

Message from Mayor Paul J. Smith Jr

Dear friends,

It is hard to believe that summer has passed so quickly. I hope that everyone had a chance to get a little time to relax and enjoy the warm weather. Before you know it the holidays will be upon us!

As the weather starts to change, our major construction projects for 2017 begin to wind down. The road reconstruction projects are just about completed as is the final phase of improvements to Scholer Park. The Scholer Park project concludes a 7 phase project that has completely rejuvenated the park and provides a variety of recreational activities for both young and old residents. Although the major improvements are complete we still have minor additions that we hope to add over the next few years. The new park on Columbia Ave. will be finished by the middle of September. This project is being completed as part of our Commercial Corridor Development program. This project cleaned up that corner and we hope it will encourage new business to come to Union Ave.

As Hurricane Harvey battered Texas, the images were all too familiar to many of us. We continue to keep those affected in our thoughts and prayers.

Our own Shore Protection Project continues to move forward. There have been surveyors at the beachfront preparing for Phase One. We are confident that we will see construction started within the next six months. Updates will be provided on the Borough website as they become available.

I am sure that by now all of you have received your new tax bills. I am happy to point out that the part of your tax bill that Mayor and Council have control over, the Municipal Tax portion, represents a slight *decrease* in your tax rate. That makes three straight years that the municipal tax rate has been flat or has seen a small decrease. I want to thank the Council, our Administrator and our financial professionals who work hard not to place additional tax burdens on you.

I would like to thank everyone who helped make our July 3rd celebration a success. The Recreation Commission once again did a great job and the event went off without any problems. Thanks also go out to the Police Department, the Fire Department, OEM and the Department of Public Works. Union Beach was at its best welcoming so many visitors from out of town.

I would like to welcome our new Construction Official, Timothy Davis. He has taken over the reins of the Construction office as of August 28th. We welcome him to Union Beach and wish him the best.

Save the Date.....October 7th will be Clean Communities Day. If you or your group would like to participate, please register in advance with Mary Mancini in the DPW office.

October 14th is the date of the 3rd Annual Union Beach Day. Check out the Borough website for more details. www.ubnj.net

Remember that schools are open so please drive carefully.

Keep Smiling,

Paul