

The Borough Hall Report

MAYOR MERZ RESIGNS

On Feb. 29th, Albert J. Merz, Jr. stepped down as Mayor of Allendale. Thus ended a brief but illustrious career in public service during which Al chalked up many accomplishments that will benefit our borough in the years ahead. The acquisition of Crestwood Park, the pursuit of a program for the complete sewerage of the town, the establishment of an efficient, reasonable-cost garbage and trash collection system--these and many other projects are highlights of a term of office that lasted only a little over two years. We will, indeed, miss him. Increased responsibilities at his firm in New York City are his reason for resigning, Al says, and so we wish him well in his "other career."

On March 9th, Norman S. Lane will accept the Mayor's gavel. Now President of Borough Council and a key member of the Council for many years, Norm will serve until Dec. 31st and then step down and let whoever is elected in November assume the mayoral position.

A new Councilman to fill Norm's chair at the Council table is about to be appointed as this issue goes to press. Watch for the announcement in the papers.

SEWER CONSTRUCTION

Stage II of our sewer construction program is moving ahead rapidly and should be completed, basically, in a short time. Later this spring, and into early summer, residents will be notified by mail that they can proceed with their house connections.

Understandably, some residents have become upset by what has happened to their property during the construction. And all of us have wondered when Allendale's streets will ever be smooth again. We can assure everyone that someday soon the mess and inconvenience will be gone. Meanwhile, bear with us, and if you have a complaint about damages suffered due to the sewer construction, contact Borough Hall to obtain a form for this purpose.

EVENING REGISTRATION FOR VOTERS

For residents who must register in order to vote in the coming elections, but who will be unable to visit Borough Hall during the daytime, our Clerk's office will be open on certain evenings: April 19, 20 and 21, from 7:30 to 9 PM. So if you have received notification recently from the County Board of Elections that you should re-register, the special office hours could help you.

MORE WATER, BETTER BILLING

Our Water Dept. has made new connections that will benefit all of us. Last fall, the Board of Public Works (Water & Sewer Depts.) negotiated a new tie-in and contract with Ramsey. Now, there should be no reason for a sprinkling ban this summer. Furthermore, bill preparation and accounting were improved. This work is now being done by a firm called Computil, instead of by our staff at Borough Hall. Eliminated is the tedious job of figuring, writing up and mailing of bills. With this change comes a meter reader's card that is slightly different, but payments are still receivable by the Water Collector. (Pay her personally or by mail.)

WARNING: MINI-DRIVERS OF MINI-VEHICLES

Operation of a mini-bike or other sub-size rolling stock on the streets of Allendale--or any other town for that matter--is in violation of the law. With Spring arriving this month, Chief Parenti reminds everyone that such wheel goods are not classified as motor vehicles, their pilots do not have operator's licenses (a necessity for drivers of conventional motor vehicles), and they do not meet the safety requirements and other design criteria to which the regular vehicles must conform. The score, then, is three points against such activity. There's only one place to operate the mini-vehicles: your own property. Severe insurance rules make operation of them on others' property, even with permission, extremely unwise. Note: As winter is still here, this warning also applies to snow-mobilers!

CRESTWOOD PARK

On Nov. 1st, 1971, Allendale took title to the 70-acre parcel that had been known as "Crestwood Lake." The purchase price was \$1 million plus \$35,000 required for legal and engineering fees involving surveys and title matters. It also included a title insurance policy. The total cost (\$1,035,000) was funded with one-year bond anticipation notes, which will eventually be replaced by long-term bonds.

Our thanks go out to all those who assisted with this acquisition. Many constructive comments and suggestions were offered--and acted upon. We believe that the majority of residents agree that this was a wise move.

Of course, the actual purchase of this property was just the first step. Now we must plan how to use it. In anticipation of this need, a special "ad hoc" committee was appointed last summer to study the recreation aspects of this property. Its members met about every two weeks and also managed to visit other recreation facilities in nearby towns. Their work culminated in a report on Dec. 9, 1971, that recommended a swimming and recreation program conducted on a self-sustaining basis and for the residents of Allendale. Fees and other pertinent information are covered in a brochure that is being sent to everyone in the Borough and which is included with this newsletter.

The Council accepted the recommendations contained in the report and then asked the advisory committee to continue its existence as a formally organized group that would implement the swimming and recreation programs for the 1972 season. About the same time, the Council prepared and passed Ordinance No. 378 on Jan. 27 that officially established the name of the area as "Crestwood Park" (it's more than just a lake) and defined membership policy and fees.

The ordinance also established personnel policies, and in particular, created the post of head lifeguard, or "Lake Director," which more accurately describes the position. We are happy to announce that Mr. Charles Bookstaver, Jr., who held that job at Allendale's municipal swimming pool for a number of years, will be the first Lake Director at Crestwood Park. Charles

made a valuable contribution to the work of the Mayor's advisory committee, too, but in his new capacity, he'll be an advisor, not a member, of the new Recreation Committee. His work at the lake is already underway: he is helping to draft the new Rules and Regulations for his domain, and will soon be interviewing prospective lifeguards and candidates for other employment at the lake.

Not only are we fortunate in having Charles Bookstaver back with us again, but all of the members of the advisory committee have consented to serve in an official capacity to formulate and implement policy for all Borough-sponsored recreation activities. Their names are listed in the brochure that accompanies this newsletter.

Replacing Mr. Bookstaver on the membership roster will be another Charles--Mr. Charles Yennie. He's made a career of public service, principally in the field of recreation. Allendale is very fortunate to have the counsel of this gentleman, as well as Mr. Bookstaver and the dedicated members of the new Recreation Committee.

MASTER PLANNING

While the Mayor's Advisory Committee worked on Crestwood's recreational aspects, the Borough's Planning Board pushed ahead with the selection of a consulting firm to study the area and come up with recommendations for its best use. These efforts resulted in a decision to overhaul the Borough's Master Plan as well. The existing Plan is a 1952 document that was felt to be out of phase with today's realities.

Overall responsibility for the planning is to be handled by the Montclair, N.J. firm of Boorman and Dorram, our Board decided. However, since the first item on the planning agenda is Crestwood, the decision was made to retain the firm of Kinsey Associates, of Livingston, N.J., as a sub-contractor to B & D, since the former's specialty is park planning and management.

Now that work by these consultants is underway, we hope to have some recommendations on sites for the Library Board and the Ambulance Corps in the near future.

EVERYONE'S COLLECTING SOMETHING...

Old newspapers, by the Boy Scouts: Saturday morning, March 18th, the 100-boy gang known as Troop 59--together with many of their dads--will be looking for your old newspapers. So do them a good turn. Help them raise money by placing papers, tied securely in manageable bundles, at curbside by 9 AM that day. That's when their quarterly Paper Drives always kick off. If you need help in carrying the papers, leave a small bundle with a large note telling the boys where the papers can be found. (Magazines will not be accepted, so heave them into the regular trash.)

Used commemorative stamps, by Girl Scouts: If you save cancelled commemorative postage stamps--those that honor persons or historical events--and send or bring them to the places listed below, Allendale's Jr. Girl Scout Troop 153 will be helping to save an eagle-or two. They'll send the stamps to the Florida Audubon Society, which will sell them and use the proceeds to further their efforts to save the American Bald Eagle. The money goes for maintenance of a 3-million-acre sanctuary and other expenses incurred in protection of eagle families. All residents, organizations and business concerns are urged to save all such stamps, including the foreign issues, cut away most of the paper (leave a wide margin if possible), and bring or mail them to Mrs. Earl Pittman, 99 Allen St, or Mrs. William Har-mount, 20 Valley Rd. Or you may leave them at the Stiles Thomas Agency (triangular, white building at Erie R.R. end of town) or in a box set up in the Citizens First National Bank.

Empty glass, by the Jr. Woman's Club: On Mar. 11 the "Glass-Mobile" will return to Allendale. According to Viola Huse, spokesman for the Jr. Woman's Club, arrangements have been made to have the vehicle here the second Saturday of every other month in 1972. So May 13 will be the next date after the coming one.

Response of residents to these glass recycling drives has been very impressive. About 4½ tons was collected last time, but Mrs. Huse says this figure is not the highest the club has toted up, and that the coming bottle round-up should pull in lots

more. The containers should be separated by color and all caps and neck-rings removed.

Now that Crestwood Park belongs to Allendale, we have allowed the club to conduct its drive in the parking field just to the right inside the park gate. Do not bring glass to the Borough Hall parking lot, previously used for these drives. And if you arrive too late for the collection, do not leave cartons of bottles, or just the containers themselves, at the site.

DRUG COUNCIL CUTS THE FOG

Dispelling foggy notions about narcotics continues as a key objective of our Drug Council. Reports Dr. Richard Hoar, head of the eight-member group: "We have met with several Allendale organizations since September--one was a church youth group--and look forward to meeting with many more. Recently, one outfit livened up the session with two hours of questions--and our answers. That's the kind of dialogue we like."

Dr. Hoar pointed out that mis-information about drugs is widespread, and that lack of true information is also distressing. "Do you know," he exclaimed, "that one of our major problems is 'pill-popping' by the grade-school children?" He describes what goes on: "They swallow as many pills as they can find in a medicine cabinet--all at a time--to see 'what will happen.' So--we are ready to talk, if you are willing to listen." He says the Drug Council prefers discussions with groups of about 12 to 25.

Call one of these numbers to arrange a meeting: 825-0825, 327-6289, or 327-7939.

PRE-SCHOOL EYE TESTS

Our Jr. Woman's Club, in cooperation with the N.J. Commission for the Blind, will again sponsor its annual pre-school vision screening. Main objective of the free test is to detect amblyopia, better known as "lazy eye."

Young Allendalers, from 3½ to 5 years old, should report to Archer Church's education wing on Tuesday, Mar. 21, 9:30 to 11:30 AM or 1 to 3 PM, for this important check-up.

YOUR NEWLY CENTRALIZED GOVERNMENT

The Borough Hall renovation is enabling us to serve you better. For your information, here are the functions now under one roof: (All telephone numbers are 327-)

- BOROUGH CLERK: - 0313
Mrs. Colburn, 9 - 4 weekdays
- BOARD OF ASSESSMENT SEC'Y: - 3505
Mrs. Baum, 9 - 4 by app'tment
- WATER/SEWER UTILITY COLLECTOR: - 0313
Mrs. Maher, 9 - 4 weekdays
- BOARD OF HEALTH, SEC'Y: and - 3841
REGISTRAR, VITAL STATISTICS:
Mrs. Cross, 9 - 12 weekdays exc.
Thurs.; Thurs. eve by app'tment
- VIOLATIONS BUREAU & MUNICIPAL COURT:- 0313
Mrs. Kosowicz and Mrs. Colburn
9 - 4 weekdays
- TAX COLLECTOR: - 0313
Mrs. Falcke, 10 - 2 Thursdays
and 9 - 5 on tax-due days
- SUPT. OF WATER/SEWER UTILITIES: - 3505
Mr. Grieder, 9 - 4 by app'tment or 0313
- SUPT. OF ROADS, PARKS, BUILDINGS: - 0313
Mr. Cauwenberghs, 9 - 4 by
appointment or 3505
- BUILDING INSPECTOR: - 0313
Mr. Vagell, 4:30 - 5:30 Mon.,
Tues., Wed., and 6 - 8 Thursday

WHO TRIMS THE TREES?

If there are trees bordering the street in front of your home, Allendale's Shade Tree Commission has sole responsibility for the care and protection of them. Not you. Many residents are apparently unaware of this and undertake to cut and prune such growth themselves, which violates our Shade Tree Ordinance and makes them liable to a fine.

If the trees along the street in front of your home need attention, please notify Mr. Roy Quackenbush, Commission Chairman. His phone number is 327-4989.

IS YOUR DOG OVERDUE?

More than half of our resident pooches are scofflaws! They haven't come around to get their 1972 licenses although Jan. 31st was the deadline. Most of them are unaware of this oversight, so will owners please step up and do them a favor? Buy them tags for

\$3.00 at Borough Hall, 9 AM to 4 PM weekdays, or send a check for \$3.00 (payable to "Borough of Allendale") and list your name, address, phone, and dog data: breed, sex, age, color and length of hair (short or long) and the dog's name. Your postman will deliver the tag to your dog in a few days--and without fear of legbite if, as the law demands, your dog is properly tied.

RESERVE YOUR RECREATION SPOT

Groups wishing to use one of Allendale's recreation areas, including those at the new Crestwood Park, should write a note to: Recreation Committee, Borough Hall, explaining the following: name of group, member to contact, his address and phone, what the group wants to do, date and time desired, preferred location, size of the group, and an alternate date. Shortly, a permission slip will be sent to the contact person, if the desired arrangement is satisfactory. He should carry this slip on his person at the time of the affair.

This system will guarantee every Borough group the arrangement they want on a first-come-first-served basis, with no conflicts. "Central Intelligence" in this system is a reservation book, kept at Borough Hall, and available for inspection.

MORE TRAFFIC LIGHTS?

The Crescent-Franklin Turnpike traffic signals weren't blinking for very long before our attention was turned to other hazardous intersections. One of them is Brookside-Crescent, where a distinct rise in traffic congestion has been experienced. A large office building appears to be responsible. Studies are now underway on this intersection. We hope that if a light is needed, we won't have to wait until 1980 for it. The traffic signal at Crescent-Franklin Turnpike took nine years to get here.

- Norman S. Lane, Councilman
- G. Fred Brackett, Councilman
- Robert E. Schenk, Councilman
- Frederick W. Lankering, Councilman
- Anthony J. Ward, Councilman
- John T. Winship, Councilman