

Saddle Brook Update 2019

A Newsletter from Mayor Robert White & the Township Council



A Message from Mayor Robert White

As I enter another term as your Mayor, it continues to be my honor to serve the roughly 14,000 residents of this fine town for four more years. From our outstanding school system to the numerous recreational programs available to our youth, as well as senior services, easy access to transportation, stores, restaurants and annual community events, there truly is something for everyone to love about Saddle Brook.

Our town's attributes haven't gone unnoticed as *The Crazy Tourist* website recently ranked Saddle Brook in the Top 10 places to live in the entire state. This comes on the heels of Niche making a similar proclamation last year and Money Magazine naming our town the **24th Best Place to Live in America in 2017**.

As you read this newsletter, you will see example after example of what makes Saddle Brook the town we all know and love. When I took office, my top priorities were stabilizing taxes, supporting local businesses and expanding our youth and seniors citizens programs, and they remain so as I enter my fifth year as your mayor.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert White".

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) 403-3281

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



SaddleBrookTownship



SBrookTownship

The 2019 Saddle Brook Township Council



Karen D'Arminio
Council Member



Florence Mazzer
Council President



Todd J. Accomando
Council Member



David Gierak
Council Member



Andrew Cimiluca
Council Member

Budget

Maintaining a manageable tax rate has been, and always will be, a primary concern for the Mayor and Council. Highlights of our 2018 budget included new line items for reserving money for the payment to future retirees, holiday lighting along Market Street and startup funds for a recreation youth summer camp program. The camp program is expected to become self-sustaining with the help of reimbursement from registration fees.

Our budget allows us to make critical infrastructure investments to our roads and water system, purchase new equipment to better serve residents and support Saddle Brook's volunteer emergency services. We were also able to update the zoning map, promote Saddle Brook as a "Stigma Free Town," hire a new police dispatcher and in install radar speed limit displays.

Development & Working with the Business Community

Saddle Brook welcomed several new businesses to town in the past year, including **Porto's Perri Perri**, a Portuguese restaurant located on Market Street, and **Mac and PC House**, a Saddle River Road repair center and concession. Mayor White attended the grand opening ceremonies for both establishments.



Saddle Brook Police

The Township has continued its long run of high rankings on safety. Last fall, the website **Safewise.com** placed Saddle Brook as the state's 14th safest city, with less than one percent of all crimes being reported as violent. The Mayor and Council are extremely proud of our police department for its efforts in maintaining such a high level of safety.

Once again, we held the annual police memorial service last spring, to pay tribute to all fallen officers of the department and their families.

Last June, **Chief Jake Erickson** was selected to participate in the Countywide **"Chief for a Day"** program. The Bergen County Sheriff and police chiefs from across the county selected young people to become honorary "Chiefs" in their communities. Chief Jake's day began with him taking the oath of office, which Mayor White administered. Chief Jake then took an intensive tour of police headquarters and the township and met with various police commanders, as well as other township employees from several offices. A special visit to the Saddle Brook VFW and meeting VFW Commander Lou Verile helped Chief Jake better understand the selfless sacrifices and benevolent generosity of our veterans. The day culminated in a countywide gathering of all honorary Chiefs at the Bergen County Justice Center in Hackensack followed by a police motorcade escort to a ceremonial luncheon held at The Graycliff in Moonachie.



August 7 was National Night Out, a community-police awareness-raising event in the United States and a Saddle Brook tradition. Although thunder and rain arrived before *National Night Out* was over, the event was once again a success, with many residents and safety partners gathering together for another enjoyable evening. The event increases awareness about police and public safety programs in communities, like drug prevention, anti-crime measures, fire safety and medical and first aid programs. National Night Out will be held this year on Tuesday, Aug. 6.



Fire and Ambulance

Fire Chief Chris Sloma and Assistant Fire Chief Joe Polizzotti were sworn into office in 2018 and we wish them all the best for a successful term. We are grateful for outgoing Chief Tom Dickman for his years of service and thank his family for allowing him to dedicate countless hours to the fire department.

Saddle Brook purchased a new pumper for **Hook and Ladder** replacing the 1993 pumper.

Saddle Brook's emergency volunteers continue their stellar service and dedication to the people of this town and exhibit bravery while doing so.

The Township gives its full support to our Volunteer Ambulance Corps. The Ambulance Corps is an independent organization staffed by dedicated volunteers. In 2018 the Township purchased a state of the art ambulance to enhance the ability of our volunteers to perform life-saving actions transporting patients to the various hospitals. Under the able leadership of **Captain Harry Reid and President Bill Mergo**, the members of the Ambulance Corps perform an important service for our residents and businesses.

The Mayor and Council are so proud of the volunteer members of the Fire Department and Ambulance Corps and ask that you consider supporting them with a donation or by joining these selfless individuals in serving our community. **For information about volunteering with the Fire Department please call 201-587-8184 and for the Ambulance Corps 201-587-2939.**

Grants

Saddle Brook was awarded two grants totaling \$529,169 to pave Leswing Avenue, Rochelle Parkway and Phase 2 of Fair Lawn Parkway. The township also received a \$15,000 open space grant. The Township allocated these funds to help offset the cost of constructing a barrier-free playground at Avon Park. The plan to upgrade the playground is an Eagle Scout community project proposed by high school student Michael Maniscalco.

In addition to these critical infrastructure investments, Saddle Brook was awarded a \$6,600 grant to enforce our Distracted Driving Program and applied for a grant to purchase a generator for the Senior Citizen Building. Every grant received by the Township helps reduce the cost of these projects and the savings are then passed on to our taxpayers.



DPW Road Improvements

The Township is continuously working to **improve roadways** and **2018** was no exception.

Streets that underwent resurfacing last year were:

- Erie Street
- Hayes Drive
- Legregni Street
- Nedellec Drive
- Williams Street (Phase 2)
- Claremont Avenue
- Kenny Place
- Fifth Street

2019 projects include:

- Caldwell Avenue (Phase 2)
- Fairlawn Parkway
- President Street
- Leswing Avenue
- Oak Avenue
- Rosedale Avenue
- Rochelle Parkway
- North Sixth Street/Madison Avenue
- Evans Place
- Scheele Place (replacement of watermain and paving)

Senior Services

Improvements continued on the **Senior Housing Building** on Caldwell Avenue throughout the past year and the project is expected to be completed in 2019.

Senator Joseph Lagana and **Assemblywoman Lisa Swain** attended a township AARP meeting at the Senior Center in September to speak about issues facing senior citizens today.

The Saddle Brook seniors had a great time at their annual Halloween party at the VFW. 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 Halloween.

Council President Mazzer, Councilwoman D'Arminio, Councilman Gierek and Business Administrator Lo Dico joined **Mayor White** at the event.



Recreation, Parks & the Mayor's Youth Group

The **Saddle Brook Mayor's Youth Group** helped set up and monitor game stations for the Township Easter Celebration. The Group also organized Earth Day cleanup projects at the Kern Place Park. They fundraised money to help purchase and dedicate a park bench for residents to enjoy.

Over the summer, members of the Mayor's Youth Group and their families met for a swim outing at the Rochelle Park Swim Club, where pizza and ice cream was served. The group made friendship pins with colored beads to distribute at National Night Out.

At the annual National Night Out in August, the Mayor's Youth Group once again had a table with handouts for attendees and a sign-up sheet for anyone interested in joining.

The Veteran's Field Concession Building was completed in 2018. Among its features are the installation of outside pavers on the field side and landscaping done for the building frontage.

The Council was able to appropriate \$76,200 for construction of Tri-Centennial Park from a Bergen County Open Space grant and from the township's general fund.

Summer kicked off with the annual Township and Kiwanis Club Fishing Derby at Otto Pehle Lake in Saddle River County Park. Police Officer Matt Benus arranged for the lake to be stocked with fish and the weather cooperated to make it a beautiful day for all.

The Fourth of July would not be the same without the annual fireworks celebration at our Saddle River County Park and last year's ceremony did not disappoint.

The annual Mayor's Walk around the lake at the County Park and Township Picnic took place on August 25. The Walk is part of The Mayor's Wellness Campaign - an initiative to improve the health and wellness of residents and business owners by providing nutritional advice on recreational opportunities. The goal is to promote healthier, more active living and encourage regular check-ups with doctors. The township also highlighted its Stigma Free Initiative, which brings awareness to mental illness, and all participants received Stigma Free T-shirts.

The **Out of the Darkness Walk** took place in October at the Saddle River County Park. The walk benefits the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention by raising awareness about suicide and depression. It also helps to raise funds for research and education to prevent suicide and provides assistance and a safe outlet for survivors of suicide.

The Mayor's Youth Group got into the Halloween spirit, as well, by participating in the **Senior Halloween Party**, the Halloween Decorating Contest and Trunk or Treat. They also helped out at the annual Tree Lighting and Holiday Celebration in November and held a holiday pizza party at the senior center, where they participated in judging the township's holiday decoration contest.

*The Mayor's Youth Group is open to all Saddle Brook residents in grades 4-12.
To register, please email your contact information to: saddlebrookmyg@gmail.com*

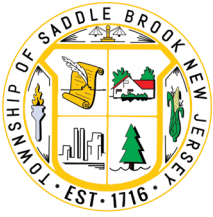


Women in History Month

At the **March 1** council meeting, the Mayor and Council recognized five Saddle Brook women for making significant contributions to our community and for being an inspiration to all. The selection process was based on the recipient's contributions in one of five specific categories. These categories included Community Service, Public Official, Outstanding Citizen, Excellence in Education and Business Leader. This year's recipients were: **Shannon Accomando – Community Service; Police Officer Norma Aedo – Public Official; Barbara Calderio – Outstanding Citizen; Mary-Ellen Gallo – Excellence in Education; and Bao Zhou of Dynasty Buffet – Business Leader.**







Township of Saddle Brook 2019 Recycling Schedule

RECYCLING SCHEDULE	FRIDAY	FRIDAY
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS 251 – 2ND STREET (201) 843-3064	COMMINGLED Glass containers, aluminum, plastics, steel and tin cans	NEWSPAPER Newspaper, magazines, paper and broken cardboard
JANUARY	4th & 18th	11th & 25th
FEBRUARY	1st & 15th	8th & 22nd
MARCH	1st, 15th & 29th	8th & 22nd
APRIL	12th & 26th	5th & 19th
MAY	10th & 24th	3rd, 17th & 31st
JUNE	7th & 21th	14th & 28th
JULY	5th & 19th	12th & 26th
AUGUST	2nd, 16th & 30th	9th & 23rd
SEPTEMBER	13th & 27th	6th & 20th
OCTOBER	11th & 25th	4th & 18th
NOVEMBER	8th & 22nd	1st, 15th & 29th
DECEMBER	6th & 20th	13th & 27th

Grass Clippings

Homeowners **must** place grass clippings in a covered trash container or paper bag that **does not exceed 30 pounds** per container and place curbside on your scheduled yard waste pick-up day no earlier than **7 p.m.** the night before. Homeowners are encouraged to compost their yard waste by leaving grass clippings to mulch gardens.

Solid Waste Collection

Regular garbage, including bulk items (*household items like couches, chairs, mattresses, box-springs, dressers, table or non-appliance type items*) are picked up by Gaeta Sanitation every Wednesday and Saturday, excluding holidays. For missed collections, call **201-843-3064**.

Leaf Collection

Leaf-pick-up is the same day as yard waste collection schedule. Bags should **NOT** be placed at the curb before 7 p.m. the night before collection and leaves **MUST** be placed in container or paper lawn bags.

