

# Town Topics

# Township of Livingston

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Spring 2011

[www.livingstonnj.org](http://www.livingstonnj.org)

## Livingston Automated Telephone Attendant System (ATAS)

Requests for...

- ... curbing maintenance ...
- ... resolving drainage problems ...
- ... settling conflicts with neighbors ...
- ... helping residents understand local laws or procedures ...
- ... the Township receives hundreds of telephone calls every day!

Typically, most of those calls have gone through the receptionist in the Township Manager's office. But that was frustrating and time consuming.

How could we change the process to provide better customer service? Simple: Streamline the system; make it quicker and easier for residents to directly reach the department or staff member they need. Now, logging into the **Citizens Service Request** system at [www.livingstonnj.org](http://www.livingstonnj.org) gives you 24/7 access to Township resources. And, if that's not quite what you're looking for, our new Automated Telephone Attendant System (ATAS) can help!

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So many options!

When it comes to staying physically and mentally active, Livingston's Seniors have lots to choose from!



Far left: Line Dancing at the Senior/Community Center.  
 Center: Enjoying a game of Bridge.  
 Above: A Senior Fitness Class at Monmouth Court.

## Seniors: Active Minds!

### Staying Sharp

As we age, it becomes even more important to keep our bodies and minds active and healthy. Simple things, like memorizing lists or doing crossword puzzles and games can help improve the memory by exercising the brain. Lifelong learning –taking up a hobby, learning a language, or taking a course in a subject that you find interesting – can provide the stimulation the brain needs to stay sharp. – And

improving memory can also improve concentration, as it helps the mind become more alert.

### Learn & Share

The Livingston Township Senior, Youth and Leisure Services (SYLS) department provides a wide range of programs for Seniors who want to learn and share interests.

Do you enjoy games? Why not join a **Bridge group**, a challenging game that keeps the mind alert?

Or learn **Mahjong**, which involves skill, strategy and calculation – and a little luck!

You can try **Canasta for Beginners**, a popular strategy game taught over a six-week session. Are you already an experienced Canasta player? Don't worry; **Canasta II** for knowledgeable players will be offered in the spring!

### More than Games

Love music? Why not join the **Classical Music Lovers**

*(Continued on page 5)*

**Inside View:****Municipal Court**

Moving the Township's Municipal Court into the new Municipal Building at 357 South Livingston Avenue in 2010 has provided a variety of benefits, with upgraded security chief among them.

**Settling In**

The Livingston Township Municipal Court has officially settled into its new home in Township Hall. This has enabled the Court calendar to resume its previous schedule of two sessions per week.

Court now starts on Wednesdays at 5:00 p.m. with traffic conferences, and 6:00 p.m. with traffic trials. Sessions continue on Thursdays at 9:00 a.m. for first appearances/arraignments, and 10:00 a.m. for Public Defender cases and criminal/DUI trials. This schedule allows for more flexibility in case management and more efficient use of staffing.

**Safe & Secure**

As you may imagine, safety measures are critical; Livingston Police Officer George Banzhaf provides security within the Municipal Court. Mabel Massop also helps maintain order by operating the Magnetometer, which helps ensure Court security.

In addition, the Municipal Court employs Court Officers to assist the public. These Officers can be found both inside and outside of the courtroom answering questions, directing the flow of defendants, and keeping the general decorum.

Currently, five Court Officers work on a rotating schedule: Officers Murray Mankowitz, Jack Kramer, Stan Kleiman, James Cowan, and Pete Riordan. Adding to the heightened levels of safety is the fact that the new building was designed to



Court Administrator Walter Mollineux handles the details of the Court's daily operations.

provide a secure area through which prisoners are transported directly from the holding cells at the Livingston Police Station to the Municipal Court.

**Hi-Tech Help**

Working along with the Essex County Correctional Facility, the Municipal Court can now hear incarcerated defendants through the Video Arraignments program. This has significantly reduced the costs related to transporting defendants from Newark to Livingston. And because transporting prisoners is not necessary in these cases, it has also increased safety and security.

**More Than Trials**

Did you know that the members of the Court also perform some community-based functions? It's true! Sometimes, the Judge performs weddings in the courtroom during regular sessions. And various members of the Court staff have provided information and lectures for assorted community groups, including the Livingston Domestic Violence

Response Team, the Livingston Municipal Alliance Committee, and various Scout groups.

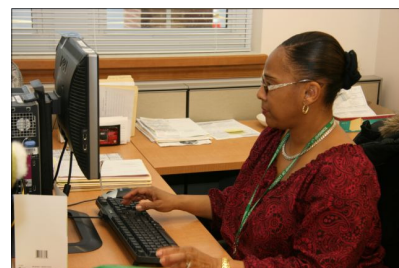
Thanks to the Court staff, students (from second grade upwards) have had some terrific opportunities to gain insight into how the courts operate.

**Municipal Court Staff**

**Judge Robert Jones** is the titular head of the court. As such, he has overall responsibility for all Court activities. In addition to administering justice from the bench, he issues search warrants, provides judicial review of criminal complaints, signs domestic violence restraining orders, and performs weddings. He sits for two sessions per week: Wednesday night traffic court, and Thursday morning court.

**Walter Mollineux** is the Court Administrator. He runs the day-to-day operations of the Court under the authority of the judge. These duties include overseeing all financial accounts, managing personnel issues, and acting as liaison to the Municipal Division of the Superior Court.

**Rita Roslaniec** is the Assistant Court Administrator. In the absence of the Court Administrator, she is in charge of the Court. Her primary



Brenda Scoot-Porch helps to oversee the Violations Bureau.



**Clip & Save Section: Automated Telephone Attendant System**

The Automated Telephone Attendant System (ATAS) connects you quickly and directly to the department or staff member that can best assist you. Below is the ATAS Quick Guide – a “cheat sheet” for the system. However, if you forget the short cuts, simply call the main number and don’t fret – the outgoing message is only 30 seconds long, so you can promptly get to the department you need!

<b>ATAS Quick Guide</b>	
<b>Main Number: 973-992-5000</b>	
<b>Department</b>	<b>What to Press</b>
Township Clerk, garbage, recycling, licensing, public records	#1
Finance, tax & water collection, tax assessment, purchasing	#2
Public Works, Engineering, Planning	#3
Building, zoning, property maintenance, inspections	#4
<b>In an emergency, always dial 9-1-1 for immediate help.</b>	

**Using the System**

Call 973-992-5000 for all Township departments located in the Municipal Building, except for the Police Department and Municipal Court. This includes the Township Clerk, Finance and Tax, Building Department, Engineering, Planning, and Public Works. If you know the extension of the department or staff member you’re calling, simply press “#” and then the extension number.

**Press #1 for the Township Clerk, including garbage, recycling, licensing, and public records.**

**More Information:** Township contracts, ordinances, resolutions, minutes and budget information are all kept on file for public inspection in the Clerk’s Office. To obtain public information, just fill out the OPRA form and submit it to the Township Clerk’s office.

For elections, the Clerk’s office provides forms for Voter Registration, Absentee Ballots, and change of party affiliation. In addition, bids for Township contracts are accepted and opened through the Clerk’s office. Any nonprofit organization may also apply here for a raffle license for any event being held in the Township.

**Press #2 for Finance, including Tax and Water Collection, Tax Assessment, and Purchasing.**

**More Information:** The Finance Department provides an Automatic Clearing House (ACH) Debit Payments Program or Direct Withdrawal Program for quarterly tax payments from Livingston residents.

This program allows you to sign up with the Township and permit Automatic Debit transactions from your designated checking account whenever a tax payment is due. This service ensures that payments are received in a timely manner, in addition to providing a safe and secure way to pay taxes without the worry of mail delivery or having to go pay in person. Coming soon will be an on-line tax payment program. You’ll find more information on that in the upcoming Summer issue of *Town Topics*.

**Press #3 for Public Works, Engineering, and Planning.**

**More Information:** Public Works’ primary function is maintaining municipal roads, curbs, storm drains and shade trees. Public Works employees also respond to work orders generated from Citizen Service Requests, conduct our metal recycling collection, and collect and dispose of leaves every fall. In addition, employees conduct a street sweeping program and a curb, road and pothole repair program. They also maintain our parks, athletic fields, and the sidewalks on Township property, in addition to conducting a year-round tree trimming, removal and planting program.

**More Information:** The Engineering Division prepares plans and specifications for public works improvements – including road reconstruction, storm drainage, building repairs and construction, recreation facility construction, sanitary sewers, and water supply and distribution facilities – undertaken by the Township, either by Township forces or by contract.

*(Continued on page 4)*



### Clip & Save Section: Automated Telephone Attendant System

Engineering also supervises and inspects all public construction. In addition, this Division provides and maintains maps, plans, specifications, surveys and operating records with respect to public property, works and facilities owned or operated by the Township. Engineering also administers the Flood Hazard Control Ordinance, the Stormwater Management Regulations and Program, and provides engineering review for lot surface drainage, soil removal, and road opening and permit applications submitted to the Building Department.

**More Information:** The Planning Department serves as the professional and administrative staff to the Township Planning Board and Zoning Board of Adjustment. In addition to reviewing and acting on subdivision and site plan applications, the Planning Board is charged with adopting the Township Master Plan and making recommendations to the Township Council. This department also provides assistance to residents, businesses, and builders relating to a variety of land-use issues and/or to those wishing to initiate construction with the Township.

**Press #4 for Building, which includes zoning, property maintenance, and inspections.**

**More Information:** The Building Office's responsibilities include compliance with all state, and local ordinances and procedures regarding construction. Permit applications, commercial and residential zoning, as well as signage zoning, are all available from the Building Department. The purpose of zoning is to ensure that any proposed use, construction, or alteration is allowed within the zone and will be located within the required setbacks from the property lines. In nearly all cases, a Zoning Permit is required before a Building Permit can be issued. Always check with the Building Department to determine whether a permit is necessary. If zoning requirements cannot be met, it may be possible to obtain a variance through the Zoning Board of Adjustment.

#### Can't Decide?

If you're not sure which department you need, or if you would like further assistance, the **Automated Telephone Attendant System** will instruct you to press "9" (x5306). When you do, the receptionist in the Township Manager's Office will gladly answer your question or determine where to most appropriately direct your call.

"Good customer service is our top priority," stated Township Manager Michele E. Meade. "It is the aim of all departments to provide efficient and cost-effective services to residents and to utilize all available resources towards fulfilling this goal."

#### Getting Started

If you want to access the **Automated Telephone Attendant System** at the Municipal Building, simply call 973-992-5000, or stop by in person at 357 South Livingston Avenue. And, remember: You can visit the Township website at [www.livingstonnj.org](http://www.livingstonnj.org) any time - day or night! There, you'll find additional information, or you can log your **Citizen Service Request** by clicking the "Submit a Service Request" icon located at the upper right side of the home page. ■

#### Please note:

**Other Township offices can be reached directly at these telephone numbers**

Police (non-emergency)	973-992-3000
Fire (non-emergency)	973-992-2373
Health	973-535-7961
Senior, Youth and Leisure Services (SYLS)	973-535-7925
Library	973-992-4600

**In an emergency, always dial 9-1-1 for immediate help.**

#### Kids' Camp!

##### Good News!

The Livingston Kids' Camp is back for another exciting summer at Heritage Middle School!

Join us for six weeks (June 28 - August 5) of exciting special events, new field trips, crazy dress-up days, weekly swimming at Northland Pool, and fun times with friends! This year, there will be a bigger and better Camp Play, longer swim times, new activities, and more games than ever before!

##### Enroll Now

Livingston Kids' Camp is now accepting enrollment for the 2011 season. Both half- and full-day options are currently available, but you'd better act quickly!

To enroll now, go to [www.livingstonnj.org](http://www.livingstonnj.org). Click on the Senior, Youth & Leisure link to access online registration and to visit our Kids' Camp webpage! ■



### Township Trivia (continued from page 8)

How many did you know?

#### Answers

1. It was the Harrison Apple, popular in the area a few centuries ago. A tree was found still growing here. Scions were taken from it and transplanted before the tree was cut down a week later. Now, the species lives on now because of it!
2. West Essex General Hospital was Livingston's first. Completed in 1960, it had 42 beds.
3. She is Doris Beck, elected Livingston's first woman mayor in 1974. In fact, she was the first woman mayor in all of Essex County!
4. Marquis De Lafayette, a General in the Revolutionary War who served under George Washington. After many years back in France, he was invited by President Monroe as an honored guest to visit all the states, which then numbered 24.
5. They were World War I and the Spanish-American War.
6. Though the exact amount is unknown, history has it recorded as purchased in 1699 for "a few blankets, guns and rum".
7. Paul Olson is now a noted Paleontologist. He and a friend unearthed more than 1000 fossils, including the smallest dinosaur tracks ever found! They were found in what is now the Riker Hill Complex.
8. It was a 1909 Sears. It had a 15 horsepower engine and gave 80 miles to the gallon!
9. He used his garage as the police headquarters. He even had 2 prisoner cells in there!
10. Barry Halper was part owner of the New York Yankees and had amassed one of the greatest private collections of sports memorabilia ever. Many items that were in his collection now reside in the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown.

### Seniors: Active Minds! (continued from page 1)

**Club**, where you'll have the chance to enjoy presentations, speakers, and videos of favorite classical music pieces, composers and operas!

If you have an ear for languages or an interest in learning about a different culture, try our **Conversational Italian** group.

Do you have a creative flair? Try our **Knitting Class** where you can learn to knit, increase your skills, and share techniques!

Our new **Lecture Series** began on March 23, 2011, and meets on the fourth Wednesday of each month. Or come to the **What's Your Opinion?** discussion group, held on the first Wednesday of each month!

#### Staying Social

SYLS also hosts a variety of Social Activities for Seniors!

The **Intergenerational Prom** provides an opportunity to enjoy a delightful evening that includes a full-course dinner, dancing, entertainment, socializing, and fun!

**Dinner and Theater** recently offered a full-course dinner catered by the CIP program at the high school,

and featured the school's spring musical, *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*.

And don't miss the **Ice Cream Social** – an afternoon of music, games, and dancing at Northland Pool!

#### Social Support

"We are dedicated to serving senior residents in our community," said Jennifer Hessberger, Director of Senior, Youth and Leisure Services. "We offer a variety of programs designed to stimulate the brain, as well as opportunities to socialize with others. Having a good social support network is equally important in maintaining a healthy and productive lifestyle."

For more information on the SYLS Program of Activities, visit the Township website at [www.livingstonnj.org](http://www.livingstonnj.org). Click on **Senior, Youth, and Leisure** to view the Spring/Summer Program and to access online registration with CommunityPass.

Or, if you prefer, you can register in person at the Senior/Community Center on Hillside Avenue.

### Spring Health Fair

The Livingston Health Department will host a "Health Fair" in April.

**Date:** Thursday, April 14<sup>th</sup>

**Time:** 8:30-11:30 am.

**Place:** Senior/Community Center - lower level

Community health professionals will offer free screenings, including: vision, hearing, podiatry, and chiropractic.

In addition, Seton Hall University nursing students will take blood pressures and provide health education and information on the latest health topics.

Medical Laboratories will be on site, offering a variety of blood screenings at a reasonable cost.

Blood work registration forms will be available at the Health Department beginning Friday, April 1<sup>st</sup>.

For additional information, contact the Nursing Office at (973)-535-7961 x226, 227 or 228. ■



## Essex County Police and Public Safety Expo

Saturday, May 7<sup>th</sup>,  
Livingston Mall 9:30  
a.m.- 5:00 p.m.

Local, county, state,  
and federal agencies  
demonstrations and  
displays

Batman and McGruff  
the Crime Dog

canine and mounted  
police units

New Jersey  
State Police  
NorthSTAR  
helicopter

Come  
check it out!



The NorthSTAR helicopter lands as mounted police look on at last year's Police Expo.

## Livingston Public Library

### Brimming With Activity

Since its Grand Re-Opening in 2007, the Livingston Public Library has become a center of education, information, recreation and culture within the community. The Public Library serves Livingston's diverse and changing community with a welcoming atmosphere, qualified staff, and a wide variety of materials, programs and current technology.

### By the Numbers

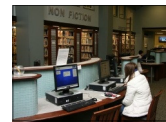
Did you know that the Library owns more than 3 ½ miles of books, videos, DVDs, and other materials? – And staff members check out more than 450,000 items a year! Our Library is also part of the 75-Library BCCLS Consortium, which facilitates inter-library loans. Last year, 62,733 items were borrowed or loaned through the inter-library Consortium! The 2010 Library Usage statistics include 6,832 adults, and 24,011 children who have been assisted by Library staff members in reference or readers' searches. On the Public Computers, 19,299 adults, and 9,363 children were assisted in internet sessions or educational games. And 17,309 children and

young adults attended a variety of educational and social programs hosted at our Library!

### Meeting Residents' Needs

In total, 9,363 Livingston Public Library users checked out items worth \$7,298,580, or \$780 per person in 2010. That's a lot of books, videos and DVDs!

But that's only part of the story; those numbers don't reflect the value of in-house use of reference materials, newspapers, computers, free programs, and staff expertise – which includes 24 languages! The Library lives up to its mission of meeting "the needs of the residents of Livingston in all aspects of library service, and to ensure every citizen's freedom to access all library information resources." Visit us online at [www.livingstonnj.org](http://www.livingstonnj.org). At the bottom of the left-side banner, under "Community", click "Public Library". Even better, stop in and see what's new! ■



Researching & reading are just the beginning at the Livingston Public Library!

## New Ordinances

### No Stopping & Standing

Ordinance 34-2010 authorizes installing "No Stopping and Standing" areas on Bennington and Meadowbrook Roads.

### Stop Sign

Ordinance 2-2011 provides for a "Stop" sign on Irving Avenue at the intersection with South Ashby Avenue.

### Madonna Drive

Ordinance 6-2011 prohibits left turns at the exit driveway of the Madonna Drive parking lot to Madonna Drive.

### South Ashby Avenue

Ordinance 7-2011 prohibits stopping and standing on school days from 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on the east side of South Ashby Avenue, from Belmont Drive to Fairfax Drive.

### Temporary Signage

Ordinance 4-2011 allows for the use of "temporary" signs – such as those advertising Grand Openings – with conditions on the placement, size, and duration. The Ordinance also regulates "sandwich board signs."

### Annual Organizational Meeting

Ordinance 33-2010 gives the Township Council increased discretion, in accordance with New Jersey State law, in fixing the date and location of its annual Organization Meeting. The annual event may now be held on any day within the first week of the year. ■



## Pool Registration

### Good News

Don't worry if you haven't registered for the local pools – you can still get a fee discount by registering before April 30! And even if you miss the discounts fee, you don't have to miss out on a summer of fun at the pool. You can register any time through the end of the season for the regular fee!

### Membership Categories

The Township offers four separate membership categories. Choose the one that's right for you and sign up!

**1. Family** - Self and spouse/partner plus all dependent, single children 24 years of age or younger by the end of the calendar year who are living together as a family unit within the Township of Livingston.

**2. Individual** - Self only. A family of two may register as two individuals prior to the April 30 deadline to save money.

**3. Senior Citizen Couple** - Any couple where one partner is at least 62 years of age by the end of the calendar year. Proof of age is required.

**4. Senior Citizen Individual** - Anyone age 62+ years of age by the end of the calendar year. Proof of age is required.

### Guests

Guests are welcome! All guests must be accompanied by a pool member

when using the facilities. Guest passes are \$8 if purchased in advance from SYLS, or \$11 at the pool.

### Sign Up Today!

Register online with CommunityPass or in person at the Senior/Community Center on Hillside Avenue. Livingston residents must obtain full membership in order to use the community pools, as daily guest privileges are not available to residents. New pool members must provide proof of residency (driver's license with correct address, utility bill or tax receipt).

For more information, visit [www.livingstonnj.org](http://www.livingstonnj.org). Click on click on Senior, Youth & Leisure for pool membership and programs, and to access CommunityPass.

Payment Deadline Info		
Category	Discount Fee 3/20-4/30	Regular Fee 5/1-end
Family	\$289	\$336
Individual	\$137	\$168
Sr. Couple	\$145	\$160
Sr. Individual	\$100	\$110
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Guest passes are available in advance from SYLS for \$8 or at the pool for \$11 each.</b></p>		

## Ordinance Updates

### “McMansions” Ordinance Changes

**Ordinance 1-2011** was enacted following a review of the effects of the original “McMansions” Ordinance restricting habitable floor space. Based on information gathered from the Planning and Zoning Boards, local realtors and builders, this Ordinance provides for increases in allowable habitable floor area in developing lots within certain residential zones.

### Fire Safety Enforcement

**Ordinance 3-2011** will assist fire safety enforcement efforts by bringing fines and penalties in line with current costs and expenses of implementing those efforts.

### Split-Zoning Lots

**Ordinance 5-2011** corrects the zoning of a limited number of properties. The Ordinance corrects and eliminates "split-zoning" lots, and re-zones those properties to conform with the proper and actual use of the property.



Sign up today for a Summer of fun at the Township Pools!

## Municipal Court *(continued from page 2)*

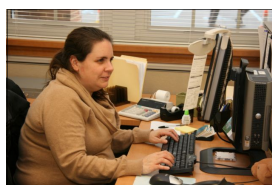
duties include overseeing all traffic complaints scheduled for Court.

**Brenda Scott-Porch** is the Deputy Court Administrator. She helps oversee the Violations Bureau. Her primary area of responsibility is in criminal matters, where she handles bail issues, mail processing and other concerns.

**Denise Geary** is the Violations Clerk. She handles data entry for traffic and parking tickets, processes Violations Bureau payments, and

provides telephone customer service.

Denise Geary,  
Violations  
Clerk.



### Representation

Although not directly part of the court staff, Michael Berliner, Municipal Prosecutor, and Marc Garfinkle, Municipal Public Defender, are vital to its operations.

As Municipal Prosecutor, Berliner represents the interests of the State. He is involved in all cases brought before the Court.

As Municipal Public Defender, Garfinkle represents those who are unable to afford legal counsel themselves. He is assigned matters which involve consequences of magnitude such as a high fine, suspension of driving privileges, or incarceration.

# Town Topics

357 South Livingston Avenue  
Livingston, NJ 07039-3994

Phone: 973-992-5000  
Fax: 973-535-7967

Spring 2011

Township of  Livingston

Presort Standard  
U.S. Postage PAID  
W. Caldwell, NJ  
Permit #430

Residential & Business Customer  
Livingston, New Jersey 07039

**Town Topics** is a quarterly publication circulated to all Livingston residents, businesses and Township employees.

## Township Trivia!

Do your best, then see how you've done on page 5...

### Questions

1. On September 25, 1976, a fruit that was thought to be extinct was found growing in Livingston. Can you name it?
2. St Barnabas is a well-known hospital, but it wasn't Livingston's first. Which hospital was?
3. Television Sportscaster Bruce Beck's mother is an important figure in Livingston's history. Why?
4. Livingston resident Samuel Burnet lent his carriage to transport a famous guest across the country in 1824 and 1825. Who was it?
5. Livingston's Veterans of Foreign Wars was formed in 1933, with 33 members. Every member was a participant in one of two wars. Which two wars?
6. The Horseneck tract was a parcel of land that also contained what is now Livingston. It was purchased from the Lenni Lenape Indians. What was the year, and what approximate price was paid?
7. Paul Olson was 14 and a Livingston resident when he made a historic scientific discovery only a few miles from his home. What was it?
8. The first automobile ever owned in Livingston was later purchased by Stanley Panek. It was a frequent sight in many Livingston parades. What kind of car was it?
9. William Ashby became the first Livingston Police Chief on February 1, 1929. What made his garage different from his neighbors'?
10. Barry Halper was a Livingston resident when he passed on in 2005. He was a well-known collector. What did he collect?



Do you recognize this formerly well-known site in Livingston? Check your answer on page 5!

Visit us online at  
[www.livingstonnj.org](http://www.livingstonnj.org)

## Town Topics

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