

# Saddle Brook Update

*A Newsletter from **Mayor Robert White** & the Township Council*





# A Message from Mayor Robert White:

*“Delivering for Saddle Brook  
Residents”*

When I became your Mayor a little over a year ago I was given the tremendous honor and privilege of leading our hometown forward and continuing to serve the residents of Saddle Brook. In a very short time we have made tremendous strides to make Saddle Brook an even better place to live, work and raise a family. As you read through this newsletter you will clearly see the progress that is being made and the important new programs and services that we are implementing and delivering for our residents.

While celebrating our Township’s 300th Anniversary, there is no better time to commemorate all that we have accomplished together, and the important plans

that we have for the future. This newsletter highlights many of these advances, from stabilizing property taxes and passing a sound and responsible budget to investing in public safety, to making government more open and accessible for residents. I firmly believe that a promise made should be a promise kept, and I have let that principle guide me as your Mayor.

Saddle Brook is an exciting place to be right now with new businesses opening, improvements to local parks, enhancements to our infrastructure and services for our senior citizens all at the forefront of our agenda. On behalf of the members of the Township Council and everyone in our local government, I would like to express my gratitude to all the residents for their support and contributions toward making our community a great place to live. You deserve all the best and I promise to continue working hard for the residents of Saddle Brook, build upon our accomplishments and continue making improvements.

A handwritten signature of Robert White in black ink. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

**Mayor Robert White**

# Township Directory

**Mayor Robert White**  
(201) 587-2903

**Police**  
(201) 843-7000

**Building Department**  
(201) 843-7111

**Tax Department**  
(201) 587-2914

**Senior Center**  
(201) 845-4594

**Township Clerk and Council**  
(201) 587-2909

**Department of Public Works**  
(201) 587-3064

**Health and Registrar's Office**  
(201) 587-2900

**Water Department**  
(201) 587-2905

**Town Hall**  
(201) 587-2900

## The 2016 Saddle Brook Township Council



**Joseph Camilleri,**  
*Council President*



**Florence Mazzer,**  
*Council Member*



**Todd J. Accomando,**  
*Council Member*



**Karen D'Arminio,**  
*Council Member*



**Andrew Cimiluca,**  
*Council Member*



# TOWNSHIP OF SADDLE BROOK RECYCLING SCHEDULE

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS  
251- 2<sup>ND</sup> STREET  
Saddle Brook, NJ 07663  
201.843.3064

# 2016

Commingled – C  
Newspaper – N

## JANUARY

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Mayor Robert White and the Saddle Brook Township Council



# 300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Saddle Brook

## Birthday Alert!

*Saddle Brook was established in 1716 making us **300 years old** this year!*



## 300<sup>th</sup> Township Anniversary

*Saddle Brook has a remarkable history, spanning from its rural farmland beginnings to the thriving suburban community it is today. The 300th Anniversary will be a wonderful opportunity to celebrate, reflect and showcase the various aspects and history of our town. The Township has created a planning committee whose mission is to create a memorable and meaningful celebration this year and unite the residents in instilling a sense of pride in the community. Some of the events planned, include:*

- Special Council Meeting Presentations
- Historic presentation from Bergen County Clerk John Hogan
- Establishment and dedication of Township Tri-Centennial Park
- Recognition Presentations
- Community Socials
- Memorial Day Parade Float

*Pole banners will also be hung throughout the township highlighting and commemorating this anniversary through October. These banners are sponsored by local businesses and interested parties. The township will also create a commemorative photo journal depicting various photographs of historical development of the township.*





# Budget

*Mayor White and the Township Council are constantly working to ensure that resident tax dollars are put to good use and to increase efficiency of township investments. Highlights of the 2015-2016 budget include the hiring of additional police officers, a maintenance person for all township buildings, salary increases and replacement of retiring personnel from the Department of Public Works and the tax office. It also includes funding for a grant writer to assist in aggressively pursuing grants for the township, and providing funding for the municipal court to recoup unpaid fines or tickets. This would also cover starting a capital improvements program to upgrade our water and sewer systems, road resurfacing and vital equipment for our fire department.*

*The budget also includes bond funding for improvements to William Street, which are imperative for the Township, as well as having an emergency generator for the municipal building, and improving the sewer and drainage systems. In order to fund these projects, the Township issued bonds to finance part of the cost of these aforementioned projects. In conjunction with grants such as a FEMA Grant worth \$75,000 and a Community Development Block Grant worth \$60,873, bonding will help modernize Saddle Brook's infrastructure and the township in general.*

## Shared Services Meeting

*During times of financial constraint, it is important that township funds are used frugally and wisely. The Mayor and Town Council constantly strive to find creative ways to save money and work in an efficient manner to serve residents. One of these solutions has been to pool and share resources with other municipalities within Bergen County to accomplish the same services.*

*In facilitating this goal, representatives from eight municipalities, including the Bergen County Department of Public Works and the Deputy Chief of Staff for Bergen County Executive James Tedesco met in Lodi to discuss sharing services.*

*The group plans to meet on a monthly basis to get the program up and running.*

- The group discussed the possibility of sharing equipment and servicing equipment through the County Department of Public Works.*
- The goal is for towns to form a network to pool equipment with the county acting as a central station to facilitate the process.*

## Public Service Gas & Electric (PSE&G) Energy Efficient Grant

*The Township is constantly working to find ways to save money for general expenses, such as energy usage. A great way to accomplish this is through grants, which the Township researches and applies for frequently.*

*One of the grants that the Township has recently applied for is the PSE&G Energy Efficient Grant, which provides eligible candidates with a free on-site energy audit and a proposal that lists the costs to install energy efficiency improvements recommended in the audit.*

*These improvements typically include:*

- New lighting*
- Heating and Air Conditioning upgrades*

*PSE&G has conducted audits of all township buildings and Saddle Brook has been approved for this grant. The Township will use this grant for lighting at the Department of Public Works garage and two firehouses.*



# Saddle Brook Police



## Promotions in the Ranks

*Keeping the Township safe and crime-free is one of the Mayor and Town Council's top priorities. In order to accomplish this, Saddle Brook has one of the best police departments throughout the state, in which emphasis is placed upon training and institutional experience.*

*In making sure the Saddle Brook Police Department has leaders who have had many years of training in policing, Mayor White had the honor of administering oaths of office and promoting well-deserving and qualified police officials at a special swearing-in ceremony in town hall. Thomas Johnson was promoted to Police Lieutenant and Jeffrey Panagia was promoted to Police Sergeant. Lt. Johnson is a 20-year veteran of the police department and has served in both the Patrol Division and the Detective Bureau. Sergeant Panagia is a 22-year veteran of the police department assigned to the Patrol Division. Earlier in the day, Douglas Habermann and David DeGennaro were reinstated to the rank of Sergeant, promotions they received in December 2014. Congratulations and best wishes to the promoted officers and their families!*

## New Officers Join the Saddle Brook Police Department

*The Saddle Brook Police Department is constantly patrolling our neighborhoods, schools and township to keep all of us safe. This is why making sure that the police department is fully staffed and vigilant is so important.*

*To accomplish this, Mayor White appointed three new police officers during a swearing-in ceremony in the summer of 2015. The new officers, Joseph Scrafani, Peter Romero, and Timothy Parisi are all Saddle Brook residents. They were also the top three candidates on the Civil Service Commission eligibility list, bringing the total number of police officers in our department to 31. The three officers completed the 115th police recruit class at the Bergen County Law & Public Safety Institute. Congratulations to these police officers, we are proud of them!*

## Re-establishment of School Resource Officer

*With the additional manpower allocated to the police department, we will re-establish the school resource officer program. The officer will be assigned to all township public schools to interact and act as a liaison between the school environment and police department. This program has proven to be successful in developing a positive proactive relationship with youth in the community.*

## Police Worn Body Cameras

*Transparency and accountability have always been cornerstones in Saddle Brook's police department. While the Saddle Brook Police Department truly is exceptional in their mission to protect and serve the Township, body cameras will provide an extra layer of transparency for officers and residents. Body cameras will also highlight the hard and great work that our police officers do day in and day out. As part of a grant through the New Jersey Attorney General's Office for police departments across the state, the Saddle Brook Police Department was approved for 15 body cameras. This initiative places Saddle Brook as a leader in police-community relations and transparency.*



# Recreation, Parks, & the Mayor's Youth Group

## Great News!

*The Recreation Department was successful in increasing facility locations, to better accommodate practice and game schedules for our sports teams.*



## Did you know?

*Did you know that Saddle Brook has a youth group? If your child is in the fourth through twelfth grades, then he or she would be eligible for the Mayor's Youth Group.*

## Mayor's Youth Group

*Mayor White's Youth Group provides an opportunity for the township's youth to get involved and learn about their local government. Participants develop stronger leadership skills and truly get to make a difference in the*

*community. They also work closely with elected officials and other community leaders in the Township to make their neighborhoods better.*



## Pond Clean Up

*The Saddle Brook Youth Group participated in a Pond Clean Up in June. Working together as a team, they were able to remove several bags of litter from the pond and surrounding areas. They also had fun learning about the environment and kayaking. Thank you to the Saddle Brook Youth Group, parents, and Council members for their help in keeping our waterways clean! Mayor White looks forward to having more community service events in the future.*

## Kiwanis Club Fishing Derby

*The Kiwanis Club did a great job of planning, organizing and running the Kiwanis Fishing Derby in Saddle River County Park. Contestants caught Carp, Sunnies and Smallmouth Bass. Anglers reported seeing large Snapping Turtles swimming in the pond and Painted Turtles sunning themselves on logs in the water. Check out photos from the Kiwanis Fishing Derby on the Saddle Brook Facebook page.*

## Did You Know?

*One youngster netted a baby Red-Eared Slider Turtle at the Kiwanis Fishing Derby!*

## Special Projects and Activities

*The Township hosts special events throughout the year. They include our Easter Celebration, Fishing Derby, Fourth of July Fireworks Display, Halloween Trunk or Treat and our Holiday Tree Lighting Celebration. In addition to these events, members of the Mayor's Youth Group, Mayor White and members of the Township Council tour the town to judge the homes that registered for the Halloween Decorating Contest and Holiday Decorating Contest. The group was thrilled to witness all the imaginative and creative efforts township residents put into making their homes look amazing.*





# DPW/Road Improvements

## Potholes and Road Improvements

*The Department of Public Works has begun an aggressive pothole repair plan with crews working to fill numerous potholes on local streets. The budget calls for capital improvements, which would fund the implementation of a road improvement program. This includes resurfacing many of the township's aging roads, as well as improving storm drainage and other infrastructure.*

*For potholes on County roadways, the Township is working closely with the Bergen County Director of Public Works and the Bergen County Roads Department to ensure these roads are fixed as quickly as possible. The County has doubled crews working during the week, as well as staff working overtime shifts on Saturdays.*

## Road Program

*The Department of Public Works and Town Engineer have identified a number of streets that have been identified as being most in need of repair and considered a top priority. This road project will be funded as a capital improvement allocated through the bonding process. The Township is committed to reestablishing an annual road improvement program.*

## Department of Public Works (DPW) Roof

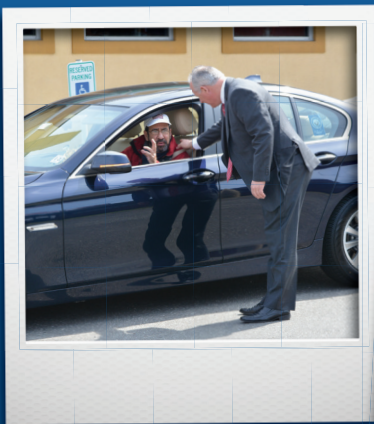
*As part of the Township's efforts to maintain its infrastructure, the Department of Public Works Roof was an important project.*

*This project originally went out to a competitive bid and the contractor with the lowest bid was awarded the contract to complete the project. The roof is now complete approximately \$5,000 under budget.*

## Department of Public Works (DPW) Salt Shed

*The Township has been sharing Maywood's salt shed while Saddle Brook's own shed was being built. It is important that the Township be able to independently provide services for residents in times such as major snowstorms, that is why the Saddle Brook Salt Shed was a necessity.*

*The Township Council has been managing this necessary infrastructure with responsible spending, and originally rebidding the salt shed project twice and needing more time to consider other alternatives before making a decision to proceed. After careful consideration, the council was able to award a contract and the salt shed was just recently completed.*



# Senior Services



## Chicken Bingo

*The Township is committed to senior services and wants to ensure that the needs of senior citizens are being met. From time to time, the township plans entertaining events for senior citizens to take part in. One of the fun events that took place in October for senior citizens was Chicken Bingo. This event is held three times a year at the Senior Center.*

## Senior Halloween Party

*In continuing the Township's efforts to provide festive events for senior citizens, there was a Halloween party at the VFW, with dinner, desserts and entertainment by Peter Lieberman. Many dressed in costume and it was a nice night of fun, music, dancing and treats. The night also included a costume contest with gifts and prizes for winners. It was a great way to welcome the fall season!*

## AARP Christmas Party

*The local AARP Chapter 3785 held its annual Christmas party at The Elan in Lodi. Music was provided by Peter Lieberman and the One Man Band, with seniors having fun dancing the night away. They were also joined by a professional singer and musician, Cyre Rodriguez. This marked the beginning of our 300th Anniversary Celebration, including a presentation by Barbara Calderio illustrating our town's history as written in the book, "A Portrait of Our Past."*





# Saddle Brook Government is Accessible for Residents

## Accessible at Town Hall

*Mayor White has emphasized the importance of being able to connect with residents on a one-to-one basis and learn about issues affecting the Township. In order to facilitate this, he is making himself accessible to all residents at town hall. We urge you to stop by to talk with Mayor White and share your ideas for Saddle Brook. With your help residents, the Mayor's Office and Township Council can work together to improve the town.*



## Saddle Brook Website

*Saddle Brook is ahead of the curve with the recent redesign of the Township's website. Township officials from most departments met with the vendor to review their needs and online presence. The new website was created after conducting extensive research on how top municipal websites are organized.*

Check out the new Township website at:  
**[www.saddlebrooknj.us](http://www.saddlebrooknj.us)**

## Community Partnership Meeting

*Leaders of Saddle Brook had their first Community Partnership meeting at the Senior Center. The group consisted of township leaders with a vision of greater collaboration, communication, unity and service to those in the township that are less fortunate or in need.*

*Mayor White hosted the meeting, which was moderated by Pastor Christopher Wolf of First Reformed Church. The next meeting will be held on May 24.*

# Working with the Business Community

## Chamber of Commerce Town Hall Style Business Meeting

*The Township puts an emphasis on business relations and making sure the business community's needs are being met. To better understand these needs, Mayor White and Council President Mazzer attended a local Chamber of Commerce meeting, with the primary focus of holding a town hall meeting for the business community.*

*This town hall meeting was a great opportunity to discuss what the business community is looking for from their elected officials. The event was underwritten by the Hackensack Regional Chamber of Commerce. Mayor White and Council President Mazzer were present with the heads of each department to answer questions they had about local government and policy. More than 30 members of the business community participated and were pleased with the event.*





# Veterans Field

## **Good News – The Turf Field is Complete!**

*A new snack stand and restroom facilities will be constructed during Phase II of this project. Youth athletes are now able to play on a state-of-the-art synthetic field in all types of weather conditions.*



## **Re-dedication of Veterans Field**

*The Township would like to thank all of the veterans, past and present, for their commitment to ensuring that the Township and the entire Nation are able to exercise their freedoms and uphold American values. In honoring these veterans, the Township re-dedicated Veterans Field to local veterans and groups.*

*The ceremony was a tribute to all the Township's young men and women in the military, who have fought to protect the township residents' freedoms and ways of life. Saddle Brook VFW Post 3484 Commander Raymond Heffernan cut the ribbon, and was*

*joined by American Legion Post 415 member Charles Krejci and Commander Kenneth Green of the Taejon Chapter 170 of the Korean War Veterans.*



## **Veterans Field Bathrooms and Concession Stand**

*The Township is excited to continue to build and renovate Veterans Field, given the importance it plays in the community. People of all ages frequent Veterans Field and the Township would like to make their experience a positive one. In doing so, the Township is committed to build a new concession stand and restroom facility. Building plans have been finalized and the Township expects to go to bid for construction soon.*

## **Video Surveillance System for Veterans Field**

*While Veterans Field is a popular attraction and used by the young and elderly alike, the Township is committed to keeping this area safe. In order to remain vigilant and protect residents, the Township has installed a state-of-the-art system where the surveillance cameras can be monitored at Veterans Field, even remotely by the police department. The system has been paid for by using funds from the Veterans Field bond ordinance.*





# *Scenes from Saddle Brook*





# *Scenes from Saddle Brook*

