



LINCROFT VILLAGE GREEN ASSOCIATION INC.

"A commitment to the preservation and restoration of our community"

ANNUAL NEWSLETTER AND MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

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***Alone we can do so little.
Together we can do so much.***

~ Helen Keller

About Us

The Lincroft Village Green Association is a non-profit, non-partisan civic organization, dedicated to keeping Lincroft a pleasant and safe place to live. From the beginnings of the organization in 1999, we have concentrated our all-volunteer efforts in several areas:

- Voicing concerns to our local governments about traffic calming and safety in our village.
- Encouraging our representatives to take a measured approach to development and zoning changes that affect quality of life.
- Upgrading and beautifying our park, the Lincroft Village Green.
- Organizing community activities such as picnics, concerts, movies, and the Annual Yard Sale.

Please consider joining in our efforts by becoming a member and helping us achieve our mission.

2011 Events and Activities

- △ 7th Annual Lincroft Village Yard Sale was held on May 14th. 36 Lincroft families participated.
- △ The Lincroft Village Green Park Spring Cleanup Day was held on June 3rd.
- △ Free Movies in the Park were held in June and July, thanks to generous donations from **Shore Flicks** and an anonymous donor from the community. **Dr. Cuozzo** donated fun giveaways for the kids. Families gathered under the stars for an evening reminiscent of the drive-in movies of the past.
- △ A free concert featuring Tom Chapin and his band was held on October 4th. Delicious and plentiful free food was donated by our friends at **Luigis Italian Ristorante, Queso Grill, and Aleo's Italian Specialties.**
- △ The 3rd Annual Candidates Night was held on October 27th with participation from the Middletown Township Committee and the Monmouth County Freeholders candidates. The League of Women Voters moderated this informative event with questions submitted through our website and by the audience.

Our 2012 Membership Drive

Please consider renewing your membership or becoming a new member of the LVGA today for an annual **\$20 Family Membership fee.**

To renew, join or donate:

- △ Mail a check or money order payable to the LVGA in the enclosed return envelope.
- △ Pay by credit card or PAYPAL via our website, www.lincroft.org.

Our mailing address:

Lincroft Village Green Association
P.O. Box 101
Lincroft, NJ 07738

Your membership fee helps to pay for our operating expenses such as insurance, permits, administration costs, signs for advertising events, website hosting, tax filing fees, and professional fees for experts when necessary. We spend your money wisely and only when necessary. We are an all-volunteer civic organization.

2011 Annual Meeting

The Annual LVGA General Meeting was held on November 3rd at the **Lincroft Inn**. The year's activities were summarized, elections were held for LVGA directors and officers, and the financial report was presented. A forum discussion on the Bamm Hollow development took place, with input from former Committeeman Sean Byrnes and a Bamm Hollow representative. Mr. Byrnes provided an overview of the rulings and requirements within the COAH law, and we discussed the history of development planned for the Bamm Hollow property. It was stressed that the public has opportunities to provide input on this development, and insist on good planning by:

- ensuring procedures are followed with regard to infrastructure and safety,
- raising relevant questions, and
- injecting reasoning into the Planning Board discussion.

We concluded that an organized and educated public advances the best interests of the community. Please continue to follow this issue by staying informed and expressing your concerns.

The **LVGA Community Service Award** was presented to photographer and newswriter Les Pierce, with the sentiment, "In recognition and celebration of your tireless and selfless service to our community. Your gift of photography captures countless memories and enriches our community spirit." Thank you Les for your many years of photographing sports, activities, and special events in our community.

Traffic Calming, Pedestrian and Vehicular Safety

The LVGA continues to advocate for traffic calming measures on our streets, particularly along County Route 520/Newman Springs Road.

△ **Downtown Improvements:** The Monmouth County Engineering Department is seeking bids for a Route 520 Corridor Study. The study will analyze a number of intersection improvements that could be implemented to improve pedestrian safety, help traffic flow and minimize accidents. However, the parameters of the study are contingent on the construction of a two way service road between the Acme parking lot and Middletown-Lincroft Road. This access road was first proposed back in 2002. Since that time, this improvement has been considered by the Middletown Township Committee as a necessary improvement. However, funding has not been provided for both the construction and the necessary land acquisition involved. Our Directors will continue to appeal to the township for this improvement.

△ **"Build it and they will come...."**

The paved pedestrian path within Thompson Park that allows travel along Route 520 between Cross Farm Park and the Thompson Park entrance will soon be completed with the addition of two bridges. The County of Monmouth is constructing a pedestrian bridge across the pond near the Christian Brothers Academy entrance. The Monmouth County Parks System is constructing a pedestrian bridge across the pond adjacent to Cross Farm Park. The expected completion date for these two bridges is December 2011. We advocated for these plans to be implemented since 2004, advancing the proposals through the county and state government with letters, phone calls, public comment and personal meetings.

Four Ponds Development Application Update

The Four Ponds Development application continues to be heard before the Middletown Planning Board. The LVGA has been steadfast in its support of the efforts of SONIC (Save Our Neighborhood's Integrity and Character) to oppose this development as proposed. Some highlights of the past year's activities with regard to Four Ponds include:

- Awareness of the development was raised throughout the spring, by handing out flyers and placing "NO 342 Units" signs throughout Lincroft.
- The application was first heard by the Middletown Planning Board on May 4. Testimony began with a presentation by the project engineer, James A. Kennedy.
- **Colonial Nursery** supported SONIC's fundraising efforts by donating a percentage of profits from a fundraiser, \$1,296.05, toward the Avaya Fund.
- Four Ponds deferred its application hearing from June to July.
- With donations from residents, SONIC hired an attorney and experts to prepare their legal case against the application.
- In July, the applicant presented traffic expert John H. Rea to defend the traffic analysis. Traffic impact testimony continued at the August 3rd Planning Board meeting.
- In September, the testimony of the Engineer and Architect were completed.
- Four Ponds again deferred its application hearing in both October and November. At the time of this writing, the application is expected to continue being heard on December 7.

SONIC's fundraising efforts continue as this proposal is still under consideration. The Bamm Hollow Litigation Settlement Agreement along with potential changes to COAH further complicate the potential ramifications of this development plan. We will remain vigilant and focused as these critical land use decisions are made.

When a Community Comes Together, We Can Accomplish Great Things

As LVGA Co-President Roger Foss stated at our Annual Meeting, "*If you want to be influential, help us turn people out to meetings.*" The LVGA continues its efforts to be a watchdog for our community's interests, but we need your help. Attend the local government meetings where you can voice your concern and ask questions. We hope to see you and your neighbors there!

Thank you for your interest and support!