



THE HILLTONE

City Ordinances

By Dennis Wendell

We've received reports of neighbors burning leaves and yard debris. Just a reminder to all Hiltonians that open burning ***is prohibited*** in the City of Trenton as per the NJ Administrative Code.

Also, I'm going to put a call into the City to find out what the plan is for removing all the debris on the streets of Hiltonia.

Section 7:27-2.3 - Open burning of refuse: (a) No person shall cause, suffer, allow or permit the disposal of rubbish, garbage, trade waste, buildings or structures by open burning. (b) No person shall cause, suffer, allow or permit the disposal of fallen leaves by open burning. (c) No person shall cause, suffer, allow or permit the disposal of any type of plant by open burning. (d) The provisions of this section shall not apply to open burning of refuse for training or research exercises in fire protection or prevention when conducted at a permanent facility or training center designed to be used solely for such purposes on a continuing basis.

N.J. Admin. Code § 7:27-2.3

They're Here!

By Dennis Wendell

Our first backyard sighting of a cute little hopping insect coincided with a flurry of activity on the Hiltonia Google group alerting neighbors to the presence of the spotted lanternfly (*Lycorma deliculata*). We knew from news stories last summer that its presence was bad trouble. The Google group posts included excellent tips for protecting trees (e.g., reverse duct tape around the trunk), identifying egg masses (mud-like, usually on smooth surfaces), and spotting the pest's favorite host (Tree of Heaven, *Ailanthus altissima*).

Since then, the rise of the lanternfly in New Jersey has been covered in the New York Times (<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/08/21/science/lanternbug-invasive-insect.html?searchResultPosition=1>), and the New Jersey Department of Agriculture included Mercer County in a quarantine designed to prevent the spread (<https://www.nj.gov/agriculture/news/press/2018/approved/press180731.html>). Residents are urged to consult this checklist before moving outdoor items: <https://www.state.nj.us/agriculture/divisions/pi/pdf/NJResidenceSLFChecklist.pdf>. To learn more about these creatures and the threat they pose to crops, check out the Rutgers site: <https://njaes.rutgers.edu/spotted-lanternfly/>. To report sightings to the Rutgers survey, email a photograph to slanternfly@njaes.rutgers.edu. Be sure to include specifics about your town and county.



Can you guess the amount of dead spotted lanternflies around this tree? This *Ailanthus* tree in Ewing township was made a "trap tree," by our Mercer County Park Stewardship staff, and what you see here is the result. Every female spotted lanternfly can lay two egg masses, which contain 30-50 eggs each. So for each dead female you see here, that's up to 100 fewer lanternflies next year!

Wondering how you can get involved? Check out this Penn State Extension YouTube video on spotted lanternfly control for homeowners: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-rvAUFTHvv4> (from the Mercer County Park Commission).

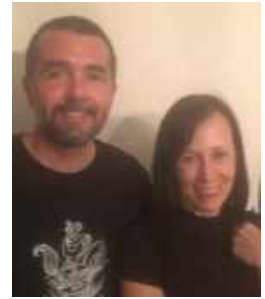
To access the links in this newsletter go to our Association website.

You can download this newsletter at: <http://hiltoniaassociation.org/the-hilltones-1998-thru-2020/>



Co-Presidents' Message

By Dennis Wendell & Terri O'Prey



Summer in Hiltonia usually includes at least two big social events to catch up with neighbors: the annual garden party and National Night Out. Although we've become accustomed to a smaller and quieter reality, it has not been easy to refrain from organizing and attending in-person gatherings. We are really looking forward to 2021 versions of flamingo socials and more. Meanwhile, it's been heartening to witness efforts among our neighbors to keep the fabric of our community strong. Some recent highlights:

- A surprise toast to celebrate the 50th wedding anniversary of Jaques and Maureen Lebel. Hiltonians decorated the corner of Glenwood and Renfrew and raised a socially distant glass of bubbly in honor of the parading couple.
- Daily dispatches from the Rogue of Renfrew, who always manages to see Hiltonia through unique thematic lenses.
- Yoga in the park with Alyia Frisby (through October 1):
 - (Vinyasa Flow) Wednesdays & Fridays (Hatha)
 - 9AM-10:15AM
 - 12pm-1:15pm
 - Meet in Cadwalader Park at the pond

City Council has been meeting regularly via Teams, and TCCA recently resumed membership meetings via Zoom. Virtual meetings also made possible additional information sessions:

- A follow-up session on Covid-19 with Mayor Reed Gusciora, where we discussed local statistics, the curfew, and reopening plans.
- A presentation by Rick Kavin and David McMillan from Mayor Gusciora's office about plans to bring an autonomous taxi transportation system to Trenton. This seems like a neat project with admirable goals (bringing safe and affordable transportation to residents). Let us know if you're interested in learning more—we'd be glad to arrange for a presentation at an upcoming membership meeting.

Zoom also enabled us to hold a special membership meeting to craft a statement denouncing the negative interactions and behavior among Trenton's elected leaders. Copies of the statement were sent to all councilmembers and the Mayor's office, and copies were distributed to local media outlets. And, with thanks to Kathi Eckert, it's been posted to the Association website (<http://hiltoniaassociation.org/letter-to-city-council-2020/>). We've also resumed board and membership meetings in a virtual environment.

As summer wanes, restrictions are beginning to lift and it almost seems possible to imagine resuming something akin to normal life in 2021. Fall brings this new issue of *The Hilltone*, our first general membership meeting since March, and thoughts of turnover among our elected officers. The nominating committee will soon convene to plan for leadership transitions in the following roles: president, first vice president, second vice president, and treasurer. Interested in taking on a more active role in the Association? Please feel free to reach out to any current officer to find out more about the roles, responsibilities, and opportunities.

As we were planning our move to Hiltonia a few short years ago, we chatted with a former Princetonian who was thrilled to hear we were moving to Trenton and especially to Hiltonia because of its active civic association. Never having lived in such a community, we had no idea what we were in for but were encouraged from the start by long-time Hiltonian Maria Spillmann to plunge right into Association activities. She accompanied us to our first garden party, National Night Out, flamingo social, and membership meeting. We understood immediately that Hiltonia was special not only because of its amazing and diverse architecture, but also because its long history of civic engagement has forged strong community bonds and a wide network of residents who care about their neighborhood and their neighbors. And while it can be difficult to balance work/life/Association responsibilities, the effort always seems worthwhile and meaningful.

In closing, we have just a few timely reminders:

- Please be mindful of noise ordinances. We're all pretty much stuck at home and eager for festivities, but everyone needs to stay well-rested—a big challenge when the beat goes on loudly into the wee hours.
- If you haven't yet completed the Census, please do so by September 30. Participation makes a big difference in resource allocation, and the form can be completed in minutes: <https://2020census.gov/en/ways-to-respond.html>.
- The U.S. presidential election is fast approaching, and registered voters will automatically receive ballots by mail. Need to register, or not sure if you're registered? Visit the Division of Elections site (<https://www.state.nj.us/state/elections/vote-by-mail.shtml>) to make sure you're prepared for election day!



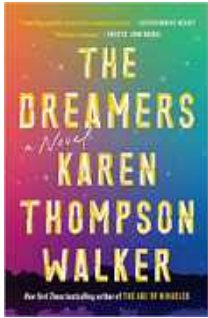
Hiltonia Book Club: 2 Reviews

By Terri O’Prey

Because readers have to read, and talk about what they’re reading, the Hiltonia book club has persisted and continues to gather via Zoom. These meetings are not quite the same, of course, because they lack the collaborative celebratory food and drink. But having a forum for connecting virtually has allowed us to focus more squarely on the books themselves and discuss them without the distractions of an in-person gathering. (I, for one, am looking forward to future meetings full of such distractions!) Read on to see what we’ve been up to. Next up: *Where’d You Go, Bernadette*, by Maria Semple. Interested in joining the fun? Contact Maris Williams (maris.w@comcast.net).

The Dreamers, by Karen Thompson Walker

We selected this book in February, not knowing how timely its topic would be. Reading about a contagious disease, a quarantined town, and characters facing an extreme situation resonated as we grappled with questions that hit close to home. Do disasters bring out the worst in people, or the best? Could parallels be drawn between a fictitious disease in a fictitious town and today’s real world?



American Dirt, by Jeanine Cummins

Another timely read, *American Dirt* made recent news not only because of its subject matter (migrants at the US southern border). but also because of controversy over questions about cultural appropriation and sloppy stereotypes. This book had a ton of positive prepublication buzz, but the negative press that arose after I preordered the book made me dread reading it (and I wasn’t alone among Hiltonian readers). In the end I was glad to have experienced the harrowing tale and even more glad I was able to discuss it among friends. Despite the book’s now mixed reviews, we agreed that it was an important story that humanized refugees in a way that headlines often overlook.



Members in Good Standing: By Address

Just in case you were not sure whether or not you had paid your membership dues for 2020, here is an updated chart to jiggle your memory. We have listed our paid members by their street address. The (2) indicates there are two paid members at that address.

If you still have questions, please contact our Membership Chairperson, Dr. Donnie Johnson, at DRJOHNSON821@GMAIL.COM (609-943-2895).

If you have not yet sent in your dues, please download a membership form here, and mail it or drop it off to Donnie Johnson, Dennis Wendell & Terri O’Prey, or Barry Giordano. Their addresses are found on the sidebar on page 5. Membership forms for 2020 can be downloaded at <http://hiltoniaassociation.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/5/2019/09/2020.Membership.pdf>

BUCKINGHAM:	2	10 (2)	102 (2)	108 (2)	112	201 (2)
CADWALADER:	3 (2)	15 (2)	103	117 (2)	123 (2)	
CORNWALL:	11 (2)	19	25 (2)			
GLENWOOD:	40					
HILVISTA:	44 (2)					
KENSINGTON:	109 (2)	120	205 (2)			
RENFREW:	6	7 (2)	8	14	109 (2)	123 (2) 212
STUYVESANT:	1404	1445	1502			



What Are You Doing During the Quarantine?

We asked you to tell us your experiences during this unusual time. My apologies to Maris Williams of Kensington Avenue for not including her note in the last issue:

The highlight of my week has always been singing with my church's adult choir and directing two children's choirs. The choirs are our local family. A special magic happens when voices blend into shared beauty and inspiration for others. However, evidence shows that singing spews forth large and numerous droplets into the air for as far as 20 feet -- much more dangerous than speaking. Who knows when we can sing again?

I miss our fellowship, laughter, and desire to express God's presence in the world.
I miss the snaggle-tooth smiles of my kids.
I miss hugs and chatter about our lives.
I miss learning music, teaching it, and performing it.
I want my choirs back!

Heating Up

By Linda Reid

More than just the temperature is heating up these days, the real estate market has been on fire.

Previously, I have written about tax issues and the 2017 Reval. The 2020 City tax rate has finally been set at \$5.535. To calculate your total 2020 tax multiply your assessment by \$.05535.

So after retiring from the Trenton Tax Assessor's office, I am now writing as a long time realtor. I have returned to listing and selling homes as part of an active, and I hope long, retirement - enough of having a "real job".



So, onto a summary of the real estate market in our own little world.

One of the most troubling factors, at least to me, is the vacant, foreclosed and "flips" that we are dealing with for the first time ever in Hiltonia.

The sold numbers run from the dismal mid \$100,000 for some of the bank foreclosures, through the \$200's and up to a tippy top of close to \$400,000. There are 4 homes currently for sale at \$198,900, \$250,000, \$259,900 and \$299,900. There is a home in Cadwalader Heights on the market at \$410,000 (which might be a little aggressive).

What can we do? Stay positive. Make sure our homes present a positive "curb appeal," then be aware and take responsibility for the problem homes that are occurring in our own little section of Hiltonia (I called the City this week about two of the vacant problem homes on my block). Any Hiltonian should call, email or report a concern online simply by utilizing govpilot.com on the City website or download the app for your phone.

So, we need to continue loving Hiltonia as a place not only where we live, where we are comfortable, and where our neighbors are also our friends.

Also feel free to call or send me an [email](#).

Email Distribution & Opting-Out of the Printed Newsletter

We are trying to improve communication within the neighborhood, so we have created a new co-presidents' email list. If you are currently not receiving any neighborhood news via email, and you would like to, please send your email to hiltonia.association.president@gmail.com and we will add you to the list. Our co-presidents will keep you informed of neighborhood news and happenings.

We would also like you to consider "opting-out" of the printed form of *The Hilltone*. Please send a note from your preferred email to kathi325@gmail.com with your name, address, and phone with your wishes (email only or print only). **We will continue to distribute it in printed format if you so choose**, but we will need your name and address to compile a list of print recipients. Thanks!



City Hall Beat

Some recent developments from City Hall as submitted by Gary Lawery, Office of the Mayor:

- Mayor Gusciora announced a plan to develop new city services and commercial opportunities by purchasing the Westside Plaza at 215 North Hermitage Street as an alternative to the 2009 leasing agreement that costs the city over \$42,000 a month with no benefit to area residents. [Link](#) to release and related photos.
- Over the last couple of years, Trenton Public Works picked up over 3500 tires. Recently, we caught folks in a U-Haul suspected of trying to dump hundreds more at a site in North Trenton. If you spot someone doing the same, call Public Works at 609-989-3151 or the Office of Citizen's Concerns at 609-989-3809. [Link](#) to FB post and pics.
- In response to Gov. Murphy's expansion of mail-in voting, Mayor Gusciora asked the Mercer County Board of Elections to add five additional secure drop boxes within Trenton in preparation for the upcoming general election on Nov. 3, 2020. The County Board of Elections agreed to provide the additional boxes. [Link](#) to the release.
- The City announced that it will consider proposals to deploy 5G small cell networks throughout the city, giving it a state-of-the-art internet infrastructure that will not only benefit Trenton residents, students, and small businesses, but also attract additional commercial opportunities as well. AT&T and Verizon will pay the city for each 5G small cell device they install and work with Trenton historians to ensure that important landmarks and historical properties are not disrupted by installations. [Link](#) to the release.

Trenton City Council Meetings

- In response to COVID-19 and the need for social distancing, until further notice, the Trenton City Council will be conducting all previously scheduled meetings using an online platform in accordance with NJSA 10:4-6 et seq. and guidelines issued by the Division of Local Government Services.
- The public will be able to participate, by [Join Microsoft Teams Meeting](#) +1 609-453-2732 Conference ID: 173 579 920#

Quick List

Litter, trash, graffiti and neglected buildings create an atmosphere of neglect and apathy. Every resident who keeps his or her property tidy makes an important contribution to community well-being. The City government is committed to keeping Trenton clean and welcoming.

- ◆ Unsecured abandoned buildings invite trouble. Call 609-989-3163 to have city-owned vacant buildings boarded and cleaned of illegally dumped trash.
- ◆ To report illegal dumps, unsecured privately-owned vacant properties or poorly maintained rental properties call 609-989-3563.
- ◆ For help getting streets and alleys cleaned call 609-989-3200.
- ◆ To learn when trash is picked up in your neighborhood or to arrange special pickups call 609-989-3175.
- ◆ Recycling truck missed your house? Call 609-278-8086 (English) or 609-278-8083 (Spanish).
- ◆ Erase graffiti with a call to Graffiti Blasters at 609-989-3175.
- ◆ Have overgrown street trees trimmed by calling the Shade Tree Bureau at 609-989-3255.
- ◆ Report unsanitary conditions in restaurants and pests in public places with a call to 609-989-3280.

2020 Hiltonia Association Officers

Co-Presidents: Dennis Wendell & Terri O'Prey, 7 Renfrew Ave. (732-996-6370; 732-996-6369)

1st Vice President: Jeannie Weakliem, 12 Hilvista Blvd. (609-577-7148)

2nd Vice President: Ali Wilson, 111 Kensington Ave. (609-331-5122)

Treasurer: Barry Giordano, 123 Renfrew Ave. (609-575-8705)

Recording Secretary: Melinda Chance, 7 Cadwalader Dr. (609-393-2715)

Corresponding Secretary: Michael Nalbene, 10 Buckingham Ave. (609-468-2436)

Immediate Past-President: Lily Knezevich, 207 Renfrew Ave. (215-534-7739)

2020 Chairpersons

Adult's Social: Lori Emmerson, 8 Kensington Ave. (908-256-4816)

Children's Social: Kathleen Coughlin, 205 Kensington Ave. (856-397-3799)

Civic Committee: Paulette Ayres, 8 Renfrew Ave. (609-695-4656), and Jeannie Weakliem, 12 Hilvista Blvd. (609-577-7148)

Communications: Kathi Eckert, 40 Glenwood Ave. (609-731-1705)

Hospitality: Georgia Wallar, 2 Buckingham Ave. (609-695-8711)

Membership: Dr. Donnie R. Johnson, 1502 Stuyvesant Ave. (609-943-2895)

Nominations Committee: Linda Reid, 212 Renfrew Ave. (609-394-2314)

Park Projects: Becky Taylor, 123 Cadwalader Dr. (609-240-6886)

Porchfest: Jeannie Weakliem, 12 Hilvista Blvd. (609-577-7148)

Publicity Committee: Linda Reid, 212 Renfrew Ave. (609-394-2314)

Welcome Wagon: June Guerrero, 201 Buckingham Ave. (732-673-0374)

Worthy Projects: Maureen & Jacques Lebel, 25 Cornwall Ave. (609-218-5124)



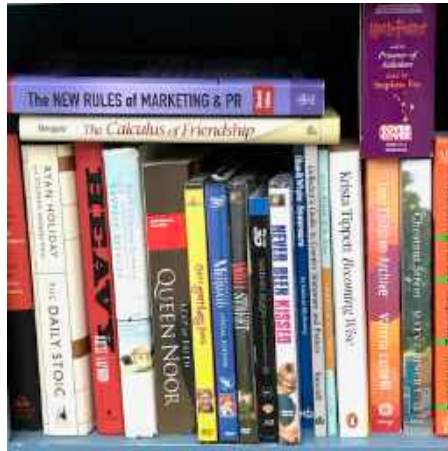
Donna's Little Free Library By Pat Flores

Let me introduce myself. I'm Pat Flores, the steward of Donna's Little Free Library. Perhaps you already know about how this came to be. Our library was founded and tended by Donna Garcia on Buckingham, before she passed away of breast cancer. Her husband kept it going until he, too, passed away. I reached out to their daughter, Victoria Albert, and she was grateful that I would like to keep her mother's memory and legacy alive in Hiltonia. It is something about which she cared deeply.

I daily review the books; notice which are out, then restock when necessary. This morning someone added a book titled *Meditations and Mindfulness*. I am fortunate to get first shot at all the books! This one caught my attention. I brought it in and read it, then returned it to circulation.

We are having good turn over, and generous folks are donating more as they are cleaning out shelves during this time of isolation.

Bill Graff contacted me about putting DVDs in the library, which I thought a fabulous idea, for most movies had their beginnings in a book! Success! Folks have been coming onto my porch because in the heat of summer, I didn't want them to warp. Now that it's cooler, I put them out with the books.



A friend in Hightstown brought 3 AUDIO books to explore another media. Two were snatched up almost instantly. One, a Harry Potter, still remains. It's up for grabs! The photo above shows some of our current holdings.

So the bottom line is: EXPANSION. Let's see if we can't circulate more with the additional sources of DVDs and audio. Thanks for reading!

Here is some helpful information regarding voting in the upcoming elections:

2020 General Election: Tuesday, November 3, 2020

- Voter Registration Deadline: Tuesday, October 13, 2020

Vote By Mail Application Deadlines:

- General Election: If you apply through the mail, your county clerk must receive your application by October 27, 2020.

You may apply in-person to your county clerk until 3 pm, November 2, 2020.

If you have not registered, or are not sure if you are registered, or would like more info on elections or candidates, go to www.lwvnj.org.



Calendar of Events

(all to be confirmed as local restrictions on gatherings change)

Trenton Council of Civic Associations (TCCA) meeting, 7 PM, Thomas Edison State College, 111 West State Street (usually 2nd Thursday of every month): **October 8th, November 12th**

Citizens Police Advisory Council (CPAC), usually 4th Thursday of every month from 6-7 PM at the Hermitage Police Substation (Hermitage & Artisan Aves.): **September 24 via Zoom**

City Council: Conference Sessions: **September 29th, October 13th & 27th.** Public Meetings: **September 17th & October 1st, October 15th & October 29th,** 5:30 PM. Held virtually until further notice:

- **The public will be able to participate by [Join Microsoft Teams Meeting](#) +1 609-453-2732 Conference ID: 173 579 920#**
- **Members of the public are asked to MUTE their phones or microphones so as to not disturb the proceedings. Members of the public will be able to comment at the specified time during the meeting.**

Friday, **September 18th (12 to 5 PM) & Saturday, 19th (8 AM to 3 PM):** Household Hazardous Waste and Electronics Recycling; Dempster Fire Training School, 350 Lawrence Station Road, Lawrenceville.

November 11, 7 PM: Hiltonia Association General Membership Meeting. Format TBD.

Note: Some of these events may be postponed. Please watch local news and emails for updates.

 **Linda Reid**
Sales Associate

BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY
Home Services

Fox & Roach, REALTORS*

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Pennington, NJ 08534
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linda.reid@foxroach.com
www.lindareid.foxroach.com

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Neighbors, see page 12 if you would like to place an ad in our next *The Hilltone*.



Hiltonia Midwives Assist Turtles

By Patricia Flores

It was June 3 when Christine Zeppenfeld sent me this photo of a female snapping turtle laying her eggs in a most unlikely place, a soft mound of dirt bordering the sidewalk along busy Stuyvesant Avenue.



Christine called NJ Fish and Wildlife Commission to report it and wondered about moving the eggs to a more secure location. She was advised to do nothing, because when the hatchlings emerge they have an instinctive sense of where to go and will head for the pond. She was also told the incubation is between 80-90 days.



Periodically we both walked to the turtle hatchery hoping that it had not been disturbed. Christine began checking daily from day 80 on and kept me informed.

DAY 84: HAPPY BIRTHDAY. I took my walk through the park and to the "mound" where I noticed there had been activity. Looking closely I could detect the surface of a small shell. I texted Christine: THEY'RE HATCHING! As it turned out, she had already been there and dashed home for her glasses.



So there we were, in the delivery room, midwife and assistant. Wow! This is huge!! But are they alive? Are more hatching? Further activity was so slow; we shuffled the dirt around a bit and found more that had broken through their soft shell but seemed trapped by all the dirt.



Forceps! We dug in. Gently lifting them out and placing on the ground, they quickly recovered and began running around. Bad news is they were running toward the street and not the pond. Good news is we created a Turtle Express, putting them all in a bag and carrying them to the water's edge.

Now, how to get them into the pond gently and without trauma? Aha! Christine took a large branch and one by one, lined up the 12 turtles. She slid the branch over the water. KERPLUNK! They entered the pond naturally. Then we shoved the branch into the water to provide a foothold, should they want something solid to climb on. Enjoy your beautiful new home; we'll be back to check on you!

This final photo shows mama and papa snapper enjoying time in the sun, well before the birth of their babies.



"Twelve baby turtles crawling on a log. One jumped in and then there were eleven. Eleven baby turtles climbing on a log, one jumped in and then there were . . ."



A Very Special Anniversary Stroll in a Very Special Neighborhood

On Saturday, June 20, 2020 Jacques and Maureen Lebel celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary, and boy did they do it in style. Since Covid-19 prevented them from appropriately celebrating, they decided to stroll about Hiltonia in their wedding garb (Maureen wore her original wedding dress!) If you happened to see them, they encouraged you to wave to them, but from a social distance...they would not be wearing masks.

Little did they know there would be a surprise reception waiting for them at the corner of Renfrew and Glenwood Avenues, all organized by our roving rogue, Pat Flores. As they strolled along Glenwood and reached the corner, an excited and large group of gaily dressed neighbors greeted them with cowbells, banners and hoots and hollers of congratulations. They all celebrated a champagne toast at curbside and shared a signed poster of good wishes for Maureen and Jacques.

Shortly after the celebration, Andy Rowan commented on the event on the Google Board with sentiments with which many of us can concur, "I understand we missed a charming gathering on the corner today to celebrate Jacques and Maureen. I'm sorry to have missed it, but I have to say it's the kind of lovely, neighborly gesture by the community that has made us happy to live here all this time. Andrea and I moved in as a young couple 34 years ago this August and married the same month. We had an adjustable mortgage with a 3 year adjustment cycle, and we figured we would probably be around to see it adjust at 6 years, but 9 years was just unimaginably long. We were sure we would not stay until that long. Then when our first daughter was born, we decided we were happy here and we would stay until she reached school age. Nine years came and went, she reached school age, and we still didn't want to leave. So we sent her to Newtown Friends School. The die was cast. We were staying.

We've been blessed with the best next-door neighbors we could ever wish for in Brann and Ellen Wry (40+ year residents!) on one side, and a succession of great neighbors on the other side, culminating this spring with our friends Angie and Mark Ratliff, whom we hot-wired into the house when Victoria Albert was ready to sell; it never went on the market. If you haven't met them or their son John, keep your eye out for their white Labrador, Margaret, and say hello. They're great people.

It's true that we don't have a town center that we can walk to. But we have a real neighborhood, and we love it. We may just stay here until our 50th anniversary too."

This 'n That . . .

- We are always in need of speakers for our general meetings. If you have any suggestions, if there is someone from whom you want to hear, please contact either Terri or Dennis to suggest someone.
- National Night Out has been postponed until further notice. Watch for more details.
- Becky Taylor wants you to know there will be another cleanup at Cadwalader Park in the future. They are on temporary hold until the "all clear" is given.
- City Council meetings are now virtual. See the "Calendar of Events" section on page 6 for details.
- If you hire a lawn service, please make sure your service knows they are responsible for hauling away any leaves or debris they collect outside of the guideline dates. Otherwise, you, as the resident, are responsible for bagging it all or transferring it to your trash cans. It CANNOT be left loose in the gutters before the defined collection dates. See page 9.
- June Guerrero is our "Welcome Wagon" greeter. If you have new neighbors who have bought or rented a home in Hiltonia (within the last year), would you please share their contact information with us so we can meet and greet them? hiltonia.association.president@gmail.com
- The Hiltonia Association's website is: www.hiltoniaassociation.org; we have an association calendar of events on the website. You can also install a Google app for the calendar on your phone. Our newsletter is archived there.
- The city has a centralized system for residents to report serious issues - it's the GovAlert app, and it is a genuine 311 system. The app is available on the trentonnj.org website. It can be used to send your concerns to the City. You will receive an email acknowledging receipt of your concern and you should receive an email when your concern has been resolved. GovAlert is a great leap forward in moving City Hall towards greater community engagement, customer service and accountability. Whether you are seeing suspicious vehicles, drug deals, violations of zoning ordinances, disrepair to roads, pot holes, or ATVs, now we have a single, central contact to get our issues funneled to the appropriate city department (provided by Paulette Ayres, Civic Co-Chair).
- Just a reminder to keep our neighborhood streets clear on Wednesday to ensure that the street sweeper can do a thorough job of cleaning our streets.
- Thanks to the **MANY** households who have opted out of the printed version of The Hilltone!!!! Anyone else????



Keeping Hiltonia Clean... It's Up To Us!

Please keep in mind that the City does **NOT** pick up loose leaves from the gutters or curbside during the spring, summer, or early fall. Here is a synopsis of the "Leaf Collection Program" as issued by the City for **2019-2020**. The City has not yet published the schedule for **2020-2021** (we will post it to our website when it becomes available). Please use last year's collection program as a guideline for getting your leaves and debris ready for pick-up.

BAGGED LEAVES:

Beginning October 28, 2019 through December 27, 2019, bagged leaf collection will take place. Leaves may be placed curbside in plastic bags (preferably clear) or open rigid containers with handles. No more than 20 bags/containers can be placed curbside with weight not exceeding 50 pounds each. Place leaves at curbside the day after your normally scheduled garbage collection day. If collection day is Saturday, pick-up will be the next business day. Bagged leaves expedite collection and alleviates street flooding.

GUTTER LEAVES:

Loose leaves left at the gutter will be picked up October 21, 2019 through January 10, 2020 (last year's dates) according to the schedule. Due to Storm Water Management Regulations (N.J.A.C. 7:8), municipalities are required to follow strict guidelines for minimizing non-point source pollution; therefore, non-containerized leaves shall not be placed in the gutter more than seven (7) days prior to the scheduled pick-up date, and leaves must be ten (10) feet from storm drains. **PLEASE ADVISE LANDSCAPING CONTRACTORS OF THIS LAW TO AVOID PENALTIES AND FINES.****

**** If you hire a lawn service, please make sure your service knows that they are responsible for hauling away any leaves or debris they collect outside of the guideline dates. Otherwise, you, as the resident, are responsible for bagging it all or transferring it to your trash cans. It CANNOT be left loose in the gutters before the defined collection dates.**

BRUSH/BRANCHES:

Branches must be cut no longer than four (4) feet and twined in bundles not to exceed 35 pounds. Brush must also be twined into bundles. Brush/branches should be placed curbside separate from leaves. Leaves mixed with debris will not be collected. Inclement weather may necessitate changes to the collection schedule.

Please contact the City's Solid Waste Management Division at (609) 989-3175 or Street Division at (609) 989-3200 if you require more information.

GRASS CLIPPINGS:

The City follows a policy of "Clip & Leave", which means when you cut your grass, you leave it to be absorbed back into the soil. For more information, please call the Solid Waste Office at (609) 989-3175.

If you let leaves and debris collect in the gutters, you are attracting rodents and other critters and also adding to the litter problem. We need to work together to keep our streets looking clean and well tended. Debris encourages drive-by littering as well. Let's show pride in our neighborhood by keeping the litter off our streets, curbs, and public spaces.

Thank you for your help in keeping Hiltonia beautiful!



....to all the contributors who provided content for this issue !! We were able to provide a larger issue since we were solely digital. We hope to go back to the printed format very soon.

....and to our **EXTREMELY AWESOME** proofreaders, Maryanne Maguire, Margaret Mason and Eric Reid!



Who Do You Call??? The Longer List

CITY PHONE DIRECTORY: (CLIP & SAVE)

1. Birth, Death, and Marriage Certificates (Vital Statistics) - 989-3236
2. City-owned Property:
 - Auctions - 815-2151
 - Boarding & Securing - 989-3163
 - Cleanup - Call 989-3163 to have city-owned vacant buildings boarded and cleaned of illegally dumped trash.
 - Cleanup of Streets and Alleyways - 989-3200
3. Crime:
 - Police Non-emergency Line - 989-4170
 - Police Emergency - 911
 - Police Department, Front Desk - 989-3905
4. Dumpster permits/ tax maps/deed plotting - 989-3157 (Engineer's Office)
5. Garbage Days and Special Pickups, to dispose of large household items such as appliances or old furniture, call the Sanitation Office to order a pick-up date at (609) 989-3175. There is a limit of 5 bulk furniture items per appointment.
6. Erase graffiti with a call to Graffiti Blasters at 989-3175
7. Handicapped parking & ramps/street reconstruction/pole light repairs (refer to PSE&G) - 989-3612 (T&T Office)
8. Housing and Rental Inspections --To report illegal dumps, unsecured privately-owned vacant properties or poorly maintained rental properties, call 989-3563
9. Municipal Court - 989-3700
10. New Water Serv. & Shut-Offs - 989-3222
11. Property Tax Payments and Installment Plans - 989-3070
12. Recycling:
 - Call 278-8086 (English) or 278-8083 (Spanish) if the recycling truck missed your house
 - To obtain a recycling container, contact the Recycling Office at 609-989-3175
13. Sanitary Health (restaurants) and Pest Control - 815-2153
14. Senior Grant Program for Home Repairs - 989-3548
15. Sewer Back-ups - 989-3180
16. Sidewalk Damaged by City-owned Trees - 989-3611

17. Street Sweeping/Potholes/ Street Milling & Paving - 989-3201
18. Traffic and Transportation (Speed Limit Signs, Residential Parking Permits, Handicapped Parking) - 989-3612
19. Tree Trimming (Streets Division) - 989-3163
20. Tax Assessor (Inquiries about Property Ownership, Assessments) - 989-3083
21. Trenton Animal Control/Shelter - 609-989-3254
22. Vacant lots/city-owned property - 989-3164 (PP Office)
23. Water:
 - Bill Payments and Installment, 989-3055, 989-3099
 - Leaks/main breaks/ gen. complaints - 989-3222
 - Meter repairs - 989-3225
24. Sewer Stand-by (emergency repairs) - 989-4170

IMPORTANT CONTACTS:

- Detective Tamika Veal: 609-215-2501, tveal@trentonpolice.net
- Robin Vaughn, West Ward Councilwoman: 609-989-3187; rvaughn@trentonnj.org
- If you mistakenly receive a notice that your home is listed as a vacant property (as one of our neighbors did!!), the person to contact is the Director of Housing and Economic Development, Diana Rogers. Her number is: 609-989-3512.
- At the Hiltonia Association meetings, we often field questions about what to do when houses in the neighborhood are not being maintained adequately, or the lawns are overgrown and the grass is out of control. You can report all such issues to the Department of Housing Inspections. They will investigate and a citation can be issued if there's a violation.
- Our ward's inspector is Mike Buzugbe, mbuzugbe@trentonnj.org, 609-989-3569
- There is also a general complaint email box: InspectionDepartmentComplaints@trentonnj.org

NEIGHBORHOOD ADS

Do you have something to sell, trade, or give away? A service to provide? Email Kathi at kathi325@gmail.com if you want to place an ad in the next issue of *The Hilltone* (free to residents of Hiltonia).