

Message from Mayor Paul J. Smith Jr.

It is hard to believe that Fall is upon us already.... Schools are open, and the days are getting shorter.

For Union Beach, we approach the 3-year mark from when Superstorm Sandy changed our little town forever. No matter where you live in Union Beach, you are constantly reminded of this by the continued rebuilding of some homes and the lifting of others. This summer saw many residents fall into either one of these categories, and some were doing both at the same time. It is unfortunate that it has taken so long for some residents to get back home, and even more so that there are so many residents that still are not home. It is encouraging to see fewer trailers throughout the Borough each month. To help residents cut through the permitting and inspection process, the Council has hired yet another person to work in the Building Department. I hope that this will help get the paperwork completed more quickly so that delays are not caused by the Borough.

I am sure that, by now, all residents have received their 2015-2016 property tax bill. This tax bill is based upon the revaluation of all our properties that the County required us to do in 2014. This is not something that I, or any member of the Council, wanted to do. As a result, 64% of the residents actually saw their taxes change by less than \$100 or saw their taxes decrease. If you have questions about your tax bill, please do not hesitate to see George Lockwood, our Assessor. He is here on Monday nights to meet with you.

There are many capital improvement projects throughout the Borough, which began during the summer, and are either completed, or are nearing completion. Additional improvements to Scholer Park include more picnic tables, added irrigation and another security camera that is fed directly to Police Headquarters. There are road projects on Isabelle Avenue, Patterson Avenue, Central Avenue and West Street. The majority of these improvements are paid for with State or County Grant funds so we can make Union Beach better, a little bit at a time, without putting the burden on our residents.

As always, I am available if you have any questions or concerns. My contact information is on the Borough web site.

Be sure to check out the web site on a regular basis. It is constantly being updated with new information for the residents and lists upcoming events throughout the Borough.

Drive carefully.....watch for children now that schools are open.

Keep smiling,

Paul