



The Mayor's Newsletter

The Borough of Ho-Ho-Kus, New Jersey

"A charming suburb with a small-town atmosphere"

Dear Residents,

As we eagerly await the start of summer, I would like to share some Borough happenings and keep you informed of some important dates for your calendars. First, my compliments to the Ho-Ho-Kus Shade Tree and Beautification Committee for their stellar work in beautifying downtown. It has never looked better, and the Municipal Building now fittingly represents Ho-Ho-Kus as a premier town in New Jersey. In other business, a Public Meeting will be held on June 11th to unveil the concept plan for the proposed relocation of the Ho-Ho-Kus Public Library. Public input is welcome as an important part of the process. The Borough was among the first municipalities in NJ to deliver a fully compliant water delivery system which maximized the opportunity for grant funding and debt relief for the project. The fact that we had a shovel-ready plan ahead of almost everyone else in the state not only allowed the Borough to secure a loan with favorable rates, but we also were able to obtain a \$1 Million savings off the top for debt forgiveness. This saved our residents not only a million dollars but set a substantial portion of the remaining debt at 0% interest, with the rest at very favorable rates, resulting in more savings. The 3rd Annual Ho-Ho-Kus Day is scheduled for September 7th. This event has become a very successful celebration and is a great occasion to reconnect. We hope you can join us! Lastly, I want to take a moment to recognize the significance of volunteerism. As I have said often, our volunteers are the lifeblood of Ho-Ho-Kus. As we look to the future, our community stands strong and unified on the good will of our neighbors through friendship, service, dedication and commitment. I would like to personally thank each and every one of our volunteers for their contribution.

Congratulations to all our graduates, and best wishes for a safe and healthy summer!

Mayor Thomas W. Randall

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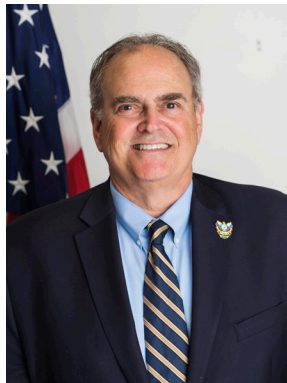


Photo by: Miho Grant Photography

Spring/Summer 2024

MAYOR

Thomas W. Randall

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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

Masthead and Centerfold photos by:
Councilman Dane Policastro

SAVE THE DATES!

Ho-Ho-Kus Day – Saturday, Sept. 7th

Plans for the 3rd Annual Ho-Ho-Kus Day are well underway. Join us in a celebration of our wonderful town Saturday, September 7th from Noon to 6 PM with a rain date of Sunday the 8th. There will be free rides for children of all ages, all day music with a DJ and two live bands performing, plus a host of the best quality food trucks in the area. Over 30 Chamber of Commerce & local non-profit merchant tents will line the streets. Families, neighbors and friends, let's unite in hometown pride!

For more details and sponsorship information contact the Borough Administrator Bill Jones at jonesw@ho-ho-kusboro.com

Ho-Ho-Kus Movie Night – Friday, Sept. 6th

The Ho-Ho-Kus Recreation Commission will host their annual Movie Night Friday, September 6th on the Town Green beginning at 7pm.



The 3rd Annual Ho-Ho-Kus Day is September 7th, 2024. You are invited for an afternoon of music, food, amusement and fun! Come celebrate our extraordinary town! Support your local businesses, reconnect with one another, and unite in the strength of our community. Pictured: Lisette Palella. Photo by: Councilman Dane Policastro.

THE SHADE TREE & BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE

The STBC is embarking on Phase III of their improvement projects which includes exciting initiatives such as the first Ho-Ho-Kus Community Garden, landscape enhancements at Hollywood Ave. and Sheridan Ave., rail planters on N. Maple Ave. Bridge, historical markers at The Hermitage and Zabriskie Park, and new 'Welcome to Ho-Ho-Kus' signage with the town's signature green and gold lettering. Additionally, the Committee has hired a grant writer to seek funding opportunities for future community enhancements.



Arbor Day Tree Rededication: The Mayor & Council and Shade Tree and Beautification Committee held an Arbor Day tree rededication ceremony for trees affected by Phase I and Phase II of the improvements at the Borough Hall, Town Green and Memorial Park. Families and friends gathered on April 26th to remember the good stewards of our community to whom trees were dedicated for their outstanding service to Ho-Ho-Kus. Pictured: Paul "Potsy" Portsmore family and friends. Photo by: Councilman Dane Policastro.

Since its establishment in April 2022, The Ho-Ho-Kus Shade Tree and Beautification Committee has been actively improving the town's aesthetics. Phase I focused on the Town Green, Memorial Park and Sycamore Avenue. Phase II involved significant exterior

upgrades to the Municipal Building including a new roof, siding, painting, fixtures, planters, benches, signage, lighting and landscaping. The Committee's 2023 final goals were achieved with the installation of new benches, planters and hardscapes along the downtown district area further beautifying the community.

The Committee is comprised of council members and residents who collaborate to make recommendations to the Mayor and Council for aesthetic improvements to the Ho-Ho-Kus downtown district including streetscape design, plantings, landscaping, hardscape and other proposed projects. Mayor Randall's 2024 appointees to the Committee bring a diverse range of expertise in their roles. Members Lourdes Carus, Cassie Cavallo, Dannie Chase, Ron Forcellati, Megan Fox, Allison Lim, Missy McCloskey, Jeff Pattman, Lisa Perricelli, Kathleen Raschdorf, Steve Scanapico, Max Stokes, and Executive Committee Council Members Kevin Crossley, Ed Iannelli, and Dane Policastro are contributing to making Ho-Ho-Kus a beautiful place to live.



Enthusiastic volunteers teamed up for the 4th Annual HHK Litter Clean Up April 26th to remove and bag litter around our public grounds and scenic waterways. Keeping Ho-Ho-Kus litter free is a top priority of the Shade Tree and Beautification Committee.

Ho-Ho-Kus Community Garden

A special gathering place has been created by the Ho-Ho-Kus Shade Tree and Beautification Committee and resident Allison Lim of Hungry Harvest Garden where experienced and beginner gardeners work together to plant, grow and harvest produce in an effort to reduce hunger. Located on Borough owned land adjacent to the Ambulance Corps driveway, the 410 square foot garden enclosure features raised garden beds skillfully constructed by the Ho-Ho-Kus DPW. Special thanks and recognition go to Superintendent Jeff Pattman and his talented staff for their great work!

The Ho-Ho-Kus Community Garden aims to bring the community together through sustainable growing practice, hands-on education, kindness and collaboration. The goal is to empower individuals of all ages to cultivate compassion by donating all collected crop to neighbors in need in and around our community. The Garden will hold select Ho-Ho-Kus Farm Days where residents may select produce for a donation (100% of donations go back to garden cultivation).

Get Involved! The Garden operates on a volunteer-based model welcoming residents to participate in gardening activities and distributing the weekly crop. Whether you have a green thumb or simply want to contribute to the community, there are opportunities for everyone to get involved. To sign up, visit the town website: [@hhkborough.com/ho-ho-kus-community-garden](https://www.hhkborough.com/ho-ho-kus-community-garden) or email Allie at communitygarden@ho-ho-kusboro.com.

Fun community events will be planned at the Garden in the future. Stay tuned for more updates!

Do you want to volunteer, but not sure when? Pop in during the growing season!

Tuesdays and Sundays from 8am-12pm

Thursdays from 5pm-7:30pm



The HHK Community Garden under construction by the Ho-Ho-Kus DPW. Photo by: Councilman Dane Policastro.

Local Support: The HHK Community Garden initiative is supported by donations from individuals and local businesses including Kuiken Brothers Company, Inc., Green-Way Irrigation, CortZen Outdoor Decor, SJS Lawn Care Services, Chase Garden Design, and SiteOne Landscape Supply.

10 ORVIL COURT IMPROVEMENTS COMMITTEE Public meeting scheduled for June 11th

The Mayor and Council will hold a Public Meeting June 11, 2024, to discuss relocating the Ho-Ho-Kus Public Library to the former Bank of America building at 10 Orvil Court. Residents will hear from professionals and have the opportunity for comments and questions.

The Borough purchased the building in August 2022, and a Public Meeting was held in November 2022 to assess public interest in a proposed relocation of the rapidly deteriorating Library from 91 Warren Avenue to the center of town. Based on positive resident support, this led to the Mayor's formation of the 10 Orvil Court Improvements Committee tasked with recommending building use and improvements to the Mayor and Council. The Committee engaged Arcari + Iovino, an experienced architectural firm specializing in library projects to conduct a feasibility study to identify the likely size, configuration, potential cost, physical limitations and opportunities of the property, and develop an initial concept plan for the library conversion. Heuer & Company was also retained for pre-construction consulting services.

An important aspect of the new library design is the desire to provide a multipurpose room accessible to community groups both during and beyond library hours. After many months of planning, the Mayor and Council is pleased to unveil a transformative plan to enhance the Library's accessibility and convenience, making it an essential destination and a central hub of the community. The Governing Body is committed to offsetting costs and debt that is both financially conscientious and sustainable.

The meeting will be held in the Borough Hall Council Chambers at 7 PM. The Mayor and Council welcome community feedback on this important project.

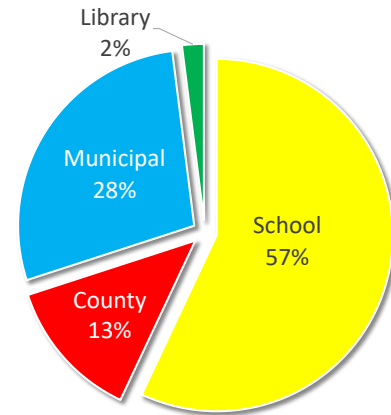
THE BOROUGH'S BUDGET

The Mayor and Council adopted the budget with a 1.8 tax point increase (which is amongst the lowest in the area) on the 28% of your tax bill they control. This equates to \$166 on the average home which is \$.45 a day, \$13.50 a month. The following chart shows the breakdown of your property tax bill.

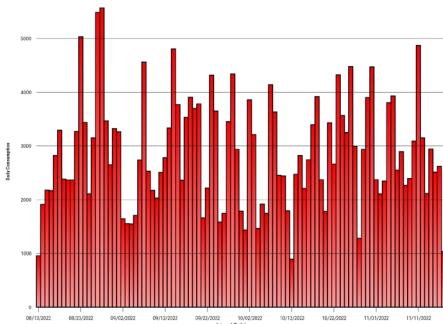
WATER SPRINKLER REMINDER

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 Department's page. Over 98% of residents' concerns for high water bills are due to excessive watering and non-adherence to the watering restrictions.

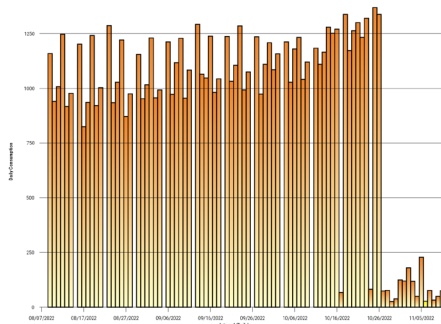
Breakdown of the Property Tax Bill



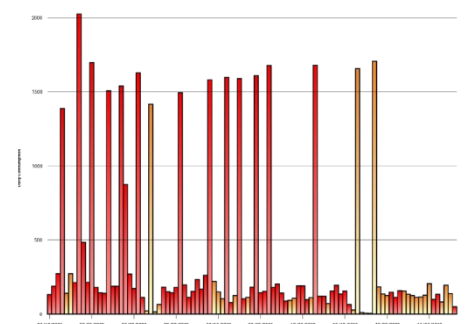
Borough property taxes have four components with the Municipal Services portion comprising 28% of the total property tax bill.



Data log of running toilet.



Watering every day but Monday.



Normal watering with rain sensor.



One of the four PFAS treatment facilities in Ho-Ho-Kus. HHK water is now below detectable levels for both PFOA and PFNA contaminants throughout our water system. For additional information please visit the Borough website hhkborough.com. Photo by: Councilman Dane Policastro.

WORTH-PINKHAM MEMORIAL LIBRARY



Available Now: Greetings from Ho-Ho-Kus Postcards

Just in time for summer, our beautifully illustrated "Greetings from Ho-Ho-Kus" postcard features familiar town landmarks and perfectly captures our small town charm. Send summer greetings to family and friends and keep one for yourself as a keepsake memento. Sold in sets of three for \$10 and available for purchase only at Worth-Pinkham Memorial Library. (Designed by local artist and former Ho-Ho-Kus resident Julia Shea)

Summer Reading Challenge

From June 24 to August 30, we challenge kids ages 0-18 to read or listen to books for 20 minutes every day to explore new worlds, exercise their minds, and maybe win a grand prize. Adventure begins at your library! Visit the library to register and get started.

Events

Dreading the words "I'm bored" from your children this summer? Check out our full calendar of events for kids, including a Unique Creatures animal encounter, royal-tea parties, music and movement, special guest story times, and more.

We have plans for grown-ups too! Create with us, learn something new, or get involved with a community of readers at one of our book groups. www.bit.ly/WPMLevents

Become a Library Insider

Some of our programs fill up quickly. Subscribe to our email newsletter and follow us on social media (@worthpinkham_ml) to be among the first to know about library events and happenings. <https://bit.ly/WPML-insider>

Book Concierge

If you want to enjoy your time reading rather than selecting what to read next, our Concierge Reading Service is for you. Share your preferences through a comprehensive survey and we will provide you with books hand-selected by staff, on hold and ready for you on your chosen day each month. www.hohokuslibrary.org/book-concierge

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



Ribbon Cutting: A ribbon cutting ceremony to celebrate Ho-Ho-Kus' newest restaurant, Graze, was held Friday, March 29, 2024. Mayor Thomas Randall joined members of the Town Council and Ho-Ho-Kus Chamber of Commerce in welcoming owners George and Dominic Deluca and Brent Cestone to town. Photo by: Councilman Dane Policastro.

The Ho-Ho-Kus Chamber of Commerce has 64 active member businesses in the community, and we are always open for new members to join and actively participate. We would like to welcome our newest member Graze Brunch Kitchen who celebrated their grand opening ribbon cutting ceremony last month. With the nice weather finally here, let's remember to support our many great restaurants and local businesses in town!



Garbo's Italian Deli and Pizza received an honorary plaque from Mayor Randall and the Town Council celebrating their 35th year in business and their status as one of the oldest establishments in the Borough under the same ownership. The plaque was presented to owners Ernie and Janet Garbaccio, who were joined by their children Ariana and Nico for the special occasion.

Our yearly membership renewal is taking place. Existing members please be sure to complete your membership renewal. Our member meetings are held monthly, and you can find more information or join from our website www.hohokuschamberofcommerce.com.



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



- Regardless of the time of day, always lock your vehicle when unoccupied and remove the key FOB from the vehicle.
- Make sure your windows and doors to your home are secured before retiring for the evening.
- If your home is equipped with an alarm system, please use it.
- Within the borough, please do not park on the streets from the hours of 4-6 am.
- If you need to park on the street overnight, notify the desk for permission, or use the link from our website to register the vehicle and the location.
- Commercial vehicles are NOT permitted to be parked in any residential neighborhood overnight.
- When travelling and away, it is best not to post photos on any social media stating that you are away for a period of time.
- In the event you are away, and your house is vacant, notify our department and ask to be put on the vacant house list.
- With warmer weather fast approaching, please watch your speeds on borough roads, as speeding is still an issue. Furthermore, there are now more people walking or riding bikes, so their safety is most important to us.
- Beware of phones scams. The I.R.S. or any other legitimate business will not ask to be paid with gifts cards in lieu of cash. DO NOT give sensitive information to these people.
- Finally, if you see something or someone suspicious, please call us immediately at 201-652-1700

Chief Mike LaCroix

Gamewell Fire Box: Did you know there are a number of fire alarm boxes on our streets that are monitored 24/7, and when pulled, will alert our Fire Department. Boxes are at the following locations: Fire Headquarters - 52 Sheridan Ave, box on front of building; 619 North Maple Ave - box on telephone pole in front of building; Sheridan Ave and Orvil Court - box on telephone pole; North Franklin Turnpike and Warren Ave - box on telephone pole; Lloyd Road - box on telephone pole in front of school; East Franklin Turnpike and Sycamore Ave - box on telephone pole in front of Memorial Park; North Franklin Turnpike - box on telephone pole in front of St. Luke's/ECLC; 100 Brookside Ave - box on front of building; Steps to activate a box alarm: 1. Pull down the white door; 2. Pull the little white hook behind the door down; 3. Stay at the Box until a First Responder arrives (Police or Fire). Photo by: Councilman Dane Policastro,

The Ho-Ho-Kus Volunteer Fire Department recently celebrated Ex-Chief Wally Kuenzel's extraordinary 60 years of service with a gathering at his home on May 19th. The event brought together members of the Fire Department, family, and friends to honor Ex-Chief Kuenzel.

Ex-Chief Kuenzel has been dedicated to preserving and protecting the lives and property of those he serves since joining the Department in 1964. He is highly respected and admired by all who know him.



Ex-Chief Wally Kuenzel Of HHK Fire Department was honored on May 19th for six decades of dedicated service.



The 3rd annual "Proud to Be Stigma Free Bowlarama" between the Ho-Ho-Kus Borough and the Ho-Ho-Kus Public School took place in Oakland, NJ on February 28th, 2024. Pictured: HHK Fire Dept. members Jeff Kropiewnicki, Tucker Daly, Dave Biswurm. Photo by: Councilman Dane Policastro.



HO-HO-KUS AMBULANCE CORPS

On Sunday evening, May 12, 2024, the Ho-Ho-Kus Volunteer Ambulance Corps responded to a possible heart attack in progress. As Duty Crew members Captain Gordon Hamm, EMT Isabella Deppisch and Driver Stefan Deppisch arrived on the scene, HHK Police Officers Sgt. Mike Gil and Ptl. Garret Sweetman were just starting CPR. The EMS crew and PD continued with CPR until a Valley ALS unit arrived minutes later to take over for the PD and assist HHK EMS in CPR and care for the patient. Patient vitals started to intermittently return in the ambulance ride to the hospital and stabilized in the ER.

The Ho-Ho-Kus Volunteer Ambulance Corps and Ho-Ho-Kus Police play a vital role in medical response within our community. All our first responders (Police, EMS, Fire) are prepared to handle emergencies with quick actions and confidence. They are heroes. Thank you for your service!

Become a Volunteer! Currently the Ambulance Corps has 59 active riding members and continues to recruit new people every day. If you would like to become a volunteer please reach out to them through social media.

C.E.R.T.

Please consider joining the CERT Team and enrolling in the 9-week "Basic CERT Training" course offered through the Bergen County Office of Emergency Management. If you are 16 or older and want to take an active volunteer role in the community, please email cert@ho-ho-kusboro.com.

Where is This?

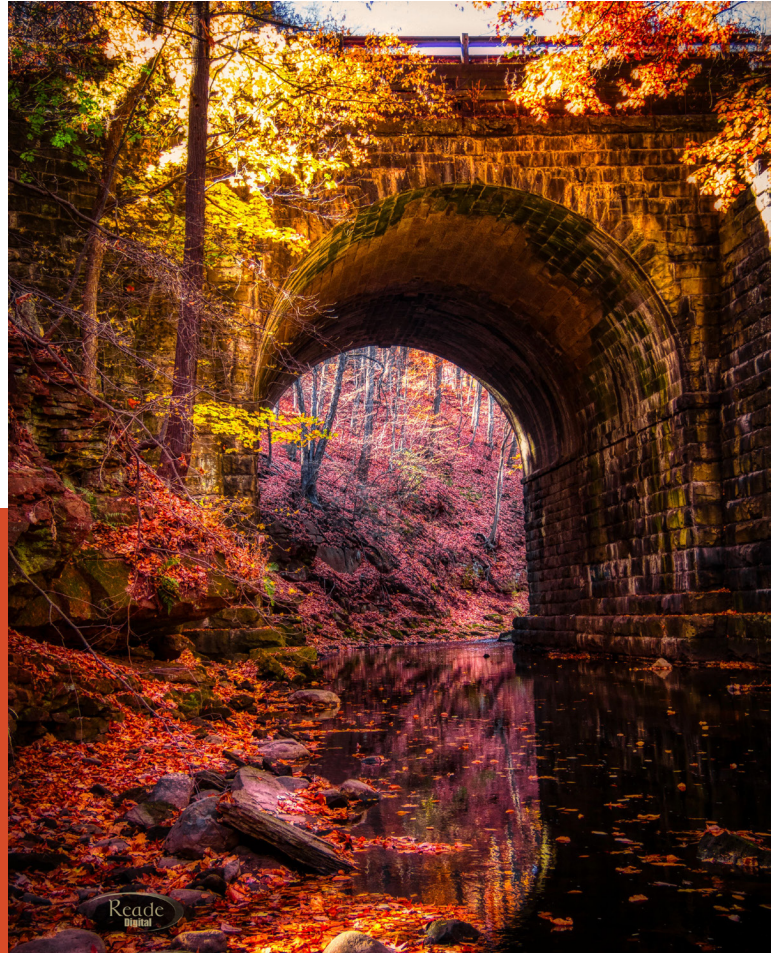
Answer: The 176-year-old Ho-Ho-Kus train track Viaduct rises 70 feet over the Ho-Ho-Kus Brook.

Each of the native Palisade cut stones weigh about a ton or more. Originally two tracks, it was expanded to four in 1902 when Elijah Rosencrantz sold a parcel of land to the Erie Railroad. Today it carries NJ Transit Service to New York City. The NJ State Plan lists the viaduct as a Critical Environmental and Historic Site.

Photo by: Mike Reade.



On May 12th 2024, the Ho-Ho-Kus Volunteer Ambulance Corps and HHK Police Department played a vital role in saving a patient. Pictured: HHK Police Ptl. Garret Sweetman, EMS Driver Stefan Deppisch, EMS Captain Gordon Hamm, EMS Duty Crew member Isabella Deppisch, and HHK Police Sgt. Mike Gil. Photo by: Councilman Dane Policastro.



Follow the Borough of Ho-Ho-Kus throughout the year
on Facebook, Instagram, and X @HHKBorough

STAY CONNECTED!

The Borough utilizes Nixle as its primary communication platform to disseminate emergency & public safety information, advisories and announcements via text message and email. We also use the Swift911 emergency system that calls your phone with a recorded message when there is an emergency alert. Please visit hhkborough.com to sign up. You may also register on the mobile app Recycling Coach to obtain accurate, up-to-date trash and recycling information and schedules.

MAYOR & COUNCIL SUMMER MEETING SCHEDULE

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 25, July 23, and August 27, 2024.



Hometown Heroes: Congratulations to Carol and Gary Tyler who were recognized as "Hometown Heroes" by New Jersey's 5th District Congressman Josh Gottheimer #NJ5HometownHeroes for their outstanding volunteer work in Ho-Ho-Kus. Photo by: Councilman Dane Policastro.



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.



A Remembrance Ceremony was held at the Ho-Ho-Kus Memorial Park on May 27, 2024 following the annual Memorial Day Parade. Many thanks to the V.F.W., Scouts, NHRHS Band, HHKPD, HHKFD, HHK Ambulance Corps, HHK Board of Education, local clergy, and the residents who lined the streets to honor the fallen. Special recognition goes to Sgt. Owen Morrissey of the HHKPD for his bagpipe rendition, the student bugler who played Taps, and the Ho-Ho-Kus Public school students who shared their heartfelt essays. Thank you to the Contemporary Club of Ho-Ho-Kus for handing out flags and to the Boy Scouts for hosting a Hot Dog stand. Pictured: Larry Diamond, Commander, VFW Post 192, James Coughlin, Chaplin. Photo by Councilman Dane Policastro



KEEP THE GREEN CLEAN

by

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!



The Cotton Warp Mill owned by John J. Zabriskie towers above Sylvan Lake in Ho-Ho-Kus. His massive stone dam on the brook created the lake just south of the Rosencrantz Mill located further upstream. The former mill was situated in the space of the present day VFW Building and NJ Transit Parking Lot. Zabriskie Mill & Sylvan Lake, Ho-Ho-Kus, NJ ca.1880, George Bradford Brainerd Collection, The Brooklyn Museum. *(This image colorized by Mike Reade)*

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