

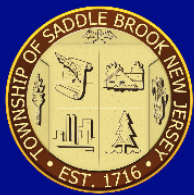
MAYOR'S MONTHLY UPDATE FEBRUARY 2015

Mayor's Youth Group

The Mayor's Youth Group provides an opportunity for young adults in the 4th – 12th grades to get involved and learn about their local government. Participating members develop stronger leadership skills and truly get to make a difference in our community. The group works closely with elected officials and other community leaders on various community projects and events. I had a meeting with the group on Saturday, February 28th, which was organized by Mayor's Liaison Regina Barrale and Senior Advisor Thomas Van Winkle. The meeting was well attended, informative and laid the foundation for a productive year. Also in attendance were Councilwoman Karen D'Arminio and Peter (PJ) Punzo. Karen is the Township's Projects and Activities Committee Liaison and PJ is the Committee Chairman.

Projects and Activities Committee

Reestablishing and improving community projects and activities in our community is very important to this administration. Councilwoman Karen D'Arminio has been appointed the Council Liaison to the Projects and Activities Committee. Karen has extensive experience managing and organizing township events. She has been volunteering her time since 1996, first as a member of the Projects and Activities Committee and then as Chairwoman from 2000 – 2010. She supervised all the events in town including the Easter Egg Hunt, Easter Hat Parade, the town picnic, fishing contest, Halloween and Christmas parties, and holiday home decorating contests. Our goal is to make these events spectacular and memorable once again for our residents, especially our children, to enjoy and appreciate.

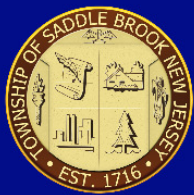


Budget

The 2015 proposed budget was submitted to the council for their consideration. It was presented after meeting with all department heads reviewing their needs and careful consideration of the taxpayers of Saddle Brook. The proposed budget is up 1.64% for all line items that fall within the 2% cap and a total increase of 2.47%. Some of the highlights include the hiring of two additional police officers, a maintenance person for all township buildings, salary increases and replacement of retiring personnel from the DPW and tax office. It also includes funding for a grant writer to assist in aggressively pursuing grants for the township, providing funding for the municipal court to recoup many years of unpaid fines and tickets and starting a capital improvements program to upgrade our water and sewer systems, road resurfacing and needed equipment for our fire department.

SBCTV

One of my priorities since January 1st was to have SBC-TV up and running for the residents of the township to obtain important information as well as televising council meetings and special events. I am happy to announce that this goal has been achieved. After reviewing several proposals since the first of the year I have made recommendations to the council that I believe will keep the station operational and make an investment to improve the overall quality of the station. These recommendations include contracting with a video production company through December 2015 to record and broadcast regular council meetings, special council meetings and special events upon request. The video company will also be responsible for posting and transmitting bulletin board information to the station. We would also like to purchase equipment, specifically a controller event calendar and computer hard drives that run the software required to broadcast the bulletin board and video recordings. Lastly we want to contract with computer technicians for training, installation and maintenance of the station and new equipment.

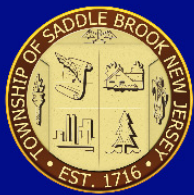


Flood Map FEMA Meeting

The township received a letter from Bergen County Executive James J. Tedesco, III regarding new draft flood hazard area maps, which Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) had released over the last year. These maps show the limits of the 100 year storm event that, in turn, is used to show flood limits that include or exclude homes from flood insurance requirements. The letter announced that FEMA was holding informational seminars on February 10th & 11th and urged the general public to attend along with their municipal officials. A copy of the letter was put on our township website and Facebook page. I attended the February 10th seminar along with Township Emergency Management Coordinator / Chief of Police Robert Kugler. There were some Saddle Brook property owners in attendance and they were able to check if their properties were included in a flood hazard area. They also had the opportunity to speak with FEMA representatives who were available to answer their questions.

Open Space Grant Meeting

On Monday, February 23rd I attended an Open Space Grant meeting with Township Business Administrator / Clerk Peter Lo Dico where we submitted our grant application / proposal to the Bergen County Trust Fund Public Advisory Committee. The Open Space Trust Fund is a dedicated program supporting open space acquisition and recreation development, as well as historical preservation and farmland protection throughout Bergen County. The township has submitted our application / proposal under the County Program, which dedicates Trust Fund dollars for projects involving open space land acquisition, county recreation facilities, floodplain protection, historic preservation, and farmland preservation. Our application specifically requests funding under the floodplain protection program to match a grant the township received from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection – Blue Acres after Hurricane Irene to be used to buy out property owners who have been affected most by repeated flooding.

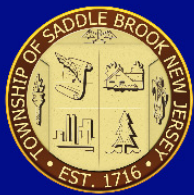


Community Development Block Grant

On Wednesday, March 4th, I attended a community development grant meeting along with Council Representative Councilwoman Karen D'Arminio and Community Liaison Lou Verile. The meeting was hosted by the Bergen County Community Development office in Hackensack. Block grant funds, which are provided by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) through the Bergen County Office of Community Development are awarded based on the mission to enhance the development of viable communities by assisting in the provision of decent housing, a suitable living environment and expanding economic opportunities. The township submitted two applications, one in Public Facilities category proposing a storm drain repair and maintenance program and the other in the Public Service category for reimbursement of salary and wages for our Senior Citizen Center Clerk position. We presented our proposals to the Central Region Community Development representatives on Wednesday, March 11th.

Women in History Month

In 1980, President Jimmy Carter issued a Presidential Proclamation declaring the week of March 8, 1980 as National Women's History Week. Keeping with the tradition of previous administrations, at our March 12th council meeting, council members and I recognized five women from Saddle Brook for their significant contributions to our community. This year we established specific categories or areas of achievement, which included Outstanding Citizen, Community Service, Government Service, Community Leader and Education Leader. These awards are public acknowledgement of success and excellence and provide visibility to the honored individuals. The women selected are role models for other women to hold in high esteem. The honorees were: Nancy Gara – Outstanding Citizen; Diane Bonner – Community Service; Debra Gross Quatrone – Government Service; Preeti Sherawat – Community Leader; Kathy Ioele – Education Leader.



Flood Committee / Taskforce

As a community we must be more proactive in addressing our flooding problem, which has had a tremendous impact on, and continues to affect, many of our residents. As such, flood prevention and mitigation must be one of our highest priorities. Knowing and recognizing the problems that floods have caused to our community we must find meaningful and comprehensive solutions. We must continue to educate ourselves as to why flooding occurs in Saddle Brook and investigate the best ways to prevent further flood damage. We must utilize a task force approach by working together with other municipalities to develop and share different ideas and strategies that can be implemented at the local level to help mitigate the flooding that has plagued our area. This type of task force would allow for a coordinated and regionalized effort to address flooding issues caused by shared waterways. We must also continue to make necessary adjustments to infrastructure such as repairing drainage and de-snagging waterways. In the near future I will be looking to form a township advisory board of residents and officials to meet on a quarterly basis to discuss flooding and work together to address these issues.