

Buena Vista Township



buenavistatownship.org

*A Proud
American
Community
In The
Pinelands*

Employees

Celebrating Anniversaries with BVT

Mannetta Bylone - 15 years
Keith Dorris - 15 years
Edward Kalla - 5 years

COMMUNITY NEWS

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"From Our Family to Yours Seasons Greetings"



Patcong Valley Model Railroad Open for 3rd Season



Photo Credit: JD Griffin

RICHLAND VILLAGE - Locals and visitors alike will get to see this year's improvements to the Patcong Valley Model Railroad display. During the past year the thirty members of this group of craftsmen have been further developing their HO train layout. Their open house for the public will take place from 10 am to 4 pm on the following Saturdays and Sundays: December 20th and 21st 2008, plus January 3rd and 4th, and 10th and 11th 2009. The exhibit is free, though donations are accepted. Young and old will love this beautiful display. For more information you can visit www.patcongvalley.com. They are located at Fir Avenue and Route 40 (Harding Highway) in Richland Village.

Santa Arrives in Township for 9th Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony

BUENA - On Friday, December 5th the Buena Vista Township Special Events Committee held their 9th Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony. The evening began with a Welcome by Mayor Chuck Chiarello and an Invocation by Reverend David Mallory. Kim Albert led the Abundant Living Church Children's Choir in Holiday Songs. There were about 200 people in attendance and music was provided by the Bud Dennis Holiday Band.

Santa arrived on a Fire Truck along with a Parade of firetrucks provided by the Richland, East Vineland, Collings Lakes, and Newtonville Volunteer Fire Companies plus BVT EMS and the Bacigalupo Family's Special Christmas Train.

Special thanks to our local school children for making decorations for our Municipal Building and our tree. Students participating were from the Collings Lakes, Milanesi and Donini Elementary Schools.

Special thanks to our Public Works Department and Employees for helping & decorating. Santa and Mrs. Claus along with the two elves visited with each child. The kids each received a stocking with goodies in it. Refreshments were also on hand for everyone. Stop and see the beautiful lights on the Municipal Building on Route 40.



**Enjoy our Community Calendar compliments of our
Sponsors and Buena Vista Township. Happy Holidays!**

Mayor - Chuck Chiarello
Deputy Mayor - Teresa Kelly
Committeeman - Peter Bylone
Committeeman - Mike Rivera
Committeewoman - Sue Barber
Administrator - Ron Trebing
Finance - Cindi LoGuidice
Mayor's Office - Joan Stahl
Acting Township Clerk - Linda Gonzales
Acting Deputy Clerk - Pamela McDaniels
Clerk Typist - Kathleen Merlino
Tax Assessor - Bernadette Leonardi
Assessor's Office - Stefanie Cervini
Tax Collector - Terry Graff
Tax Collector's Office - Diane Wertz
Township Solicitor - Mark Stein
Foreclosures - Joseph Gindhart
Township Engineer - David Scheidegg
Township Auditor - Glen Ortman
Court Administrator - Mannetta Bylone
Deputy Court Admin. - Milina Miller
Judge - William Cappuccio
Prosecutor - Robert Pinizzotto
Public Defender - Michael Peyton
Court Constable - Alexander Popa
Court Recorder - Arlene Soto
Zoning Officer - Albert Pellegrini
Planning & Zoning - Diane Morgan
Planning & Zoning Solicitor - Jeff Waldman
Planning & Zoning Engineer - David Scheidegg
Fire Marshall - Brain Murray
Public Works Director - Rich Calareso
Public Works Supervisor - Gene Sykes
Public Works - Keith Dorris
Public Works - John Klawitter
Public Works - Ed Kalla
Public Works - Robert Pagluighi
Public Works - Frank Sedio
Public Works - Charles Mallory
Public Works - Wayne Joslin
Public Works - Soren Hudyma
Public Works - Kurt Renart
Public Works Support - Carlo Merighi
Seasonal/Parks - Pat Aloisio
Insurance/JIF Agent - John D'Agostino, Jr.
Emergency Mgmt. Cord. - Carlo Merighi
Deputy Emergency Mgmt Cord. - Ron Ruggeri
911 Coordinator - Michael Burshtin
School Crossing Guard - Diana Wilcockson
School Crossing Guard - Helen Riley
MLK Center Coord.- Debra Patton-Stalling
MLK Center - Joseph Hill
Animal Control - John & Joann Hill

Laugh Your Troubles Away- Comedy Night in BVT is Back

Saturday, February 21, 2009 is your chance to forget all your troubles. For one night don't worry about the family, the job, or anything else that is bugging you -- just come out for a night of laughs, great food and a little socializing. Buena Vista Township Special Events is hosting our 8th Comedy Review. The evening will feature three great comedy talents. MC and Comedian Joey Novick along with Eddie Clark and Pat O'Donnell will have you rolling in the isles. The event will be held at the Buena Tavern and will feature food and a cash bar. All this for only \$25 per person. It is as good an evening as driving all the way to Atlantic City-right here in Buena Vista! Help support our Special Events Committee-they do great things all year round for our community. For more details call Joan in the Mayor's Office at 856-697-2100 or 609-561-5650 then press 8. **Reserve a table today.**

CHRISTMAS TREE PICKUP
The ACUA will pick-up Christmas Trees on January 9th in selected areas of the Township and on January 23rd in **all** areas of the Township.

Watch Township meetings every Wednesday on Comcast Cable Channel 9 from 5 pm to 10 pm. Also find the latest Township information at www.buonavistatownship.org.

TOWNSHIP CODE BOOK

Our complete Township Code Book is now available on our website. All local Ordinances can be found there.

2009/10 Miss Buena Vista Township Pageant to be Held on March 8th

The 2009/10 Miss Buena Vista Township Pageant is just around the corner, so if you are a young lady in grades 9 to 12 and a resident of Buena Vista Township, you are eligible to enter the contest. Contestants are judged in three categories: casual wear, talent and evening gown. The pageant will be held on Sunday, March 8, 2009 at 1:30 pm at Merighi's Savoy Inn. The event will feature a dessert buffet and cost \$21.50 per person. **Reserve a table today.** Contact Joan at the Mayor's Office at 856-697-2100 or 609-561-5650 then press 8.



Special Events Chairwoman Dolores Comparri talks about upcoming events at a televised Township meeting.

Pinelands Map Changes May Have Big Impact on Township Property Owners

While still in its early stages, proposed changes to the Municipal Zoning Map for Buena Vista Township by the Pinelands Commission may have a serious impact on our residents looking to develop their properties. The Township is meeting with the Pinelands Commission and evaluating a new map based on an Environmental Integrity Assessment Study that was done. Certain properties that currently require 3.2 or 5 acres to build on may be "upzoned" to require 20 or 30 acres to build on the same land in the new proposal. The map changes mostly effect the Rural Development and Forest Areas in different parts of the Township but primarily north of Weymouth Road in the Newtonville, Collings Lakes, Lake Ann and the Buena Acres sections of the Township. Over 6,100 acres are being looked at in the Pinelands Commission proposal. This will present a hardship for anyone owning a piece of property where they thought they could build a home on 3.2 or 5 acres, especially if the property was purchased after 1979.

IMPORTANT NEW CHANGES TO RECYCLING

SINGLE-STREAM RECYCLING STARTS JANUARY 1, 2009 IN BVT. A card from the ACUA is enclosed with this calendar package for your convenience. Recycling will never be easier. All items now go in one container: newspaper, cardboard, glass and all plastics are **co-mingled**. All plastics #1 through #7 are now acceptable in our recycling program.

Revaluation Coming to BVT in 2009

It was 1990 when Buena Vista Township last faced a "revaluation". During this period of some 18 years much has changed. The value of homes and properties in our community have increased. A process must begin to bring our property assessments up to date.

The process involves the hiring of a company named Vital Communications, Inc. to handle this job which will cost almost \$600,000 dollars to complete. Every property in the Township, both inside and out, must be looked at to see what changes have taken place since the last time it was assessed.

The employees coming to your home from Vital will have a proper ID and a letter showing that they represent Buena Vista Township. They plan to start in February of 2009 and continue the process until complete next fall. Vital will determine a new value for your property by October 2009, but no changes in your tax bill will occur until July 2010. Residents can appeal any decisions that

have been made if they can prove that their property has been assessed unfairly. The process is very open and residents should not be afraid to show their home to the employees of Vital. Vital is just doing their job and Buena Vista Township is also just doing their job. Revaluations are ordered by the Atlantic County Board of Taxation which requires us to reevaluate our properties when assessments fall below a certain level. We would like the process to be as smooth as possible.

The amount of taxes collected by Buena Vista will be no different than usual. The revaluation will result in an increase in some property owners taxes, a decrease in some property owners taxes and no change in others.

The employees from Vital need to have access to your home. They will even make an appointment that is convenient for your schedule. If you don't let them in they can only assume as to what you have in your house. What you have in your house does not mean your personal belongings,

furniture, rugs, types of appliances or other items that you might think will add to your home value. The Vital employees are basically looking for how many rooms are in your home, how many bathrooms, whether the house has air conditioning, a pool or other structural type improvements.

A pamphlet is enclosed in this calendar mailing that further explains some of the work that Vital does. They will be available for questions and we will have them back on our televised meeting in January or February. Vital is also available to talk to local groups or organizations if you have questions or uncertainties.

Nobody likes this process, but we have to make it work, and the best way for it to work is to work together.

Taking Advantage of Buena Vista...

Residents of Buena Vista should use the enclosed calendar to be aware of various municipal services which are listed in the back pages. You will find important phone numbers, meeting dates, trash rules and a Township map.