

## Mayor's Message June 2022

Hello, my fellow Edgewater Park Residents.

I hope all are having a wonderful spring. The yellow stains on my driveway tell me folks with allergies are sneezing and coughing now. I have never had any allergies, but as I get older when I cut the grass, I'm a mess. But this is our inevitable segue way into summer. Unfortunately, we cannot have one without the other. By the time you read this Memorial Day weekend will have passed and folks will be opening their pools and be on the way to the shore. It will be suntan lotion and complaints of how hot it is. The kids will be finishing school and parents are happy, secretly wishing school lasted all year long.

Part of our segue way into spring is the EPAA Sports Parade, which I had the honor of walking in. The event kicked off summer sports, T-ball, soccer, softball, and flag football. I was amazed that baseball was not being played in town. I hope it's just cyclical and comes back around. Other community leaders have told me that they have the same situation in their towns. I can't imagine summer without baseball. As a kid I was as athletic as a rock, but I still played baseball. I got to keep the bench warm for the other players and occupied the left field. My favorite part was the snacks from the hut after the game. After the parade I was able to say a few words to the audience as part of the opening ceremony. I applauded the folks who take the time to coach, and mentor our kids. They are amazing. If anyone is interested in coaching, please contact the EPAA. They always need more coaches. At the end of the opening ceremony, they had me throw a football instead of a baseball to make the opening of the season official. I threw two... the first was epic, the second, not so much! The lad who caught it told me he could help me with my technique. I hope no one posted it to social media.

Our next fun event with the kids was an Arbor Day celebration with all the third graders. Our Public Works crew dug a hole and provided a tree. I prepared a speech for the kids and brought props... pieces of wood found in our area. The kids were great and had so many questions. One asked if it is OK to climb trees, my answer was absolutely, but make sure the branches are bigger than you. The teacher waved her arms and said it was "not a good idea." I laughed,

great moment! When I was a kid, we climbed trees and played on rusty playground equipment. Our third graders are a smart bunch. One young lady asked if we could eat trees, my answer was no. Another yelled about apples and oranges. I was like, trick question, we can't eat the wood but the fruit, yes.

On a final note, I would like to invite any resident to our Township Committee meetings held every first and third Wednesday of the month. The calendar in the Beverly Bee and on our website will give times, location. It is important to be heard. If a resident needs something or has suggestions to make our town better, bring them on. Finally, I have spoken about our new playground located behind the Weimann Building. We have found gum stuck to the playground surface material, trash scattered, empty water bottles, etc. There are trash cans and recycling cans, so **please** use them. Let us show how we are a great community that cares!

Mayor William Belgard