

The Mayor's Message

As I walked throughout the Borough last year speaking to many residents, I heard over and over that they really did not know what was going in the Borough. This article will be one of several ways that I will be communicating with the residents throughout the year. Keeping everyone informed will be a priority for us this year and in the future.

The first three months of the year have gone by quickly and have been very interesting. I believe we have gotten off to a good start; the Governing Body has been working well together, as we begin to move things forward for our community.

In February, I asked the Borough Council to pursue the need for the Borough to hire a social media firm. I believe that over the past few years the Borough has done a very poor job of communicating with our residents. I believe we have not taken full advantage of social media and what it has to offer when it comes to reaching to our community. I hope that this will be the first step in improving our communications with the residents.

We also formed two new Borough committees. We formed a "Public Parks and Fields" Committee and an "Economic Development" Committee. The purpose of the "Public Parks and Fields" Committee is to encourage and receive input from our residents when it comes to our parks and fields. As we begin to discuss and establish plans for improvements and maintenance for all the Borough's parks and fields, I believe it is important that we hear from the community.

The purpose of the "Economic Development" Committee, which includes both residents and business owners of the Borough, is to make recommendations to the Governing Body when it comes to promoting what our community and our community's businesses have to offer. I believe we need to work together to find ways to encourage the type of new businesses and new development that will make our community better not put a burden on it. This committee we help put us on the right track to accomplish these goals.

At a recent Borough Council meeting, I asked the Borough Council for permission to pursue the possibility of converting the old Catholic School into a community center. For many years, we have discussed the need for a community center that would enable us to expand our activities and services that we offer all our residents especially our children and our seniors. I believe that if we are able to work an agreement out it would be a "win-win" for the community and the church. I will keep everyone updated as we proceed.

I need to address an inaccurate article that was posted on March 9th on the "Town News Today" website. The title of the article is "Raritan River in Middlesex Polluted – What is the Mayor doing about it?" In this article the reporter quotes a resident of the Borough, who said that he has not heard from me in reference to tributaries that run through the Borough. That simple is incorrect, I contacted the resident in late February after he sent me some pictures, and I informed him that I would like to work in

conjunction with his group to do a cleanup in Middlesex. Several days later I spoke with Joe David of the Central Jersey Stream Team, I once again expressed the fact that I would like to work with his group in Middlesex Borough. We discussed a tentative date for this event and I am waiting for a final confirmation that the date is good for him and his group before we publicize the date. The article also states that the reporter attempted to contact me for comments; I can tell that as of the date of this article I have not received a phone message or an email from anyone from “Town News Today” even after I left a message on their voicemail.

In 2012, as Council President, I worked with fellow members of the Governing Body to establish an annual stream cleaning program for the Borough that continues to be in effect today. As Mayor, I will continue to be proactive when it comes to this issue.

Finally, I would like to thank Sergeant Jeff Bevans, Cindy Chomen and Charlie Sebastian for their many years of service to the residents of Middlesex Borough we wish you and your families the very best in your retirement.

I am available to meet with any resident at Borough Hall, please contact me by phone at 908-307-6823 or email at mayor@middlesexboro-nj.gov to set up an appointment. Thank you.