

Along with taking care of some specific needs for the various departments, I am pleased to announce our Capital Improvement Program for 2017.

This year we have four major projects we are undertaking in various areas of the borough.

The first is the reconstruction of Harrison Ave from Johnson to Stone Rd. This is partially funded by a \$210,000 grant from the NJ Department of Transportation.

Secondly we will be reconstructing portions of Bayview Ave. and Ocean Ave from Union to Lorillard Ave. Our third project is the construction of a park at Columbia and Union Aves. Plans include a small parking lot, landscaping and passive recreation area. This project is part of our Commercial Corridor Redevelopment Plan which we have adopted to revitalize a commercial area on Union Ave. We believe that by beginning with the creation of this park and additional parking, it may show potential investors that we are dedicated to this plan.

Last is Phase VII of our Scholer Park project. This is the final phase of the plan and creates much needed additional parking in the park. This is partially funded by a grant of \$66,000 from the Monmouth County Open Space Grant program.

I am very excited to remind everyone that we have a firm date for the 2017 Union Beach Day. Mark your calendars for Saturday, October 14<sup>th</sup> which is the date for this years' festivities that are on track to be the best yet.

Finally, I am very pleased to announce that we are moving forward with a plan to do a major renovation and expansion of our Borough Hall. There are several reasons that we need to take on this project at this time. We are not in compliance with many security measures for our Municipal Court which are dictated by the County and State. We also need to address several security issues for the safety and well-being of all of our day to day employees. The roof on the building has been failing for several years. We have done temporary repairs but even they are showing signs of wear. And, of course, there is the issue of space. We have outgrown the working space in the building. Despite our continuing efforts to eliminate much of our paper storage, our offices are still overcrowded which can make it difficult at times to serve the residents. Additionally, our Construction Department has been working off-site since after Sandy and we need to make accommodations to bring them back. We are in the early stages of this project and I will continue to keep you updated on our progress.

Remember that spring is around the corner and that means our young people will be out and about, so please be careful driving.

Keep smiling,

Paul