

Mayor's Update October 2016

If you have visited Clawson Park recently you may have noticed two areas near the tennis courts that have been fenced. These are rain gardens that have been installed as part of a storm water management grant of nearly \$400,000 the township received last year through the efforts of Stephen Souza, president of Princeton Hydro (pH). Under the guidance of two pH staff members, Cory Speroff and Alex Pelosi, Brandon Diacont, a member of Ringoes Boy Scout Troop 65, learned about rain gardens and their design and construction. Brandon helped design the park's gardens and further assumed responsibility for installing and watering the plants as part of his Eagle Scout project. The larger garden was excavated by a commercial firm, the smaller garden was excavated by our DPW crew. Brandon recruited twenty volunteers to install appropriate native plants in the two gardens (see Souza's article elsewhere in the VIP for more detail on installing rain gardens). Congratulations to Brandon and Princeton Hydro for completing this first phase of the overall storm water management project. Now all we need is some rain!

I am pleased to report that the grant the township submitted to the county under the auspices of the Historic Preservation Committee and the Historical Society for Phase 3 of the Clawson House renovation project was approved by the Freeholders in September. The grant was fully funded at \$75,000 to complete the rear of the house, install a new front porch and repair the interior flooring. The East Amwell Historical Society will also contribute \$15,000 toward this work from their recent, highly successful fund raising effort. The expectation is that Phase 3 will be complete by year end. I very much appreciate the leadership of Barbara Sageser and Jim Davidson, which was instrumental in completing the first two phases last year and maintaining the project's momentum this year.

With these grants for Clawson House, the township has received nearly \$800,000 in funding this year for preservation projects that enhance the quality of life in our town. Earlier this year we received awards from Green Acres and Hunterdon County which we are using to preserve, as public access, recreational open space, the initial 150 acre portion of the Higgins property on Wertsville Rd. No township monies will be used for these projects, either from the Open Space Trust Fund or the General Fund.

I close this month with a remembrance of Grace Bateman Cronce, who died on September 22 at age 93. Grace, who traced her lineage back to Daniel Bray, lived most of her life in the village of Ringoes. She and her husband Doug operated The Wishing Well Motel where visiting musicians would stay when they were in town, and Music Mountain was still Music Mountain. Grace continued to be active in the community up to the time of her death, including being a deacon at her longtime church, Kirkpatrick Memorial, and a member of the Amwell Valley Fire Company's Ladies Auxillary and the local chapter of the DAR. I only got to know Grace in the last couple of years, but even after such a short time, it was plain to me that no one ever epitomized her given name more than Grace. We will all miss her.

Please contact me with your questions and/or suggestions:
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– David Wang-Iverson –