



Borough of Paramus

www.paramusborough.org
(201) 265-2100

Paramus Volunteer Fire Department



Established by the Mayor and Council in 1935, the Volunteer Fire Department is an essential part of the community's emergency services today, 85 years after its inception. There are 125 volunteer firefighters staffing each of four fire companies: Company 1

located on Fire House Lane; Company 2 located on Spring Valley Road; Company 3 located on West Midland Avenue; and Company 4 located on South Farview Avenue.

In 2015, the Volunteer Fire Department responded to 1,262 calls, totaling 14,137

man hours. There are 125 volunteers and a junior fire program which takes members between the ages of 16 and 18 years old. If you are interested in joining the Volunteer Fire Department, call (201) 265-2100, ext. 2296, or stop by your local fire house any Monday evening between 7 pm and 9 pm.



PARAMUS RESCUE SQUAD



Originally formed in 1952 as part of the Borough's Civil Defense and Disaster Management, the Paramus Rescue Squad has evolved into one of the Northeast's

most respected emergency organizations.

Anyone over the age of 18, in good physical health, and interested in serving

the community, we would like to speak to you. Anyone between the ages of 16 and 18 may be eligible for our Junior Program.

Please call (201) 265-2100, ext. 5300, or stop by the Rescue Building (located on Carlough Drive, across from the Police Dept.) any Monday evening between 7:30 pm and 9:00 pm for more information.



JOIN THE VOLUNTEER SERVICES



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The Blue Star Banner



Our Mayor and Council, Borough employees, and the community is proud of our hometown residents serving in the military. As a community we thank

Paramus Food Pantry

by Judy Migliaccio, Health Officer

The Paramus Food Pantry has been a part of the Human Services Division since the 1950s. It was intended to meet the needs of struggling residents and those on public assistance.

In 2008, a garden was added to supplement the dwindling supplies. The Mayor & Council, Shade Tree, and Borough Administrator were very supportive, as was the newly formed Sunrise Rotary. The Human Services Coordinator's children took the lead in creating and managing the garden and

gathering volunteers to weed and water weekly, including the Chief of Police.

By 2009, many more organizations, schools, scouts, and houses of worship began conducting food drives. The community as a whole rose to the challenges of a changing economy and helped their neighbors. In 2010, a partnership between Human Services and Bergen County Special Services secured regular volunteers to help. This has proven to be a win-win as these volunteers, often disenfranchised mem-

bers of society, have taken on a very useful role in their community. The Paramus Library set up a food collection box in the library. In Spring 2015, the Hegg family began conducting a monthly Saturday food drive and a social media campaign. The Paramus Friendly Neighbors pick up and deliver food. Volunteers sort and pack the food while Bergen County Special Services and Catholic War Veterans make deliveries. To volunteer call the Paramus Board of Health at 201-265-2100, ext. 2300 or health@paramusborough.org



them for their sacrifice of time away from their homes, families and friends.

In recognition of their absence from our community, the Borough maintains a Blue Star Banner wall in the entrance of Borough Hall. The Blue Star banners have a long history and tradition in our country, recognizing those serving in the military away from home.

Military family members are invited to a Mayor and Council meeting and presented with a Blue Star Banner to be

displayed at home. A duplicate is placed on our Blue Star Banner wall in Borough Hall. Upon returning home, the family and the returning service member are invited to a Mayor and Council meeting to be presented with their Blue Star Banner.

If you have a family member currently in the military, please contact our Veterans Service Officer (201) 265-2100, ext. 6110 and we will prepare Blue Star Banners for that service member, his/her family and our Wall of Honor.



The Paramus Fritz Behnke Historical Museum is seeking volunteers to serve as knowledgeable guides on occasional Sundays from 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm. The

Fritz Behnke Historical Museum Seeks Volunteers

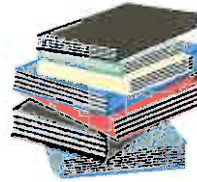
volunteer should have some knowledge of Paramus; however, additional information is available about the history of the Borough. Volunteers will find a great opportunity to explain the many unique display features to museum visitors. Please call Bill Leaver at (201) 445-1804 to learn more about becoming a museum guide.

The Paramus Fritz Behnke Historical Museum is named after Fritz Behnke, who was born in Paramus in 1919. His family has lived in Paramus since 1886, and Fritz grew up on his father's vegetable farm until it was sold in 1951.



Library Renovations On The Horizon

by Leonard LoPinto, Library Director



Paramus' Main Library will soon be graced with a spectacular color palate of blues and greens, with new lighting, furniture, paint, carpeting, and shelving. The space is being reconfigured to gain additional seating areas and greater access to power outlets and the library's collections. The Mayor and Council, Library Board of Trustees, and the Paramus community are excited about the upcoming transformation.

For the interior remodel the Main Library, 116 E. Century Road, will be

closed for approximately three months. During this time the Reid Branch Library, 239 W. Midland Avenue, will extend its hours to match those of the Main Library, including Saturday and Sunday hours. The Reid Branch's hours will become:

- Monday – Thursday 9:30 am – 9:30 pm
- Friday 9:30 am – 6 pm
- Saturday 9:30 am – 5 pm
- Sunday 1pm – 5 pm.

The new book collection from the Main Library will be relocated to the Reid building, and programming for

all ages will be hosted at the Reid Branch Library and other borough facilities. Please check the schedule on the library's website – www.paramuslibrary.org – and on Facebook. The library will keep the community updated about the remodel's progress through the borough and library websites, Facebook, email messages, and press releases.

Visit the Reid and Main Library staff at the branch library during the remodel as they continue to provide library services to the community.

Recreation Department

by Robert Cowper, Assistant Recreation Director



Paramus Recreation Center Renovations. The Mayor and Council and the Paramus Recreation Commission are proud to announce the completion of our first series of programs held in our newly renovated community room. Having our community room renovated presented an opportunity to host educational and entertaining enrichment programs for the children of Paramus. The programs offered during the Winter season were: Ned the Ninja Self-Defense by The Dojo; Super Hero Science by Explore Science; Cartoon Drawing by Abrakadoodle; Learn to Play Ping Pong by KiddieGymUSA. These classes were held on weekday afternoons and eve-

nings and were a great addition to the Paramus Recreation Commission's sports programs. Similar programs will be held in the community room in the spring. This spring we will also offer programs for children with special needs including: Explore Science, Learn to Play Ping Pong, and Art with Ingrid Munin. Also, during the Paramus Library's own renovations this spring, the Afterschool Adventures program will be held in the community room. This will be a great way to introduce more families to the possibilities here at Recreation. Throughout the spring, Paramus High School art students will continue their mural project at the community room, which will further enhance the new renovations.

The Borough and the Board of Education have partnered in the renovations of tennis / volley ball courts at Eastbrook and Westbrook middle schools and an all season multi use turf field at Eastbrook middle school.

Yavneh Academy Partnership. Throughout February and March, the Paramus Recreation Commission's senior basketball league played their games in the Yavneh Academy gym in Paramus. The senior basketball program is our most popular program with twelve teams composed of 7th and 8th grade boys. The recently built addition to Yavneh Academy features a beautiful gym which received many compliments from our coaches and parents. Yavneh's gym also features ample seating, which is great for the highly attended senior basketball games. In order to ensure the well being and security of our participants and the facility, Paramus Recreation worked closely with Shade Tree, the Department of Public Works, and the Police Department. The Paramus Recreation Commission would like to say thank you to the Yavneh Academy for the opportunity, and to all of the departments that helped give our senior boys a fantastic season.

From the desk of:

Mayor Richard A. LaBarbiera



Paramus is a very special community to live and work in, and I am especially proud to be your Mayor. Over the past five years, we have succeeded in achieving many goals and objectives that I believe make Paramus special. It is my objective to ensure that Paramus continues to move forward and is a community in which we want to live and raise our families. I recognize that everything is not perfect, but we do continually strive for perfection, and every year we look forward to improving our services, community facilities, and our financial stability. I would like to take this opportunity to highlight some of our achievements and our challenges for the future.

Improvements over the past five years have included the staffing of the Police Department and emergency services to a level that ensures the safety and protection of our residents. The Police Department's sworn officers have increased from 62 officers in 2010 to 82 officers as of March 2016. In addition, the physical facilities have seen modernization which support the training and improved services to the residents. Our volunteer services: Fire, Rescue, EMS and OEM equipment, and the fleets have been modernized and upgraded. In calendar year 2016 we will be renovating the library, expanding the public works garages, expanding the volunteer rescue facility, and constructing a new shared Paramus Volunteer Ambulance/Paramus EMS building. We have successfully modernized the garbage and recycling collection, street sweeping, and recreation facilities.

All the improvements over the past five years have been accomplished without increasing the local tax rate. The Borough has accomplished what many communities have failed to do, increase services without increasing the local tax rate. Paramus has maintained a zero local tax rate for the past five years, with a rate reduction for the past two years. In December of 2015 Paramus received a coveted triple A (AAA) bond rating, one of only seventeen in the

State. The municipal portion of your tax dollar is less than 1/3 and any tax increase in your bill over the past five years is attributed to the school and county tax rate increases, (see pie chart below). We are working hard to improve the delivery of services to our residents and will continue to maintain the budgets in a professional and responsible manner.

Development and business in Paramus is very strong and we continue to monitor commercial development trends to ensure the commercial tax base remains stable. Our Sunday Blue Laws are always challenged by outside interest and we remain steadfast and determined never to lose that battle. We have been successful over the years and will



continue to be successful in maintaining our Blue Laws.

Looking to the future, in the coming month, the Council and Planning Board should be finalizing changes to the Zoning Ordinances and Map consistent with the vision in the Planning Board's Master Plan amendment from last summer. This process started a year ago with priority #1 being the protection of our residential neighborhoods and quality of life, while insuring our commercial properties remain successful in a very competitive market that includes American Dream and protects the residential neighborhoods from builder's remedy lawsuits under the guise of meeting the Borough's affordable housing obligation.

Look for these meetings and other upcoming events on the official Borough web-site www.paramusborough.org we welcome your thoughts.



Paramus Pool Registration For The 2016 Season

Registration is April 4 through June 23 at the Paramus Borough Hall Pool Office, located on the second floor. Hours for registration are 8:30 am to 4:00 pm Monday through Friday, and Thursday evenings until 6:30 pm (excluding Borough Holidays). Starting June 24, residents can register at the Paramus Municipal Pool weekdays from 12:00 pm to 6:00 pm, weekends 11:00 am to 6:00 pm or at the Borough Hall Pool Office 8:30 am to 4:00 pm Monday to Friday.

Starting this year, children under 12 years of age at time of registration

will require a new picture ID badge at no cost to the member; we will need to see a copy of the child's birth certificate. All registering applicants (new or returning members) must bring:

- the most current PSE&G bill with the address matching your driver's license;
- a copy of driver's licenses for all adults that are registering;
- the application; and
- check. *If paying by credit card (no Discover accepted) there will be a \$2 service fee.*



Members will also sign the pool rules at the time of registration and receive a copy to bring home and review with family members. Applications will be mailed out soon!

Paramus Golf

by Andy Schuckers, Superintendent Golf

The Golf Professional Staff at the Paramus Golf Course is excited to welcome all of you back to our wonderful facility for the 2016 season. Paramus Golf Course is open for play all year long, and we have been thrilled to see so many golfers back with the pleasant weather we have been experiencing. We know you are all excited to take advantage of the various amenities, and the many upgrades to our municipal golf course has to offer. The Pro Shop is open daily from 7 am until 5 pm and can be reached at (201) 447-6079 seven days a week.

PGA Professionals AJ Spicer and Bryan Smith are once again heading up the Teaching and Learning Programs at PGC. Private Lessons are available 7 days a week and discount-

ed packages are available. They will also be offering group clinics, with some fun new parent/child programs added for this season. The ever popular Junior Golf Camps at PGC will be offered throughout the summer months, running Monday through Thursday, from 9 am until 12 noon. This year's Junior Camp dates are as follows:

- Junior golfers between the ages of 6 and 12 years old can sign up for July 11-14; July 25-28; and August 8-11.
- Junior golfers between 10 and 16 years old can sign up for July 18-21; August 1-4; and August 15-18.

Paramus Golf Course continues to be a unique facility to develop junior

golfers, as we offer professional instruction that includes the use of our driving range, all three short game areas, the miniature golf course, as well as the regulation golf course. Don't wait to register your child, as our registrations will fill up quickly! If you would like any more information regarding private instruction or junior golf camps, please contact the golf professionals directly.

AJ Spicer
(201) 953-9882
ajspicer@pga.com

Bryan Smith
(201) 230-8114
bryansmith@pga.com

We look forward to another great year here at Paramus Golf Course, and hope to see all of you soon!



Paramus: A Sustainable Jersey Municipality

by J. A. Sexton III, Assistant Superintendent Shade Tree & Parks Department

Paramus was certified Bronze in the Sustainable Jersey program in 2013 and is currently working on completing its re-certification as a Bronze level municipality in the program. Sustainable Jersey is a program that was started in 2010 through funding provided to the College of NJ by the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation. The money was donated to create a "Sustainable Communities Leadership Network." The network was charged with the task of identifying best practices and to develop sustainability programs that will build a better tomorrow. These efforts led to the formation of the Sustainable Jersey Program.

Participating municipalities in the program are eligible for two options for certification, Bronze or Silver. The Bronze level requires a total of 150 points; the Silver requires a total of 350 points. The program is divided into several main categories which contain "actions." Each action has a point value and requirements that municipalities

may work on to receive those points. Points are earned by completing the requirements to the satisfaction of the Sustainable Jersey Review Board.

Every action is related to a main category and all categories are designed to guide the municipality towards sustainability through "green planning and operations execution." Once a community has been certified, that certification is valid for three years. This time limit keeps the municipalities current with changing technologies and movements within the sustainability network.

Sustainable Jersey mandates the formation of a "Green Team." Paramus' Green Team is made up of professionals working for the Borough and the Paramus Board of Education. In addition, there are concerned residents and volunteers from several of the Borough's commissions appointed by the Mayor. This team meets and monitors the actions in place and also works on new actions that will benefit the Borough.

The Borough of Paramus' Sustainable Jersey programs includes:

- formation of the Environmental Commission;
- smoke-free municipal buildings and parks;
- 24/7 prescription drug recycling drop-off at the Paramus Police Dept.;
- Farmer's Market;
- Earth Day celebration;
- Mayor's wellness program;
- Borough's anti-idling ordinance;
- Environmental impact statement requirement in land use;
- Community Forestry Management plan;

- street tree planting and tree maintenance programs;
- recognition of Paramus as a "Healthy Town;"
- Paramus' establishment as the first "Stigma-Free community" in Bergen County;
- recycling center;
- Borough's paper shredding day;
- purchase and use of alternate fuel vehicles; and
- Borough's centrifuge for making bio-diesel fuel for several borough vehicles.

These and other actions are what Paramus is working on to add to our growing list of sustainable programs.

A significant advancement to Sustainable Jersey came about during the mid-summer of 2013. Sustainable Jersey and the New Jersey School Boards Association announced a joint sustainability program for New Jersey Schools modeled after the municipal program entitled "Sustainable Jersey for Schools." This program, designed specifically for schools and school districts, establishes unique actions that schools can pursue towards their sustainability certification.

The Paramus Green Team will be working with the Board of Education and the teachers and students of the Paramus High School AP Environmental Science classes, to assist them in planning for and achieving the status of a certified school in the "Sustainable Jersey for Schools" program. Interested individuals can visit www.sustainablejersey.com for additional information or contact the Shade Tree & Parks Commission at shadetree@paramusborough.org.

Paramus Farmers Market



Wednesdays
June 15 thru October 12, 2016
From 2 to 6:30 pm

North Parking lot of Petruka Park
475 Farview Avenue, North of Midland
Visit our website - www.paramusBC.org 

Bring your Family & Friends
Sponsored by Paramus Environmental Commission

Constitution Grove: Memorial School Veterans Monument



Memorial Day is dedicated to the memory of all U.S. Armed forces who have died while serving their country. Originally called Decoration Day, Memorial Day is a day of remembrance for those who have died in service of the United States of America. Memorial Day was borne out of the Civil War and a desire to honor our dead. It was

officially proclaimed on May 5, 1868 by General John Logan, national commander of the Grand Army of the Republic, in his General Order No. 11. He proclaimed:

The 30th of May, 1868, is designated for the purpose of strewing with flowers, or otherwise decorating the graves of comrades who died in defense of their country during the late rebellion, and whose bodies now lie in almost every city, village and hamlet churchyard in the land.

The date of Decoration Day, as he called it, was chosen because it wasn't the anniversary of any particular battle. It is now celebrated the last Monday in May, and has been a federal holiday since 1967.

The Borough of Paramus traditionally honors those military men and women who have died while serving our country and community with services at the Memorial School War Memorial. In 2015 Mayor Richard A. LaBarbiera and the Council approved renovations to Constitution Grove, adjacent to Memorial School. These include the installation of flag poles, a memorial brick pathway leading up to the monument, and war memorial plaques to be placed between each flag pole. The first of six plaques will be installed and dedicated at this year's Memorial Day ceremonies.



Paramus Detective Division LEAD Unit

by Chief Ken Ehrenberg



ON THE STREET AND IN THE CLASSROOM

The Paramus Police Department has four specially trained L.E.A.D. officers that teach a 12-week curriculum titled "Too Good For Drugs" to all 5th grade students at East Brook and West Brook Middle Schools. 276 students are enrolled in the program for the 2015 – 2016 school year.

L.E.A.D. (Law Enforcement Against Drugs) is a collaborative program in

which local law enforcement and local schools join together to educate students about the personal and social consequences of substance abuse and violence.

The Paramus Police L.E.A.D. Unit has included family trips to local attractions to reinforce the positive alternatives theme that is discussed in class.

Positive alternatives remind the students to fill their free time with entertainment, sports, and interactive activities. The L.E.A.D. Unit arranges and chaperones trips to Bounce U, Paramus Mini Golf, New Jersey Jackals, New Jersey Devils, Medieval Times, and the Ramsey Movie Theater.

Mission: L.E.A.D., in collaboration with law enforcement, schools, parents, and community, will provide premier leadership, guidance direction, and program materials to L.E.A.D. officers, parents, and educators to deliver a comprehensive drug and violence prevention curriculum and supportive programs to the youth and communities.

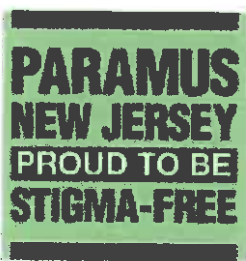


Borough of Paramus

www.paramusborough.org



One Jockish Square
Paramus, New Jersey 07652



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PARAMUS RESIDENT

Recycling Leaves and Grass

By Guy Picone, Superintendent DPW

Many people don't understand the value and benefits of recycling leaves and grass.

According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), 18 to 50 percent of landfill waste is composed of yard waste. With landfills quickly running out of room, other ways are needed to dispose of organic waste.

It isn't necessary to send leaves, grass, and other yard waste to a landfill since it isn't really "waste." Yard clippings are full of valuable nutrients that can be used in your yard, garden or compost pile and cost you nothing. You'll be spending less for store-bought chemical-based fertilizer and think of the money that can be saved on landfill disposal fees!

One of the easiest ways to recycle your leaves and grass clippings is to leave them on your lawn. By using a mulching mower the volume of leaves and grass mixture is reduced and allows decomposition to speed up. Grass clippings are rich in nitrogen and leaves are rich in carbon. These nutrients are released back into your lawn as the mix breaks down. (Contrary to common belief, leaving clippings on your lawn does not cause thatch build-up. Thatch is caused by over fertilizing, which leads to overgrown grass.)

If you don't want to leave clippings on your lawn try creating a compost pile, which will provide your own organic compost to be used for garden-

ing and landscaping. Simply make a pile in the corner of your yard or use a composting bin, if you prefer. Fresh grass and dry leaves make a good combination. Keep an even balance of dry and wet materials and make sure the pile gets adequate ventilation to ensure that the compost breaks down properly. You will eventually end up with a pile of nutrient rich compost that can be used anywhere you need it.

When you recycle these two materials, you are doing what's best for your lawn and the environment.

