



## MAYOR DIPAOLO'S MEETING REPORT

### March 19, 2024

- There is still time to submit preliminary applications to join the wait list for two, new affordable rental apartments on the Valero Site. Those interested should visit [www.AffordableHomesNewJersey.com](http://www.AffordableHomesNewJersey.com) by tonight's deadline, 11:59pm, March 19<sup>th</sup>.
- Mixed garden debris pickup will resume on Monday, April 1<sup>st</sup> and will continue each Monday through the end of the year.
- The Emerson Volunteer Fire Department's Annual Easter Egg Hunt will take place this coming Saturday, March 23<sup>rd</sup> at noon, rain or shine, at Hillman across from the firehouse. Remember to bring your own baskets.
- Last week, I attended a press conference at which Congressman Gottheimer announced that \$959,752 dollars were appropriated for Emerson in the federal budget to upgrade our century-old drainage system serving the areas of Dorchester Road and Vivian Avenue. This is part of this Mayor and Council's long-term initiative to mitigate flooding and the effects of severe weather events throughout the Borough. On behalf of the Governing Body and the residents of Emerson, I thanked Congressman Gottheimer for securing these funds and for making this much-needed infrastructure project in Emerson a priority.
- Bergen County is seeking poll workers for the 2024 Primary and General Elections. More information can be found on our website or by calling the Clerk's Office. Please follow the Borough and Police Departments' social media accounts to get first-hand, factual information from the borough. Links to all of these accounts will be posted on our website.
- The Borough's Military Tribute Banner program is up and running for 2024. Banners are to honor our veterans who currently live or have resided in Emerson. If you want to purchase one, more information can be found on the website or by contacting Mr. Hermansen.
- Applications for the Emerson Community Garden are being accepted through March 29<sup>th</sup>. The completed application, which can be found on the homepage of the borough website, along with a suggested \$15 donation to the Borough of Emerson, can be dropped off in the Clerk's Office at Borough Hall.

- We had an excellent, interactive program with great speakers and important discussion amongst professionals, community members, law enforcement, legislative representatives, the school community, affected families, and others during our Mayor's Wellness Campaign "Community Conversations: Opioid Misuse Among Teens". I want to thank:
  - Northwest Bergen Regional Health Commission;
  - Chief Savino and Sgt. Kalyoussef of the Emerson Police Dept;
  - Councilwoman Rice;
  - Dr. Nissinoff and Mr. Hutchinson of the Emerson School District as well as Board of Education President Behrooz Pasdar;
  - the Center for Drug and Alcohol Resources;
  - Alyssa Dawson, Chief of Staff for State Senator Holly Schepisi, who updated us on pending opioid related-legislation at the state level;
  - Patrice Lenowitz from Woodcliff Lake who shared her powerful and heartwrenching story of her son, Max, who took one "street" pill on his 25<sup>th</sup> birthday and then passed from an opioid overdose; and
  - Andrea De Sciora of the Ramsey/Mahwah Chapter of Families Anonymous, who shared her families' own experiences with drugs, as well as info on the support group that she volunteers with to help other families in need.

It was a moving evening and while the room should have been filled, we will offer another event like this in the fall for those that missed it. As we learned last Wednesday, deadly levels of fentanyl and other opioids are more and more prevalent in all "street" drugs and the size of two little grains of salt can be deadly!

- The Environmental Commission is always looking to make the Borough more sustainable. They are considering the idea of having Borough beehives in our parks, and would like to gauge interest from our community members to possibly put together a beekeeping team to be a subsidiary of the Environmental Commission. If you are interested in being a beekeeper or assisting in other ways, please contact the Clerk's Office so we can report back to the Environmental Commission, which will consider moving forward at one of their meetings.
- The Borough, through its Shade Tree Commission, will once again plant one tree in memory of those Emerson residents who have passed away between January of 2023 in conjunction with their Arbor Day Ceremony. This event will take place on Saturday, April 27<sup>th</sup> at 10am at Rosengart Park aka Sunset Park. If you would like your loved one to be remembered at this year's Arbor Day ceremony, please contact the Clerk's Office.
- If anyone is getting rid of their freestanding, adjustable basketball hoop that is still in good playing condition, please consider donating it to the Borough instead, so our DPW can place them in parks for our smaller kids to use. Please contact the DPW at 201-262-8199.

- Mark your Calendars, I have some important dates to share:
  - The NJ Motor Vehicle Commission's Mobile Unit will be in the Borough Hall parking lot on Wednesday, April 17<sup>th</sup> from 9am to 3pm.
  - The Bergen County Superintendent of Elections' Office will be holding a demo of the new voting process on the new machines as well as answering voters' questions on Wednesday, April 24<sup>th</sup> starting at 6pm in the Senior Center.
  - The Bergen County Clerk's Satellite Office is scheduled to come on Wednesday, May 1<sup>st</sup> from 10am to 2pm at the Senior Center.
  - Our paper shredding day, in collaboration with the BCUA, will be on Saturday May 18, 2024 from 9 AM to 1 PM at Borough Hall.
  - AND it's never too early to announce that our Summer Kickoff will be on Saturday, June 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Details on all these events can be found on our website, social media, or by calling the Clerk's Office!

- For those 55 and up, please consider joining our Seniors Group. They are a vibrant group that meets monthly and plans fun activities and trips. Those interested should contact them at 201-599-6351 for more information.
- Reminder! Call Stacy at 201-262-6086 x1212 to book a ride on our senior bus!
- I also want to remind our seniors about two programs offered through Bergen Volunteers. The CHEER program offers companionship as well as assistance with errands to homebound seniors needing support. The CHORE program helps seniors and those with disabilities to live independently by offering minor home repairs and implementing safety measures. More information will be put up on our website tomorrow or feel free to call the Clerk's Office.
- The State's 2023 Senior Freeze Program reimbursement program has opened. This program reimburses eligible senior citizens and disabled persons for property tax increases on their principal residence. The deadline to file is October 31, 2024. More information can be found on the Borough's website or please feel free to call Lauren at the Tax Office for further information.
- The next regular meeting of the Governing Body will take place on Tuesday, April 2nd at 7:30 PM at which time we will introduce our budget.
- Today is the Spring Equinox and to commemorate that, Dairy Queen is offering a free ice cream cone at participating locations.
- On behalf of the Governing Body, I wish those celebrating a:
  - "Ramadan Mubarak";
  - A joyous, colorful and happy Holi; and
  - a Blessed Easter.