



Upper Saddle River Borough Bulletin

www.usrtday.org

September/October 2020

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Mayor and Council Message

Dear Neighbors,

In the General Election on November 3rd, voters will have an opportunity to cast their vote for local, state and federal level candidates, including the President of the United States. This is an important right and duty for all U.S. citizens age 18 and above. Upper Saddle River voters will also be asked to vote on a municipal question concerning Open Space funding.

By definition, a Municipal Open Space Fund is to be used for the acquisition, development, maintenance and preservation of lands for recreational use. The fund can also be used for the acquisition and maintenance of farmland and historic properties for preservation purposes. For example, the Borough-owned land at the corner of West Saddle River Road and Lake Street and nine acres at One Lake Street were designated as open space. This protects the land from development.

USR's local Open Space Fund has allowed projects in the past such as the creation of Liberty Park, the community sign at the corner of Lake Street and West Saddle River Road, the resurfacing of the tennis courts, and improvements at Lions Park such as flood mitigation including a drainage system and a gabion wall, street lighting, an additional field and the walking/running path. Improvements such as these are enjoyed by residents of all ages and, along with our great schools, are often what buyers are looking for when they purchase a home.

The question, as it appears on the ballot, asks residents to approve an annual tax rate at the rate of \$0.01 per \$100 of assessed value, equal to \$75.00 for the average property assessed at \$750,000.00. The fund is used to provide monies to maintain and improve our recreational facilities as well as match grants the Borough receives from the County of Bergen. Each USR taxpayer sends Open Space funds to the County, which supports parks such as Van Saun and Overpeck. In addition, each municipality can apply for an Open Space grant, and if approved, must match it. For instance, we received a \$140,000 Open Space award from the county for Hess Park a few years ago to refurbish the playground, bathrooms and install ADA compliant features. We were able to match the grant from our local Open Space monies. We received similar grants for improvements at Lions Park.

We did receive a \$1.6 million Open Space Grant for the purchase of the nine acres at One Lake Street. That particular grant did not require a match. But many other Open Space grants do. As you can see, if we do not have local funding, it becomes difficult to accept Open Space grants that require matching funds. In addition, having a local Open Space Fund elevates a municipality's score when applying for grants.

When casting your vote in the General Election, please remember to voice your opinion on the Open Space Question. This is up to the voters and the Governing Body wishes to hear from as many as possible.

2020 Hurricane Season:

This latest tropical storm, at the beginning of what is being predicted

to be an active hurricane season, brought the worst damage to our area since Superstorm Sandy. As we continue to clean up, let's also prepare for future storms.

The Atlantic hurricane season starts on June 1st and continues through November 1st. Hazards such as high winds, storm surges, high tides and rip currents, heavy rains, inland flooding, and tornadoes pose a threat to life and property. In Bergen County, trees and power outages are often the main hazards.

Our local and State Offices of Emergency Management encourage everyone to review the "Hurricane Survival Guide for New Jersey" and take necessary actions to prepare their families and homes. This guide can be found at the link provided below.

http://ready.nj.gov/planprepare/pdf/NJ_Hurricane_Survival_Guide_2020.pdf

The Federal Emergency Management Agency also has updated guidelines to prepare for hurricane season during the COVID-19 pandemic. Please visit the Federal Emergency Management website for further information. <https://www.ready.gov/hurricanes>

Let's Trim Our Trees and Remove Diseased or Damaged Trees: O & R routinely trims back trees from the right of way. Our DPW and Police Department are compiling a list of areas that should be prioritized. Learn more here: <https://www.oru.com/en/services-and-outages/preventing-recovering-from-outages/tree-trimming>

Homeowners can do their part as well.

Section 36-1 of the Borough Code states that all homeowners must keep vegetation 10 feet from the road on most lots and 25 feet on corner lots. It also states that plant life is not allowed to grow over the roadway. Ordinance Section 137-9 states that the homeowner must maintain all trees on their property and remove damaged or diseased trees as well as stumps, roots and dead trees. The DPW is currently assessing the town for our Zoning Officer who will be sending notice to affected homeowners. This work must be done as quickly as possible. Everyone is thanked in advance for their cooperation as this will be a tremendous help in reducing future outages as well as restoring the beauty of town for the community at large.

Post Storm Emergency Clean up:

The council voted unanimously to schedule an emergency large pickup of branches and small limbs. The DPW circled through town picking up debris and came around again with a chipper for the remainder. As always, smaller bundles of branches are picked up curbside every other week. Thank you to our dedicated DPW department. They've been tireless throughout this storm, clearing roadways and downed trees and we can't thank them enough.

Generator Information:

Generators are often in high demand after a bad storm and lengthy power outage. For your safety, the Building Department advises all

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Mayor and Council Message (continued from page 1)

residents to have generators installed by a professional. If you have questions about generators, please email the Building Official at building@usrtoday.org or call at 201-934-3966.

For more information on generators, please read the following article:

<https://www.redcross.org/get-help/how-to-prepare-for-emergencies/types-of-emergencies/power-outage/safe-generator-use.html>

Senior and Special Needs Registry: Please visit the Borough website, www.usrtoday.org, if you or a family member would benefit from being registered with the Police Department's Special Needs and Senior Emergency Watch Program. For example, a resident that is oxygen dependent, wheelchair bound or has other health issues that will help our emergency services to serve the resident better in an emergency should be registered. This information is kept completely confidential and is used only in an emergency. Visit the following link to download the form. Fill it out and return it to the Police Department.

<https://www.usrtoday.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/Senior-Special-Needs-Registration.pdf>

9/11 Memorial Ceremony

On Friday, September 11, 2020, at 10:00 a.m., the Upper Saddle River Fire Dept. will be hosting a memorial service. The service will take place at the 9/11 memorial in front of the firehouse. Residents are invited to attend but must follow CDC guidelines. In addition, the service will be streamed on the Upper Saddle River Volunteer Fire Department's and the Borough of Upper Saddle River's Facebook pages.

General Election – November 3, 2020

- Voter Registration Deadline for General Election – October 13, 2020
- Deadline to apply for Vote by Mail Ballot - October 27, 2020
- **Vote by Mail Ballots will be mailed to all “Active” voters on or before October 5, 2020.**
- Vote by Mail Applications are available at the County website: <https://www.co.bergen.nj.us/voting-by-mail-superintendentofelections>. You can also contact the Borough Clerk at 201-934-3975.
- More information will be posted on the Borough website: www.usrtoday.org as it becomes available

Upper Saddle River Police Department

As we prepare for another school year to begin, the Police Department and Upper Saddle River School District have met to discuss a change to drop-off and pick-up procedures. A hybrid school schedule has been implemented due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This new schedule will necessitate two separate drop-off and pick-up times, which will cause an increase in vehicular and pedestrian traffic in the area of the schools.

We remind drivers that the school zone is a “zero-tolerance” area. Officers will be focusing on identifying such things as distracted drivers, speeding, cell phone/texting while driving, drivers failing to stop for pedestrians within crosswalks, and drivers who fail to obey officers directing traffic. Staying alert, being aware of your surroundings, properly securing children in car seats and seatbelts are just some ways to help do your part in protecting yourself, your children, school staff and emergency personnel.

Parents dropping off and picking up children at the schools should visit the district website to review important traffic related information and maps. <https://www.usrschoolsk8.com/domain/1106>

As a reminder, there is No Parking along West Saddle River Road, in front of the Upper Saddle River schools. Parking is prohibited along the West Saddle River Road, from the northerly entrance of Bogert/Reynolds School to the driveway of the Municipal Building.

Please remember:

- Be Patient, and take your time. ■ Leave earlier for drop-off/pick-up.

Finally, we ask that you immediately report any dangerous conditions around the schools, at bus stops, or other areas that children may use to get to and from school each day.

Thank you and have a safe school year.

In addition, you can contact O&R's Customer Service Department and ask to have someone placed on their Special Needs registry as well. If you or a loved one is on life support, you can enroll in their Life-Support Equipment program. It doesn't guarantee uninterrupted electric service, but when power outages occur, the program is intended to provide information and notifications to help those registered to stay informed, prepared, and safe. Learn more here: <https://www.oru.com/en/accounts-billing/payment-assistance/life-support-equipment>

USR Cares: USR Cares will host Upper Saddle River's Got Talent on Saturday 10/10/20 at Lions Park from 1pm - 5pm. The event will be filmed live and residents can watch via a link. The event will be a lot of fun, community building and will showcase USR's very own artists. They are seeking performers and sponsors. “Commercials” will be presented between acts. Please support this terrific organization that is always available to all USR residents during a crisis. Look for more information in this bulletin. Or contact USR Cares at usrcares@gmail.com, or call Sharon at (201) 707-0200.

Community Blood Drive

To help our community during these challenging times with the pandemic, the Church of the Presentation and the Knights of Columbus in partnership with the Red Cross are holding a monthly blood drive.

Here is the link to sign up:

<https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/driveresults?order=DATE&range=10&zipSponsor=Church%20of%20the%20Presentation>

The list of dates can be found below:

Wed August 26th 2020 - Drive Full

Wed September 16th 2020 : 12pm - 5pm

Wed October 14th 2020: 12 pm- 5pm

Wed November 18th 2020: 12pm - 5pm

Please spread the word. With the current environment, blood supplies are lower than normal.



The Upper Saddle River Historical Society

The Upper Saddle River Historical Society is planning to reopen the Hopper-Goetshius House to the public as soon as safely possible.

In the interim the Historical Society has been busy enhancing and improving its virtual communications outreach. A new website with added features and benefits is being developed and will be launched shortly. Already in place are new Interactive Virtual Tours, Summer Sunday Detective Hunts, the Historical Crossword Puzzle and more. Please visit www.usrhistoricalsociety.org to find all the new exciting features for children and adults alike. The historical society can also be found on Facebook and Instagram (@usrhistoricalsociety).

Available on the website is the second edition of “The Lore of Upper Saddle River” ©2019. This edition is filled with new color photographs, new research, and new stories about the history of Upper Saddle River and our surroundings.

The Historical Society has also recently completed a large restoration project funded through a matching grant from the Bergen County Historic Preservation Trust Fund plus membership dues and donations. To find out more about the restoration project and how you can become a member please visit www.usrhistoricalsociety.org.



Woman's Club News - Town-Wide Garage Sale

Did you re-organize during COVID?

Want to make some money for your unwanted treasures?

The Woman's Club of USR will hold its **4th Annual Town-Wide Garage Sale on Saturday, September 12th** from 9 am to 4 pm (rain date Sunday the 13th).

We planned it this year to coincide with Bulky Trash pickup, so you can dispose of unsold and unwanted items on Friday September 18th!

As always, the profits you make from your sale are yours, but for a \$35 fee, we get the permits, do all the advertising and direct buyers to your home on the day of the sale via a map on our website. **All sellers and buyers will be required to wear masks and socially distance as**

much as possible.

Apply today! Go to our website www.usrwomansclub.org and click on the Garage Sale tab for all the info and download the application form. To participate, and be included for permits and the map, applications need to be received by September 6th.

Questions? Call Jeanine Matthews 201-965-5144 or Nona Maher 201-819-3615.

Sale proceeds benefit USR's Fire Department and Ambulance Corps.

Interested in joining our club once COVID restrictions are lifted at the Library where we hold our meetings? Email Nona Maher at nona.maher@gmail.com. All are welcome!

USRA Coalition

The USRA Coalition, founded in 2017 with a grant, is a partnership between Upper Saddle River and Allendale. In December 2019 the Coalition was awarded a Drug Free Community grant in the amount of \$125,000 annually for 5 years. At the beginning of the quarantine, the Coalition launched a social media initiative addressing well-being and mental health including depression and anxiety. Reaching middle schoolers, teens and young adults on Snapchat, TikTok and Instagram and their parents via Facebook and Instagram, the campaign also provided a link from the popular social media platforms directly to the USRA website resource page. A newsletter was also mailed to each home in Allendale and Upper Saddle River with information on dealing with a crisis, substance and alcohol abuse, ways to recognize someone needing help and also a full page of resources. The Coalition also sponsored a community wide suicide prevention webinar which was well attended by the three schools' nurses, guidance counselors, administrators as well as police, various community organizations and coalition members. The USRA

Coalition is currently developing a podcast called, "Let's Talk About It." More information will be coming on the podcast soon but the lineup of guests is already looking great.

In addition to the podcast, the USRA is launching a student video contest focusing on positivity. Students in grades 6 through 12 are invited to upload a video to TikTok, Snapchat or Instagram from October 1st thru November 1st at 6 pm. All videos MUST tag @USRACoalition and include #USRApositivity to be considered for a prize. There will be 3 honorable mention prizes of Apple EarPods. Brookside, Cavallini and Northern Highlands will each have one honorable mention winner. The grand prize winner will receive an Apple Watch Series 5. The contest is open to all middle school and high school students in the quad towns.

For questions or more information, please email admin@usracoalition.org. Also follow the USRA on Twitter, Instagram and Facebook at USRA Coalition and visit our website at www.usracoalition.org.

Library News

Visit www.uptersaddleriverlibrary.org for information on ordering books/media and instructions on contactless pickup. Our pick up hours are: Mon. & Wed. 11am-7pm; Tues., Thurs. & Fri. 9am-5pm; Closed Sat. & Sun. For the latest library news and programming, subscribe to our General eNews or our weekly Adult, Y.A., or Children's eNewsletters. Sign up links are on our website.

USR 5K Run Cancelled

The Upper Saddle River 5K Run Committee in conjunction with the Boro of Upper Saddle River Administration, the USR Recreation Commission, and the Bergen Highlands Rotary Club has cancelled this year's Upper Saddle River 5K Run, scheduled for this Thanksgiving Day, November 26th. We do so with a "heavy" heart, as the Run has become such a wonderful community and family event, attracting over 2400 runners the past 2 years. However, we feel there are still so many uncertainties with regard to Covid 19 for the rest of 2020. We wish to thank all our past runners, vendors, volunteers, sponsors, spectators, friends, and families for their support over the years. We look forward to seeing you Thanksgiving, 2021 for the 22nd running of the Upper Saddle River 5K Run.

USR Fall Tennis Clinics Registration

Registration is now being accepted for the 2020 fall tennis clinics. There will be one 5-week session to be held at the Wickersham Tennis Courts, located in front of the Reynolds School. The student's clinics will be held on Monday's and Wednesday's beginning on Sept. 14th. Adult lessons will be held on Tues. and Thurs. beginning Sept. 15th. The cost for the entire 5 week session is \$95. Registration forms are available at Boro Hall or on the Boro website at www.USRtoday.org. For more information please call the USR Recreation Dept. at 201-327-3634 or email at USRRecreation@aol.com.

USR WASTE COLLECTIONS - September / October 2020		
Garbage:		
September	Every Monday & Thursday	NOTE: Must call by 10 a.m. the NEXT DAY to report missed Trash/Recycles.
October	Every Monday & Thursday	
Recycling:		
September	West Side	East Side
	Tuesdays, September 1, 15 and 29	Tuesdays, September 8 and 22
October	West Side	East Side
	Tuesdays, October 13 and 27	Tuesdays, October 6 and 20
NOTE: Must call by 10am the NEXT DAY to report missed Trash/Recycles.		
Curbside White Goods:		
September	Thursday, Sept. 3	Call 201-327-2196 x221 to schedule appointment for the appliance at LEAST three days prior to the pickup date.
October	Thursday, Oct. 1	
Curbside Bulky Trash: Friday, September 18, 2020		

Household Hazardous Waste

There will be a Household Hazardous Waste Collection on Sat., Sept. 12, 2020 at Bergen County Campgaw Mountain Reservation, 200 Campgaw Rd., Mahwah, NJ and Sunday, Oct. 18, 2020 at Bergen Community College, 400 Paramus Road, Paramus, NJ. The collection hours are 9am-3pm, rain or shine. Free of charge for Bergen County residents, ID required. Visit www.bcua.org for additional information and contact BCUA at 201-807-5825 for confirmation of these dates due to COVID-19.

Paper Shredding

The USR shredding event has been rescheduled from September 2020 to October 31, 2020. Hours are 9am-1pm, rain or shine behind Borough Hall at the DPW. This event is free of charge for residents only.

Clinic Cancellations

Due to COVID19, both the **Annual Rabies Clinic** and the **Flu Clinic** sponsored by Upper Saddle River are cancelled for 2020.

Coming up in September / October 2020

BOROUGH BOARDS

*MAYOR AND COUNCIL

Thursday, September 3

Thursday, October 1

6:30 p.m. Executive Meeting

8:00 p.m. Regular Meeting

*PLANNING BOARD

Wednesday, September 9 and Thursday, September 24

Wednesday, October 14 and Thursday, October 22

7:00 p.m. at Borough Hall

SHADE TREE

Wednesday, September 16 and Thursday, October 15

7:00 p.m. at Borough Hall

LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Wednesday, September 16 at 6:30 p.m. at the Library

Wednesday, October 21 at 6:30 p.m. at the Library

BOARD OF HEALTH

Monday, September 21 - 7:30 p.m. at Borough Hall

ADULT WALK-IN CLINIC

Cancelled until further notice.

*ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Monday, September 21 and Monday, October 19

7:00 p.m. at Borough Hall

SERVICE GROUPS

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Meetings: Thursdays, September 3 and October 1

Drills: at 7:30 p.m.

AMBULANCE CORP

Meetings: First Wednesday each month at 7:30 p.m.

Drills: Fourth Wednesday each month at 7:30 p.m.

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

Mondays, September 7 and October 5

10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. in the Solarium of the USR Library

BERGEN HIGHLANDS ROTARY

Mondays, at 12:15 to 1:30 p.m. at Houlihans in Ramsey.

No meeting on Federal Holidays and last Monday of the month is a Breakfast Meeting that starts at 7:45 a.m.

*SADDLE RIVER VALLEY LIONS CLUB

Tuesday, September 15 at 7:00 p.m.

At Ramsey Golf and Country Club

WOMAN'S CLUB

TBD

***Meetings held via teleconference.**

Due to COVID 19, meetings could be cancelled or rescheduled.

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RESIDENT
UPPER SADDLE RIVER
NEW JERSEY 07458

CARRIER PRESORT

Mayor and Council
Borough Hall
Upper Saddle River, NJ 07458

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