



MAYOR DIPAOLA'S MEETING REPORT

July 23, 2024

- At our last meeting, a contract was awarded for The Ackerman Park Basketball Court Improvement Project. As of yesterday and until further notice, the basketball courts at Ackerman Park will be closed for renovation. We appreciate your understanding as we work to upgrade borough facilities.
- I am excited to announce that last week we kicked off the Mayor's Wellness Campaign Summer Concert Series, with The Hazmats. It was great to have so many of our residents come out and enjoy the band. Tomorrow night, weather-permitting, we are excited to have Teresa Cannata and Beauty and the Grease perform from 7:00 to 9:00 PM. Be sure to check our website and social media pages for updates in case we have inclement weather.
- Reminder that tax bills are due on Thursday, August 1st. The last day to pay without penalty is Monday, August 12th. This year, the County of Bergen adopted their budget in May and the State of New Jersey in June, which allowed Emerson to send out actual tax bills instead of estimated ones. This saved us about \$2500 by following this process.
- After last year's very successful event, The Recreation Commission is having a Cornhole Tournament again this summer. It will take place at Hillman Field on August 23rd at 6:00pm. You may register to participate on the Borough's website or check out the Emerson Recreation Commission's Facebook page for more information and to sign up.
- I have some save the dates for you:
 1. Motor Vehicle Commission Mobile unit will be visiting Emerson again on October 4th. For those in need of a Real ID, the online appointment booking system will open in early September.
 2. Bergen County Clerk's Office will be back on October 9th with their satellite office and passport outreach services.
 3. The Health Department is holding their Flu Vaccine Clinic on October 10th.
 4. All these events will be held at the Emerson Senior Center and information will be posted in the coming weeks on the borough website.
 5. Get your unwanted documents ready for the free paper shredding event at the DPW on Monday November 2nd.

- Last week, the Borough Administrator and I, along with Commander Hogan of the American Legion had a very encouraging meeting with the top representatives of the Housing Development Corporation of Bergen County to discuss Phase 2 of the Veterans Housing and Meeting Room project on Main Street. Bergen County is still going through the final stages of the process with the State of New Jersey before construction can commence, but we discussed improvements that can be done in the meantime to help our veterans as well as the neighboring properties and the Emerson community at large. I am pleased to announce that Bergen County will be undertaking an effort to maintain the property much better than it has been, especially in the front area facing the street, by removing dead trees, relocating the unsightly boulders, leveling the dirt piles, and performing an overall clean up to make the property look more attractive. At my suggestion, they are going to display a big rendering to show the beautiful buildings that will be built on the site. And, they are also looking into putting an accessible trailer onsite, at my suggestion and with Commander Hogan in agreement, so that the American Legion can hold their meetings on the property until the building is erected. Right now, the holdup is that Bergen County is working with the New Jersey Housing and Mortgage Finance Agency (NJHMFA) to resolve financing and deed issues. Assuming that Bergen County has resolved these issues and received all the approvals by this December, they expect to break ground in the Spring of 2025 and then anticipate 12 – 18 months until completion. I want to sincerely thank the Lynn Bartlett and John Biale for their commitment to our veterans and being so open to our suggestions and to Commander Hogan for his steadfast leadership.
- To all of our resident military veterans, I encourage you to consider joining the American Legion Post 269. There are so many reasons to join from special programs and events to career and education services, not to mention the comradery and community that can be found right here in Emerson. If interested, please contact the Borough Administrator or the Mayor so we can put you in touch with Commander Hogan or Retired General John Tumino.
- The next Senior Meeting is on August 8th. All Emerson residents 55 and over should join the lively bunch. They have weekly activities, take day trips and offer in-house programs at their monthly meetings. Go to www.emersonnj.org/seniors for more information.
- The next Mayor and Council meeting will be on Tuesday, August 13th starting at 7:30pm here in the Council Chambers.
- Just a reminder that Borough Hall offices' summer hours are in effect through August 30th. The DPW, Police Department, and their Records Clerks will continue to operate on their normal schedules. These hours are all posted on the homepage of the borough website.