

MAYOR'S MONTHLY UPDATE

October 2016

BUDGET

Audit

In accordance with Government Auditing Standards, an audit report of Township financial statements for 2015 was issued by independent auditor, Ferraioli, Wielkots, Cerullo & Cuva, P.A. The report, received July 18, 2016, was reviewed and recommendations considered. The 2015 audit will be posted shortly on the township webpage at <http://saddlebrooknj.us>

Grants

Transportation Alternative Program (TAP)

The township has submitted a grant application through the state Transportation Alternative Program (TAP) for energy efficient LED street lights and trees to improve the appearance of the Market Street from N. Fifth St. and Caldwell Ave. The total amount of grant funds requested is approximately \$379,000.00.

Assistance to Firefighters Grant

Applications opened for this federal grant on October 11th and are due on November 18th, 2016. Last year's application was reviewed to update call statistics and costs. Township Fire Chief Thomas Dickman to complete the application for review by Township grant writer and administration.

COMMITTEE UPDATES

300th Anniversary Committee Meeting – Wednesday, October 19th

The 300th Anniversary Committee met at 7PM at the senior center to discuss and finalize arrangements for the upcoming 300th Anniversary Gala at the Crowne Plaza, Friday, November 11th.

Mayor's Youth Group – Saturday, October 22nd

The Mayor's Youth Group met at town hall at 11:00AM to discuss upcoming Halloween activities. Activities included the Senior Halloween Party on Tuesday, October 25th, 6-9PM, at the VFW, judging of the Halloween Decorating Contest on Friday, October 28th beginning at 6:30PM at the Senior Center, and the Trunk or Treat celebration on Saturday, October 29th, 1-3PM, at Helen I. Smith School parking lot. Most importantly, officers for the 2016-2017 school year were selected. They are as follows: President - Ram Polampalli; First Vice President - Ariana Toribio; Second Vice President - Emma Wien; Secretary - Elizabeth Godoy. Congratulations to all of our officers!

EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Senior Halloween Party – Tuesday, October 25th

The Saddle Brook seniors had their annual Halloween party at the VFW from 6-9PM. Many dressed in costume and it was a nice night of fun, music, dancing, good food and treats. The night also included a costume contest with gifts and prizes for the winners. It was a great way to welcome in the fall season and get ready for a happy, spooky Halloween!

Halloween Decorating Contest – Friday, October 28th

Had a great time touring the township with members of the Mayor's Youth Group and Councilwoman Flo Mazzer and Councilman Andrew Cimiluca to judge our Halloween Decorating Contest. The group, driven by Senior Center Bus Driver Howard Rofofsky, stopped to view all the homes of those residents who registered for the contest. It was thrilling and a little scary to witness all the imaginative and creative effort township residents put into making their homes SPOOKtacular. The winners announced on the township website and Facebook page. The winners were invited to attend to be acknowledged at the regular council meeting on Thursday, November 10th. Photographs of the evening were posted on the township website and Facebook page.

Trunk or Treat – Saturday October 29th

The township council and I want to thank all who attended and volunteered at the Halloween Trunk or Treat at Smith School parking lot. The great weather and fun-filled afternoon brought out a large group of trunk or treaters dressed in amazing costumes. I want to thank and commend our Project and Activities Committee and Mayor's Youth Group for all their assistance. Special thanks to Committee Chairwoman Shannon Accomando, Councilman Todd Accomando, and Mayor's Secretary Christine Genuario for planning and organizing the event. Their hard work ensured that the event ran smoothly and was a memorable experience for all. It was nice to see so many families participating and enjoying themselves. The Trunk or Treat 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.

UPCOMING EVENTS

300th Anniversary Gala, Friday, November 11th

The township will be having a dinner gala to culminate the year's 300th Anniversary Celebration. The gala is scheduled for Friday, November 11th from 6:30 – 10:30PM at the newly opened Crowne Plaza Hotel, 50 Kenny Place.

Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony

The Holiday Tree Lighting will be held Friday, November 28th at town hall beginning at 6PM. There will be a holiday party afterwards at the Saddle Brook High School gymnasium with lots of fun and games for all. There will be refreshments, Disney characters and photo with Santa and Mrs. Claus.

UPDATE ON CAPITAL PROJECTS

Veterans Field Bathrooms and Concession Stand

This work was underway, however, the contractor suddenly stopped working and has not returned. The township is in the process of terminating the contract and rebidding the remainder of the project. The status of the project at this time is as follows: Building foundation was installed and utility connections were made by the original contractor.

2015 Water and Roadway Improvements

The 9th Street portion of this project was stopped, but resumed the first week in November, 2016. The water main improvements should be completed shortly. The Wilson Street water main was completed in mid – late October, 2016.

North Fifth Street Water Main

This project is underway and is approximately 75 percent complete.

Municipal Building Generator

The installation of the new municipal message board has changed the conditions in the utility closet. The contractor and township engineer are currently working to adjust the design accordingly.

Drainage Improvements/Liberty Street

The contract documents are complete and have been submitted to the contractor (CDBG) for review.

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 in Jefferson Street. Following this determination, the plans for the project will be revised and the project will be bid.

RECREATION

Recreation Director Andy Gallo has formulated draft copies of township recreation policies and procedures and procedures and goals for coaches. These documents are still being reviewed by the township attorney. After attorney review, recommendations from council members, recreation director and commissioners will be considered and revisions made as necessary.

OTHER

Crane Operator Ordinance

At the November 3rd council work session, Daniel Ortega of the Engineers Labor-Employer Cooperative (ELEC 825) made a presentation about the need for municipalities to regulate the use of cranes. Mr. Ortega also submitted a draft ordinance for our review and members of the governing body and the public had an opportunity to ask questions and discuss the proposal. The township will review this proposal to improve safety on construction sites and other crane use applications.