

A note from the Mayor,

It is September already and that signals the end of summer, back to school for some and a return to work routines for most. Just as summer is a good time to get projects done around our homes, it is also a good time to get projects done in the borough. It has been a very busy summer in Union Beach and I will highlight some of our projects further on this note.

In Union Beach the primary concern and focus is rebuilding and recovery from Sandy. Wherever I go, people ask "How is Union Beach doing with recovery efforts?" My answer usually includes that we still have a way to go even though we have made great strides already. But our work will not be done until everyone is back in their homes. The good news is that over 60 families have returned to their homes this summer alone, and there are close to 20 homes in the final stages of construction and those families should be moving home soon. With the help of the Council, we continue to keep a full staff in the construction office which services close to 40 residents every day. With the large number of required building inspections, we are working with neighboring towns to use some of their licensed inspectors so that contractors don't fall behind at the various stages of reconstruction so we can get families back in their homes more quickly. The Borough continues to offer space to the Gateway Disaster Response Team in our Seniors Center. Gateway has been with us from the start and we are very grateful for the services that they continue to offer to all of our residents. They offer a wide range of volunteer help to residents still trying to recover after the storm. If you need any type of assistance, just stop by Borough Hall or call them. Their contact info is on the website.

As a Borough, our recovery from the storm continues also:

We have received partial reimbursement of \$4.8 million dollars for the cost of our debris removal which cost us over \$5.4 million.

All storm sewers have been cleared of debris

The beachfront and walkway have been restored

The ballfields and facilities at Scholer Park have been repaired

Roads damaged from the storm, Rose Lane, Beach St., Spruce and Center, Pine and Third St. have been repaired. The County Mosquito Commission was a big help in clearing debris from the wetlands to enhance the benefits of this project.

Most importantly, our "Strategic Recovery Planning Report", which I have mentioned in the past and which is available to read from the website, has been submitted to the state and has been approved. A key component of this report is to encourage businesses to the Rt. 36 corridor which can bring rateables to Union Beach.

I hope you get a chance to read this report to see our plans for various areas of the borough as we rebuild.

The Shorefront Protection Project by the Army Corp of Engineers continues to move forward although not as quickly as we may like. We are in contact with the State, Congressman Pallone and Senator Booker who are working with our efforts to keep this project moving forward.

The Borough of Union Beach was recently acknowledged at a post Sandy recovery meeting for our fiscal responsibility. It was pointed out that “despite the numbers of homes lost and the extent of damage to the borough, Union Beach managed to have the second lowest tax increase in Monmouth County. Additionally, Union Beach increased it’s financial rating from an “A” to an “AA” this year. That is difficult enough in good times, but accomplishing that in a post Sandy era needs to be recognized.”

I know that this has become more than a note, and thanks for reading. I understand with work and family schedules it’s hard to get to Council meetings but you should know what your governing body is doing for you. If you can continue reading on, I will list some of the other projects we completed this summer along with ongoing ones.

I look forward to seeing you around the Beach and Keep Smiling!

Paul

P.S. Welcome to Mike Toro and his auto repair shop. Good Luck!

Union Beach projects.....

Received \$50,000 county grant for improvements to Scholer Park which will be tables, benches, security cameras. This work will be done in Spring 2015

Received Monmouth County Community Development Grant for the reconstruction of Seventh St. from Pine to Prospect. We expect construction to be done this Fall.

We received a \$220,000 grant from NJDOT for the reconstruction of Harrison and Orange Sts. Construction will be done this Fall.

We have applied for a Monmouth County Open Space Grant for the rehabilitation of the Hockey Rink. We will keep you updated.

The roads that were dug up by the utility companies this past spring are expected to be repaired by the end of October.

By the way.....Soccer will be played at the IFF Field and at the Memorial School Field this fall as we do repairs to the Helen Hayes Soccer Fields. Thank you for your patience, but it will be worth it once the fields are done!