

NEWS

Keyport Borough

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For Immediate Release:

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Keyport Senior Center Celebrates their 100th Building Anniversary

On September 14, 2009, from 10:00 to 11:00 am, the Keyport Senior Center will host a celebration in honor of the Senior Center building turning 100 years old. The beautiful brick building, proudly erected on 110 Second Street in Keyport, NJ once served as a former school known as “East Keyport School”.

This is an exciting time for us as many of our seniors and town fathers as they have attended school here over the past century said Wendy Tooker, Director of the Senior Center. Wendy has been working at the senior center for the past 14 years. The building was one of the two or three elementary schools that served the children of the area until the Central School was built. They were built this way so the children could easily walk to school.

I can still remember walking one block from my home to the school for my first day of Kindergarten, said Mayor Robert Bergen. “I was one of the students taught by Mrs. Elizabeth Walling in her first Kindergarten class at the school”. Mrs. Elizabeth Walling, an active member of the senior center and a member of the celebration committee taught Keyport residents in the building for twenty years. The years I spent teaching at this building are the most precious memories of my career, said Elizabeth Walling. “Everyone affiliated with the little school knew each other so well that we became a family”.

After the East School closed, she taught at the Central school for twenty more years. Mrs. Walling currently takes art lessons in the very same room that she taught Mayor Bergen in his Kindergarten class. There will be a guest speaker, Mr. Tom Gallo of the Keyport Historical Society who will briefly discuss the features of the building and the architect who designed it.

Honored guests expected to attend include, Assemblyman Samuel Thompson, Legislative District 3, Monmouth County Board of Chosen Freeholders, Director Barbara McMorrow, Freeholder Amy Mallet, and Keyport Mayor Robert Bergen. Our heritage is proudly preserved with the cooperation from all levels of Government and we wish to express our gratitude for their acknowledgements.

Refreshments will be served immediately following the ceremony.