

# Saddle Brook Update 2017

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



# A Message from Mayor Robert White:

## *“Moving Saddle Brook Forward”*

As I reflect on this past year’s celebrations of the 300th Anniversary of Saddle Brook, I am reminded of how far our township has progressed from the small agricultural center it originally started off as. What hasn’t changed is our strong adherence to being a close-knit community and caring for our neighbors and one another. We

have grown into a community where people of all ages can come and raise a family, providing their children with a quality education and safe neighborhoods, while being a close traveling distance to New York City or other metropolitan areas throughout New Jersey. This is why my family chose Saddle Brook as our hometown, and the reason I have remained a lifelong resident.

In saying this, it isn’t much surprise that Saddle Brook was featured in the Wall Street Journal, describing our township as an “affordable, family-friendly” place to live with a good education system and various shopping areas. It is the quality of our residents that makes Saddle Brook so special, from our dedicated first responders that keep our communities safe, teachers who ensure that our children are afforded the best education they can get, leaders in the non-profit community, business owners and many more productive members of our township. This is why we try to engage our residents through groups like the Mayor’s Youth Group, Community Partnership and Access For All group, among others -- because I know that if Saddle Brook is united and residents work together, we will continue to build and progress.

As I complete another year of my mayorship, I am also reminded of why my job is so fulfilling, and that again comes back to our Saddle Brook residents and providing residents like yourself with quality and accessible services that you deserve. Whether you are a young professional who just moved to town, a lifelong resident, senior citizen or youth, we want to make sure that we are serving you and meeting your expectations. This is my top consideration in each and every decision I make for the Township. This is why I am proud to announce many improvements to the Township such as implementing a multi-year road resurfacing program and continuing drainage improvements. In addition, the township hired a full-time recreation director and has committed to purchasing a new fire truck and ambulance, all while working to keep your municipal taxes stable! If there is anything I can do to make your experience in Saddle Brook more positive, please feel free to reach out to me at any time.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert White". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**Mayor Robert White**

# Township Directory

**Mayor Robert White**  
(201) 587-2902

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

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

**Police**  
(201) 843-7000

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

**Recreation Department**  
(201) 587-2900

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

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

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

**Department of Public Works**  
(201) 843-3064

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

## Township Public TV Channels

Our Town TV on Cablevision Channel 77 or Verizon Fios Channel 38.



[www.SaddleBrookNJ.us](http://www.SaddleBrookNJ.us)



SaddleBrookTownship



SBrookTownship

## The 2017 Saddle Brook Township Council



**Karen D'Arminio,**  
*Council President*



**Florence Mazzer,**  
*Council Member*



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



**Joseph Camilleri,**  
*Council Member*



**Andrew Cimiluca,**  
*Council Member*

# Saddle Brook Police, EMS and Fire

## Bergen Sheriff's Office ID program for Special Needs

The Saddle Brook Access for All Committee arranged for the Bergen County Sheriff's Department to come to the Saddle Brook Senior Center to create free Gold Star Identification Cards for children and adults with Autism or a developmental disability. This is a life-saving initiative that provides vital information to first responders when an individual is unable to provide information on their own.

## EMS Chaplain and Captain Honored for Service

In January, new officers of the Saddle Brook Volunteer Ambulance Corps were sworn in at their installation dinner. In addition to the installation of line and executive officers, some ambulance members received length of service awards.



EMS Chaplain Eugene Egan was honored for 56 years of service, 40 years of which he served as squad chaplain. Captain Harry Reid was also celebrated for 60 years of service. Thank you, Captain Reid and Chaplain Egan, for your great and long-lasting service to Saddle Brook and its residents!



## Volunteers Needed

The Saddle Brook Volunteer Ambulance Corps is an all-volunteer squad that serves the Township of Saddle Brook. Day in and day out, the Ambulance Corps ensures that township residents are kept safe and helps keep emergency medical response times low, all at no cost to residents.

Please consider giving back to the community by joining the Saddle Brook Volunteer Ambulance Corps. Interested residents who are Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT) or would like to receive training to volunteer on the ambulance can call (201) 587-2939 after 7:00 p.m.

## New Fire Truck

Saddle Brook consistently puts the safety of our township's residents first, and one of the most efficient ways to accomplish this is through acquiring modern equipment. The Saddle Brook Fire Department constantly updates and improves its apparatuses and equipment in order to maintain the Department's quick response times and keep township residents safe. The new fire truck will be paid for by a bond ordinance passed by the Township Council. The ordinance provided for a Pierce Impel 75-foot heavy duty aerial ladder & pumper truck and firefighting equipment, appropriated \$995,200.

# Budget

*Mayor White and the Township Council consistently work hard to make sure that township tax dollars are put to good use and in a transparent manner to move Saddle Brook forward. The 2017 budget was prepared with all Township department heads reviewing requests and careful consideration of the taxpayers of Saddle Brook. The budget allowed all services and programs provided in the township at that point to be maintained. There were challenges due to commercial tax appeals, which deeply impacted the ratables of the township.*

*The Mayor and Council have taken a proactive approach in working with the township tax assessor and other professionals to limit and minimize the effect of tax appeals now and in the future. The township decided to implement a five year rolling tax assessment, which has benefited other municipalities in the area as well. The Council awarded Appraisal Systems a contract to provide a “Rolling Re-assessment” for a five-year period, which the Township’s Tax Assessor, Tax Appeals Attorney, Appraiser and Auditor believe will reduce commercial tax appeals that have negatively impacted the township budget.*

*The program begins with a total revaluation of township properties. Then over the next four years, assessments are completed in which a minimum of 25 percent of properties are inspected. After the initial revaluation in the first year, the entire town is reassessed on a yearly basis using a sample of properties. The program brings all property values back to 100 percent every year, which is beneficial to all taxpayers and should drastically reduce the number of commercial tax appeals that have negatively impacted the township over the previous six years.*

## Bonding

*The Township has received an interest rate of less than 1 percent from TD Bank for bond anticipation notes, which are used by the township for borrowing funds for capital improvements, which allows Saddle Brook to borrow at a minimal rate of interest and low cost to taxpayers.*

## Shared Services

*Mayor White reached out to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to express interest in participating in a program called the Community Rating System. By taking part in the 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.*

*By taking part in the Community Rating System, flood losses are reduced, public safety is enhanced and the cost of flood insurance is decreased. Current Saddle Brook Business Administrator Peter Lo Dico has been appointed as the Community Rating System Coordinator and is working with the Bergen County Office of Emergency Management and Bergen County Shared Services.*

*In addition, by working with the county and neighboring towns, Market Street will be paved from Elmwood Park to Rochelle Park. We have also been able to reduce costs by sharing equipment and other services.*

*I am pleased to share that once again this summer, residents have the opportunity to join the Fair Lawn Memorial Pool and can obtain information on purchasing a season membership by calling the Fair Lawn Recreation Department at (201) 796-6746.*

*Working with school leaders by holding quarterly liaison meetings has been quite beneficial. We arranged exciting and rewarding activities for the high school and middle school students. Bergen County Clerk John Hogan was invited to the school to educate and register first time voters. Students were taught how to use real voting machines and participated in a student council and mock presidential election.*

*Other exciting school news includes the Community Partnership Club. Under the guidance of Mr. Howard Weinberg, the club provides ancillary support to the Community Partnership Committee. History teacher Amanda Klein and her students are working on converting Township documents to the latest technology and also visited town hall to share and discuss time capsules that were discovered in the schools. Finally, 300th Anniversary posters created by middle school students are proudly displayed in Town Hall Council Chambers and beautifully depict chapters from the late Township Historian, Jack Wasdyke’s book “Saddle Brook: A Portrait of Our Past.”*

# Mayor's Youth Group, Community Partnership & Access for All

## 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.



## Community Partnership

The Community Partnership is a group of leaders from local government, schools, churches, emergency services, scouts, businesses and more who are dedicated to providing help to township residents in need. The Community Partnership is reaching out to any residents who need help with outside projects, financial questions, accessing

services, parenting, mentoring and tutoring, transportation, food or just need a visit from time to time.

If you have questions about the program or need assistance, please go to the Township website at [www.SaddleBrookNJ.us](http://www.SaddleBrookNJ.us), then click on the HELP Form on the left side of the page and follow the instructions to complete the form. You can also call the HELP Phone Line at (201) 587-2912 for assistance as well.

## Access for All

The Access for All Committee, currently chaired by Councilman Cimiluca, was created by a resolution of the Township Council to act in an advisory capacity to the Mayor and Council to address the needs of residents in the community with disabilities and advise compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. This includes proposing measures that will promote an accessible environment with the Township. The Committee meets the first Wednesday every other month at 7:00 p.m. at the Saddle Brook Senior Center.



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

## Recap!



*Saddle Brook's remarkable history was showcased throughout the past year during the 300th Anniversary of our Township. Through a planning committee called the 300th Anniversary Committee, we were able to create a memorable and meaningful celebration this year and unite the residents in instilling a sense of pride in the community. Below are some examples of how Saddle Brook residents celebrated the 300th Anniversary.*

## Pancake Breakfast

*The 300th Anniversary Pancake Breakfast was held at the*

*Dynasty Buffet, which included pancakes, scrambled eggs, bacon, sausage, hash brown potatoes, orange juice and coffee.*

## Anniversary Dedication at First Reformed Church

*First Reformed Church held a special dedication service for the Township's Tri-Centennial, which featured presentations, music from the adult choir and a special message by Pastor Christopher Wolf.*

## Adopt a Spot Banner Program

*Pole banners were hung throughout the township highlighting and commemorating the 300th Anniversary. Banners spanned Market Street, Midland Avenue, Saddle River Road and Pehle Avenue, which were sponsored by local businesses and interested parties*

## Tri-Centennial Picnic

*Fun filled day of delicious food, as well as entertainment, games and activities for children. Sponsors and Civic Organizations were also on hand to support the event and discuss their role in the community.*

## Walk With The Mayor

*On the morning of the 300th Anniversary Picnic, the township hosted a 5K Walk as a way to promote physical exercise and spread awareness about living a healthy lifestyle.*

## Anniversary Gala Dinner at the Crowne Plaza

*Dinner, dancing, sharing fond memories and laughs were all a part of the fun night.*

## Historical Photo Journal

*A subcommittee of the 300th Anniversary Committee are producing a historic photo journal to provide a history of Saddle Brook's development from its agricultural beginnings, through its growth during the 19th Century to its transformation as a suburban community.*



*Pizza Party and entertainment by "Touch of Sinatra." We also honored special guest, town resident William Protze who turned 100 years old.*



*A 300th Anniversary Time Capsule will be buried in the Tri-Centennial Park on the corner of Platt Avenue and Saddle River Road. These items inside the capsule will help future generations understand how current residents lived, what they did and what happened in Saddle Brook and the world around them.*

# Town Improvements

## Saddle Brook Featured in the Wall Street Journal

*Saddle Brook was featured in the Wall Street Journal (WSJ), highlighting our schools, dining and shopping options and easy commute to work. The article alluded to what our residents have known all along, which is that Saddle Brook is one of the best townships to live in throughout the state.*

*The WSJ highlights two of our new residents, who decided to move to Saddle Brook as they decided to start a family and were expecting a baby because they felt that Saddle Brook was “more of a family town.” As the housing market in areas throughout New Jersey and New York is becoming more unaffordable, we have quality housing and safe neighborhoods protected by our own Saddle Brook Police Department, for a reasonable cost. In addition to low crime, taxes are lower than in neighboring areas.*

*The article highlighted the Saddle Brook school system, with our three elementary schools serving children in kindergarten through sixth grade, as well as our high school and middle school which serves students in grades seven through twelve. It spoke about our great dining options and shopping areas on Route 46, as well as throughout town. Lastly, it emphasized the easy commute with Saddle Brook’s transportation infrastructure and easy access to major highways.*

*We are proud that the rest of the country and world will know about our friendly, caring and close-knit Township of Saddle Brook.*

## New Electronic Sign at Town Hall

*The Township has invested in a new electronic sign outside of Town Hall. Now residents will be able to access important township updates, just by driving through town! If you haven’t seen our new sign yet, make sure to check it out today!*

## Department of Public Works and Road Improvements

### Potholes and Road Improvements

*The Department of Public Works has been proactive in dealing with road safety, including salting roads before snow storms, and resurfacing many of the township’s roads before potholes become problematic for drivers. Much of the township’s budget goes to ensuring our town is accessible, efficient and most importantly, safe.*

### County Curb Ramps

*Making Saddle Brook more handicap accessible is a top priority for the administration. The Township partnered with Bergen County to obtain a grant to make ramps more accessible and lower curb height along N. Midland Ave, Market Street and Outwater Lane, in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act.*

*We are happy to announce that this project is now complete, with Bergen County reimbursing the township for this important work. In Saddle Brook, we believe that improving the quality of life for all residents is paramount and with this project, we have already started to receive excellent feedback on the functionality and aesthetics of the curb ramps.*

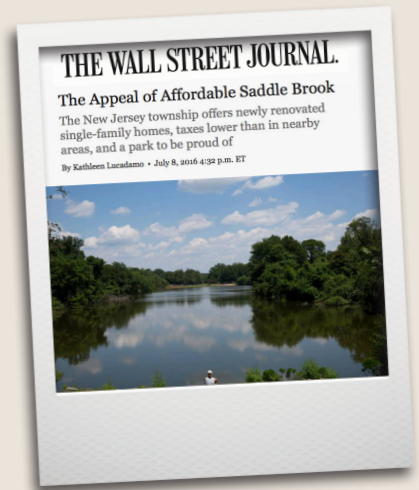
### North Fifth Street Water Main

*As part of the Township’s continuing program to improve infrastructure, improvements were made to the North Fifth Street Water Main. Utilizing a state grant of \$300k to defray the costs, the next phase is repaving Fifth Street.*

### Fifth Street Drainage

*The Department of Public Works is fully committed to efficient sanitation in Saddle Brook, and the department is always on the cutting edge of this issue. The DPW partnered with the Bergen County Mosquito Commission to clean out the drainage culvert and stream in the rear of the factories on Fifth Street between Victor Street and Route 46, which will increase the flow of stormwater. The project will be completed shortly.*

*The Township will continue to pursue future projects with the Bergen County Mosquito Commission and the Passaic Valley Water Commission to clean and de-snag the Saddle River and its draining tributaries.*



# Senior Services

## Senior Halloween Party

*The Saddle Brook Seniors had their annual Halloween Party at the VFW, along with dinner, dessert and entertainment provided by Peter Lieberman. Many seniors dressed in costume and had a fun night of dancing, music and treats. The night also included a costume contest with gifts and prizes for the winner and overall was a great way to welcome in the Fall Season and to get ready for a spooky Halloween.*

## AARP Christmas Party

*Members of the Saddle Brook Senior Club and the AARP Chapter held their annual Christmas Holiday Party at the Venetian Banquet Hall in Garfield. They enjoyed delicious food, dancing and laughs with friends.*

## Senior Bus Extended Hours

*The Township recently announced the expansion of senior citizen transportation services. Saddle Brook will now be offering bus transportation to play Bingo at the Saddle Brook Senior Center Wednesdays and Fridays from 12:00 to 3:00 PM. This service is available to Saddle Brook residents only.*

**To reserve a seat, please call Senior Center Director Joe Lecce at (201) 845-4594.**

## Senior Housing Project

*The Bergen County Housing and Development has received full commitments with regard to all sources of funding for the Senior Housing Project at 15 Caldwell Avenue, which was the site of the old Saddle Brook Convalescent Home. The facility will have 31 units, some of the units will be affordable housing for seniors 55 years or older. Bergen County officials expect to break ground on the project this year.*

## Police Seminar for Senior Citizens on Scams

*Bergen County Sheriff Michael Saudino made a presentation about senior safety at a monthly AARP meeting. Sheriff Saudino presented tips to the group of how to deal with different types of scams seniors face. The presentation was videotaped and broadcasted on Our Town TV, the township website and Facebook page.*



# Saddle Brook Government is Accessible for Residents

## Township Website

*The Saddle Brook Township website is up and running! The website works well on all screen sizes and is much more comprehensive than the previous website. Great websites do not just look good, they provide important, timely and useful information, and are continually changing, growing and evolving. Thank you to our website administrator, Joseph Obiso of JKO Consulting, Inc. for designing and maintaining our website.*



Check out the Saddle Brook website at:  
[www.saddlebrooknj.us](http://www.saddlebrooknj.us)

*If you are involved in a township organization or department and would like to have something published on the website, please send it to Christine Genuario at [CGenuario@SaddleBrookNJ.gov](mailto:CGenuario@SaddleBrookNJ.gov).*

## Social Media

*Like the Saddle Brook Facebook Page by searching for @SaddleBrookTownship on Facebook. We currently have over 3,270 likes -- let's see if we can have over 4,000 likes by the end of the summer! Help us reach more residents by recommending the Facebook Page to your friends and relatives.*

**Did you know that the Township of Saddle Brook is also on Twitter? Follow us for timely posts of important Township information @SBrookTownship.**

Follow Saddle Brook on Twitter at:  
[@SBrookTownship!](https://twitter.com/SBrookTownship)

## Public Access TV

*Saddle Brook has its own Public Access Television Channels -- tune in on Our Town TV on Cablevision Channel 77 or Verizon Fios Channel 38. Many events and initiatives around town are recorded and broadcasted here. Tune in to Our Town TV to view some of the most recent activities such as the high school play Young Frankenstein, the Easter Celebration and the Little League Opening Day Parade. Useful and informative messages from Mayor White can also be viewed, such as Scam Awareness, PSE&G Money Saving Assistance Programs, Leukemia & Lymphoma Society and many more.*

# Working with the Business Community

*Mayor White and the Town Council are committed to fostering a business friendly environment in which businesses of all sizes, including small businesses, can thrive and grow! We know that businesses provide our residents with goods or services they need, and are often sponsors for our Township initiatives around Saddle Brook.*

*The Mayor attended a breakfast meeting for local mayors hosted by Bergen County Executive Jim Tedesco at MetLife Stadium. The primary focus of the meeting was economic and workforce development, specifically working together to grow business, ratables and jobs in local municipalities. Discussions also included initiatives to rehabilitate existing businesses and attracting new corporations, while controlling over-development and maintaining quality of life for our residents.*

## Chamber of Commerce Event with Hackensack Mayor John Labrosse

*To help the chamber kick off membership month, the Hackensack Regional Chamber of Commerce hosted an event at the Saddle Brook Diner. Mayor Robert White and Mayor John Labrosse discussed upcoming events and important developments in their respective municipalities.*

## Regional Chamber of Commerce

*The Township of Saddle Brook works closely with the Hackensack Regional Chamber of Commerce to help improve business in the area. The Township and the Chamber plan events, explore new business opportunities and more.*

*On June 6, the Chamber is hosting Minutes to Win It. This fun-filled event will include games, food and entertainment to raise money for scholarships that benefit both students from Saddle Brook High School as well as employees of member businesses.*

*To become a member or for more information on the Chamber call 201-489-3700 or visit [www.hackensackchamber.org](http://www.hackensackchamber.org).*



# Recreation, Parks and Veterans Field

## ***New Full Time Recreation Director***

*We are excited to announce that Andrew Gallo is Saddle Brook's first full-time Recreation Director! A lifelong Saddle Brook resident, Assistant Coach for the Saddle Brook High School's girls soccer team and fire department volunteer, Andrew started as Recreation Director in September 2016.*



*Several candidates applied for the position and Andrew was found to be the most qualified. He is a graduate of Saddle Brook High School and previously worked as a special education aide at the Children's Institute in Livingston.*

*The Recreation Director position was created by the governing body in an effort to improve and expand the services of the recreation department. The Recreation Director is 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.*

*Director Andrew Gallo presented Policies and Procedures to the mayor and council, which the council adopted by a resolution.*

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

*A sub-committee was formed to coordinate and plan project activities with professionals to revitalize the Veterans Field bathrooms and concession stand. The work was underway with the building foundation installed and utility connections made, however the contractor spontaneously stopped working and has not returned. The Township is exploring all options to hire a new contractor to complete the job.*

## ***Use of Veterans Field***

*Mayor White issued a directive to the Recreation Director regulating the use and access of Veterans Field. It will be open from dawn to dusk to residents for non-organized exercise and sporting activities.*



# TOWNSHIP OF SADDLE BROOK RECYCLING SCHEDULE

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

# 2017

**Commingled – C** (glass containers, aluminum, plastics, steel and tin cans)  
**Newspaper – N** (newspaper, magazines, paper and broken cardboard)

## JANUARY

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	C	7
8	9	10	11	12	N	14
15	16	17	18	19	C	21
22	23	24	25	26	N	28
29	30	31				

## FEBRUARY

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	C	4
5	6	7	8	9	N	11
12	13	14	15	16	C	18
19	20	21	22	23	N	25
26	27	28				

## MARCH

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	C	4
5	6	7	8	9	N	11
12	13	14	15	16	C	18
19	20	21	22	23	N	25
26	27	28	29	30	C	

## APRIL

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	N	8
9	10	11	12	13	C	15
16	17	18	19	20	N	22
23	24	25	26	27	C	29
30						

## MAY

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	N	6
7	8	9	10	11	C	13
14	15	16	17	18	N	20
21	22	23	24	25	C	27
28	29	30	31			

## JUNE

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	N	3
4	5	6	7	8	C	10
11	12	13	14	15	N	17
18	19	20	21	22	C	24
25	26	27	28	29	N	

## JULY

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
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16	17	18	19	20	C	22
23	24	25	26	27	N	29
30	31					

## AUGUST

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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13	14	15	16	17	C	19
20	21	22	23	24	N	26
27	28	29	30	31		

## SEPTEMBER

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					C	2
3	4	5	6	7	N	9
10	11	12	13	14	C	16
17	18	19	20	21	N	23
24	25	26	27	28	C	30

## OCTOBER

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	N	7
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15	16	17	18	19	N	21
22	23	24	25	26	C	28
29	30	31				

## NOVEMBER

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	N	4
5	6	7	8	9	C	11
12	13	14	15	16	N	18
19	20	21	22	23	C	25
26	27	28	29	30		

## DECEMBER

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					N	2
3	4	5	6	7	C	9
10	11	12	13	14	N	16
17	18	19	20	21	C	23
24	25	26	27	28	N	30
31						

# Scenes from Saddle Brook



# Scenes from Saddle Brook



