



## MAYOR DIPAOLO'S MEETING REPORT

### September 17, 2024

- Last Wednesday on September 11<sup>th</sup>, The Emerson Volunteer Fire Department held their 9-11 Memorial Ceremony. This year marked the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the commissioning of their tribute monument, which includes a piece of steel from the World Trade Center. Thank you to our Fire Department for putting this solemn but beautiful ceremony together.
- September is Hunger Action Month, and on Thursday, September 12<sup>th</sup>, as part of Shop Rite's Partners in Caring initiative, Captain Rocco Duardo, Lieutenant Ryan Sokerka, and officers Glenn Howard and Craig Merkle of the Emerson Police Department joined me at Emerson Shop Rite for Help Bag Hunger Day to bag groceries for patrons as part of their Partners in Caring initiative. It was nice to see so many residents from our community and surrounding towns while we were working to raise awareness of food insecurity.
- As part of the Mayor's Wellness Campaign, we are holding a Food Drive through September 30<sup>th</sup>. Non-perishable food in cans and boxes can be dropped off in the box in the lobby of Emerson Borough Hall between 8:30 AM and 7:30 PM. Collected items will be donated to the Emerson Bible Church's Food Pantry overseen by Pastor Arturo Rivera.
- Two important programs that I would like to encourage eligible residents to participate in for property tax relief are:
  - The ANCHOR rebate program provides up to \$1,750 dollars to eligible homeowners or renters. More information can be found at [anchor.nj.gov](https://www.anchor.nj.gov). The deadline to apply is November 30, 2024.
  - And for eligible seniors and disabled persons, applications for the State's 2023 Senior Freeze Program, which reimburses property tax increases on their principal residence are being accepted through October 31, 2024.
  - For further information on either of these programs, please visit the borough website or call Lauren in the Tax Office at (201) 262-6086 X 1211.

- Another program that I strongly encourage our residents to look into is Emerson's Home Improvement Program, which provides up to \$17,000 in assistance to qualified residents who meet eligibility requirements to make needed repairs for roofs, foundations, heating, electrical, windows, insulation, plumbing and more. Please visit the borough website or [www.hip.cgph.net](http://www.hip.cgph.net) for more information on this program.
- At the request of Implementation Monitor Retired Judge Harry Carroll, an onsite meeting with the Borough and the Redeveloper was held this past Friday, September 13<sup>th</sup> to review the progress of the Block 419 project. Affordable Housing Attorney Brian Giblin and Administrator Rob Hermansen attended on behalf of the Borough as well as Redevelopers Jack and Sam Klugman and their project manager. Judge Carroll will be providing a status report to the Court. Today, we learned that starting Monday, the Redeveloper will be resuming work at the site and pouring concrete to finish the last level of the parking garage.
- Last week I sent a letter to Bergen County Executive Jim Tedesco to make clear to him that the Kinderkamack Road project in 2016 isn't working to alleviate the traffic congestion downtown as was promised. I have requested a meeting with Mr. Tedesco as well as New Jersey Transit to work together to find a solution. I hope to have an update for you at the next meeting.
- We are busy working with Northwest Bergen Regional Health Commission to resume our Community Conversation series. Be on the lookout for more information which will be posted on our website.
- The Emerson Public Library will be celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary at 20 Palisade Avenue. To celebrate, they will be holding a carnival for residents only on Saturday, September 28<sup>th</sup> from 1pm to 4pm. Visit their website for more details and to learn how to register.
- Our Senior Bus service continues to be available to residents age 55 and older and with special needs on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. To schedule a ride, please contact Stacy at 201-262-6086 ext. 1212.
- Boy Scout Nick Milo, who is working toward attaining the rank of Eagle Scout, will be holding a car wash fundraiser this Sunday, September 22<sup>nd</sup> from 12pm to 4pm at the American Legion parking lot in Park Ridge.
- The Governing Body's next meeting will be on Tuesday, October 1<sup>st</sup> at 7:30PM

## **I have some SAVE THE DATES for the months of October & November:**

- The Motor Vehicle Commission will be at the Senior Center on Friday, October 4<sup>th</sup> from 9 AM to 3 PM to process license renewals, registrations, and Real ID's. Real ID appointments are full for this day but don't worry, the requirement to have a Real ID doesn't go into effect until May 2025 and we are working on scheduling another date for Motor Vehicle to come back to Emerson. Other MVC mobile services are still available and some do not require an appointment.
- The Bergen County Clerk's Satellite Office will be accepting passport applications with photos taken onsite, administering Notary Oaths, and processing photo cards for Seniors, Veterans, and Exempt Firefighters on Wednesday, October 9<sup>th</sup> from 10 AM to 2 PM at The Senior Center. Walk-ins are welcome. Only check payments will be accepted. In addition, from 11 AM to 12 PM, the Clerk's Office will be providing information on their Property Alert Service, which helps protect from property and mortgage fraud. A representative will also be available to assist those who are interested with registering for notifications.
- Register to get a flu shot through the Health Department's Flu Clinic on Thursday, October 10<sup>th</sup> from 11 AM to 12 PM at The Senior Center.
- The Clerk's Office will be open until 9:00PM on October 15<sup>th</sup> for Late Night Voter Registration. This is the last day to register to vote in the November General Election.
- The Recreation Commission is busy planning the Fall Harvest Festival for Sunday, October 20<sup>th</sup> at Hillman Park. Be on the lookout for a flyer with more details.
- Start getting your unwanted confidential papers ready for Emerson's free Paper Shredding Event, which will be on Saturday, November 2<sup>nd</sup> from 9 AM to 1 PM at DPW Recycling Center.
- The Emerson Board of Health is sponsoring a free Rabies Vaccination Clinic for dogs and cats on Saturday, November 9<sup>th</sup> from 11 AM to 12 PM at The DPW Garage.
- The Governing Body and the American Legion Post 269 will be honoring those who have served our country at our Veterans Day Ceremony on Monday, November 11<sup>th</sup> at 11 AM. Our police department will be generously providing breakfast as well. More details will be forthcoming about the breakfast.
- More information on all of these events is posted on the borough website at [www.emersonnj.org/news](http://www.emersonnj.org/news)