

# Mayor's Message



2021



Independence Day is upon us! We celebrate the unofficial start of summer with Memorial Day weekend and wind it down with Labor Day weekend. But the 4th of July is THE summer holiday!

It's fun however you might celebrate it... at the beach, BBQ, boating. But at night there are fireworks, of course! The big and beautiful displays you might even be lucky enough to see from your own backyard! In whatever patriotic way you celebrate, remember the reason... to commemorate the Declaration of Independence and being just that, the United States of America.

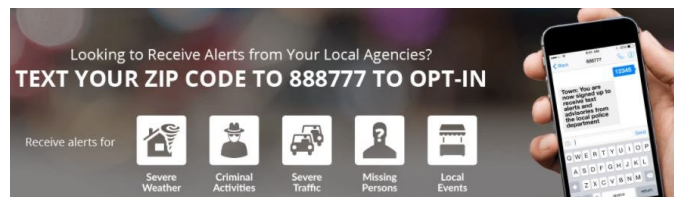


Wow... July! Where is the time going? When I thought about something to highlight for the first half of the year, I couldn't pick just one... because there are so many! The Township Committee has been hard at work. First and foremost, we are emerging from the COVID shell we have all been confined to. Since April, our evening meetings (1st and 3rd Tuesdays at 7pm) have resumed in-person in the Courtroom.



I am pleased to have been able to institute the Mayors Wellness Campaign in our town. Since its kickoff in April, there has been a **Walk with the Mayor, Picnic & Stories at Woodlake Park**, a **Bike Helmet Safety** presentation by the Burlington County Sheriff's Department for Magowan students, and a **Family Movie Night at Weimann Field**. I hope that you have attended at least one event and enjoyed it. Wellness can be achieved in many different ways: physical activity, socializing, relaxing, family bonding... lots of good ways! I hope to have more events in the coming months so we can reach more residents. Please check the website for information about events.

Also, be sure to sign up for NIXLE alerts (go to [www.NIXLE.com](http://www.NIXLE.com) and enter your zip code). This service is not meant to bombard anyone with event reminders, but mainly to send important messages and alerts... such as weather alerts, trash or recycling issues (an emerging problem due to the nationwide shortage of truck drivers, caused by the ever-increasing demand for deliveries of all sorts), etc. The Township, including the Police and Public Works departments, utilizes this tool for communication.



The Township building has installed numerous upgrades to conform to safety measures for the building, not only for our township employees, but also to be fully and safely open to residents and customers. Most of these projects have been funded by federal CARES Act monies! We received \$123,389 for the work!

We have new businesses starting to break ground in town. The **Exeter** warehouse has started 'earthing the grounds' to prepare to build. Did you know Exeter will bring in not just jobs but also tax revenue to Edgewater Park. It is important to squash any ideas there is a tax abatement for that building! Also, **Curaleaf** has been fine tuning their building plans and anticipates a June opening. There are current construction plans for the new **Weimann Building**. Based on some of the (new) usages of the building, the Township received two grants totaling \$725,000 to remodel this building into a **Community Center** and for its usage as a **County Nutrition Center**. As the Weimann blueprints are finalized, there are plans on the table for a much-needed new police station.

Maybe the biggest, longest-awaited announcement is the new business deal for the old PathMark building. But you will have to wait a little while longer to hear what it is (from me), although maybe, if you comb through social media, you know. Despite not being finalized (at the time that I write this\*\*) I just don't want to jinx it! Also, new housing is being built along Route 130 and Hoover has been revitalizing the Plaza.



Using open space funds, a surprise will make its appearance at the Weimann complex for the little ones, though maybe the bigger surprise was for the soccer teams to see the soccer wall was taken down. Like I said... so much to just pick one thing!

Can't wait to see these projects come into fruition, plus what else may come our way, with the benefit, of course, of the revenues from these projects!

Best regards to all of you for a healthy, happy summer!

Lauren Kremper DiFilippo, Mayor

**\*\* Long overdue disclaimer:** These Beverly Bee articles are written a month prior to print, which might answer questions as to why things don't always get published, or something seems vague or something is printed that happened 'so long ago' ... not everything makes the cutoff and new things come up after the cutoff. So please be mindful of this.



(Mayor DiFilippo at Memorial Day ceremony at Memorial Field)