



The regularly scheduled April 2026 public meeting will be held on **Monday, April 6, 2026**, starting at **7:00 PM**. Chief Daniel Mulligan of the Point Pleasant Borough Fire Company will present a program about **THE HISTORY OF POINT PLEASANT BOROUGH FIRE DEPARTMENT**. **Meeting location:** Point Pleasant Borough Municipal Building, 2233 Bridge Ave., Point Pleasant Borough. The meeting is free and open to the public and you need not be a member to attend.

Each month, our newsletters will be organized around a theme that highlights a significant aspect of our history. This month's focus is the Historic Village of Lovelandtown.

## **A TRIBUTE TO LOVELANDTOWN AND ART BIRDSALL** *by Sal and Barbara Marino*

I have lived in Lovelandtown for over 50 years. My wife Barbara Petracco Marino has lived there for 77 years. Half a century to three-quarters of a century should give one some unabridged knowledge of their surroundings. When Barbara and I got married, we bought our house on Howe Street from her parents, Arthur and Millie Petracco. The house is one of the original Stout family homes and was among four remaining original homes from Lovelandtown's mid-1800s settlement. Art and Millie had previously purchased it from Helen Stout in 1946.

In 1997 the late Esther Loveland Kinsley wrote some wonderful historical facts about Lovelandtown. She named many of the founding family names of the pioneers of the settlement. Many of the descendants of these families are still here. She not only mentions the Lovelands, but the Stouts, Herberts, Johnsons, Tiltons and others

Others have written about Lovelandtown but since I have spent a half century living here, I can offer another perspective of this historical part of Point Pleasant. Why, you may ask, is Lovelandtown part of Point Pleasant rather than Bay Head? The village is sandwiched between Point Pleasant and Bay Head. Actually, it is attached to Bay Head because of its proximity. At the eastern end of Howe Street, where our home is, it becomes Bay Head. In her book entitled "Lovelandtown, A small Hamlet in Ocean County, New Jersey", the late Pauline S. Miller leaves a dramatic and very informative book about the history of Lovelandtown.

Based upon my research I have found that in the late 1800s, Bay Head invited Lovelandtown to join, but the Villagers of Lovelandtown declined due to Bay Head's lack of essential services. Subsequently, when Point Pleasant Borough separated from Brick Township in 1920, an invitation was extended to Lovelandtown. Lovelandtown accepted, citing the new borough's commitment to providing local services as a key factor in its decision.



Lovelandtown is a wonderful family neighborhood. Aside from the historic aspect, here in the 21st century, we have close-knit neighbors that help and look out for each other. I ask and I receive. No questions asked.

Recently more people have moved into our area. I wonder if they know how historic LOVELANDTOWN really is. It was named this because many of the pioneers were Lovelands. But there were other families that settled this area beginning in 1817, long before Brick Township, Bay Head, Mantoloking, Point Pleasant and Point Pleasant Beach were formed. According to the late Pauline Miller, in her 1993 book about Lovelandtown, she mentions Walter Stout was one of those families, as were families named Irons, Cooke, Hankins, Birdsall, Johnson, Crane, Asay, Chadwick, and more. Some of those families are seventh generation residents of Lovelandtown. *(over)*



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## Point Pleasant Historical Society *Serving Point Pleasant and Point Pleasant Beach*

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We are here but we also seem to be forgotten. We are home to the historic Johnson Brother's Boat Works. Both the New Jersey Museum of Boating and the Antique Auto Museum are home to Lovelandtown. The Bay Head Historical Society Home is a former Loveland home here in Lovelandtown. Of course, when Captain John Loveland decided to merge with Point Pleasant, we then became Point Pleasant. But the history of LOVELANDTOWN will always pinpoint who we are and where we come from.

When I first came to Lovelandtown Barbara pointed out people I should get to know. One of those special persons was Arthur Birdsall a seventh generation Lovelandtown resident. And I was thrilled to meet him and learn so much from "Artie". Sadly, Artie passed away this year. I dedicate the following to him:

***Since Barbara was here for quite a while she showed me who to know  
The folks right here in Lovelandtown are special and you should know  
Not just one or two but many have that "special glow".  
The first guy she introduced me to was a man named Artie Birdsall  
A seventh generation Lovelandtown resident. A man who was loved by all.  
We treasure all his decoy carvings. He is master of his art.  
He lived a very simple life. But he lived and did his part.  
If ever you needed help from Art, all you had to do was ask.  
And he was there to help with any kind of task.  
When we had to leave dear Lovelandtown we were sad and really depressed.  
But we thought of Artie and other friends. Would they feel like us? Distressed?  
Well, we thought, we really haven't left our Lovelandtown home. Instead, we  
brought it with us.  
If we could bring more friends like Artie, it really would relieve us.  
But things are changing in Lovelandtown as it is all over the world.  
And thankfully we have our memories that may be unrolled, as a flag unfurled.  
And one of those fondest memories, the one that beats them all, is our friendship  
with a special guy.***

***And that guy is Artie Birdsall.***



Art Birdsall and Zack in front of the Birdsall Decoy Shop.  
Photo Credit: Mark Sullivan, Star News Group



Artie Birdsall



Art Birdsall with his decoys.  
Photo credit: Mark Sullivan, Star News Group