



# The Hilltone

## Top Reasons Why You Should Vote

**Voting is a way to speak your mind and let your voice be heard!** Your vote is your voice. When we vote, we are actually telling elected officials and lawmakers how we feel about education, public safety, social security, health care, and other important issues.

**One voice, one vote really does count!** Remember: there is power in numbers, and when we vote and get our family members to vote, we can truly make a difference. If you don't vote for what you believe in, others will, and you may not like the outcome.

**Our children are depending on us to represent their voices too!** Because our children can't vote, we have to do it for them. That's how we make our concerns about schools, safety, housing, and other issues heard. When we vote, we are looking out for our kids, and their futures.

**Voting changes communities!** Do you ever wonder why one neighborhood gets passed over for things it needs, while another seems to get it all? One big reason is voting. When we vote, we can get results that we can actually see.

**Vote to effect change!** It was through elections that we voted in officials who were champions for civil rights. Voting is our chance to make a difference in our own lives and within the world.

**Because it gives you credibility!** Often we voice our concerns to elected officials, but if we aren't voting, our concerns may not matter at all to them. Voting can actually give you the credibility to make your concerns a top priority for legislators.

In the next two months there will be two different opportunities for you to participate in our democracy:

- **October 16th:** Special Election for the

Seat of the late Frank Lautenberg in the US Senate—approximately 14 months left in the term.

- **November 5th:** Gubernatorial Election to choose the Governor of NJ for the upcoming four year term.

Information on the elections, the polling places, and the candidates can be obtained through the Mercer County Board of Elections. <http://www.state.nj.us/counties/mercerc/commissions/elections/>

And don't forget, the mayoral election is coming up as well!

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## Hiltonia House Tour

### We Need Homes & Volunteers

We are starting to plan for our next Hiltonia House Tour to be held in May 2014. We are looking at either Sat 5/10 or 5/17. Ten to thirteen homes are needed to make the tour successful. All architectural styles of homes are sought. In fact, the more diversity, the better. If you would like to open your home please contact Elise Mannella. Now that we've been through it once we have a wealth of knowledge from past participants who would be happy to share their experiences. We do this to showcase our neighborhood, encourage Trenton residency, and market our homes, so if you are thinking of selling your house, this is a nice way to begin. Deadline to participate will be sometime in the early spring.

The house tour committee also seeks volunteers for publicity, advertising and outreach.

Elise Mannella  
Nella1454@gmail.com  
609-672-7455

## UPCOMING MEETING NOTICE

The Hiltonia Association will hold a general meeting on Wednesday September 11th at 7:00 pm at 217 Cornwall, the home of Jim Brownlee. We will begin with a presentation from Eric Maywar on the Downtown Trenton Project--Building the downtown Trenton you want. We want your advice in improving downtown Trenton including your preferences for retail establishments and where you would like to shop.

In addition, this meeting will include a vote on the proposed updates to the Constitution and Bylaws of the association. The proposed documents are posted to the website for review. Refreshments will be served.

## Calendar of Events

**Fri., Sept. 6th, 5:30-8 pm**  
First Friday Flamingo Social  
BYOB Happy Hour  
Flamingos will be out all week!!

**Wed., Sept. 11th, 7:00 PM**  
General Meeting  
217 Cornwall  
Jim Brownlee

**Fri., Oct. 4th, 5:30-8 pm**  
First Friday Flamingo Social  
BYOB Happy Hour  
Flamingos will be out all week!!

**Sat., Oct. 26th, 1:00 PM**  
Children's Halloween Party  
119 Kensington Avenue  
(If snow/rain, 10 Buckingham)

**Fri., Nov. 1st, 5:30-8 pm**  
First Friday Flamingo Social  
Dinner at a restaurant TBD

**Tues., Nov. 12th, 7:30 PM**  
General Meeting  
107 Kensington  
Bobbie and Chuck Shelingoski

Can you be an event host?  
Contact Margaret Mason!



## National Night Out

National Night Out was a great success! I think it was one of the best attended I can remember. I counted around 70 people at one point, not including the police and fire department turn out! Thank you to all who participated, brought food, cooked, and helped clean up.

## First Friday Flamingo Socials

The Next Event is September 6th!!

If you haven't yet been able to attend the First Friday Flamingo Social, you're missing out! These laid-back get togethers have been very popular during the summer. September may be our last outdoor BYOB happy hour before we have to move indoors for the winter, so grab your favorite drink, maybe a snack to share, and come out with the neighborhood!

### Have News to Share?

Send an email to one of the officers and we'll get it in the next edition of the Hilltone!

### The Trees vs. PSE&G

Many of our tree pruning problems are because the trees planted under our power lines are an inappropriate species for the location. A tree species that matures at 20' would prevent damage to the wires and reduce the need for severe pruning every few years.

There has been a lot of discussion on the e-groups about the low quality of work being done by Nelson Tree Service to 'prune' the trees away from the power lines. A summary:

- Nelson's was hired by PSE&G to trim the city trees away from the distribution lines.
- Nelson's was given a set of guidelines that they interpreted as being a strict directive.
- Nelson's proceeded to apply the guidelines with little consistency.
- The trimmers violated the NJDEP and US Forestry regulations that clearly state that topping a tree is bad for it and that no more than 25% of a tree's canopy should be removed at one time.

We had two crews with differing directives who were valuing arbitrary PSE&G clearances over the tree's health and beauty. The result is that many trees in the neighborhood were cut too far back and now look bad, are unstable, or are at risk of dying due to over

pruning.

On Friday 8/23 several neighbors joined me in stopping the trimmers from proceeding with additional work until an agreement could be reached as to how to proceed. After waiting for over 3 hours, the director of Public Works finally joined us to review the problems that had already occurred and agreed to a meeting with PSE&G, Nelson's, the City and Hiltonia Residents.

On Monday 8/26, the parties assembled (two hours late) to discuss the situation. The two issues were: what to do moving forward, and what to do about over-pruned trees.

After a lot of fighting, PSE&G agreed to reduce their required clearances to 4' on either side of the wires and 10' straight down (forming a V shape). They informed Nelson's and hopefully it has been passed to the workers. This alone should reduce the amount of foliage being cut by 50%.

Once the trimming is complete, trees that have been severely cut back or pose a higher risk of damage to the wires because of their size will be identified and a solution will be discussed to correct the situation.

The plan would be to remove the trees and replace them with a smaller species. This would be a joint effort with PSE&G removing the tree, the city removing the stump, and a state forestry grant to

plant new trees (the city is to apply for this). Most likely, we would have to do every other problem tree this round and the rest later.

This is where we need your help! If you have city trees under the power lines (just the lines that go pole to pole) that you think should be replaced due to the poor pruning or their potential threat to the power lines, please let me know. Once the pruning is done and I have a list of the trees in question, we will attempt to move the replacement plan forward. Email me at [president@hiltoniaassociation.org](mailto:president@hiltoniaassociation.org)

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### TCCA Banquet

11/8 at Trenton Country Club

Join TCCA in honoring this year's citizens and businesses:

- Carolyn Stetson: Citizen of the Year
- Sam Frisby: Public Servant of the Year
- Eddy Torres: Student of the Year
- Vincent's Ice Cream: Business of the Year
- Gandhi Garden: Civic Project of the Year

This is a fundraiser for TCCA. Tickets may be purchased for \$55 each from TCCA's Treasurer:

Elise Mannella: [nella1454@gmail.com](mailto:nella1454@gmail.com)

#### Elected Officers

President:	Brian Viehland	<a href="mailto:president@hiltoniaassociation.org">president@hiltoniaassociation.org</a>
1st Vice President:	Bobbie Shelingoski	<a href="mailto:vice.president.1@hiltoniaassociation.org">vice.president.1@hiltoniaassociation.org</a>
2nd Vice President:	Margaret Mason	<a href="mailto:vice.president.2@hiltoniaassociation.org">vice.president.2@hiltoniaassociation.org</a>
2nd Vice President:	Dennis Keenan	
Treasurer:	Maria Spillmann	<a href="mailto:treasurer@hiltoniaassociation.org">treasurer@hiltoniaassociation.org</a>

Recording Secretary:	Karen Lagerquist	<a href="mailto:recording.secretary@hiltoniaassociation.org">recording.secretary@hiltoniaassociation.org</a>
Corresponding Secretary:	Marcia Youngs	<a href="mailto:corresponding.secretary@hiltoniaassociation.org">corresponding.secretary@hiltoniaassociation.org</a>

#### Committee Chairs

Children's Committee:	Michael Nalbhone	
Civic Committee Chair:	Don Wallar	

Publicity & Welcome Wagon:	Linda Reid	
Worthy Projects:	Harriette Tomlin	
Membership Committee:	Robert Paci	
Social Committee:		OPEN POSITION Please volunteer!
Hospitality Committee:		OPEN POSITION Please volunteer!
Communications/Media:		OPEN POSITION Please volunteer!