protect our environment, and to keep pollutants that are commonly conveyed by storm water from adversely impacting our waterways and groundwater supplies. These ordinances can be found in the Chapter 202 of the Municipal Code of the Township of Haddon or on the official Township web site. All information regarding the New Jersey's Storm water program and requirements can be found at [www.cleanwaternj.org](http://www.cleanwaternj.org).

## Camden County Special Waste Collection Days

This spring, Camden County is sponsoring four Household Special Waste Collection Days. For additional information, call the Camden County Division of Environmental Affairs at 856-858-5241.

All events are held from 8:30 am—3:00 pm for all events

### The following items will be accepted at no charge:

Automotive chemicals, paint-related products, household cleaners, pesticides, personal care chemicals, fuels, home and hobby chemicals, mercury thermometers and thermostats. Do not bring motor oil, tires, landscape timbers, air conditioners, electronics, space heaters, other scrap metal, empty containers, medications. This is only a partial listing—call 856-858-5241 for more details.

**March 27:** Cherry Hill Public Works Complex

**April 24:** Collingswood Public Works Complex

**May 15:** Atco Parking Area

**June 12:** Camden County College

## Neighborhood Cleanups

Once again, the Haddon Township Environmental Commission is sponsoring monthly neighborhood litter cleanups around town on the second Saturday of each month. It's an opportunity to help keep our town beautiful, and spend a few hours outdoors in the fresh air while you get some aerobic exercise. It's also a chance to explore natural areas in town that you might not have even heard of or seen before. Please come out and join us from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., rain or shine. Below are the locations each month:

**March 13:** McDonald's Rear of Football Field

**April 24:** Earth Day Clean up at Edison Woods

**May 8:** Crystal Lake Woods

**June 12:** Bettlewoods

For details (where to meet or any other questions) send an e-mail to [EnviroComm@HaddonTwp.com](mailto:EnviroComm@HaddonTwp.com) or call **856-854-1176, ext. 4303.**

## Shade Tree Commission

In one of Dr. Seuss's books, a mossy little creature called the Lorax watches out for the trees. In Haddon Township, the Shade Tree Commission has the same role and is responsible for approving tree work along streets as well as implementing new plantings.

Anyone wanting to cut, plant or prune a tree needs to pick up an application from the Township Hall. If you're planting your own tree, please also pick up a list of approved and banned street trees. Final approval of permits for removing street trees requires an inspection by the Shade Tree Commission first.

If you prefer the township to do the tree work, please call or email the Shade Tree Commission. For pruning and removals, the STC will review and rate the tree. The Department of Public Works will then put the tree on the work order list in order of hazard rating and intake. Almost all of the high-hazard trees have been removed from the streets, and now DPW is focusing on the additional removals and pruning. Please do not paint X's on street trees. That is the responsibility of the STC in concert with the Department of Public Works.



One of the more rewarding tasks of the Shade Tree Commission is planting trees. Many existing trees are dying in town because of the old age and disease, and re-establishing our "suburban forest" is important because of the air quality improvement and natural air conditioning provided by the trees. Studies have also shown that house values increase when trees are in front of the houses. If you would like the Shade Tree Commission to plant a tree along the street in front of your house (in the Township right-of-way), call the STC, and your house address will be added to the waiting list.

### Recent STC Accomplishments:

- Planted 92 street trees in 2009 and assisted the Business Improvement District with 32.
- Planted 30 small trees along a tributary of Newton Creek to restore riparian habitat.
- Developed a sidewalk repair strategy
- Distributed white pine seedlings at the block party for residents to plant in their yards.
- Enabled each Shade Tree Commissioner to obtain C.O.R.E. training from the New Jersey Shade Tree Federation.
- Inspected existing trees and rated them for pruning or removal.
- Implemented a list of approved and banned street trees.

The approved tree list has over 70 species and includes native trees such as Swamp White Oak, Seedless Honey Locust, disease resistant American Elm, Canada Red Cherry, and Cumulus Shadblow. Non-native species include tough street trees such as Green Vase Zelkova, seedless Gingko, and Queen Elizabeth Maple. Banned street trees include Silver Maple (weak wooded and clogs sewer pipes), and non-native invasive species such as Bradford and Aristocrat Pears that spread in wild areas (seeds of various trees can travel via air, bird and runoff).

The STC is looking forward to planting 100 street trees in 2010. "It's good to be green."

## School Board Elections

Similar to last year's scenario, the School Board/ School Budget election date is being heavily contested by the New Jersey Legislature. At the time of this printing, the Legislature is in the process of deciding whether school board elections will be required for districts submitting budgets at or within the state-mandated cap of four percent. There is also discussion whether these elections should occur during their usual third Tuesday of April or during the November general election. Unless the Legislature decides otherwise in the upcoming weeks, our spring elections will occur in April as usual.

If and when voters go to the polls on Tuesday, April 20, 2010, they will be voting to fill three positions on the Haddon

Township School Board. Unfortunately at the time of this printing, the nomination process was not complete and the full list of candidates was not available. When the nomination process is complete in early March, the list of candidates will be posted online at [www.haddon.k12.nj.us](http://www.haddon.k12.nj.us) and advertised in both *What's On* and *The Retrospect* newspapers.

If more than three candidates are running for office, the Zone PTA will host a Candidates' Night. Information regarding this event will be distributed through the schools, posted on the schools website and published in the local papers. If you miss the Candidates' presentations that evening, tune into Comcast Channel 19 or Verizon Channel 46 in the following weeks to view their dialogue.

Please vote in the School Board and School budget elections on April 20, 2010. Polls will be open from 2:00 pm to 9:00 pm at the following places: Edison School, Stoy School, Fathers' Association, Strawbridge School, Van Sciver School, West Collingswood Extension Civic Club and Calvary Baptist Church. Additional information may be obtained from: Dr. Mark J. Raivetz, Superintendent of Schools at **856-869-7700** or you may email him at [MRaivetz@haddon.k12.nj.us](mailto:MRaivetz@haddon.k12.nj.us).

### Board of Education Presentations



The Haddon Township Board of Education encourages community members to attend their monthly Board of Education meetings. Meetings are generally held the third Thursday of each month in the Paul Gilligan Media Center in the high school at 7:30 pm. In addition to the official business of the School Board, the school district staff presents a topic of interest to the community each month. The topics for this quarter include:

**March 25:** Budget Proposal presented by Mark J. Raivetz, Ed.D., Superintendent; and Lisa Palmer, Ed.D, Board Secretary/School Business Administrator

**April 29:** Board Reorganization Meeting

Vertical Articulation, presented by Liz Mennig, Supervisor, Teaching and Learning

**May 20:** Reading Recovery, presented by the Reading Recovery teachers

**June 10:** Student Support/Guidance, presented by Elissa Ginsburg, Student Support Services Department Chair [Facilitator]

### State of District Technology: The New Electricity



During a planning session about technology in the district, Dr. Mark Raivetz, Dr. Lisa Palmer, Steve Chard, and Lara Hill were reflecting on the massive transformation the implementation of technology has had on education and society. Dr. Raivetz stated that technology has become as ubiquitous as electricity. At the Board of Education meeting on October 15, 2009 during the State of District Technology presentation, Steve Chard and Lara Hill took this a bit further calling it the "new electricity." Just as society went through massive changes when electricity was introduced into school and homes, so too our society has moved through massive changes with the introduction of technology such as personal computers, iPods, and the Internet.

To implement the "New Electricity" in our school district the Technology Department spent this past summer upgrading or installing the following:

- Network upgrade throughout the district
- Internet upgrades at the high school and the middle school
- New computer labs at Jennings and Stoy schools
- Over 85 new teacher stations
- Upgraded hardware

The major project this past year was the selection, installation and training on a new Student Information System: *OnCourse*. This system benefits the faculty, students and parents with:

- A Parent Portal that provides more information.
- A Lesson Planner that is digital, sharable, searchable and archival, with reporting that ties directly to the NJ Core Curriculum Content Standards.
- Student Statistics that allow us to import data from various standardized tests.
- These statistics are customizable, providing multiple types of comparisons and are sharable with administrators and teachers.
- Data Management that provides daily school reports along with state, and federally mandated reports that are easily generated utilizing our available students' grade and attendance data . This data can also be easily exported to other programs utilized by accrediting agencies and the State and Federal Education Department.



This program is efficient, user-friendly, and accessible in addition to providing one-stop shopping for our numerous

communications and reporting needs.

- Helps the district “go green” by reducing the need to print.
- Although we expect *OnCourse* to provide extensive opportunities to improve our educational process, we are still faced with some enormous challenges:
- *OnCourse* focuses on the need for parents to login to receive information instead of automatically being notified via email when changes occur.
- Since there are greater possibilities, resulting in additional users, more training and extra usage, there are added needs stretching an over-extended technology staff.
- Greater dependency on technology stretches limited resources resulting in greater needs for more equipment, more time, and more staffing at a time of dwindling budgets.

The district has received a significant amount of money from the Federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 with specific requirements for how the funds are to be used. The district is planning on using these stimulus funds to nurture student learning through:

- *SmartBoards* in all special education and resource classrooms; remaining classrooms for grades 3 through 5; all middle school classrooms, and a number of classrooms in



the high school.

- *SmartResponse* sets – allows for immediate responses from students
- New mobile computer lab for the middle school / high school complex
- Laptops for special education teachers
- Upgrade teacher stations for special education
- Student records archival
- Update Graphic Design / CAD computer labs
- Additional Computer tables
- Additional *OnCourse* training

- Instructional Software including Lexia reading support software, Study Island software, Development File tracking in *OnCourse*, Software to supplement NJCCCS

Finally, our public face for the district will be revitalized this spring with an entire redesign of our website resulting in improvements in appearance and navigation.

None of this would be possible without the community, and we are extremely grateful for that support. The massive growth with technology - our “new electricity” - that the district will experience throughout this school year will continue to support student learning and the management of information to inform instruction. Thank you again for helping us to install more switches to light the way for our children!

If you have any questions regarding technology in our school district, please contact Lara Hill, Supervisor of Technology & Information Services at [lhill@haddon.k12.nj.us](mailto:lhill@haddon.k12.nj.us)

## Advocacy - it's Elementary

During the spring of 2009 there was a rash of vandalism at our district's schools. Parents, staff and students were upset about the damage to the schools and their property. Three students at Edison school decided they should do something



*Kyle Hockenberry, Mrs. Smith, Bree Lynch, Chase Vermandel and Ray Sangillo display their anti-graffiti sign.*

to make a difference. The group decided to make signs that would discourage graffiti, to be placed on both sides of the school building.

I encourage all students and neighbors to help take a stand and report any mysterious sightings around all township

# CIVICS AND SCIENCE LESSONS



schools and their grounds. As a community, we can make a difference.

Eileen Smith, Principal, Edison and Strawbridge Schools

**1** The Fourth Grade classes at Strawbridge and Van Sciver Schools designed and created life-size sculptures of kids playing and interacting with garden features on the school grounds. Visit the school gardens to check out artworks by our hardworking students.

Left to right: Joey Cosenza, Jackson Ravelli, Sam Keppel, Zachary Sorensen, Christian Dye

**2** Over thirty students including Katie Cona and Jack Velte participated in Edison School's 1st Annual Science Fair on October 26, 2009.

**3** Edison Students earned over \$2300 during their annual Jump Rope for Heart for the American Heart Association.

**4** Pre-K students at Jennings School place rocks in the river as part of

the dedication of a Peace Pole in the school's Learning Garden.

**5** As part of Haddon Township's continued effort to engage the community in issues of sustainability, Recycling Coordinator Barbara Prince paid a visit to VanSciver School to commemorate America Recycles Day. Mrs. Prince spoke to Mrs. Ries' third grade class about recycling and read *Michael Recycles* and *Are You Ready For Me?* The children also received a special visit from the Almost Home Animal Shelter as a thank you for participating in the Township's candy wrapper recycling program.

Adults, left to right: Nancy Welsh, Barbara Prince, Steve Spence. Children, left to right: Alec Donohue, Michael Sipasert, Tanner Vituscka, Lukas Rogers, Brock Neel, and Vincent Fitzpatrick.

**6** The students of Rohrer Middle Schools demonstrate their "Go Green" projects at the school's Curriculum Fair.

**7** Rohrer Middle School students, stand at the Random Acts of Kindness Wall which displays a star for each student who has

*demonstrated selfless acts on behalf of others. Children are learning that when kindness is expressed, healthy relationships are created, community connections are nourished, and people are inspired to pass kindness on.*

## **School District Digital Communications**

This year Haddon Township School District has upgraded our Student Information System by introducing a new program called *OnCourse*. The parent side of this program is called *My Grade Portal* ([www.mygradeportal.com](http://www.mygradeportal.com)). One handy feature of *OnCourse* is that once logged on, parents can view all of their children, regardless of school. This program is a web-based program and gives parents and students access to grades, attendance, and homework. In addition, each teacher can add additional information such as documents used in classes, information about special projects and any other information that might be helpful to parents and students.

In addition to the *OnCourse* program, each school and the district still maintain the Edline website. These websites contain useful information about the operations of the school district. It is a great place to find calendar information, flyers and forms that are needed for each school and links to important sites such as *My Grade Portal*. This year, there is no login required and there is still plenty of valuable information available there. The main site for the district is [www.edline.net/pages/HaddonTownshipSD](http://www.edline.net/pages/HaddonTownshipSD).

The final component in the online communication effort is e-mail. If you ever need to get in touch with a teacher or administrator in the district, there is a very simple formula for e-mail addresses. The formula is the teacher's first initial followed by the teacher's last name followed by [haddon.k12.nj.us](mailto:haddon.k12.nj.us). All teachers check e-mail on a regular basis; it is often the most efficient means of communicating with teachers.

Rohrer Middle School is utilizing two other means of communicating with parents and students. One is the online electronic newsletter entitled *RMS Weekly*. This publication is available at the RMS Edline website [www.edline.net/pages/rohrer](http://www.edline.net/pages/rohrer). This is a new feature that is prepared each Monday. It contains information about the school and a full schedule of two weeks worth of events at the school. It also has a weekly feature for parents and students that offer tips and suggestions for a successful middle school experience.

The other means of communication that Rohrer Middle School provides is the daily telephone hotline. Each day the office staff prepares a recorded message that is available by dialing **856-869-7750 extension 8400**. This recorded message contains all of the daily announcements that are made in school that day. This may be especially helpful to a parent trying to keep up with her child's daily activity when she is not near a computer.

The final component to the Haddon Township's effort to

communicate in the 21st century environment is a system called *Global Connect*. This is the electronic version of a "phone chain". When implemented by a district administrator, important news about school events, such as school closings or delayed openings, can be conveyed to all members of the Haddon Township School District community using information that parents have supplied to the school. You may have already heard Dr. Raivetz's voice in a recorded message or seen an e-mail with the sender *Global Connect*. That is our automated communication system at work.

Technology affords us many ways to communicate and keep up with how our children are doing. It is our hope that by sharing some of these strategies, you will find yourself better informed about what is happening throughout our school district. If you would like even more information about any of these communication tools, please call any of the schools

offices. We would be happy to help you!



## **More Recognition for HTHS**

In case you missed it, *Philadelphia Magazine* recently recognized Haddon Township High School as one of the best schools in the area. Specifically, the editors

looked at secondary schools in our eight-county Delaware Valley area. Their researchers first considered SAT scores. Data was also examined in the following areas: enrollment; percentage of students going to a two- or four-year college; percentage of 11th grade students ranked proficient or above in state assessment tests; number of subjects in which students took AP exams; number of varsity sports; number of clubs and activities; student-faculty ratio; overall expenditure per student; percentage of expenditures dedicated to instruction; teacher education level; and percentage of students eligible for free lunch.

Each school received a standardized value for each category; then, predetermined weights were applied to each category to compute an overall standardized Z-score. When all of the numbers were crunched, HTHS was assigned a #17 ranking. While it is certainly nice to be ranked in the upper echelon of any "Best of" top 50, I can't help but feel a bit uncomfortable when schools receive rankings based on numbers alone. Before this article came out, I was invited, along with the other area administrators, to brag about just a few things that capture the true spirit of our schools. While the decision to respond was easy enough, it was quite difficult to limit my examples. In the end, I chose to highlight: The Annual

*Continued on page 12*

Continued from page 11

Visual and Performing Arts Extravaganza, the HTHS Blood Donation Program, and the bi-annual Empty Bowls Dinner as unique and defining of our school. I could have just as easily boasted of the many successes of our athletic programs; the incredible involvement of so many in student council and other activities/clubs; our unprecedented run of consecutive Colonial Conference Sportsmanship awards; or the fact that we are one of the few true comprehensive high schools in the area, despite our limited size.

Furthermore, the true spirit and beauty of this school is that so many others, including former and current students, teachers and parents could quickly and easily add to this list. If you have been connected to our school in any way over the years, I'd ask that you take a moment or two to reflect upon some of the events, activities and experiences that have made you proud to be a part of Hawk Nation, and then share some of them with those who are joining us for the first time. If you are new to us, I ask that you seek out the veterans, including me, and demand that we enlighten you. After doing so, I'm certain you'll understand that while I can graciously accept the positive recognition of a #17 ranking, I can also confidently and stubbornly claim to be unable to identify one, let alone sixteen other schools in which I'd rather work.



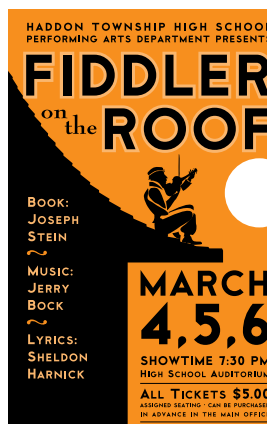
Gary O'Brien, Principal, HTHS

Ten Haddon Township Seniors have been named to the New Jersey Edward J. Bloustein Distinguished Scholars program.



Front: Ciaran Rhodes, Emily Moore, Megan Fry, Megan Miller, Kathryn Mulholland, Terri Aristarco Back: Ryan Mullgrave, Shane Conto, Ryan Chesterton, Jacob Walter (not shown)

Principal Gary O'Brien recognizes Emily Moore as a Commended Student in the 2009 National Merit Scholarship Program.



## Performing Arts Blossom

Carrying on the "Tradition" of *Fiddler on the Roof*, and truly bringing it "To Life," Haddon Township High School's renowned Performing Arts Department promises to put on an excellent performance of this engaging musical. Show times are Thursday, March 4th through Saturday, March 6th at 7:30 pm in the Haddon Township High School Auditorium. A special senior citizen performance (free for senior citizens) will be held on Wednesday, March 3rd at 1:30 pm. Tickets are \$5 each and can be purchased at the door.

This spring, residents are invited to a full season of performances, including:

- Broadway Night—March 31st in the Rohrer Middle School Multipurpose Room
- Night of Jazz—April 22nd at 7:30 pm in the HTHS Auditorium
- Rohrer Middle School Musical—Seussical, Jr. on May 6th & 7th in the HTHS Auditorium
- High School One Act Plays—May 19th & 20th in the HTHS Auditorium
- Elementary Spring Concert—June 1st in the HTHS Auditorium
- Rohrer Middle School Spring Concert—June 2nd in the HTHS Auditorium
- High School Spring Concert and Senior Banquet—June 7th in the HTHS Auditorium
- Spring Extravaganza—Our entire Arts Department joins together to provide an evening filled with beautiful music and art created by the Haddon Township students of all ages! This showcase will be held on Wednesday, June 9th from 6:00 pm until 9:00 pm. Performances at numerous stages throughout the night will include dance, poetry, selected pieces from the musicals, jazz band, orchestras, and chorus groups. Food vendors will be available in the picnic area.

Questions regarding any of the performances may be directed to Arlene Cella at **856-869-7750, ext. 7303**.

## Project Graduation

Haddon Township's Project Graduation, an all night drug and alcohol-free party for graduates, will be held on graduation night, June 18, 2010. This year, the event will be held at Burlington County College Athletic Center in Pemberton, from 10:00 pm until 3:00 am. This endeavor is made possible by the support of our PTA, Municipal Drug Alliance, busi-

nesses and parents. If you would like to donate a door prize,



please contact Cathy Aaron at 856-854-9106.

### **A Round of Champions at HTHS**

Haddon Township High Schools Fall Sports teams all finished with records of .500 or better. Five of these teams won their division in the Colonial Conference and many of our players were recognized as all-stars. In continuing their tradition of fair play, they were awarded with their fourth Consecutive Sportsmanship Award from the Colonial Conference.



**Boys Cross Country** won the Patriot Division and went 8-1. Jacob Walter, Grant Grothusen, Joe Eagan, Tim Kenna, and Jim Nolan were 1st team all-stars. Alex Daily and Shane Reilly were 2nd team all-stars. The boys won on the NJSIAA SJ Group I Championship on November 7th.

The small but mighty **Girls Cross Country** team finished with a 4-4 record, winning the Patriot Division Championship. Shannon Donohue and Kathryn Mulholland were named on the Colonial Conference 1st team with Hannah Merschen awarded a position on the 2nd All-Conference Team.



**Girls Tennis** captured the Patriot Division crown again this year, finishing 19-3 and were ranked #17 in the Courier Post Top 20. Their loss in the sectional championship to

Haddonfield, was tempered by the fact that Haddonfield went on to finish as the #1 team in the state. Individual honors went to:

Jackie LaBrosse—1st singles, 1st team Patriot Division and All-Group 2

Devon Sanford—2nd singles, 2nd team Patriot Division

Lexi Turcich—3rd singles, 2nd team Patriot Division

Scout Bauer and Annie Petela—1st Doubles, 1st Team Patriot and All-Group 2



Jess Donaldson and Lexi Lindsay—2nd Doubles, 1st Team Patriot Division.

With a record of 12-6-1, the **Girls Field Hockey** team competed in the NJSIAA

tournament as Patriot Division Champs and were knocked out in the second round. Leading scorers included Brelyn Howard (junior) and Kim Flacco (frosh). Individual awards included 1st Team All-conference Awards for Brelyn Howard, Taylor Kennedy and Lauren Karen. Kim Flacco and Deanna Harris were selected for the 2nd Team All-Conference Award.

**High School Football.** No one told this young team that this was expected to be a rebuilding year, so they went on to have the most



winning season in recent memory with a record of 5-5. Seniors Matt Donaldson, Ryan Chesterton, Mike McGee, Ryan Easterday, Ryan Mallgrave and Jamie Koble modeled the spirit of trust in their teammates that made this season

so memorable for all.

The **Boys Soccer** team won the Patriot Division of the Colonial Conference for the third straight year. Their consistent success ranked them in the Courier Post Top Twenty teams throughout the season. The Hawks success came from great leadership from the 3 senior captains, Joe Bernhardt, Chris Murphy and Jay Casey. Jay Casey broke a school record by scoring 23 goals for the regular season, placing him third among all leading scorers in South Jersey. Jay holds a new school record with a total of 46 goals for his career.

**Lady Hawks Soccer** team won the Colonial Conference Patriot Division Title with a 19-3-1 record and was the #1 seed in the SJ Group II tournament. Katie Getzinger broke school's single season shutout record held by Melissa Williams with 16 shutouts on the season. Lauren McCutcheon was named *Courier Post* and *Inquirer* player of the week. Both Jessica Dochney and Patrice Maro were among the top scorers in SJ with 15 and 14 goals respectively. The girls lost to Haddonfield while playing during a Nor'Easter for the Group II State Championship.

**Soccer Mentor Day**— The Haddon Township High School Girls and Boys varsity soccer teams had their 5th Annual Soccer Mentor Day on October 14, 2009. There were over 90 boys and girls from grades 2-6 who participated in skills and drills with



the high school teams. This successful program brings the town's youth soccer players together with the high school players.



### **Cool Summer School & Camps**

Summer programs can help your child develop character, learn valuable life skills, make new friends and discover new interests. Fortunately, through the combined efforts of the Haddon Township School District, the Township of Haddon and local

coaches, there is a plethora of choices for the children of Haddon Township:

**Summer Academy and Summer School** - Students will return to the air-conditioned Rohrer Middle School. Classes are generally held for 1.5 hours, Monday through Thursday mornings from June 28th to July 29th. Further information regarding this program will be available on the school's website at [www.edline.net/pages/HaddonTownshipSD/Schools/community](http://www.edline.net/pages/HaddonTownshipSD/Schools/community) by early April.

**The Summer Recreation Program** will be held at Edison Elementary School, from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm, Monday through Friday. Extended childcare hours are also available. Summer Recreation is similar to a day camp program that offers opportunities for sports, crafts, games, drama and free play. Popular elementary school physical education teacher, Bill Hoover will be coordinating this program again this year. This program will begin on Wednesday, June 23rd and operate through Friday, July 30th.

**Courtesy Bus Transportation** is tentative at this time.

**Sports Camps**, independently run by local coaches, are held on school district grounds. Registration forms for these camps will also be sent home through your child. Times, length and costs for these programs vary. Since each camp is an independent entity, questions regarding each of these programs should be directed to the individual camp director.

Full details of all of the summer programs will be distributed through the schools by April 15, 2010. Registration forms can be picked up at the schools, the Rohrer Library, the Municipal Building, and the Community Activities office after that date. Information will also be posted on the school website [www.edline.net/pages/HaddonTownshipSD/Schools/community](http://www.edline.net/pages/HaddonTownshipSD/Schools/community).

Questions regarding summer programs may be directed to the Community Activities Office at **856-854-0926**.

### **Haddon Township Athletic Association**

Haddon Township Athletic Association's Spring Sports programs include baseball, softball and flag football. Please visit our website at [www.htaasports.org](http://www.htaasports.org) for registration information. Contact the sports directors for your sport for availability and

other information as needed:



**Baseball** Jim Mulroy  
**856-428-1314 Softball**  
Bill Getzinger **856-858-4323**  
**Flag Football** Eric Landgraff **856-429-2489**

### **Haddon Happenings**

**The Annual Pancake Breakfast** hosted by

Westmont Lions Club will be held on Sunday, March 21st, at the Haddon Township High School Cafeteria from 9 am to 1 pm. For more information, please contact Bob Morris at **856-858-8240**.

The Westmont Business District will celebrate the luck of the Irish by providing free transportation for a **St. Patty's Day Pub Crawl** on Wednesday, March 17, 2010. For more information visit [www.htbid.org](http://www.htbid.org) or contact Kate Burns at **856-854-1176, ext 4194**.

**Westmont Fire Company Ladies Auxiliary Hoagie Sales** will be held on Saturday, March 20, Saturday, April 17 and Saturday, May 15 beginning at 10 am. Help support your volunteers by purchasing a delicious American hoagie for \$4.00. For questions about this event please contact Ellen McCarty at **856-854-1444** or email us at [ladiesauxiliary@westmontfireco.org](mailto:ladiesauxiliary@westmontfireco.org).

**Haddon Township Athletic Hall of Fame Class of 2010** will be officially inducted on Sunday, March 21st at a banquet held at 2:00 pm at *Auletto's*. Visit their website at [hthsathletichalloffame.org](http://hthsathletichalloffame.org) for details or contact Mickey Tesoro at **856-869-7750, ext. 7033**.

**The Annual Westmont Lions Club Easter Egg Hunt** will be held on Saturday, March 27th at 9:30 am at Crystal Lake Park with a rain date on April 3rd. For more information, please contact Bob Morris at **856-858-8240**.

Saddler's Woods Conservation Association will host an **Earth Day volunteer event** on Saturday, April 17 from 9:30 am to 1 pm., rain or shine. If you are interested in signing up for the event, please email Donna at [donna@saddlerswoods.org](mailto:donna@saddlerswoods.org) or call **856-869-7372**.

**The 2nd Annual Senior Spring Gala**, sponsored by Mayor Randy Teague, Commissioner Paul Dougherty and Commissioner John Foley, will be held on Sunday, April 25th, from 5:00 pm—9:00 pm at the West Collingswood Fire House. For more information, please contact Mike Verdi at **856-858-6423**.

"Go Green" at the second annual **Township of Haddon GREEN EVENT** being held on April 24, 2010 in the Westmont Theater parking lot, between the hours of 10:00 am and 2:00 pm. Full details of the event are listed on pages 1 and 3.

**The 21st Annual Haddon Township Community Breakfast** will be held on Sunday, May 2, 2010, from 8:00 am until noon at the Haddon Township High School Cafeteria located at 406 Memorial Avenue. All Haddon Township residents and their extended families are welcome. Residents and guests, 60 years of age and over, attend the breakfast free of charge. Adults are \$3.00 per person and children, 12 years of age and under are \$1.50. No family cost will exceed \$9.00. Transportation will be provided for senior citizens and disabled residents to the breakfast by calling Betty Band, Senior Citizen Coordinator at **856-854-1176, ext. 4125**. The Community Breakfast is sponsored by Mayor Randy Teague, Commissioner Paul Dougherty, Commissioner John Foley and Camden County Community Development Block Grant Program. For further information, contact Betty Band at the number above.

Back by popular demand, the **Town Wide Yard Sale** will be held on Saturday, May 8th from 8:00 am—2:00 pm. Check the township website in April for more details.

**Steven's Walk to Drum Out SMA** will be held on Saturday, May 15th at Newtown Lake Park to raise money for awareness and a cure for Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA). For more information on SMA, Steven's Walk, registration or donations, please contact **Terri Potter at 856-869-9072** or **m.potter9@verizon.net**.

**Haddon Township Memorial Day Services** will be held on Monday, May 31, 2010 at 10:00 am at the Westmont Fire Company No. 1, located at 120 Haddon Avenue. Join the David Sherman VFW Post 713, the Allen Irvin Morgan American



Legion Post 230 township officials and invited guests as we honor those veterans who gave their lives to our nation. For questions about this event please contact

Joe Piscopio at **856-854-1444** or email us at **info@westmont-fireco.org**.

**Relay for Life of Haddon Township** takes place at the Haddon Township High School beginning on Saturday, June 5th until Sunday, June 6th. If you would like to join or form a team, please visit: **www.RelayForLife.org/HaddonNJ**, or call **1-800-ACS-2345**.

## **Message from Dr. Mark Raivetz**

*(Continued from back page)*

### **The 2010-11 Budget**

New Jersey's long-standing budget deficit has been established as somewhere between \$6 to \$8 billion. Very large numbers indeed; but somewhat abstract. The impact of that deficit on our school budget promises to be dramatic, and very real. The Board and administration are struggling to prepare a budget that – even

at “best case” – may result in a district without programs and services that have come to define us as a community. With the difficulty being that the degree of control we have over any spending plan for 2010-11 is limited on one side by the state's very real financial crisis; and on the other side by a legislated hard cap on local taxes and rules making it nearly impossible to ask the community to do more in the form of a second budget question.

Here are some numbers to consider. The district receives about \$425,000 monthly subsidy from the state. For the last three years, the state held back the June payment for all school districts until the first week in July; using this accounting measure as a way to help its own balance sheet. The net result for local districts is an annual state aid payment missed – now up to three yet to be received. As I write this, we have learned of the near certainty that for 2009-10 a second aid payment will be withheld, with directions that the district use what the state refers to as “excess school surplus” to make up the second state aid payment. The district shut down all non-essential spending in mid-December, and does not carry a large surplus as State law restricts such balances to no more than two percent. Those dollars in the budget exceeding the two percent surplus after the annual audit constitute the fund balance. And because these are dollars that are not spent during the previous school year, they are annually returned to the community in the form of Tax Relief the following school year. We do not hold unspent Haddon Township Tax dollars. We return them the next year to help offset taxes. Two years ago, for example, these dollars were returned to this community to the extent that instead of requesting the maximum 4% increase in local taxes, the increase was 1.8%. For next year, even with a local tax increase of 4%, (\$793,000) we will begin 2010-11 with a smaller budget because the excess fund balance will no longer be available to carry forward. The state already took it to help reduce its own deficit. A smaller budget translates into fewer programs and services for students.

Last year at this time, we were also struggling with how to maintain that Haddon Township Education for which we are so proud to be a part. The situation was grave then, even without the loss of the second state aid payment. We were on the edge of a cliff, only to be rescued by ARRA stimulus fund dollars. A one-time, non-recurring save of \$1,335,352 that essentially plugged what was a major hole in the budget. There is no expectation at this time that we will see any additional dollars for 2010-11. It could be as late as the third or even fourth week in March before we have a real sense of our state funding. We may find ourselves longing for the good old days when we could debate funding an additional assistant coach or school trip.

I tell new teachers that to choose public education as a life's work is to be an optimist. And so I remain. As such, to close on a positive note, I offer this: We are Haddon Township. We are resilient. Our community values its schools. Our children will arrive as they do every September, ready to learn – and a dedicated staff



where community thrives

135 Haddon Avenue  
Haddon Twp., NJ 08108

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## Thoughts on High School Recognition and the 2010–2011 Budget

### Message from Superintendent Dr. Mark Raivetz



High school recognition and the 2010-11 budget may appear at first glance to be topics unrelated. Yet maintaining a high quality public school district during these economic times in New Jersey promises to be a challenge unlike any that we have faced. Governor Christy is not to be envied. The result of cumulative short-term fixes by administrations and legislatures in Trenton going back to the late 1980s, in combination with an economy still looking to find its way, has brought us to a new place. For the first time ever, communities throughout New Jersey will be asked to pay higher taxes to support school districts that can only offer fewer programs and services to students. First, the good news.

As a public school district, we take great pride in the academic, athletic, artistic, musical and community service accomplishments of our students. It is especially nice when these accomplishments are recognized by those outside of Haddon Township. Sometimes it is a new family, relocating to the community after researching towns and school districts in the Philadelphia suburbs – telling us that their research led them to

Haddon Township. Other times the recognition comes from a veteran teacher; one who started her career in another district and made application to teach in our schools – giving up tenure for the chance to work in Haddon Township and teach our children. And every now and then, the recognition comes from an unexpected source. Last fall, *Philadelphia Magazine's* annual “Best of Philly” schools edition identified Haddon Township High School as number seventeen of the top fifty high schools in the Philadelphia, South Jersey, Delaware area. The selection was strictly an objective one, with the rankings generated from a number of quantifiable variables. This honor was followed in late December by the *Philadelphia Daily News* which selected the Haddon Township Public Schools as the “People Award Winner” for the best school district in the area. Too often, we tend to focus more on what we need to do better; on those things that are not quite as good as we believe they should be. So it's nice to be reminded that Haddon Township is a good place to live and send kids to school. Maintaining what we have come to know as a “Haddon Township Education” is about to get a whole lot more difficult. What follows is the not so good news.

*Continued on page 15*