

October 2015

Borough of Paramus

www.paramusborough.org



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Mayor
Richard A. LaBarbiera

Council Members
MariaElena Bellinger
Joseph Garcia
Stephen Sullivan
Pat Verile
Donna Warburton
Jeanne Weber

Recreation Programs

by Robert Cowper, Assistant Director



The Paramus Recreation Department has many new programs on the horizon this Fall and Winter! In order to keep up to date on our newest offerings, follow us on Facebook (www.facebook.com/ParamusRec) and review our seasonal brochure that is mailed to each resident.

The department will be offering adult open gyms featuring

“pickup” basketball and soccer on Monday, Wednesday or Friday at East Brook and West Brook Schools. These adult programs will be held in the evening after our youth programs conclude, from 9–10:30 pm. A five visit punch card will be available for purchase for \$10 starting in October. Prior registration is required and proof of residency will be

verified each visit.

The Community Room at Petruska Park is currently being renovated and will be used for new programming after it is completed. Programs in the works include movie nights, art and science classes for preschool children, art for special needs children and self-defense instruction for adults. If enrollment warrants, more sessions and options may be added in the future.

The registration for Winter programs opens online and by mail on October 5. In-person registration days will be October 20 and 21 – on these two days we will be open for registration from: 9–11:45 am, 1–

3:45 pm, 7–8:45 pm. Beginning on October 22 a \$4 late fee will apply and registration will only be accepted weekday afternoons from 1–4 pm and Thursday evenings from 7–8:45 pm.

The Paramus Recreation Department Halloween Pumpkin Hunt will be held on Saturday October 31 from 10 am–12 noon at Petruska Park. It will be a two hour event featuring inflatables, carnival games and a DJ. One hunt will be held, for all grades, at 10:30 am. Costume contests, separated by grade, will be held after the hunt.

Borough Finance

by Ray Herr, CFO

As we approach the fall season, work has already begun on the 2016 Municipal budget. New tax bills will be mailed within the next few weeks. For your convenience we have a night depository for citizens who want to pay their taxes after office hours. It is located to the left of the main entrance to Bor-

ough Hall.

We are proud of the fact that the Municipal portion of your tax bill over the last five years has declined. As the attached graph shows, the Municipal tax rate has dropped from .515 per hundred of assessed value in 2011 to .495 in 2015. The Municipal portion of the

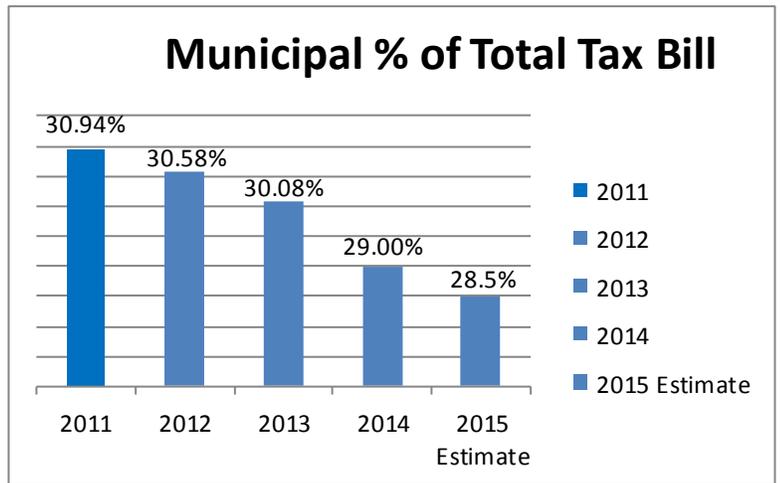
total tax rate has shrunk from 30.94% in 2011 to 28.5% in 2015. In practical terms, what this means is that in 2011 the owner of the average assessed home was paying \$2,770.00 in Municipal taxes. Today they are paying \$2,525.00. This is a reduction of \$245.00.

This reduction is being done at the same time police protection is being increased in the Borough. We have added six new police officers to the force whose salaries are partially offset by a Federal Police Grant that we have secured.



Message from

Mayor Richard A. LaBarbiera



Paramus is doing great! Our budget is stable; our local tax rate has been reduced for the fifth (5) year in a row and our surplus is growing to the level it needs to be to improve our bond rating, which can be compared to your personal credit score. We will continue to be financially prudent and manage the Borough in the most practical manner possible.

I would like to address some of the improvements being made to the recreation facilities available to the residents. The Borough has installed new tennis and volley ball surfaces at West and East Brook schools.

The playing surfaces were upgraded at the tennis court and basketball court at the Sports Plex. The Borough, in conjunction with the Board of Education, is installing a new all season soccer field at East Brook School.

The Recreation Center is undergoing a complete interior renovation, which should be completed by the end of October. The improved utilization of space will enable the recreation department to expand programs. The Borough has received a grant to construct a handicapped playground at Petruska Park.

Gym space is a scarce com-



modity for the Borough and we are in partnership with the Board of Education to use designated school gyms for new community open gym programs. Yavneh Academy is in the process of building a gym and they will be providing time for open gym programs through our recreation program. The programs are being planned

by the recreation department and community notices will be on the Recreation website.

We are committing time, talent and financial resources to improve all the recreation facilities in the Borough. I encourage you to use them and enjoy them.

Parks and Shade Tree Department

by Kenneth Raschen, Superintendent



Firewood and landscaping mulch is produced by the department and is available for residents free of charge. Distribution locations are at the DPW recycling center all year and at the Petruska Park lot when the Farmers Market season ends. The Farmers Market has been extended until the end of October.





Police Department



The Borough hired six new police officers, including two veterans and its first Indian-American officer, as the department continues to boost numbers and reduce officer overtime.

Officers Amit Vaidya, Richard Paldino, Timothy Reed, Connor Nutland, Matthew McGuire and Gil Maynard joined the force in August. The new hires bring the police department

to 82 officers.

Chief Ehrenberg is optimistic that the department will reach its optimum staffing of approximately 90+ officers in the near future.

Support The Paramus Food Pantry

Bring your donation to the Health Department at Borough Hall.

Non-perishable food products only and personal hygiene items needed:

- Tooth Paste
- Tooth Brushes
- Hand & Body soap
- Shampoo

Thank you for your support

What is Tax Assessable?

by Jim Anzevino, Tax Assessor

You are about ready to start a home improvement project. Several questions come to mind: how much will it cost; do I need plans; do I need an architect; how big will I make it; and do I need a variance? These are all questions that the Building Department can help you with. George Georgeou, the Construction Code Official, and his staff will help guide you through any questions you may have. He will tell you if you need a permit and what is required to ensure your addition is safe.

Possibly the next thought that you will have is: Do I have to pay taxes on this? That is what you would ask

me, the Tax Assessor, Jim Anzevino. Many people ask what improvements can be made to their house without raising the tax assessment. Whenever you increase the value to your home, you are increasing the tax burden to your home. Our system of taxation is based on value. In other words, the more value you add to your home the more taxes you will pay on the improvement.

There are certain things that may raise value but are not assessable. For example, landscaping, replacing a driveway and adding a fence does not raise your assessment. If you paint your home it doesn't raise

your assessment. If you replace your boiler or hot water heater, it will not raise your assessment. If you renovate a room other than a kitchen or bathroom, it will not raise your assessment. However, demolishing, renovating, or rebuilding the whole interior of the house will raise your assessment.

Here are some of the items that add value to your home, and therefore will cause your property taxes to increase:

- New vinyl siding, brick or stone to the exterior.
- Adding a deck, patio, porch, outdoor kitchen, kitchen, or bath renova-

tion and a garage.

- Basement renovation. Finishing an unfinished area of the home.
- Addition onto the home. Gutting the home and replacing the walls.
- Installing central air conditioning.

A lot of this information may surprise a few people, but if you are planning to add something to your home please contact the tax assessor's office prior to your construction to determine if the project is assessable.

OFFICE OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Sam Casiello, Veterans Service Officer

“Serving Those That Served”

201-265-2100 ext. 6111 Email: serviceofficer@paramusborough.org



PARAMUS RESIDENT RETURNS HOME

We at the Office of Veterans Affairs and the Mayor and Council wish to extend a “WELCOME HOME” greeting to **Captain Gerard P. Sullivan**, U.S. Army. Capt. Sullivan is a 1989 Paramus High School graduate. He attended William Paterson University where he received his BA in English Literature in 1996. He has a Masters in Arts/Education from Franciscan University, Ohio. Capt. Sullivan entered the Army in 2008 and has served for eight (8) years, which included two tours of duty in Afghanistan and Iraq. He is the recipient of various decorations, among which are the Afghanistan Campaign Medal w/2 Campaign Stars and the Iraq Campaign Medal w/Campaign Star. Capt. Sullivan is currently employed by the military as a civilian for the 743rd Transportation Co. located in Roslindale, MA.

UPCOMING EVENT TO BENEFIT VIP HOUSING FOR DISABLED VETS

Church of the Annunciation and Our Lady of Visitation in conjunction with the Paramus Office of Veterans Affairs, will jointly hold a **Thank-A-Vet Pasta Night at Annunciation Church School building on Midland Ave. on Friday, November 6**. Proceeds will benefit THE VETERANS IN PARAMUS (VIP) housing for disabled veterans under construction on Farview Ave. Join us in supporting our Veterans while enjoying pasta, meatballs, salad, water, coffee and dessert all for \$15 for adults and \$8 for children under 12.

For tickets contact: Cathy Miele at Annunciation 201-261-6322 ext. 106 or OLV at 201-261-6080 or Sam Casiello at 201-265-2100 ext. 6111.



VIP HOUSING PROGRESS

October 18, 2014 was the groundbreaking for the Veterans in Paramus (VIP) housing project for disabled Veterans. Almost a year has gone by and progress is continuing to move forward. Occupancy is expected to be early in 2016. This project is being funded from the Paramus Affordable Housing Trust Fund. No tax dollars are being used for construction of this project. Each unit will have its own elevator providing access from the garage to the upper floors of the unit. The Borough of Paramus has set up a trust fund for donations to assist with furnishing the six townhouse style units. If any organization or individual is interested in donating to this fund to help disabled Veterans they can contact Sam Casiello at the Office of Veterans Affairs. Any donation amount is greatly appreciated.

Requirements for residency in units will be for Veterans with a service connected physical disability caused during a war period. Because these are affordable housing units, COAH income limits will apply.

"Pops" Tashian (1914-2015), a Paramus Icon Remembered

Generations of Paramus and Bergen County high school athletes, coaches, sports officials, students, friends, residents and politicians knew him simply as "Pops." Born on November 24, 1914, his Armenian parents gave him a European name that was later changed when he became Warren Tashian.



A decorated Army Air Corps gunner in World War II, he was the belly gunner on a B-17 Flying Fortress bomber and flew 25 missions over Germany. He was wounded by shrapnel on his next to last mission. Pops was awarded a Purple Heart and the Distinguished Flying Cross. For a number of years, Pops, along with other members of Paramus VFW Post 6699, annually visited West Brook Middle School on Veterans Day to talk to 8th graders about their war experiences.

Pops was a U.S. Postal Service mailman for 37 years, and an arbitrator umpiring high school baseball and softball games and refereeing soccer matches for more than 40 years.

Pops Tashian was born and raised in the Washington Heights section of the Bronx in New York City. He graduated from George Washington High School, and played on the football team. Pops moved to Paramus in 1954 and soon got involved in sports and community activities.



He coached for more than 20 years, taking one of his teams to the State championship game, which they lost 1-0. In 1972, Pops was made an administrative assistant at the high school, primarily working security. He served in that capacity for seven years, during which time thousands of students got to know him. Although he was involved in many different sports, wrestling was Pops' favor-

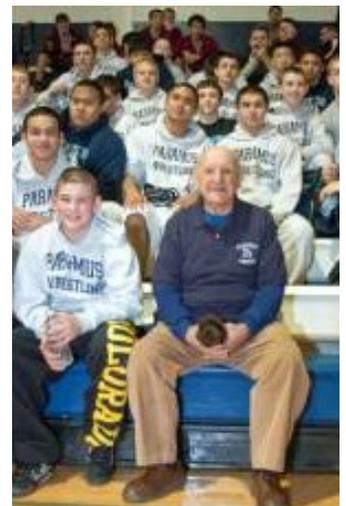


ite. Pops was also a familiar figure at high school football games. He ultimately gave up coaching, but returned to officiating at baseball, softball and soccer games. Pops worked his last girls soccer game at age 95.

Pops pitched for a softball team in the Paramus Adult Recreation League. For many years he was a sprinter in senior track meets throughout the state and region. In 1978, he won a NJAAU championship. He finished second in the Master's 50-yard dash at Madison Square Garden when he was 64 years old.

In 2004, he was the Bergen County YMCA's Man of

the Year. A trophy named for him is annually awarded to the most inspirational girls softball player by the Bergen County Coaches Association. He was a member of the inaugural class inducted into the Paramus High School Athletic Hall of Fame in 2009.



Paramus Senior Center

by Anne Schneider, Center Director

Paramus Senior Center offers many **classes**, programs and **special events** including Art classes, Yoga (chair and floor), Zumba, Pokeeno, Canasta, Mahjong, billiards, and so much more to residents ages 55 and up. (Yes, we know that's very young!) Also, we invite guest speakers to speak on topics including: scam alerts, current events, legal matters, health & wellness, and even historical events and more. To register for classes, activities and lectures, call the Senior Center at (201) 265-2100 ext. 6120.

Any questions please contact the Senior Center at (201) 265-2100 ext. 6120 and speak with Anne or Ana.



Relax in the Senior Center lounge, read books, watch TV or movies on DVD all provided by the Paramus Library.

Bocce is in full swing at the center, played on the new and improved surface.



Senior Center Orientation

*1st Monday of each month
9:30 am.*

New to the area? Never been to our Senior Center? Age 55 and up? Join us for an introductory "talk and tour." We offer great programs, classes, events, and socialization opportunities. Join us for refreshments and see what we have to offer. Reservations are a must: Please contact the Paramus Senior Center at 201-265-2100 ext. 6120

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

- Healthy Bones Fitness Class, Tue. & Thu. 9:30 am
- Art Class, Wed. 10:45 am
- Fun Bingo, Tue. 1 pm
- Yoga, Mon. 10 am & Wed. 9:30 am
- Yoga Advanced, Fri. 9 am
- Zumba, Mon. & Fri. 2 pm
- Mahjong, Mon. 3:15 pm
- Canasta, Wed. 2 pm
- Bridge, Mon. 12 noon
- Women's Literature Club, 3rd Tue. of every month at 12:30 pm
- Support Groups
- Movie Day, Wed. 1st & 3rd week at 12 noon, refreshments

Flu is Contagious

by Judith Migliaccio, Health Officer/Director



Influenza (flu) is a contagious respiratory illness caused by influenza viruses. It can cause mild to severe illness. Serious outcomes of flu infection can result in hospitalization or death. Young children, senior citizens and people with chron-

ic health conditions are at high risk for serious flu complications. The best way to prevent the flu is by getting **vaccinated**. "Flu season" in the United States can begin as early as October and last as late as May. During this time, flu viruses are circulating at higher levels in the U.S. population. An annual seasonal flu vaccine (either the flu shot or the nasal spray flu vaccine) is the best way to reduce the chances that you

will get seasonal flu and spread it to others. When more people get vaccinated against the flu, less flu can spread through that community. The Paramus Board of Health is offering flu shots on Saturday, October 3, 2015 between 8 am and 9:30 am to Senior Citizens with Medicare B cards and are not in an HMO, also to chronically ill adult residents with a doctor's note. Residents must pre-register by calling 201-265-2100

Ext. 2300. If you are unable to attend this date, call the nurse to schedule another date.

Other programs offered this year by the Paramus Health Department include Blood Pressure/Diabetes screening from 1 to 3 pm on Thursday, October 15, Wednesday, November 18, and Thursday December 10 at Borough Hall. Call for an appointment at 201-265-2100 Ext, 2307 or 2308.

Stantec Volunteers Spruce up Sirianni Park



The Bergen County Stantec team spent a day sprucing up the handball courts at Sirianni Park in Paramus, removing graffiti and repainting the wall.

Local design firm Stantec celebrated its annual *Stantec in the Community Day*, a day of worldwide community service across the firm.

More than 7,300 Stantec employees volunteered at community organizations in the United States, Canada, Barbados, the United Kingdom, the United Arab Emirates, and India. “We’re inspired by the communities we live in and the impact our work has on them,” says Stantec president and chief executive officer, Bob Gomes. “Stantec in the Community Day not only celebrates our commitment to community, it brings our team members together to make a coordinated, local impact.”

“We’re active members of the communities we serve. That’s why at Stantec, we always **design with community in mind.**” Stantec has the unique ability to connect to projects on a personal level and advance the quality of life in communities across the globe. www.stantec.com

NOTICE

from the Borough Clerk, Annemarie Krusznis

On Tuesday, November 3, the General Election takes place. The polls are open from 6:00 am to 8:00 pm. The last day to register to vote or to update registration is Tuesday, October 13. The Clerk’s Office will remain open until 9:00 pm on October 13 for those who need to hand in registration forms. Registration forms can be obtained at the Borough Clerk’s Office in Borough Hall and on the borough website. In order to register one must be a U.S. citizen, at least 18 years old on or before the day of the election and have been residing in the state and country for at least 30 days prior to election day.

Absentee Ballot Request Forms are available in the Borough Clerk’s Office. Deadline requests must be received by the Bergen County Clerk’s Office in Hackensack seven days before the Election for which you are requesting the Absentee Ballot; or you may apply in person to the Bergen County Clerk, 1 Bergen County Plaza in Hackensack up until 3:00 p.m. the day before the Election.

NEW PHONE EXTENSIONS FOR BOROUGH DEPARTMENTS

GENERAL NUMBER 201-265-2100

Administration	2210
Affordable Housing/COAH	2220
Borough Clerk	2200
Building	2230
Building & Grounds	3130
Board of Adjustment	2241
Borough Engineer	2243
Planning Board	2242
DPW	3100
EMS	5200
Finance	2250
Fire Prevention	2290
Golf	201-447-6079/x6150
Health	2300
Human Services	6100
IT	2310
Mayor & Council	2210
Municipal Court	2320
OEM	5100
Payroll	2260
Pool	6140
Recreation	201-265-9321/x6130
Senior Center	6120
Shade Tree	4120
Tax Assessor	2280
Tax Collector	2270
Animal Control	201-652-4554
Quality of Life	3120
Senior Bus	3150
Veterans Affairs	6110
Historic Commission	2360
Environmental Commission	2361
Substance Abuse	2362
July 4 th Committee	2363
Police Department	201-262-3400
Rescue	5300
Park Rangers	4130
Community Policing	5500
Fire Department	5560
Library	201-599-1300

Borough of Paramus



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PARAMUS RESIDENT

HELP US FIND YOUR HOME IN AN EMERGENCY, EVERY MINUTE COUNTS
A VISIBLE HOME ADDRESS HELPS 911 RESPONDERS LOCATE YOUR ADDRESS FASTER



Borough of Paramus Paper Shredding Day



Saturday, November 14, 2015
9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

at the Paramus Recycling Center
(located on Carlough Drive in the DPW complex)

**EXTENDED
THROUGH OCTOBER**



Paramus Farmers Market



Wednesdays
Extended through October
2 pm - 6:30 pm
North Parking lot of Petruska Park
475 Farview Avenue
North of Midland

Bring your family and friends
Sponsored by the Paramus
Environmental Commission
www.paramussec.org



Watch your private and
confidential documents
being shredded,
safely and securely.

Protect your identity and
prevent identity theft!

