MAYOR'S MONTHLY UPDATE
July 2016

BUDGET UPDATE

Tax Bills

2016 – 2017 tax bills were sent out the week of August 8, 2016. This is the tax bill for August and November 2016 and preliminary bill for February and May 2017. Please be advised that this bill has a grace period until September 6, 2016, therefore payment must be received on or before that date. Consequently, the payments received after the due date, would be charged interest which reverts back to August 1, 2016. Please review the following **attachment (letter)**, which was mailed to property owners along with tax bills.

GRANTS

At the August 4th council meeting, the contract between the township and Grant Writer, Bruno and Associates, was extended for one year at the same annual rate as 2015 – 2016. To date the township has received grants in the amount of $46,275.93 for lighting upgrades for the DPW and firehouses. There are several grant applications, which are pending including Assistance to Firefighters for $182,466.00, Safe Routes to Schools for $265,551.00 and the Bergen County Open Space Trust Fund for Tri-Centennial Park in the amount of $116,255.00.

COMMITTEE UPDATES

300th Anniversary

The Tri-centennial Committee met on Monday, August 1st at 7PM at the Senior Center. Members were brought up-to-date on events and activities. The 300th Anniversary Picnic in Saddle River County Park on Saturday, August 27th was spoken about including assignments of committee volunteers and purchasing of member tee shirts. Future events, including the dedication of Tri-Centennial Park and a formal gala dinner were discussed.

Mayor's Youth Group

Council Meeting – Thursday July 14th

During the township council meeting, the Mayor's Youth Group helped present posters that were created by students in the Saddle Brook Middle School to illustrate the township's history. I want to thank all those group members who came out to assist with these presentations. I also thank John Lawlor, Principal of the Saddle Brook Middle/High School for submitting these wonderful posters created by students in Middle School history classes and the newly established Middle School art program.

Youth Group Meeting

The Mayor's Youth Group had a meeting on Saturday, July 17th at 11AM at town hall. Items for discussion were an upcoming bowling outing on Tuesday, July 26th, National Night Out, Tuesday August 2nd, and the 300th Anniversary Picnic, Saturday, August 27th.

Bowling Pizza Party

As a show of appreciation for their dedication and for generously volunteering for various community events, members of the Mayor's Youth Group were taken on a bowling outing, pizza party at Parkway Lanes in Elmwood Park. The kids had a great time bowling and sharing many laughs!

National Night Out

The Mayor's Youth Group created posters for the National Night Out where many children had the opportunity to stamp their hand prints and sign their names to thank all those in our Police Department, Volunteer Fire Department, and Volunteer Ambulance Corps for all they do to protect the citizens of Saddle Brook. The posters were presented to the Police Chief, Fire Chief, and Ambulance Captain that evening at Night Out. Several new students were recruited to take part in the Youth Group. Thank you to all those who volunteered their time in making this project a success!

Note: Photos of Mayor's Youth Group events can be viewed at https://www.facebook.com/saddlebrookmyg .

MEETNGS, EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Mayor's Meeting with Congressman Pascrell – Wednesday, July 20th

I attended a meeting held by our United States Congressman Bill Pascrell, Jr. with other mayors from our congressional district (D9). The Congressman called for the meeting to determine the needs of the municipalities in his district and to let us know that he is fighting for us in Washington D.C. Topics of conversation included police and fire grants, water and sewers, roads and bridges, and fiscal management in difficult times. As the former Mayor of Paterson, N.J., Congressman Pascrell appreciates the tight budgets and problems we are facing at the local level. He thanked us for taking the time to sit down with him and discuss the work we do.

National Night Out – Tuesday, August 2nd

The Saddle Brook Police Department hosted a National Night Out celebration on the grounds of Washington School. The event increased awareness about police and public safety programs such as drug prevention, anti-crime measures, fire safety and medical and first aid programs. It also was a way to show appreciation for all our first responders and emergency services personnel. The Police Department was joined and assisted by members of our Volunteer Fire Department and Volunteer Ambulance Corps. The event was well attended and by all accounts was a great success. It was nice bringing the community together to meet and thank the men and women who keep us safe on a daily basis.

Besides our police, fire, and ambulance, National Night Out participants and activities included: Saddle Brook (SB) Mayor & Council, SB Fire Prevention, SB Community School, SB Boy Scouts / Cub Scouts, SB Citizens Against Substance Abuse, SB Mayor's Youth Group, Bergen County Prosecutor's Office, Bergen County Sheriff's Department, U.S. Attorney's Office, N.J. Homeland Security & Preparedness, N.J. State Police, AAA Otto the Auto, Law Enforcement Against Drugs, LEO the Labrador, McGruff the Crime Dog, Holy Apostles Orthodox Church Cadett Marketing Promotions, Chiropractic Demonstrations, Blue Ribbon Campaign, Kids Bounce House, Water Dunk Tank, Clyde's Ice / Popcorn / Drinks.

The National Night Out festivities were videotaped and broadcasted on Our Town TV. The video and photographs of the event were also posted on the township website and Facebook page.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Township Picnic and Mayor's Walk

The township will be having a Tri-Centennial Picnic on Saturday, August 27th from 12PM-5PM. It will be a fun-filled day of delicious food, entertainment and games and activities for children. Sponsors and civic organizations will be on hand to support the event and discuss their role in the community. The picnic is open to Saddle Brook residents only and admission is free. Please come and join to celebrate our township's 300th anniversary.

The township will also be hosting a Walk with the Mayor at 9AM at the park before the picnic. Participants will walk four times around the pond (approximately three miles). The Walk will begin with a warm up session of stretching and breathing instructed by local health coach, Susan Molina. The event is sponsored by Ferraro Spine and Rehabilitation Center, 230 Midland Ave, Saddle Brook. I encourage all Saddle Brook residents to exercise regularly so they can enjoy the benefit of better health and I invite all of you to come walk with me on August 27th. The first 100 participants will receive a free event tee shirt.

September 11th Memorial Service

The township in conjunction with Saint Philip the Apostle Roman Catholic Church are hosting a 15th Anniversary September 11th memorial processional and observance. The event will take place on Sunday, September 11, 2016 from 6:30-9:30PM. The procession will begin at the Saddle Brook High / Middle School and end on the grounds of Saint Philip the Apostle Church. The memorial service will include a combined choirs from local churches, keynote speaker, flag retirement ceremony, live music, and food truck vendors.

UPDATE ON SPECIAL PROJECTS

William Street Improvements

This project has been completed.

County Curb Cut Replacement Project

This project has been completed.

Veterans Field Bathrooms and Concession Stand

A preconstruction meeting was held Thursday, July 7th at 10:30AM at town hall. Demolition of the existing structure is underway.

2015 Water and Roadway Improvement – 9th Street

The project was awarded to New Prince Construction, 215 Ellen Terrace, Hackensack, N.J. Contracts were signed and work was scheduled to begin the week of August 8th.

North Fifth Street Water Main

The project was awarded to Reivax Contracting, 356 Thomas Street, Newark, N.J. Contracts were signed and work is scheduled to begin the week of August 15th.

2015 Water and Roadway Improvement – Wilson St. and Third St.

The project was awarded to Reivax Contracting, 356 Thomas Street, Newark, N.J. Contracts were signed and work is scheduled to begin the week of August 15th.

Municipal Building Generator

The project was awarded to ARCO Electrical Contractor, Inc., 22-24 South Seventh Street, Elizabeth, N.J. Contracts to be signed and work to begin shortly.

Fifth Street Drainage

The project was awarded to Aqua Infrastructure Rehab Co., Inc. LLC, 567 Walther Road, Newark, DE. Contracts to be signed and work to begin shortly.

Jefferson St. & Fourth St. Water & Roadway Improvements

The developer of a residential subdivision has started work on Jefferson St. Following clearing, the developer will install the new water system and test the pressure/flow. The test results will determine if the developer will be required to replace a portion of the water main on Jefferson Street. Following this determination, the township's project plans will be revised accordingly and the project will be bid.

RECREATION

Full Time Recreation Director

I have been conducting interviews of candidates for the position of full time Recreation Director. Candidates are required to have a bachelor's degree in Recreation Management or the equivalent of sixty college credits and four years' experience in recreation work or four years managerial experience. We hope to hire in the early part of September this year.

OTHER

Community Rating System

The township has contacted the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to express interest in participating in a program called the Community Rating System. This is a program where municipalities that conduct floodplain management activities exceeding the minimum standards set forth by FEMA can lower premiums for residents required to purchase flood insurance. Township Business Peter Lo Dico is our Community Rating System Coordinator. He is working with and getting assistance from the Bergen County Office of Emergency Management and Bergen County Shared Services.

New Jersey Transportation Trust Fund

The township received a letter from the N.J. Director of Local Aid and Economic Development advising that the replenishment of the Transportation Trust Fund Account (TTFA) has been delayed. Governor Christie had issued Executive Order No 210 declaring a State of Emergency and directing the Commissioner of the Department of Transportation and the Executive Director of the N.J. Transit Corporation to plan an immediate and orderly shutdown of all ongoing work that were funded by the TTFA. Therefore, all contract work financed by TTFA funds were shutdown. If not lifted, this Order will have an impact on the resurfacing of county roadways including Midland Avenue, which was scheduled to be repaved in the fall this year.

Digital Sign Board for Town Hall

A two-sided digital sign board is being installed in front of town hall. The sign boards are full color internal LED lighting that can display text, photos and video. They allow for scrolling of multiple messages, include easy to use software, and have a lifespan of 10-15 years. The council and I believe that placing this sign board in front of town hall is an effective way to communicate and keep residents informed of township events. Besides a calendar of events, it would be useful for sharing severe weather alerts, road closures and other important information.