

re-Chant

SPRING/SUMMER (MAY 2023)

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Resident Profile: Erika Gerdtz

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The Old Bookstore - Bordentown

Summer Jobs for your Grandchildren?

Millennial Pools is looking for Lifeguards and Pool Attendants for locations in NJ. Training Provided. Contact at staffing@millennialpools.com or call 609-805-9053

Happy Mother's Day

Here's wishing you a Mother's Day that's filled with every pleasure, and a future that's as happy as the memories you treasure! *Author-Unknown*

Ideas for re-Chant

Please send feedback or ideas, Shoutouts to re.chantnews@gmail.com



YOUR NEW NEIGHBORS

We would like to welcome the following new resident to Enchantment:
Carolyn Adlay
9 Monaco



SPECIAL CELEBRATIONS

Congratulations and best wishes

William and Gail Mitchel eloped 55 years ago on January 6th
Jeanine and Pete Fuhrman celebrated their 40th Anniversary on April 24th
Andy and Diane Litecky celebrated their 50th Anniversary on April 29th

Bill and Gloria Miller's niece Melanie Miller received an Oscar this year for her work on the 2022 documentary, Novalny. Their daughter, Kelly, attended the event as Melanie's guest.

Ed and Amy Kimtis' son, Kevin, was just assigned to the title of Chaplain to the Pope, with the title of "Monsignor." He is currently serving in New Delhi. Kevin was ordained in 2011.



COMMUNITY SHOUT-OUTS

A shout out and thank you to Arlene Petruska for her dedication to chairing and ensuring the good works of the Sunshine Committee. From greeting new residents to sending warm wishes to those in need, Arlene epitomizes what community means. We also love what she does to enhance the beauty of her cul-de-sac. Thank you, Arlene!

Thank you to the Enchantment community for your generous donations to our Military Box. The donations were sent to U.S. soldiers stationed in Eastern Europe. The soldiers and families thank you all for thinking of them and the community thanks Jeanine Fuhrman for planning it, boxing it, and shipping it out!



GRANDPARENTS CORNER

- Arlene and Len Petruska welcomed their first great-grandchild, Mackenzie, on January 13th



SPREADING SUNSHINE

Do you know someone in the community need some cheering up? The Sunshine Committee sends cards to residents who suffer a loss or are ailing in any way. We know how much these kind gestures can mean.

May-Pat Vacca 609-581-4679; **June**-Minda Allarde 609-838-0122; **July**-Jeanine Fuhrman 609-456-1520; **August**-Bernadette Rooney 609-838-2339; **September**-Donna Decker 609-585-0229

Please reach out to the committee members listed (they rotate each month).

Getting to know Erika Gerdts

As residents of Enchantment, we often see friends and neighbors walking their dogs. There's one particularly classy lady who we often see walking her adorable dog, Zoey. This lovely lady is Erika Gerdts.



Erika was born in a country town near Hamburg, Germany. When she was 6 years old WWII broke out. As a result, her dad was drafted to serve his country and she didn't see him again until she was 12 years old. When Erika was 14, she attended a private school outside her town. Attending this school changed her life because she had to travel to and from school by train. Waiting for the train one day she noticed a very handsome man standing on the train. When she and her friend boarded, she insisted that they find a spot where she'd be sure to meet him. After a nice conversation, he invited her to a party that evening. Her mother forbid her to go, so that was the end of that (or so she thought).

When Erika finished school at 20, she was engaged to marry a local man named George but wanted to see America before marrying. Her dad agreed, so she found a family to sponsor her and got a 2-year visa. After a harrowing 9-day trip to America by boat (she was one of the only passengers who didn't get seasick), Erika arrived in NY. She lived with her sponsor family who had a son and daughter. Shortly after arriving, the son invited her to attend a party at a place called Franklin Square. When she arrived, she saw a familiar face...it was the handsome man from the train, Al. He recognized her immediately and the rest as they say, "is history." During her 2 years in America, she traveled all over with Al and her sponsor, loving every minute of it. She wrote to George to be sure he was aware of how she was spending her time. George felt sure she'd be returning to him when her visa expired. When the 2 years ended, she returned to Germany. She missed both Al and America terribly. After sharing her feelings with her parents, they made it clear that she could not return to America, and she must stay in Germany and marry George.

One day she and her mom were returning home and they saw a strange car in front of their house. When they went inside, there was Al talking with her dad. He had come to bring her back to America! That's what ultimately happened, but only after getting her grandfather's blessing and visiting George and his family to deliver the news in person.

Al and Erika returned to America and were married 5 months later at Franklin Square, where they had "officially" met a few years earlier. Erika wore a gorgeous gown she designed at the bridal shop where she worked. She and her husband had a successful business and lived in Garden City, NY, where they were parents to a boy and a girl. The couple came to Enchantment in 2006 and enjoyed some golden years here. Al passed away in 2011, and while Erika truly misses him, she is thankful for the love story that shaped her life.

When looking back on this story one can't help but think, "this is the stuff that great novels are made of." Thanks so much for sharing, Erika!



A LOVELY SPRING/SUMMER RECIPE: FETA PASTA WITH SHRIMP AND OUZO

This recipe is a variation on the ubiquitous Baked Feta Pasta dish that went viral on social media a few years ago. Adding fresh shrimp and a shot of ouzo gives the pasta a Greek twist (think shrimp saganaki!) and works perfectly with the sweet roasted tomatoes and creamy feta.

Ingredients

- 2 pints grape tomatoes
- Kosher salt and freshly ground pepper
- 1 8-ounce block sheep's milk feta cheese
- 1 teaspoon dried oregano
- 1/2 cup extra-virgin olive oil
- 10 ounces cavatappi (about 4 cups)
- 3/4 pound medium shrimp, peeled and deveined
- 2 cloves garlic, finely grated
- 1/2 teaspoon red pepper flakes
- 1/4 cup ouzo
- Finely grated zest of 1 lemon
- 2 tablespoons chopped fresh parsley



Directions

1. Preheat the oven to 400° F. Spread out the tomatoes in a 3-quart baking dish. Season with salt and pepper. Cut off about one-quarter of the block of feta; crumble and reserve for garnish. Place the remaining block of feta in the middle of the baking dish. Sprinkle the oregano and drizzle the olive oil over everything. Bake until the feta and tomatoes are very soft, about 35 minutes.
2. Meanwhile, bring a large pot of salted water to a boil. Add the pasta and cook as the label directs for al dente. Reserve 1/2 cup cooking water, then drain the pasta.
3. Combine the shrimp, garlic and red pepper flakes in a medium bowl. Season with salt and pepper and toss.
4. Remove the baking dish from the oven and nestle the shrimp among the tomatoes. Return to the oven and bake until the shrimp are just cooked through, 5 to 6 minutes.
5. Drizzle the ouzo over the feta and carefully light it with a long stick lighter. When the flames have subsided, mash the feta and tomatoes with a fork and stir gently until a creamy sauce forms.

Stir in the cooked pasta, lemon zest and half of the parsley. Stir in some of the reserved cooking water as needed to loosen. Season with salt and pepper. Top with the reserved crumbled feta and remaining parsley.

SPRINGTIME FUN: HAVE YOU BEEN TO SAYEN GARDENS?

Sayen Park and Botanical Gardens is a 30-acre park in Hamilton Square. The park can be visited year 'round free of charge from dawn 'til dusk, however, the best time to visit is NOW! This park boasts 1,000 azaleas and 500 rhododendrons, flowering trees, in addition to many other spring flowers which are all in bloom. There are also ponds, bridges, gazebos and walking trails to enjoy.

To showcase this beautiful garden Hamilton Township hosts an annual Azalea Festival the Saturday before Mother's Day, this year on Saturday May 13th from 10 AM to 4 PM (rain date May 14th). Admission is free and there will be vendors on-site with crafts, food and other one-of-a-kind items to purchase.

You might wonder how this garden originated. According to township records, the property was owned by Fredrick and Anne Sayen who built an "Arts and Crafts" style bungalow around 1912. The couple surrounded their home with beautiful plants and flowers acquired on their world travels. After their death in the early 80s, the property sat vacant and was eventually purchased by Hamilton Township in 1988. It was opened to the public in 1991. The quaint home has since been restored and is available to rent for a variety of parties and functions.

So, if you haven't been to Sayen Gardens don't delay. Pick a gorgeous spring day and treat yourself to a nature walk!

GETTING THE WORD OUT

For those who are unaware, our Board has begun a one-year trial using VOLO, a software communication tool that enables the immediate distribution of time-sensitive information. If you have a phone number or email address on file, you likely have already received one or more messages through VOLO.



Hamilton Square. The park can be visited year 'round free of charge from dawn 'til dusk, however, the best time to visit is NOW! This park boasts 1,000 azaleas and 500 rhododendrons, flowering trees, in addition

BIRCH WILLOW BASIN

Last edition Len helped us with a lovely article about the pond/basin. Ron Woolston provided some interesting information on how "the pond" was named. His wife participated in a contest to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the basin. A decorative bolder near the southern bank marks the spot. Kathy (Ron's wife) named it Birch Willow Basin in honor of the river birch and black willow trees that surround the basin. What a lovely tribute and memory. Is there a better time to get out and see our Birch Willow Basin in bloom?



FRANK COLABELLA HONORED

Enchantment resident Frank Colabella was recently honored by Hamilton Mayor Jeffrey S. Martin for his service in the United States Air Force. Frank served our country between 1965-1969 as a Radio Relay Technician during the Vietnam War.

Congratulations Frank and we all thank you for your service.





PET PROFILE: ASBURY AND ARETHA SPORN-COHEN



Two cat myths: Cats are not affectionate. Cats are low maintenance. If you've only known dogs, it's understandable you'd believe these myths. Having had a cat, and now two cats, for decades, we know better.

Asbury (obvious Jersey reference) and Aretha (named for the Queen of Soul who passed away a short time before) came into our lives Labor Day weekend 2018 ages four months and about one year, respectively. Asbury took over the place immediately, being just a kitten. Aretha, who had spent time on the streets, was a tougher nut to crack, super fearful and withdrawn. It's hard to believe this is the same kitty – loving, energetic, and playful. As the pictures illustrate, she and her adopted brother are very attached; you rarely see one without the other.

Their typical day includes the early morning, with both cats fed in separate areas to ensure the glutton (Asbury) lets his sister eat her breakfast in peace. The next step...tons of love with us in bed while we watch early morning TV. Aretha often gifts us her toy mouse, accompanied by piercing hunting sounds. Then it's on to our breakfast where both kitties join us, one getting her morning petting on the floor, the other either sitting in his own chair or just looking out the kitchen window, both bickering over who gets to drink out of their electric fountain first. Next stop, their daily snooze. On sunny days, they usually retire to the window side of the bed, sometimes on the bed until mid-afternoon, almost always side by side.



They also have favorite games they love to play – batting toys around and carrying them from room to room with more hunting sounds, jumping on the bed to help us make it, lying in the middle of the kitchen floor when we're cooking and baking, and jumping on my desk and demanding attention as I'm trying to write this article, just to name a few. And again, even when they growl and hiss at each other, their bond is constant. With each other and with us.



COMING UP AT ENCHANTMENT

May 5 – Mixer

May 9 – Pet Health – Veterinarian Speaker

May 20 - Trivia Night

June 2 – Mixer

June 4 - Bean Art

The Old Bookshop of Bordentown

As a resident of Enchantment, who was new to this area, I knew relatively little about historic Bordentown. It is just a few miles away, located near the borders of Burlington and Mercer counties. It was named after Joseph Borden, who arrived there in 1717, and by 1740, had established a transportation system to carry people and freight.

Bordentown has an impressive list of former residents including Patience Lovell Wright (America's first female sculptor), Francis Hopkins (a signer of the Declaration of Independence), Clara Barton (Red Cross), and Joseph Bonaparte (former King of Spain and brother of Napoleon I of France).

One of the highlights in the town is The Old Book Shop of Bordentown. Owner, Doug Palmieri, has been located there for 19 ½ years. A former Wall Street stockbroker, Doug always had a love of baseball memorabilia. He is the owner of a baseball dating back to the 1840's. He was also a book collector. When his collections got too big to keep at home, he opened his shop which was first located in Freehold.



Doug gets many of his books from people who are downsizing their homes or cleaning out the home of a deceased relative. He also scouts out garage sales, auctions, and estate sales. The shop is not large but is filled from top to bottom with fully stocked shelves. Favorite topics of interest to his buyers are the Civil War and the American Revolution. Other big sellers are books by Ernest Hemingway, John Steinbeck, Virginia Wolf, and Jane Austen. J.K. Rowling's Harry Potter books are also big sellers, especially among the wave of millennials who are moving into and around the area.

There is a small room of children's books where you can find sets of Nancy Drew, Hardy Boys, and Tom Swift. Most of the books are priced very reasonably. However, inside a glass case at the front of the store, is a book entitled Auli Gelli, published in 1559 in Latin which sells for \$500.00 and another titled Baptism of Believers, printed in 1747 by Benjamin Franklin which sells for \$3,000.00.



If you are looking for the latest best-selling books, this is not the shop for you. But if you loved reading as a child, a teenager, or are an adult interested in reading books of these genres and from decades past, you will enjoy The Old Book Shop of Bordentown.

You might also want to stop at Turtle Beans Specialty Coffee Roasters. Delicious!



Early Enchantment: A Look Back

If you are new to Enchantment, you may have heard stories about the early days in the community. Many of us were not here from the beginning. We thought this would be a great way to look back. Thanks to Bernadette Rooney and Lee Levitt for helping us get started. Please send your feedback, memories, or photos. We'd love to hear from you.

The very first owners bought their homes almost sight unseen. What a vision they must have had! At first it was just a presentation from paper plans, an active imagination, and a strong desire to live in Enchantment. Tessie and John Bartolino were the first to purchase their Enchantment home in August 2003. Later came a trailer on some muddy ground, a video-taped presentation, and eventually beautifully furnished model homes. The model homes arrived in 2004, five of them along Sedona Boulevard. Early owners were invited to see building progress in what was christened "The Muddy Shoe Event" as they trekked through unfinished houses located on dirt roads. When you bought a home, your picture was placed on the bulletin board, allowing people to meet their new, prospective neighbors. The community was tight knit right from the beginning, with shared experiences of moving in around the same time.

ACTIVITIES

ONGOING EVENTS

Poker Night - Ray Roth - 581-4811
Ladies Movie Night - Every Weds. - Arlene Roth @ 581-4811
Breakfast at Paneras - First Tues. of month at 9:30 AM - Camille Hoffman @ 581-3633
Morning Book Club - Third Tues. of month at 9:30 AM at Barnes & Noble - Tessie Bartolino @ 581-1590
Evening Book Club - Bobbie Guzman @ 585-5804

UPCOMING EVENTS

APRIL 1 - Murder Mystery Dinner at the Cock 'n Bull in Peddler's Village, Lahaska, PA
Contact Arlene Roth @ 581-4811

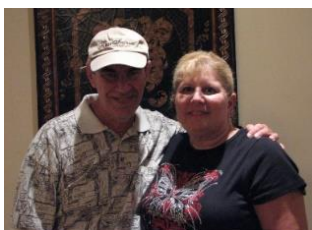
The Clubhouse did not come until later. Resourceful friends and neighbors socialized at block parties held at the end of the different cul-de-sacs. The first Holiday Party was held at the Hibernian Club on Kuser Road in December 2005. The ladies of Enchantment, wanting to socialize and meet new homeowners, started meeting at Paneras for breakfast once a month. Tessie Bartolino came up with this great idea, and this get-together is still ongoing and popular with the ladies.



Once the Clubhouse was complete, the front desk was manned by members of the Hospitality Committee who gave tours to new and prospective home buyers. The Hospitality Committee, co-chaired by Rosina Cifelli and Bernadette Rooney, was created for the sole purpose of welcoming and assisting new and prospective residents. The Committee gave tours, registered new homeowners, processed their picture IDs, as well as guest passes for the pool. The Clubhouse was open and in use before the pool was completed.

As the Enchantment population increased, new residents were elected to the Board of Directors and served one-year terms. Lee Levitt and Ron Woolston were two of those early Board members. Lee also was the first Clubhouse Chairperson, though at the time the Clubhouse was not quite complete. Early HOA meetings were sometimes held at the Hamilton Firehouse on Crosswicks-Hamilton Square Road.

One of the first regular Clubhouse social events was started by Lee Levitt and Jeff Schenker. It was called PPP Night...Pizza, Pool, and Pepsi. It was held every Friday night and residents came just to hang out, play pool, eat pizza, and enjoy the company of their neighbors.





OUT AND ABOUT PHOTOS FROM OUR EVENTS!



