

## Mayor's Message April 2016

Dear Residents,

Rumson is an historic shore community, rich in natural resources. Among the most plentiful of these resources are the beautiful trees found throughout our six picturesque parks, enhancing residential properties, and lining our streets. The Council, Borough staff, and the Borough Shade Tree Commission work diligently to ensure that trees throughout the Borough thrive despite the challenges presented by construction, major storms, and trees nearing the end of their life cycle.

### Rumson Shade Tree Commission

The Rumson Shade Tree Commission (STC) is a mayoral appointed, five member volunteer Board, whose mission is to help maintain, develop and promote a healthy shade tree resource that will benefit the Rumson community environmentally, economically and aesthetically. Established in 1962, the STC seeks to protect and enhance Rumson's tree resource through a program of education, planting and preservation. To accomplish this, the STC works closely with the Department of Public Works (DPW) on tree maintenance, removal and planting, and provides support to the Borough Tree Conservation Officer. Similarly, the STC assists with the planning and implementation of major public landscaping projects and organizes the community Arbor Day activities. Finally, they organize and promote educational programs for residents and tree professionals on tree care topics.

### A Community Partnership with Deep Roots

The Shade Tree Commission utilizes partnerships with local volunteer, club, school, and professional organizations in order to leverage their limited resources.

Over the years, the STC and the Rumson Garden Club (RGC) have enjoyed a particularly fruitful partnership. Both organizations have a passion for planting and often work together to fulfill their shared goals of maintaining the beauty of Rumson's parks, streets, and municipal areas, and educating the public on the importance of trees and other plantings for the health of our environment.

In 2015, the STC and RGC teamed up with Borough staff to design, fund and implement the extensive renovation of Victory Park's west border, including the new Borough Christmas Tree. DPW oversaw the removal of 25 large trees and the Garden Club



Boy Scout Troop 201 planting trees at Victory Park

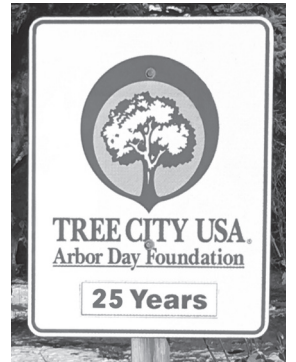
planted 13 large trees and numerous shrubs and perennials. The STC and Local Boy Scout Troop 201 pitched in to help plant shrubs and 1000 daffodil bulbs. Rumson Recreation contributed funds for drip irrigation to keep the new plantings watered throughout the summer. These combined efforts significantly improved the landscape of our flagship park. It was a very rewarding project for all involved.

The STC and RGC have also sponsored numerous community lectures over the years including an entertaining and informative presentation by Bruce Crawford entitled, "A Designer's Love Affair with Trees," in December 2015. Other topics have included deer control, Super Storm Sandy recovery, and "the right tree in the right place."

STC Chair Stephen Barrett and RGC president Diane Guidone see a nice symmetry between the Shade Tree Commission and Garden Club. The two organizations support each other's efforts and regularly share expertise, which benefits our beautiful Borough and its residents.

### Rumson is a Designated Tree City USA

A familiar sign next to the community bulletin board at Bingham Avenue and River Road proudly proclaims Rumson as a Tree City USA. As such, Rumson residents enjoy the benefits of having a greener, healthier community. This year Rumson has been recognized for our 25th consecutive year as a Tree City USA community!



Tree City USA has been greening up cities and towns since 1976. It is a nationwide movement that provides the framework necessary to manage and expand public trees. In order to achieve Tree City USA status, towns must meet four core standards of urban forestry management: 1) maintaining an active tree board or department, 2) having a community tree ordinance, 3) spending at least \$2 per capita on urban forestry, and 4) celebrating Arbor Day. Tree City USA status is awarded by the Arbor Day Foundation in cooperation with the U.S. Forest Service and National Association of State Foresters.

Tree City USA recognition is not an easy accomplishment. Only 25% of New Jersey's 565 communities have been awarded Tree City USA status since 1976 and only 6% have been awarded this designation for 25 or more years. Through the combined efforts of the Council, Borough employees, volunteers and residents, Rumson is a tree leader in NJ!

### Celebrate Arbor Day – Plant a Tree!

Pioneer J. Sterling Morton started the Arbor Day campaign to plant trees as a way to conserve soil and provide needed shade in Nebraska. The first Arbor Day was commemorated on April 10, 1872, on which an estimated one million trees were planted in Nebraska. In 1882, a tradition began nationwide to celebrate Arbor Day in schools by planting trees. By 1970, Arbor Day had become a nationally recognized holiday in the USA.

In New Jersey, Arbor Day is celebrated on the last Friday in April. In recent years, members of the Shade Tree Commission have marked the occasion by educating the Deane-Porter kindergarten class about trees, and then planting a tree on school grounds. The seven trees bordering Narumson were each planted to commemorate Arbor Day. The students were also given seedlings to plant at home.

This year, the STC joined forces with the Rumson Schools Parent Teacher Organization and Student Government Association to expand the Arbor Day celebration by hosting a school wide “Buck\$ for Bark” fundraising campaign, raising awareness of the importance of trees and funds to plant a campus legacy tree for each grade level. The benefits of trees on campus are numerous. Trees offer shade for outdoor activities, provide oxygen, cool pavement and buildings, screen views, provide a habitat for wildlife, reduce stress, and offer a beautiful setting in which to learn.

The fundraiser was a terrific success and the students exceeded their goal of \$3600. The result will be a campus rich in trees and outdoor educational opportunities.



2016 Rumson Schools Arbor Day Organizers

The 2016 Arbor Day celebration will culminate with a ceremony on April 29th presided over by School Superintendent Dr. Bormann and Mayor Ekdahl at the school campus.

#### Tree Health – Shade Tree Commission Suggestions

- Watch out for the Emerald Ash Borer – this invasive pest can kill a healthy ash tree in a short period of time.
- Avoid “mulch volcanoes” – distribute mulch around trees such that the “flare” at the base of the tree trunk is visible. – don’t bury the trunk!
- Visit Borough Hall and pick up a pamphlet of suggested small yard/street tree plantings for our area.

Coming soon: a new Rumson Shade Tree Commission website accessible via [www.rumsonnj.gov](http://www.rumsonnj.gov).

#### Thank you, Doug Spencer

On behalf of the Council and residents, I wish to recognize resident Doug Spencer for his dedicated service as a member of the Shade Tree Commission for the past 17 years, including nine years as Chair. Doug has often been seen around town himself digging holes, planting and watering new Borough trees for the beautification of Rumson’s public spaces. In addition, Doug has led school Arbor Day celebrations for the past seven years.



Doug Spencer

This spring, Doug and his family are moving to North Carolina. His service to the community is greatly appreciated and we wish him the best, he will be missed.

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#### Keep in touch...

- Sign up for Code Red alerts, Nixle alerts and general email updates via the [www.rumsonnj.gov](http://www.rumsonnj.gov) home page.

#### Upcoming Events...

- **Rumson’s Annual Baseball Parade**, April 9th, 8:45am line up at Forrestdale School parking lot
- **Arbor Day Celebration**, Friday, April 29th, Forrestdale School Campus
- **“9/11 Memorial Trees Stand Tall”** Presentation, Friday, May 6th, 6:30pm, RFHRHS Auditorium
- **Green Day Recycling**, Saturday, May 7, 9:00am-1:00pm, DPW Building behind Borough Hall
- **Rumson Rec Update** – Summer program registration open now, Fall registration begins May 1. [www.rumsonrec.org](http://www.rumsonrec.org) for details.

**RUMSON BOROUGH BULLETIN**  
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