

# Bordentown City Environmental Commission NEWSLETTER

Issue 1, Fall 2002



## Introducing the BCEC

The Bordentown City Environmental Commission (BCEC) was established this spring. In April 2002 Mayor Collum appointed 8 members to the Commission. Members serve 1, 2 or 3 years and come from a variety of backgrounds, including engineering, environmental, computers, among others.

All are Bordentown City residents who volunteered due to their interest in environmental issues.

The role of the environmental commission is to advise the local governing body on environmental issues and inform the municipal planning and zoning boards about environmental impacts of proposals for development. Additionally, the environmental commission advocates for open space planning, looks into environmental problems and offers solutions. Informing residents of environmental matters through community education projects and ways to help

protect environment is another role of the environmental commission. Further, the environmental commission links with other organizations to tackle regional issues.

In its first few months of existence, the BCEC has become involved in a number of projects. BCEC presented a paper to the city's planning board regarding environmental concerns with a proposed Oliver Street development. BCEC also has begun the tedious process of creating an Environmental Resource Inventory, with the intent of mapping out a Bordentown City Open Space Plan. BCEC Chairperson Mike Hunninghake is working with the planning board on the Master plan to implement environmentally conscious content. BCEC members have also met with representatives from the Shade Tree Commission, the Delaware River Heritage Trail and Green Acres. BCEC participated in Bordentown's Streetfair and Cranberry Festival.

### **BCEC CONTACT INFORMATION**

BCEC meetings are held the 2nd Wednesday of every month, and are open to public comment.

Meeting time is 7:30PM;  
Meeting place is Carlslake Community Center.

Mail may be sent to  
BCEC  
c/o  
Bordentown City Hall  
324 Farnsworth Avenue  
Bordentown, NJ  
08505

## ***Bordentown's Backyard Tidal Marsh***



The Hamilton/Trenton Marsh is an incredible natural resource area right in Bordentown's backyard. The marsh is the northern most tidal freshwater wetland on the Delaware River. It includes tidal & non-tidal marshlands, wooded uplands, creeks & bluffs. It is 1,250 acres of wildlife habitat boasting 230+ bird species & 800+ plant species. Ospreys, herons, beavers & bullfrogs are among the wildlife to see in the marsh.

A great way to explore the marsh is by canoe or kayak. The Crosswicks Trail

follows Crosswicks Creek from Bordentown Beach to near Groveville. The Watson Trail follows Watson Creek from Crosswicks Creek through Roebbling Park. A pamphlet entitled "A Ride with the Tide through the Marsh" containing detailed route information is available from the Delaware and Raritan Greenway. Paint Island Canoe & Kayak in Bordentown also stocks these pamphlets & rents canoes & kayaks.

# Light Rail Comes To Bordentown

Southern NJ Light Rail Transit System (LRT) is in its final phases of construction. This new LRT service between Camden and Trenton with a station stop in Bordentown will provide access to PATCO, SEPTA, AMTRAK, Rutgers University and the waterfront. Two-car LRT trains will operate every 15 minutes during peak periods and every 30 minutes during off-peak periods. Freight activity will go on in the evening hours.

Bordentown's new LRT track replaces the existing railroad alignment, the Camden & Amboy Railroad, which was the first major railroad constructed in NJ. Built in Bordentown, the famous John Bull locomotive ran on these tracks around 1831. Today, you can find the John Bull train at the Smithsonian Institute (& on the Bordentown City emblem). The NJ State Historic Preservation Office has declared the Camden & Amboy railroad corridor to be an historic district.

Construction of the Bordentown City LRT Station included the building of an access platform, a 200 car parking lot, a new Park Street bridge, the replacement of the railroad bridge at Crosswicks Creek and at Blacks

Creek. Additionally, a pedestrian bridge was created from an unused portion of railroad span as well as a pedestrian access walkway on the Creek side of the railroad.

With the LRT scheduled for a late spring/early summer opening, Bordentownians should prepare to head to the tracks! Commuters to Trenton, Philly & NY will now be able to walk out the door, down the street to the LRT & arrive at work without getting into a car. If you want to spend the day at a Trenton Thunder game or at the waterfront, you won't need to worry about finding a parking space. Bicyclists will be able to lock their bikes at the station as well. For a map, check the LRT website: [www.njtransit.com/sf\\_lightrail.shtm](http://www.njtransit.com/sf_lightrail.shtm)

## DROUGHT RAGES ON

New statewide water use restrictions were imposed in August due to the continuing lack of rain throughout New Jersey. Here in Watershed #20 where Bordentown is located the drought remains a problem with water levels the lowest they have been in years. Residents are encouraged to use water wisely:

Repair leaky toilets, pipes and faucets; Turn off faucets when not in use (during shaving & teeth brushing); take shorter showers; Bathe in 10 gallons of water instead of 50 gallons. Reuse bathwater to water plants. Run washing machines only when full & on the proper load size selection; Run dishwashers only when full & use water saver features. Turn off icemakers, use trays. If you don't have a low-flow toilet, use a plastic bottle filled with pebbles to displace water in the tank. Flush only when necessary. Cover pools & spas to reduce evaporation. Choose a car wash that recycles.

For further information, call the NJ Drought Hotline 1-800-4-ITS-DRY.

## Community Calendar

10/5  
*Green Buildings Open House*  
NESEA  
1-877-44SOLAR

10/5 & 10/6  
*13th Annual Cranberry Festival, Bordentown*  
10am-4pm  
298-1424

10/6  
*Thomas Paine National Historic Association Free Walking Tour, Bordentown*  
324-0667

10/6  
*Pinelands Preservation Alliance Pinelands Celebration at Historic Whitesbog Village*  
10am-4pm  
894-8000

10/9  
*Building Green with LEED in NJ Conference & Trade Show*  
Lafayette Yard  
Mariott Hotel  
Trenton, NJ  
732-932-9271

10/12 & 10/13  
*Roebling Garden Club's 8th Annual Scarecrow Construction Contest*  
499-1160

10/20  
*Roebling Historic Preservation Society House Tours*  
Roebling, NJ

### Did You Know?



Each recycled soda can save enough electricity to run a TV set for 3 hours! The amounts of energy that can be saved by recycling is staggering. Currently, the average recycling rates in the US is 38% for aluminum, 35% for paper & 23% for glass. These rates generate significant energy savings than if the materials were to be obtained from virgin resources: 95% savings for aluminum, 45% for newsprint, and 31% for glass. Imagine how much more energy could be saved by increasing our recycling rates!