

I hope that everyone had a very happy holiday season and had a chance to spend at least a little time celebrating with friends and family.

As we enter into the New Year, it gives us a chance to reflect on the accomplishments of the past year and look with anticipation towards the goals of the coming year.

Highlights of 2017

- Road Reconstruction projects along parts of Harrison, Bayview and Ocean Avenues.
- Construction of a pocket park at Union and Columbia Avenues. This is part of the Commercial Corridor Redevelopment Plan.
- Completed Phase VII of Scholer Park improvements providing additional parking and landscaping.
- Our Army Corps of Engineers flood protection project moving closer to construction with the signing of the Project Participation Agreement planned for December or January and Phase I out to bid by the end of March 2018.
- Began the planning and architectural phase of our expansion project for Borough Hall.

Plans for 2018

- Road Reconstruction Projects for parts of Arlington and Newark Avenues (partially funded by NJDOT Grant) and St. James Avenue, from Poole Ave to Tenth Street (partially funded by a Community Development Block Grant).
- Renew contract for turf maintenance at our parks, ball fields and municipal lands to provide safe and beautiful playing areas for all of the residents.
- Construction of the USACE & NJDEP Flood Protection Project begins.
- Groundbreaking for the expansion of Borough Hall should take place in late March/early April.
- We will continue to address the remaining abandoned properties in the borough.

So as we look back, 2017 was a productive year. We hope that 2018 will bring continued construction projects having a long term effect on making Union Beach a strong community for its residents.

I want to thank the entire Council along with all of our borough employees and professional staff for their hard work and dedication each and every day to make Union Beach the Best Little Town in New Jersey!

I wish each and every one of you a happy and healthy 2018.

Keep Smiling!
Paul