

MAYOR'S REPORT

October 18th, 2022

Our annual Pork-Roll-Palooza Festival was a great success with wonderful weather and a strong turnout. I thank all of our partners in the event including Norwescap and the Phillipsburg Area Chamber of Commerce for continuing to make this a great event for our town. I look forward our upcoming Ole Town Festival as a continuation of the great events which drive foot traffic and business in our downtown business district.

The Circulation Project Team developing the Circulation Plan continues to conduct "Walkability Audits" where the team will take comments from the public and integrate them into the report. These dates have been shared on the website and our social media page. Aqua New Jersey continues to replace lead service lines in town with close collaboration with our Engineering and Inspections Departments. My Administration works closely with Aqua to ensure proper restoration of our roads after the completion of this work. Smoke testing on the collection system has concluded and target areas for repair have been identified which will save ratepayers money by eliminating infiltration and inflow to our system. Collection system repairs are actively underway on Columbus Avenue, Thomas Street and Sayre Avenue and will begin soon on Carpentersville Road. Work continues to progress on the relocation of the 100 year old Riverside Way Pump Station to Main Street and Andrews Alley out of the floodway. Further with regard to road paving my Administration has submitted a request for authorization to award a contract to South State for the 2022 Road program that would commence later this year upon completion of sewer repairs.

Last week I toured some of the properties developed by developer Richard Colasuanno who I have been working with on revitalization of the former Norton Complex into much needed senior housing as well as a grocery store. Mr. Colasuonno's properties are exactly the kind of development we need to bring to Phillipsburg. Recently I sent a letter to the Governor's Office decrying the unprecedented and unfair burden placed on counties and municipalities across the State of New Jersey by the State Health Benefits Commission. I called upon Governor Murphy to take immediate action to work with the Commission to find ways to control these costs, and further I have directed my staff to find alternatives to the State Health Benefits Program while preserving coverage for employees.

Finally, with regard to the proposed parking ordinance, upon hearing from many interested parties including the shad fisherman, I would like to call upon the Council to allow for a \$150 per year sportsman permit for trailer parking at Riverside Way lot. Additionally, it is my belief that those participating the annual Shad Tournament should file for a special event permit under our current system which would allow for the Council to waive parking fees for registered tournament competitors.

Respectfully Submitted,

Todd M. Tersigni, Mayor