

MAYOR'S REPORT

November 1st, 2022

The Ole Town Fall Festival was a great success with spectacular weather and a wonderful turnout for the bands, the children's activities and of course the fireworks in Walters Park. I want to thank the Phillipsburg Area Chamber of Commerce for continuing to make this a great event for our town. I believe that this will continue the succession of great events which drive foot traffic and business in our downtown business district.

The Circulation Project Team continues their work on the Circulation Plan. Additionally, Van Cleef has begun work on putting together a bicycle route navigating the perimeter of the town. I especially want to thank Engineer Joseph Brosnan, Land Use Board Chair Bill Duffy, John Turnbull and Bernie Rooney for their hard work on this.

The Recreation Director held a meeting with the Vice President of the Cal Ripkin Foundation, Chuck Brady, Phillipsburg native and graduate of Phillipsburg Catholic, along with Dr. James Brennan, and Jeffrey Finegan to discuss the possibility Phillipsburg becoming the first municipality in New Jersey to be recipient of a Cal Ripkin field. Also with regard to Recreation, work has restarted and the contractor is making good progress toward being open for the summer season in 2023. My Administration has worked diligently to put this puzzle back together so that Walters Park can once again serve as a destination for summer recreation.

Our parking meters continue to prove to be a major success for the town having brought in nearly \$60,000 in revenue since June. At this rate our parking meters are well on their way to offsetting a significant portion of the municipal budget.

Finally, we all mourn the loss Mrs. Joyce Sickels, who sadly passed away on October 16th shortly after celebrating her 100th birthday. A Phillipsburg Native and 1940 graduate of Phillipsburg High School, Mrs. Sickels attended the then New Jersey State Teachers College in Trenton, now The College of New Jersey. After college and a short stint teaching career in the Harmony Township School, she came home to the Phillipsburg School District, working at both Freeman and Reese schools. She was instrumental in establishing Phillipsburg's first Kindergarten program for the 1949-50 school year, retiring in 1978 after more than 34 years of service to Phillipsburg. As you may know Mrs. Sickels not only taught in the building that now houses the Town of Phillipsburg Municipal Offices, but she also taught three of the elected officials of the Town of Phillipsburg seated before you today, myself included. Therefore I would like to designate Mrs. Sickels' former room in what is now the Municipal Building, located at 120 Filmore Street, the "Joyce Sickels Memorial Room" as a testament to her service the Phillipsburg community. Mrs. Sickels' family has been notified and an official dedication event will be planned for the near future.

Respectfully Submitted,

Todd M. Tersigni, Mayor