

The Mayor's Message

By Middlesex Mayor Ron Di Mura

At the April 12th Borough Council Meeting, the Governing Body unanimously adopted the 2016 municipal budget which is under the state mandated 2% cap and reflects an average annual increase of approximately \$48.

By working together, the Governing Body was able to produce a cost effective budget that not only keeps spending under control, but continues to provide the high quality municipal services the residents of our community deserve. This year's budget will enable us to once again reinvest in our community's infrastructure, such as our buildings, roads and parks. We will continue to reinvest in our Police Department making sure they are able to continue to provide the protection needed to keep our neighborhoods safe. We will also reinvest in all of our Borough departments making sure we have the equipment and technology needed to make our services more efficient. Especially in our Department of Public Works, by making sure that they have the manpower and equipment needed to keep our neighborhoods clean and in good condition. I have said many times before that we needed to continue to reinvest in our community and its infrastructure. I believe this budget has begun to do just that.

The Borough recently received a grant in the amount of \$353,700 from the NJDOT for the improvement of Warrentville Road. We also received confirmation from Middlesex County that they will be repaving all of Raritan Avenue, Lincoln Boulevard (from Raritan Avenue to South Lincoln Avenue) and River Road (from the bridge to Lincoln Boulevard). I have asked the County to address several storm sewer drainage issues along Lincoln Boulevard before repaving it.

I recently had the opportunity to meet two extraordinary fourth graders, Jacob Lyerly and Landon Doychak. Jacob and Landon met each other as teammates on their Little League baseball team and since have become the best of friends. Landon has been diagnosed with Duchenne muscular dystrophy. He is now non-ambulatory and uses a scooter at school and wheelchairs at home. Earlier this year, Jacob found out that Landon needed a better motorized wheelchair to help him get around and that it cost a lot of money. In an effort to help his friend Landon and his family, Jacob wrote a letter to Middlesex Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Linda Madison suggesting that everyone wear hats for Landon "Lids for Landon" on a certain day and also give \$1 to help Landon afford a new wheelchair. The day was a huge success.

On March 22nd, I was honored to designate both Jacob and Landon as "Middlesex Heroes" and presented them with a proclamation and individual gold medals on behalf of the Governing Body. I believe that both Jacob and Landon have shown us all what we can achieve through friendship and love.

On March 19th, our Police Department had their first "Coffee with a Cop" event at the Middlesex Elks. It was a great success; more than 230 residents attended the event. This was the first in a series of events that the Police Department will be doing throughout the year to reach out to the residents

our community. I would like to thank the Middlesex Elks and all of its members for sponsoring the event and for donating \$2000 towards the purchase of 2 bulletproof vests. I would also like to congratulate Chief Geist and all the Officers of our Police Department for a job well done.

I would like to congratulate Police Captain Michael Colacci on his recent promotion to Captain. Mike has served community for almost 28 years and has received numerous awards and commendations. He will play a pivotal role in the future development of our Police Department. I wish him the best of luck.

I would like to thank the Middlesex/Bound Brook Little League for inviting the members of the Governing Body to participate in their “Opening Day” Ceremony. I was honored to be a part of this great community event. I congratulate the organizations of both communities for a job well done. I wish all the ballplayers a safe and successful season.

Finally, please “Save the Date” of Saturday July 23rd, for our new “Middlesex Borough Community Day” event at Mountain View Park. The event will include fireworks, live entertainment, great food and much more. I look forward to seeing you there it will be a fun day.

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.