

TAVI Town Specials

A community service of The Allentown Village Initiative
March 12, 2024


Volume IV, Issue III


TAVI Daffodils Welcome Spring

Since 2021 TAVI has donated and planted about 10,000 daffodils in sites throughout Allentown. This year spring has come a bit early, and the bulbs are about to burst into bloom. Be sure to take a stroll through town in the next week or two to enjoy the happy faces of these bright yellow harbingers of spring!

How you can help:

 Please don't pick the flowers or walk on the flower beds. We want everyone to be able to enjoy the show!

 When the flowers have faded, don't cut down the green leaves. Bulbs get their energy for next year from this year's leaves. Let the plants die back naturally – The leaves will turn brown on their own and be gone by early June.

 Have some spare change? Put it in the "Donate a Daffodil" jars in businesses along Main Street. TAVI will use the donations to buy more bulbs for planting this fall.

 Want some daffodils in your own yard? Sign up today at www.allentownvinj.org to purchase bulbs at cost from TAVI to plant in October 2024.

Support TAVI by attending the "Welcome Spring Gala"

Enjoy an elegant evening of palate temptations, desserts and the live music of the WilloLand Duo on Sunday, April 21, 2024 from 6 – 9 pm at the McCormick home, 153 Route 526, Allentown, NJ. Proceeds benefit "TAVI250" – capital projects to celebrate America's Semiquincentennial by enhancing our community. Tickets are \$60/person and \$100/couple. Reserve yours today at www.allentownvinj.org

WHERE ARE THEY?

Here's where to find the daffodils in town:

- ✿ 4,000 in Heritage Park
- ✿ 2,000 along Main St. from Church St. to Conines Millpond bridge
- ✿ 1,000 along the trail from Main St. into Heritage Park
- ✿ 750 in front of Newell Elementary School on High Street
- ✿ 700 in Pete Sensi Park, Main St.
- ✿ 300 in Farmers Park
- ✿ 200 at Allentown Methodist Church
- ✿ At each "Welcome to Allentown" sign

Warehouse Roundup...

Planning Board Hears Stein Proposal

Next public hearing set for March 26th

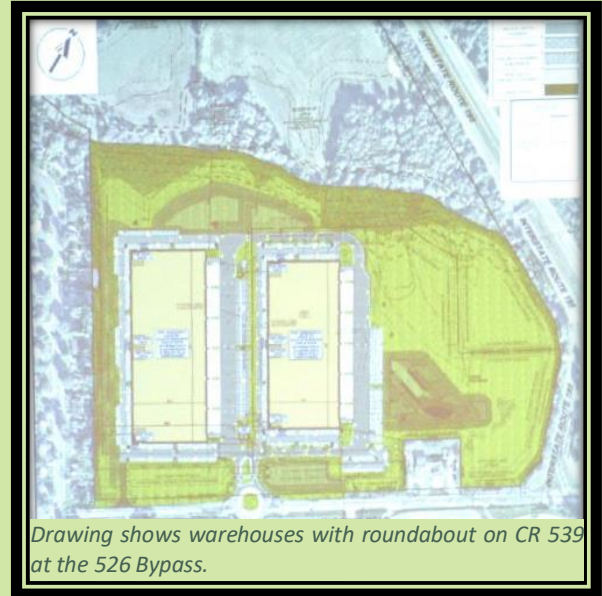
This is a continuation of TAVI's efforts to share information about pending applications to construct warehouses in and around the Allentown-Upper Freehold community. The current spate of pending warehouse proposals, if approved, will impact our entire community. TAVI encourages you to be informed, aware and engaged.

After three hours of questioning from over 200 residents on a rainy February night, the Upper Freehold Planning Board ended its first hearing on an application to build over 450,000 square feet of warehouses on 23 acres fronting on North Main Street/County Route 539 (next to the Valero gas station) and commonly known as the Stein Property. **The Board set the next public hearing date for March 26, 2024 at 7 pm.** Members of the public, as well as Stuart Lieberman, Esq., representing the Borough of Allentown, will be able to continue questioning the developer about its site plan and variance requests.

There was time for just one witness during the first hearing, who provided some details but often deferred to future witnesses, who are expected to include an architect and traffic specialist, among others.

Residents seemed surprised – and dismayed – to learn that the entrance to the proposed warehouse will center on a traffic circle built at the west end of the Route 526 bypass, just south of the Valero gas station on North Main Street. The developer also admitted that it does not expect to be a long-term owner of the warehouses once they are built, raising concerns about maintenance and management of the facility. There are no known tenants for the warehouses at this time. Probasco Drive residents were told that the buffer between their yards and the warehouses would range between 95 and 113 feet and consist of two rows of evergreen trees.

The Planning Board said the Stein Property has been zoned for warehouses since 1992, notwithstanding Upper Freehold's "Country Code" adopted in 1998, which commits the Township to policies that "provide its constituents with a Country Lifestyle." Also in issue is the State's Land Use Law, which says local zoning must "promote the safety, morals and general welfare" with development that "does not conflict with the development and general welfare of neighboring municipalities."



Drawing shows warehouses with roundabout on CR 539 at the 526 Bypass.



Upper Freehold – By the numbers:

Population in 2020: 7,273

Area: 47 square miles, about 30,080 acres

Over 10,000 preserved acres

& 500 farmland assessed properties

Wittenborn Farm – History vs. Development....

Editor's Note: You've probably driven by this impressive home on your way into or out of Allentown. Since 1808 it has stood just beyond the Borough's Church Street border with Robbinsville. The house and its 20 acres, zoned "village transitional" (which would permit commercial development) is listed as "pending" with an asking price of \$4.5 million. Efforts have been ongoing to preserve the property as part of a "greenbelt" which would protect Allentown from increased traffic and environmental impacts,

particularly to Indian Run Creek, just to the south. With thanks to local historian, John Fabiano, following is why the property is historically significant:



Wittenborn Farm - 824 Robbins-Allentown Road

In 2006 the Imlay-Buzby Farm, located at 824 Allentown-Robbinsville Rd., was determined eligible to be entered into the New Jersey and National Registers of Historic Places based on the National Park Service's Criterion B standard. The house and farmstead, commonly called Wittenborn's, was purchased by the wealthy Philadelphia merchant, John Imlay (1749-1813) in 1779, most likely in response to the following ad: "For Sale, a valuable plantation situated near Allen Town... containing 240 acres, on which a good house, kitchen, barn, waggon-house, a good orchard, about 100 acres of cleared land, the rest good timber land by Joseph Brown, jun."

John Imlay was born locally at New Sharon, where his father Johnston, who had married Robert Montgomery's daughter Isabella, was a wheelwright. It is supposed he lived here during the construction of his elaborate 1790 mansion on South Main St. in Allentown. The current house replaced an earlier structure and is believed to be built at turn-of-the- 19th century,

with former owner George Busby stating "it was built by Joseph Imlay in 1808," while a 1988 historic site survey estimated c.1796.

According to that survey, "this 5-bay, 2 ½ center hall plan house, now stuccoed, is unusually large and wide for this area. It has a 4-bay side elevation and four interior end chimneys. The door has a handsome Federal-style molded trim, the vertical members have a double cornice-like detailing surmounted by an entablature, below which is a round arch with a semi-circular fanlight... Windows are large, in keeping with house's scale, the southernmost windows have 12/12 sash; the two northern bays have 6/6 windows...The

front parlor has an usual Federal style mantel, which may not be original. The wall between the hall and northern parlor is unusually thick and the attic apparently indicates this was the original end of the house." This house is comparable in style and scale with Allentown's Imlay House, without the elaborate woodwork displayed in the latter's front parlors.



John Imlay, owner of "Wittenborn" in 1779

The Allentown Village Initiative (TAVI)

Is Pleased to Bring You

TAVI's VICTORY GARDEN

(COMMUNITY GARDEN)

Fostering Food Security in These Inflationary Times While Enjoying Wholesome Family Fun Outdoors – Who Could Ask for Anything More...

Are you interested in growing your own food, but don't have space to garden where you live? Let us know by emailing mccormicknj@aol.com or calling (609) 208-9991 by April 15, 2024. We're assessing interest for a 2024 community garden with 10' X 10' plots available for a nominal fee less than 2 miles from Main Street, Allentown.

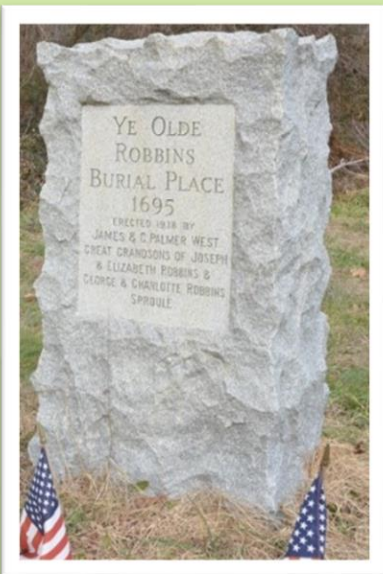


**WE SUPPLY THE SOIL,
SUN, AND WATER. YOU
SUPPLY WHATEVER ELSE
YOU NEED.**
(GARDENING TUTORIALS AVAILABLE
FOR BEGINNER GARDENERS)



Help Solve “The Mystery in the Woods”

Tucked away off Route 524 in Upper Freehold, the Olde Robbins Burial Place holds the graves of Revolutionary War and Civil War veterans as well as that of the great grand-aunt of President Abraham Lincoln. It's an important part of community history, but until recently, the site was overgrown and abandoned. Now TAVI and Robbins family descendants have begun a restoration and regular maintenance of the area. The site has also been added to TAVI's “Historic Cemetery Trail Driving Tour.” TAVI needs your help to continue the work this spring – Please share a few hours of your time so that the stories of those who rest there are not lost to future generations.



Robbins Burial Place Clean-up

Saturday, March 16,
2024 at 9 a.m.

Rain Date: 3/23/24

Route 524, Upper
Freehold (look for the
roadside marker)

Register at

www.allentownvinj.org

For more info call
(609) 208-9991

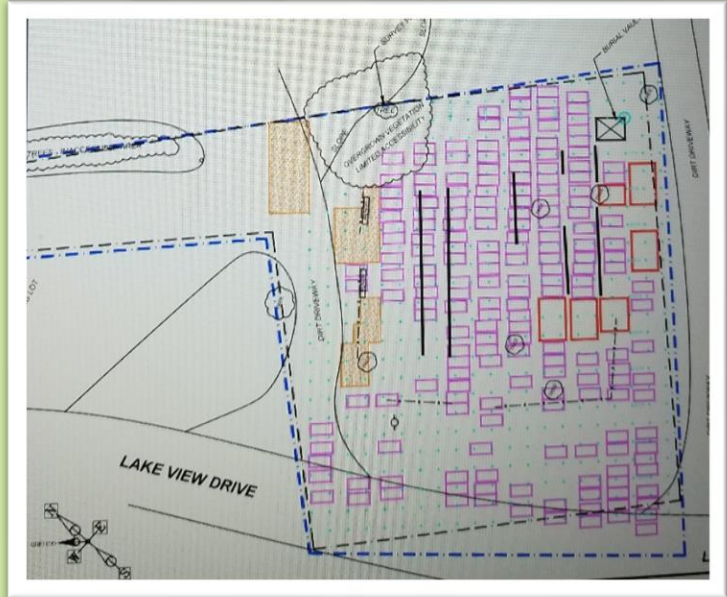
**Sign up for this year's first clean-up of the site
and help solve “The mystery in the woods.”**

A COLONIAL CONUNDRUM –

What to do about the bodies under our street?

It's a somewhat unusual problem to be sure, but one facing Allentown nonetheless: How to restore the Olde Burying Ground on Lakeview Drive so that folks aren't driving over the graves of our forebears. The boundaries of the cemetery have been clearly marked on town documents and deeds since 1706, but in the real world, the lines blurred and an alley as well as Lakeview Drive slowly encroached upon the area known to be part of the cemetery. Sure enough, radar has now clearly revealed three graves under an unpaved alley and another 14 burials under Lakeview Drive.

Now that we have been reminded of the graves, one might think the natural reaction would be to respectfully seek other routes to and from



Radar plot of graves under alley & Lakeview Dr.

the rears of Main Street businesses (there's another alley 100 feet to the east of the offending egress and outside the cemetery boundary) and start working to put Lakeview Drive back to where it was intended to be. Alas, life – and apparently death – cannot be that simple, and old habits die hard (pun intended). TAVI is attempting to work with the Borough and adjacent landowners to persuade them to use the available alternate routes and reconfigure Lakeview Drive.

More to follow....



Why preserve historic cemeteries?

Cemeteries are open air museums that connect us to our history. Their markers are the last tangible evidence of the founding members of our society – craftsman, farmers, and leaders of all walks of life – the people who made us what we are today. "Show me the manner in which a nation cares for its dead and I will measure with mathematical exactness the tender mercies of its people, their respect for the laws of the land and their loyalty to high ideals." – William Gladstone, Prime Minister of Great Britain, 1868 – 1894.

The Allentown Lions.....



Easter Eggstravaganza Hunt

Saturday, March 23, 2024

starting at 9 a.m. SHARP – in Farmers' Park
Lakeview Drive, Allentown

Meet the Easter Bunny, Special prizes for gold & silver eggs



Saturday, March 23, 2024

EASTER EGG HUNT



10:00 AM- 11:00 AM
Allentown United Methodist Church

23 Church St., Allentown

ALL ARE WELCOME!

JOIN US FOR STORY TIME, CRAFTS, SNACKS, & PICTURES WITH THE EASTER BUNNY!

**Easter
Sunrise
Ecumenical
Service**



Easter Sunday,

March 31, 2024, 6:30 am

At Pete Sensi Park,

Main St., Allentown, NJ

HISTORIC ALLENTOWN NJ'S *SPRING STROLL* SATURDAY, APRIL 20TH

RAINDATE: SUNDAY, APRIL 21ST

10AM-5PM

Main Street, Historic Allentown NJ

**FOOD TRUCKS
100% HAND-CRAFTED
VENDORS
PONY RIDES
BOUNCE HOUSES
FUN ACTIVITIES**

BEER AND WINE GARDEN

PRESENTED BY

HAMILTON TAP & GRILL

FRIDAY 5PM-10PM

SATURDAY 12PM-10PM

FRIDAY

6PM-10PM-DJ NEBBS

SATURDAY

12PM-4PM DJ NEBBS

4:15PM-5:15PM BROCKWAY AND SLIM

6PM-9PM SIDEWAYS WILLY BAND

Growing Minds Enrichment Presents...

AFTER SCHOOL *Nature Club*

New!

- ✓ Ages 4-12
- ✓ Arts & crafts
- ✓ STEAM
- ✓ Outdoor Exploration

4 Week Series

Late Winter: 2/19, 2/26, 3/4, 3/11

Spring: 4/8, 4/15, 4/22, 4/29

Late Spring: 5/13, 5/20 (off 5/27), 6/3, 6/10



MONDAY AFTERNOON
@RAMBLIN'SOL FARM
4-5 PM

NEW



Special Pricing

ONLY \$65.00 per series!

Register for TWO series \$125

Register for all THREE series \$180

\$20.50 Drop In

FOLLOW US ON  &  @GROWINGMINDSNJ

Loving Our Kids: The dangers of explicit media and what you can do about it



March 17th
12:15-1:30pm | Schulte Hall
20 High St, Allentown NJ

Register Here:
Lunch will be provided.



Questions? Contact J.C. Fowler (908-216-6643)



Allentown Public Library Association

TRIVIA NIGHT

\$20 per player
10 players per team



Scan the
QR code
to
register

April 13

7:00 pm

First Aid Squad
Bldg. 70 County
Road 526

allentownpubliclibraryassociation.ticketleap.com/trivia-night

COME AND JOIN US FOR A
FUN AND SPECTACULAR

Saint Patrick's Day Party

MARCH 17TH
181 COUNTY RD 539,
CREAM RIDGE, NJ 08514

LIVE MUSIC BY
D/C DUO 2-5PM

GROWING MINDS ENRICHMENT PRESENTS...

KIDS GARDEN CLUB

AT RAMBLIN' SOL FARM

WED. FEB 28...
MON. MARCH 11...APRIL 8, 15, 22, 29...
MAY 13, 20...JUNE 3, 10...
JULY 8, 15, 22, 29...AUGUST 5, 12

5:00-6:00 PM suggested for ages 4+ (drop off)
Little Learners are welcome with a caregiver.

16 SESSIONS: \$240
8 SESSIONS: \$148
DROP IN: \$20

FOLLOW US ON & @GROWINGMINDSNJ

The pork Roll Store Of Allentown, NJ

THE
Pork Roll
STORE

122. Yardville Allentown Road
Allentown, NJ 08501
609-259-6335
www.porkrollconnection.com





Will Craft 4 Wine --

A local mom and resident crafter who enjoys making personalized hand-made creations especially for you!

Follow her page at

<https://www.facebook.com/WillCraft4Wine> for new items

every week. Always FREE local delivery, with porch pick-ups and shipping available. Lots of creative crafty fun!

Also on etsy at

<https://willcraft4wineshop.etsy.com>



Join 4 Paws Adrift for an in depth look at canine wellness – stretching, body work and injury prevention for dogs of all ages, sizes and physical levels.

Register at:

<https://4pawsadrift.as.me/?appointmentType=58893753>

Is your work week too busy?



**MILL
POND**

MUSIC ACADEMY

42 South Main Street, Allentown, NJ

open 7 days

Really ENJOY your weekend and learn to sing



**play the piano
play guitar
play ukulele!**

New clients
**15%
OFF**

MICROBLADING, PERMANENT EYELINER,
LIP BLUSHING, LASH EXTENSIONS,
LASH LIFTS, & LASH PACKAGES
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WWW.COSMETICSBYCATELLI.COM

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The Allentown Village Initiative (TAVI)

2024 Financial Goal: **\$5,000**

Donate at

www.allentownvinj.org

Donate at

www.allentownvinj.org



\$5,000

\$4,500

\$4,000

\$3,500

\$3,000

\$2,500

\$2,000

\$1,500

\$1,000

\$500

How Your Generous Donations Will Be Put to Work

- Expanded *Allentown Arts* programs, including more *TAVI TALKS* historical presentations, more concerts, and more arts and entertainment
- Daffodil Days Festival* events
- The initiation of *TAVI250 Semiquincentennial* programs, celebrating our nation's 250th birthday, including:
 - Signage for the *Allentown Historic Architecture Walking Tour*
 - Training and materiel for *Allentown's Big Dig* community-involved archaeological exploration
- Planned creation of the *Park at the Point* pocket pollinator garden where Yardville-Allentown Rd. meets Old York Rd.
- And much more...

Save the Dates --

3rd Annual Daffodil Days

**Back better than ever,
with over 10,000
daffodils across town.**

**Make plans now to be part of
the celebration!**

Featuring:

Saturday, April 20, 2024 –

ABCA's **"Spring Stroll"** street fair.
Contact AllentownSpringStroll@gmail.com for
vendor reservations.

Sunday, April 21, 2024 –

TAVI's **"Welcome Spring Gala"** – an
elegant evening of dining to the music of the
WilloLand Duo. Tickets on sale now at
www.allentownvinj.org

**Plus: Special strolls around
town, Earth Day, events and
sales at local shops – Stay tuned
for the full Calendar of Events
coming soon!**

The Allentown Village Initiative

