

Winter Message from the Mayor:

As 2015 comes to a close, and we prepare to enter 2016, it is a good time to take the opportunity to reflect on the past year and look ahead to the New Year. Many of us do this in our own lives, to look back and see if we accomplished our goals for the year and to consider the changes that have occurred in our lives. This is also a time when we can look at what we managed to accomplish for the Borough in the past year and look ahead to our plans for the coming year.

The impact of Superstorm Sandy continues to be felt in our Borough three years later. However, we have been happy to see many residents able to move back into their homes this past year. We continue to witness homes being raised on an almost daily basis. The Borough has been able to hire three additional workers this year in the Construction Department to aid in getting the paperwork completed to get these families home. The salaries for these workers are mostly off-set through a Zoning Grant, which reduces the impact on the taxpayers. We will continue to do all we can to help get every displaced resident back home!

With a combination of NJDOT and CDBG grant money and through our Capital Improvement Program we stayed on course with the reconstruction of several streets: portions of Seventh Street, Patterson Avenue, Central Avenue, Isabelle Avenue and West Street. We used Monmouth County Open Space Grant money to complete Phase V of Scholer Park Improvements.

Additionally, even though our past Borough Administrator resigned in January, one of the best things to happen to Union Beach this year was the hiring of Mr. Robert Howard as our new Administrator. He comes to us with 21 years of municipal government experience and a thorough knowledge of our municipal budget. He truly is an asset to our Borough.

Looking towards the future, we already have plans for 2016.

With grant money from the NJDOT and the CDBG programs, we will reconstruct sections of Arlington Avenue and Johnson Avenue to start. We will use Monmouth County Open Space Grant funds for the long awaited reconstruction of the hockey rink at Scholer Park for our youth. We will continue the "Turf Maintenance" program for our soccer and little league fields to enhance those programs.

We will continue to address the problem of the vacant and abandoned homes in the Borough to improve the quality of life for all of the residents.

And most importantly, we will remain diligent and do all that we can do in making sure that the Army Corps of Engineer's flood protection project begins in 2016 as promised!

I wish all of you a Happy and Healthy 2016!

Keep Smiling, Paul