

MAYOR'S REPORT

November 22nd, 2022

The Town of Phillipsburg was well represented at the League of Municipalities Convention last week with myself, members of Council as well as my Administration attending classes and holding high level meetings and networking with state and county officials as well as other municipalities on many subjects affecting our town. Recently my Administration completed a grant application to the NJDOT Transportation Alternatives Program for a "Rails to Trails" project which would connect many important areas of our town such as the Morris Canal entrance, Delaware River Park, Lock Street, the Icehouse and Delaware Heights Park. We are seeking up to \$2 million dollars for the purposes of developing not only a trail system but also wayfinding signage which would facilitate greater pedestrian utilization of our trails, sidewalks and green spaces. If awarded, this funding would also lay the groundwork for a potential connection to Easton via the abandoned rail crossing on the Delaware River. Also with regard to recreation, progress continues on the Walters Park Pool with the contractor now beginning to move ahead of the previously amended schedule. Finally, our Recreation Director continues to work diligently on Phillipsburg's bid to become the first recipient of a Cal Ripkin field in the State of New Jersey.

Parking revenues have continued steadily and we are coordinating with Delaware River Railroad Excursions to ensure that patrons are notified of the parking regulations. Additionally we have signed an agreement with ParkMobile so that visitors and residents alike can easily pay for parking via their smartphone at any meter or kiosk in town. Utility contractors in town continue to work toward improving and upgrading our infrastructure with lead service line as well as water main replacement and sewer line repair occurring through the winter. Unfortunately the early onset of late winter like temperatures has forced the paving schedule to end approximately one month early, but my Administration is working collaboratively with our Engineers as well as the contractors to ensure a timely start in the spring following the many subsurface repairs which will be carried out over the winter. Aqua water has completed water main replacements at Reese Court and Hanover Street and will be starting on Lyndale Street soon.

We look forward to the events of the upcoming holiday season including the tree lighting in Shappell Park which will be held at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, November 28th. The following weekend Phillipsburg will be hosting Operation Toy Train at the Phillipsburg Union Tower at 2:15 p.m. on Sunday, December 4th. Those interested in donating toys to needy families may do so by bringing new, unwrapped toys to a participating local business in town or to Town Hall. Toys may also be brought directly to the train on the day of the event.

Over the weekend I was honored to give back and to see the Phillipsburg community come together in a big way as Brothers Before Others hosted the Turkey Brawl raising money for the Rivera family. Thank you to everyone involved who worked extremely hard to make this a great event for our community. Finally I'd like to wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving as well as to express my condolences to the Davis family on their recent loss.

Respectfully Submitted,

Todd M. Tersigni, Mayor