

Let's hope that the worst of winter is behind us and we can now look forward to Spring. This time of year brings us new hope and plans for the warmer months ahead.

We have some very ambitious plans for 2016 and you will notice improvements in various parts of town through the spring and summer. The Council recently approved \$1,125,000 worth of capital improvements to Scholer Park and various road reconstruction projects for this year. Of that, over 35% of the funding is from grants from various sources. Additionally, we are outfitting all our Fire Companies with new Scott Air Paks, breathing and safety apparatus. The first responders of Union Beach are second to none and their safety is very important to us.

The borough experienced some areas of flooding during recent storms and moon tides. On the minds of every resident in Union Beach is the status of our Army Corps of Engineers flood protection project. As you recall in April of 2015, we were assured by the Governor that the project would start by the 3rd quarter of 2016. Unfortunately, from our latest correspondence with the ACOE, that does not seem to be the case. Despite recommendations from Senators Booker and Menendez along with Congressman Pallone for this project to move forward, the Army Corps and U.S. Fish and Wildlife are creating new delays. We are not giving up and will continue to fight for this project to begin ASAP for the protection of all of our residents. Our residents are doing the right thing by elevating their homes, but when you can't get out of your driveway to get to work, that is not ok! We will use any and all resources to make sure that the ACOE does the right thing now.

In other news, plans are in the works for our Memorial Day remembrances and the parade. Mark your calendar now for Saturday May 28th.

As the days get longer, that means our children are playing outside longer, so be sure to stay alert when driving. Put the phone down while you drive.

Until next time,

Keep Smiling,

Paul