



# The Mayor's Newsletter

The Borough of Ho-Ho-Kus, New Jersey

*"A charming suburb with a small-town atmosphere"*

Dear Residents,

The past few months have been eventful in Ho-Ho-Kus, the unofficial start of summer has arrived, and school graduations are upon us. The Mayor and Council would like to share with you some recent happenings in the Borough and preview some upcoming "Save the Date" events before we all set off for our summer vacations. In May, I issued a proclamation declaring Ho-Ho-Kus a Stigma-Free Zone to reduce the stigma associated with mental illness. This month, I issued a proclamation declaring the month of June LGBTQ+ Pride Month. We are committed to raising awareness and creating a culture in which residents can feel supported by their community and neighbors. I call upon the residents of Ho-Ho-Kus to eliminate prejudice wherever it exists, and to celebrate the great diversity of our Ho-Ho-Kus community.

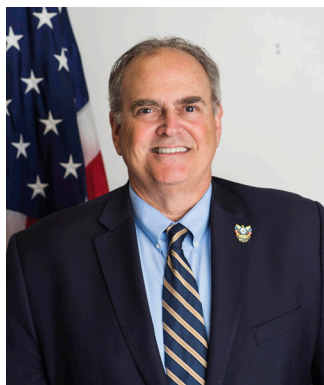


Photo by: Miho Grant Photography

I hope you find this newsletter both interesting and informative.  
Enjoy the Summer!

*Mayor Thomas W. Randall*

Mayor Thomas W. Randall

Spring/Summer 2023

## MAYOR

Thomas W. Randall

## BOROUGH COUNCIL

Douglas K. Troast, President

Steven Shell

Edmund Iannelli

Kevin Crossley

Dane Policastro

Kathleen Moran

## BOROUGH ADMINISTRATOR

William J. Jones

## MUNICIPAL CLERK

Joan Hervé, RMC, CMR

First and last page photos by: Mike Reade



**Save the Date** for our **2nd Annual Ho-Ho-Kus Day**, Saturday, September 9, 2023, noon to 6pm. Following the tremendous success of last year, this community-uniting event promises to only get better! The afternoon will be packed with festival favorites, live music, rides, games, refreshments, premium craft beer, and popular quality food trucks. Chamber of Commerce members are queuing up to reserve space to showcase their businesses. All of the popular rides from last year will be back, plus some new rides and attractions. "The Green" will be rocking and have festivalgoers dancing in the streets! Stay tuned for more information in the coming months leading up to the special event.

We invite you to enjoy this new Borough tradition, support our local businesses, reconnect with each other, and unite in the strength of our remarkable town.

Ho-Ho-Kus Day sponsorships are available. Please contact Borough Administrator William Jones, 201-652-4400, ext. 231, for sponsorship level opportunities.

**The Ho-Ho-Kus Hometown American Heroes Program is back!** The Borough is pleased to have this sold-out program return in 2023. Take a few minutes to walk through the downtown district to see the patriotic banners honoring our Ho-Ho-Kus veterans and active-duty members, with many names you may recognize as part of our community. Regarding this initiative, Mayor Randall said, "We are very pleased to honor and recognize members of our community who faithfully served in the United States Armed Forces. They are a great reminder of the sacrifices they made and continue to make in the pursuit of our freedom. They are an inspiration to all."

**The Ho-Ho-Kus Chamber of Commerce** continues to add new members as new businesses choose Ho-Ho-Kus for a great place to set up shop. The Chamber and Mayor & Council had the pleasure of participating in recent ribbon-cutting openings for 081 Café at 604 North Maple Avenue and Gain Ville

Language Learning Center at 119 First Street. The Chamber continues to grow as new businesses join regularly. If you have a small business — whether brick & mortar or home based - and are interested in the benefits of Chamber of Commerce membership in Ho-Ho-Kus, contact Chamber Co-Presidents Megan Fox and Max Stokes at: [hohokuschamber@gmail.com](mailto:hohokuschamber@gmail.com) to find out more.



*Ribbon cutting ceremony welcoming Ho-Ho-Kus' newest Italian Restaurant, 081 Café. Mayor Randall and Council Members Kevin Crossley, Kathleen Moran, and Steven Shell, along with Chamber of Commerce Co-President Max Stokes and Laurie Hamm welcomed the Domenick Esposito family to town. Photo by: Council Member Dane Policastro*



*Ribbon cutting ceremony welcoming the Gain Ville Learning Center to the Borough. Mayor Thomas Randall, joined by members of the Town Council and Chamber of Commerce cut the ribbon. Pictured: Diala Pharaon, Gain Ville Co-Founder & Managing Director, Agnese Dorillo, Program Coordinator and Instructor, Joni Fatuzzo, Italian & Spanish Instructor; Chamber Co-Presidents Megan Fox and Max Stokes, Jules Hughes, Michael Galanti; Mayor Thomas Randall & Council Members Steve Shell, Ed Iannelli and Kathleen Moran. Photo by: Council Member Dane Policastro*

## **We are #1!**

Ho-Ho-Kus was ranked the **#1 Suburb** to live in New Jersey out of 418 towns, the **#1 Place** to live in Bergen County, out of 70 towns, and the **47th Best Place** to live in America by market leader NICHE for 2023!

## The Shade Tree and Beautification Committee

Phase II plans for improvements to our downtown district are underway! In 2023, the scope of work will encompass improvements to Borough Hall and the areas of Sheridan Avenue between Warren Avenue and North Franklin Turnpike, and East Franklin Turnpike. Phase I in 2022 completed attractive improvements to the Town Green, Memorial Park, and Sycamore Avenue.

The Beautification Committee was formed in April 2022 pursuant to Mayor and Council Resolution #22-63. Mayor Randall appointed the following Committee Members: Executive Committee Council Members Kevin Crossley (Chairman), Edmund Iannelli, and Dane Policastro. General Members Lourdes Carus, Cassie Cavallo, Dannie Chase, Ron Forcellati, Megan Fox, Missy McCloskey, Jeff Pattman, Kathleen Raschdorf, Steve Scanapico, and Max Stokes.

The Committee works collaboratively in an advisory capacity to the Mayor and Council to make aesthetic improvements that reflect the charm of our downtown district through streetscape design, plantings, landscaping, hardscape, and other recommended projects, in a pedestrian friendly atmosphere.

The Contemporary Club of Ho-Ho-Kus has launched a fund drive to raise money for the Phase II Beautification initiative. Scan the below QR code to be directed to the Contemporary Club website.



Beautification Committee Member Dannie Chase of Chase Garden Design installed seasonal planters on Sycamore Avenue. Many thanks to the generous resident who donated the beautiful spring pansies. Photo by: Council Member Dane Policastro

We are grateful to the extraordinary volunteers who have worked vigorously to beautify Ho-Ho-Kus and enrich the quality of life in our treasured community. The enhancement of our downtown area develops our town brand, attracts visitors, and strengthens the economy of our businesses.



Ho-Ho-Kus' Pack 54 plus many other community volunteers joined the team effort to keep our public grounds and waterways litter free on April 28th for the 3rd Annual Ho-Ho-Kus Litter Clean-up. Photo by: Council Member Dane Policastro

## The 10 Orvil Court Improvements Committee

is making excellent progress in our consideration of relocating the Ho-Ho-Kus Library to the former Bank of America building. Heuer & Company has been retained for professional consulting services, and Arcari + Iovino Architects is conducting a feasibility study intended to identify the likely size, configuration, parking, and potential cost, as well as the physical limitations and opportunities of the property. The Committee will submit this information to the Mayor & Council for consideration.

The Borough purchased the building in 2022. A public meeting held on November 28, 2022 to determine public interest of relocating the library received overwhelming support. Consequently, on January 4, 2023 the Mayor & Council passed Resolution #23-32 forming the 10 Orvil Court Improvements Committee. Mayor Randall appointed the following Committee Members: Councilman Dane Policastro (Chairman), Council President Doug Troast, and Councilman Kevin Crossley, Library Board of Trustees President John Mongelli, Trustees Jeff Clutterbuck and Leann Surz, Library Director Morgan Taylor, and Chamber of Commerce Co-President, Max Stokes.

Committee progress is reported each month at our Mayor & Council meetings.



QR Code -  
The Contemporary Club  
of Ho-Ho-Kus





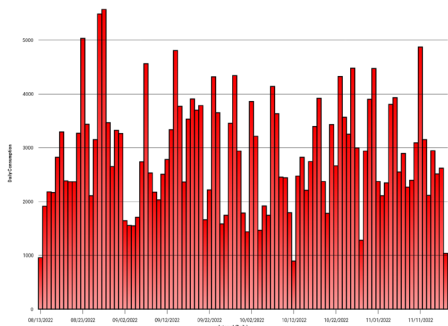
*Congratulations to the Shade Tree & Beautification Committee Members for their outstanding effort.*

*Pictured: L to R: Council Member Kevin Crossley, Dannie Chase, Ronnie Forcellati, Council Member Edmund Iannelli, Katie Raschdorf, Missy McCloskey, Cassie Cavallo, Megan Fox, Lourdes Carus, Max Stokes. Not Pictured: Steven Scanapico, Jeff Pattman, Council Members Kathleen Moran and Dane Policastro. Photo by: Council Member Dane Policastro*

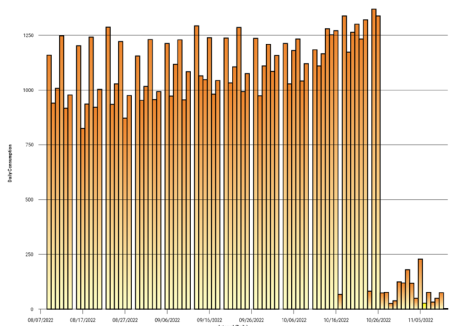


**New Water Filtration System** – We are happy to inform our residents that the NJDEP has granted final approval. The Borough awarded a contract in April and began work on May 1st for a water filtration system designed to remove the PFOA and PFNA contaminates from our water system. We have held a pre-construction meeting as we continue to fast track the process. Our contract calls for all the sitework to be completed this summer while we wait 40 weeks for the filter system delivery (based on current supply chain issues). We expect to meet our goal of having this project finished by the Spring of 2024. The DEP has recognized the Borough’s nonstop efforts to move this critical project forward by granting an extension until May 15, 2024, for completion. Please be aware that we are required by law to send out quarterly notices of violation until this project is completed.

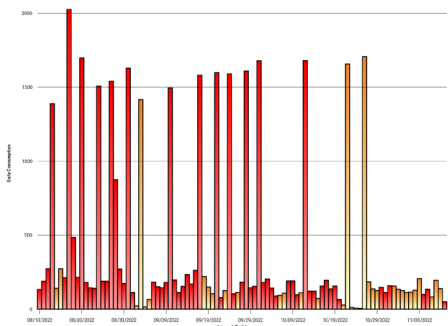
**Water Sprinkler Reminder:** We want to remind you as you are opening, or just activated your sprinklers, that Memorial Day marks the beginning of the watering restrictions which last through Labor Day. Please check that your timers are set according to your zone which can be found on the Borough’s website under the Water/Sewer Departments page. Over 98% of residents’ concerns for high water bills are due to excessive watering and non-adherence to the watering restrictions.



Example of a data log of a toilet running/ continuous leak – 278,881/gal over a 90-day period = \$3,026 bill

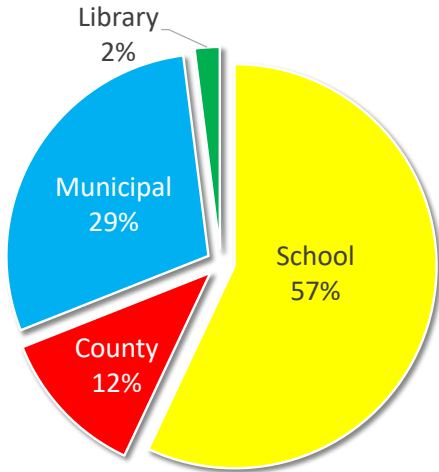


Example of a Data Log of watering every day but Monday – 77,577/gal over a 90-day period = \$686 bill



Data log of normal watering using a rain sensor – 38,266/gal over a 90-day period = \$311 bill

**The Borough’s Budget** has been adopted and is available for review on the Borough’s website under the Finance page. The Governing Body approved an increase of 1.9 tax points (as low as any reported in the area this year - many towns have record-breaking increases) on the 29% of your tax bill the Mayor and Council control. This equates to 50 cents per day or \$15 per month on the average home. The following chart shows the breakdown of your property tax bill.



Borough property taxes have four components with the Municipal Services portion comprising 29% of the total property tax bill.

### Did you know...

that the Borough now accepts online payments for Property Taxes, Solid Waste and Water Utilities? You now have a fast, easy, and safe option to pay by credit card, debit card or echeck. As a registered user, you can save accounts, store payment methods and schedule payments. Click on the Borough website On-Line Payments icon to register.



### Here are some helpful reminders from the Ho-Ho-Kus PD and Chief LaCroix:

- Lock your vehicles, regardless of the time of day and remember to remove the key FOB.
- Please make sure all doors to your house are secured each evening prior to going to sleep.
- If you have an alarm, please activate it, whether at night or leaving for the day.
- Please keep in mind that there is no overnight parking allowed within the Borough from the hours of 4-6 a.m. If you need to leave a car on the street, there is a link on our website ([hohokuspolice.com](http://hohokuspolice.com)) or call the desk directly to register your vehicle for the evening.
- No commercial vehicle is permitted overnight in any residential neighborhood, whether on the street or in a driveway.
- If you see something suspicious, please notify our Police desk immediately at 201-652-1700.
- Be mindful of your vehicle speed when traveling on Borough roads. Speeding is still an issue and to date, our department has conducted 632 traffic details on various roads in an effort to slow drivers down.
- Lastly, with the warmer months fast approaching, there are more pedestrians walking throughout the town. Please remember that under NJ law, all vehicles **MUST STOP** for pedestrians in a crosswalk.



message, email, web, and social media. You may also register on the mobile app **Recycling Coach** to obtain accurate, up-to-date trash and recycling information and schedules.

Please be sure to follow the Borough of Ho-Ho-Kus throughout the year on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter @HHKBorough

To all our valued community volunteers, ***thank you for all that you do!*** Your enthusiasm and hard work help make Ho-Ho-Kus a special place to live. ***You make a difference!***

**During the summer months, the Mayor and Council will hold Combined Public Meetings at 7 pm in the Borough Hall 2nd Floor Council Chambers on June 27, July 25, and August 22, 2023.**



*The Ho-Ho-Kus Mayor and Council. From left, Council Members Kevin Crossley, Dane Policastro, Edmund Iannelli, Mayor Thomas W. Randall, Kathleen Moran, Steven Shell and Douglas Troast, Council President. Photo by: Miho Grant Photography*

### Chief Mike LaCroix



*The 2nd annual "Proud to Be Stigma Free Bowlarama" between the Ho-Ho-Kus Borough and the Ho-Ho-Kus Public School took place on March 1, 2023. The Bears vs. the Borough bowled in unison to raise money for mental health awareness. Photo by: Council Member Dane Policastro*

**Stay Connected!** Please visit the Borough's website, [hhkborough.com](http://hhkborough.com) to sign up for Nixle—the Borough's primary communication platform to receive community news, announcements, updates, and emergency information via text



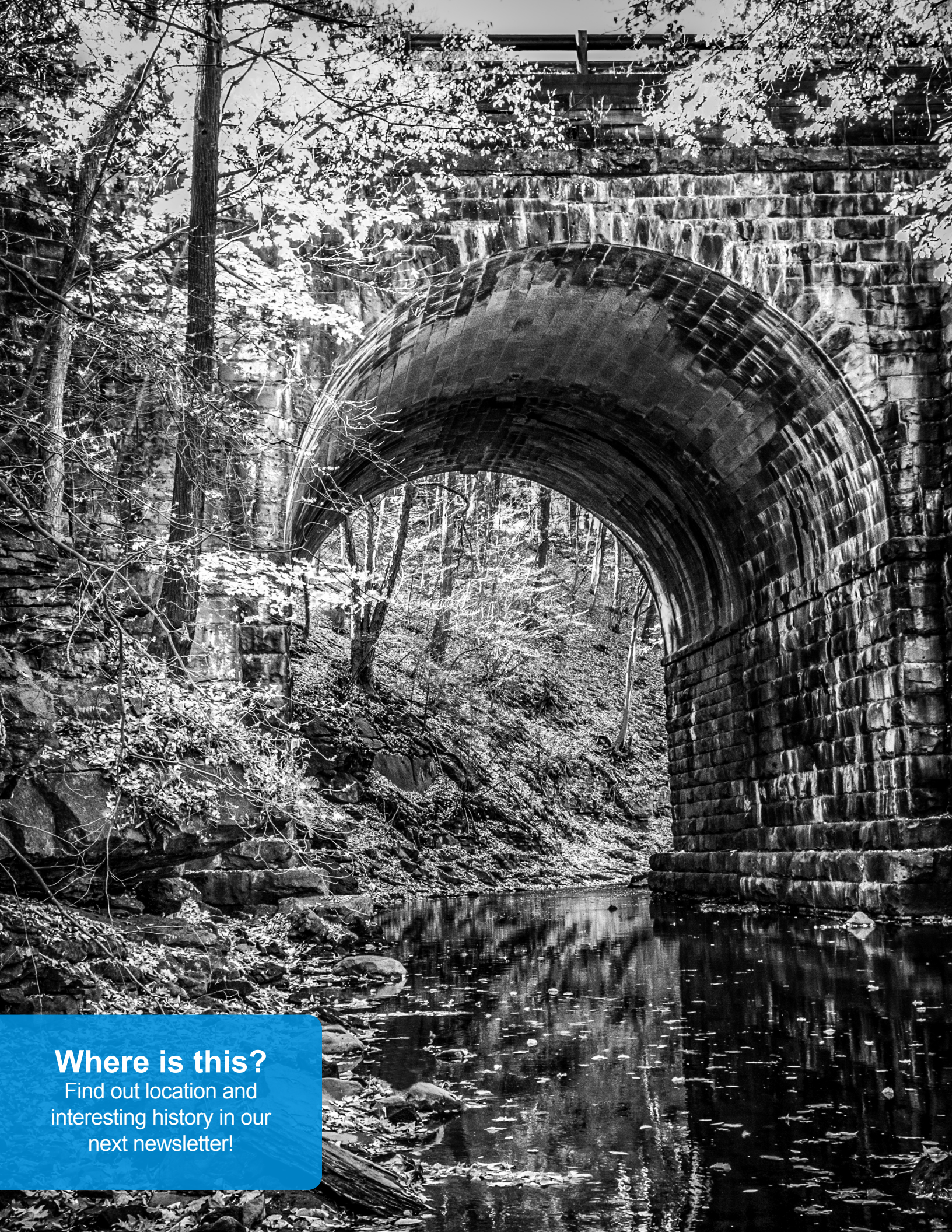
## KEEP THE GREEN CLEAN



### The Ho-Ho-Kus Mayor & Council and Beautification Committee

**Keep the Green Clean!** Litter spoils our town's natural beauty! Please dispose of your trash and recycling appropriately. Keep food wrappings, drink containers and other trash items in a bag or backpack or use one of the 32-gallon bins provided by the Borough. Thank you for caring about Ho-Ho-Kus and for educating your children about the importance of disposing of trash properly!





## Where is this?

Find out location and  
interesting history in our  
next newsletter!



The Borough of Ho-Ho-Kus  
333 Warren Avenue  
Ho-Ho-Kus, NJ 07423

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