

## **MAYOR'S MONTHLY UPDATE**

### **August 2016**

#### **MEETINGS, EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES**

##### Presentation by Bergen County Sheriff Michael Saudino – August 1st

I want to thank Bergen County Sheriff Michael Saudino for taking time out of his busy schedule to make a presentation about senior safety at our monthly AARP meeting. Thanks also to AARP President, Councilwoman Karen D'Arminio and Senior Center Director Joe Lecce for extending the invitation to Sheriff Saudino. Lastly, we appreciate and want to recognize the efforts of the Sheriff's secretary Jean Jadevaia, who helped schedule the event. Jean is resident of Saddle Brook and former member of our Zoning Board of Adjustment. The presentation was videotaped and broadcasted on Our Town TV, Channels 77 – Cablevision and 38 – Verizon Fios. The video and photographs were also posted on the township website and Facebook page.

##### National Night Out – Tuesday, August 2<sup>nd</sup>

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.

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!

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, Channels 77 – Cablevision and 38 – Verizon Fios. The video and photographs of the event were also posted on the township website and Facebook page.

### Township's 300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Picnic – Saturday, August 27th

The Township of Saddle Brook held a 300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary picnic at the Saddle River County Park. Over 1500 residents of all ages came to enjoy the community celebration. There was a DJ, live bands, and lots of fun activities for children. A variety of delicious food was served by vendors. There was also an Asian barbecue courtesy of the Korean Martyr Church and pizza donated by Frank's, Mr. Bruno's and Mario's. The Saddle Brook Women's Club and the First Reformed Church provided homemade desserts.

The highlight of the day was singing Happy Birthday to Saddle Brook and cutting the anniversary cake. Township Council members and several former local officials were on hand for the festivities. Also in attendance were U.S. Congressman Bill Pascrell, N.J. Assemblyman Tim Eustace, Bergen County Sheriff Michael Saudino, Surrogate Michael Dressler, Clerk John Hogan, and Freeholder Thomas Sullivan.

I would like to acknowledge the 300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee Chairman Bob Kugler and Vice Chairs Lou Verile and Councilwoman Flo Mazzer for their efforts in making our picnic a huge success. Special thanks to Councilwoman Karen D'Arminio for taking the lead role in planning and organizing the event with assistance from Project and Activities Chairwoman Shannon Accomando and all the members of 300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee.

I want to personally thank all the individuals and organizations that volunteered, especially our local boy scouts and girl scouts for serving food to our senior citizens. I also want to thank the members of our Police Department, Fire Department, Ambulance Corps and DPW. The assistance of Business Administrator Peter Lo Dico, Administrative Assistant Christine Genuario, Senior Center Director Joe Lecce and Senior Bus Driver Howard Rofofsky was greatly appreciated.

**Note:** The picnic festivities were videotaped and broadcasted on Our Town TV, Channels 77 – Cablevision and 38 – Verizon Fios. The video and photographs of the event were also posted on the township website and Facebook page.

### Walk with the Mayor – Saturday August 27th

On the morning of our 300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary picnic, the township hosted a 5K walk as a way to promote physical exercise and spread awareness about living a healthy lifestyle. The event was sponsored by Ferraro Spine and Rehabilitation, 230 Midland Ave, Saddle Brook. Health and Wellness Coach Susan Molina prepared the 100 participants with stretching and breathing exercises prior to the walk,

I want to personally thank Peter Ferraro, Susan Molina, and all our residents who took part in the walk. It was a nice way to meet and talk with residents while encouraging them to become more active. “Walk with the Mayor” is one of the programs that was developed as part of the National Mayors Wellness Challenge. Events like these scheduled throughout the year not only promote physical exercise, but allow residents to be more involved in their community. Similarly, mayors get their own exercise while setting an example for their town and getting to know members of their community.

**Note:** The event was videotaped and broadcasted on Our Town TV, Channels 77 – Cablevision and 38 – Verizon Fios. The video and photographs of the event were also posted on the township website and Facebook page.

### 300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee Meeting

A 300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 19<sup>th</sup> at the Saddle Brook Library Conference Room. The primary topic of discussion will be the upcoming 300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala Dinner on Friday, November 11<sup>th</sup> at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Saddle Brook.

## UPDATE ON SPECIAL PROJECTS

### County Curb Ramps

This work is complete and we are currently closing out the project. Our township engineer will assist us in applying for reimbursement from Bergen County. A call to Bergen County Executive's Office found that the paving money for this project is linked to the N.J. Transportation Trust Funds, which continues to be under a stop work order.

### Veterans Field Bathrooms and Concession Stand

This work is underway. The foundation is in and utility connections are proceeding.

### 2015 Water and Roadway Improvements

The 9th Street portion of this project is stopped until further notice pending the water test results in this area of the township. We are currently working on addressing a reported sanitary clog issue on 9th Street with the homeowner. Curb, milling and paving will follow after this has been resolved. The Wilson/3rd Street portion is set to begin in the coming weeks.

### North Fifth Street Water Main

This project is underway. We have addressed complaints from the one resident on 5<sup>th</sup> Street. There was also an issue with respect to the removal of some contaminated material under the roadway at the former Amloid site. The township engineer will be issuing a detailed report regarding this issue.

### Municipal Building Generator

A project walk-through took place with the contractor and the ambulance corps for coordination purposes. The contractor is working on applying for permits and submitting shop drawings for review so we may begin construction.

### Fifth Street Drainage

The project is underway and is expected to be completed sometime in the third week of September.

### Mayhill Pump Station Flow Gate

This work is complete. The contractor has provided pricing on the replacement of the bar screen at the pump station which is currently under review.

### Drainage Improvements/Liberty Street

The field survey for this work is complete, as well as a test pit to fully identify the issue behind a severely back-pitched drainage pipe. Design is being finalized and the plans are to be sent to CDBG next week so that we may request bids to complete the work.

### Jefferson St. & Fourth St. Water & Roadway Improvements

The developer of a residential subdivision has started work. 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. Our township engineer continues to work with the applicant to verify compliance with state regulations with respect to the new storm water discharge into the railroad ditch.

## RECREATION

### Full Time Recreation Director

Andrew Gallo was hired as our township's first full-time recreation director. He started his new position on September 6<sup>th</sup>. Andrew is a lifelong Saddle Brook resident, a member of our Volunteer Fire Department and is an assistant coach for Saddle Brook High School's girls soccer team.

Several candidates applied for the position and Andrew was found to be the most qualified of the group. He has the required level of education, a background managing employees and experience working with children as a recreation leader and coach. Andrew is a graduate of Saddle Brook High School and previously worked as a special education aide at the Children's Institute in Livingston. Prior to that he was a plant operations director at the Maywood Center for Health and Rehabilitation.

The recreation director position was created by the governing body in an effort to improve and expand the services of the recreation department. Joseph Setticase, who has been our part-time recreation director, will remain employed until the end of 2016.

As our full-time recreation director, Andrew will be tasked with planning, developing, promoting and overseeing all recreation programs and activities. This includes establishing schedules and methods of providing services, developing standards, policies and procedures, providing guidelines and instruction to each sport commissioner on mandatory guidelines and safety practices; monitoring the functions of each sport and their leaders to ensure efficiency; identifying the needs of programs, facilities and resources to ensure objectives are met; and providing input into the development of budgets and approving and monitoring expenditures.

## OTHER

### Community Rating System

I had contacted the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to express interest in participating in a program called the Community Rating System. On September 7, 2016, Business Administrator Peter Lo Dico and I met with James Watt, a representative from the Environmental Protection Agency to discuss the Community Rating System and the township's obligations once enrolled in the program. By taking part in this program, the township will conduct floodplain management activities that exceed minimum standards thereby reducing the cost of flood insurance for our residents required to pay this additional premium. Peter Lo Dico has been appointed as our Community Rating System Coordinator and he is currently getting assistance from the Bergen County Office of Emergency Management and Bergen County Shared Services.