

Mayor's Message / February 2024

Thank you, Edgewater Park Township Committee, and the residents of Edgewater Park, for entrusting me with this great responsibility and privilege, and having the confidence in me to choose me as your next mayor.

I offer a special acknowledgment to all the people who believed in the campaign to elect Committeewoman Juanita Scott and Committeewoman Sara Cannon-Moye to this Committee. I look forward to their continued commitment to Edgewater Park.

This Mayoral Address is an opportunity for celebration. We continue our work because our township's future will be set by those coming together to build community and create opportunity.

Over the past year, we've come a long way in achieving our vision to make Edgewater Park a more inclusive community, and while there are still many challenges, I'm proud of what we have accomplished together to position Edgewater Park for a better future. And make no mistake, while we've made a lot of progress as a community, that progress invites new challenges and opportunities.

In 2023 we accomplished a zero percent municipal tax increase to the residents of Edgewater Park. Ratables increased \$98 million for 2023 and \$12 million more for 2024. The municipal purpose tax is only 29.7% of the total tax raised. Edgewater Park received \$660,877.64 in cannabis receipts in 2023. We paid down \$1,583,000.00 in debt and received more grant monies in 2023 than at any time in the history of the Township. Our Grants totaled approximately \$6.2 million, giving us the opportunity to continue the process of upgrading our recreation areas and parks.

The Committee has committed funds to the construction of (2) Pickle Ball Courts at Kite Field. We continue to make progress with infrastructure changes to include an upgrade to SDL software allowing the construction department to be more efficient. Township Committee is currently looking to reduce our dependency on fossil fuels by incorporating alternative energy sources... primarily Solar Applications. The township received grant funds for installation of charging stations and the purchase of (1) electric vehicle. The charging stations are being earmarked for the new

Police/Courtroom and Community Center areas as well as the current Administration Building. We are also researching and reviewing resources for the installation of solar panels at the Police/Courtroom and Community Center sites.

As our 100th Anniversary draws near, Edgewater Park Township will be hosting a Centennial Celebration Day on June 8, 2024. This event and a series of events and celebrations are being managed by the Parks and Community Engagement Committee in collaboration with the 100th Anniversary Committee. Keep a look out for reminders and schedules of upcoming events on social media, our township website, and printed publications. We are encouraged to take some time and remember our part of history in Edgewater Park. I have had many conversations with family and friends about growing up in this great little town. I recommend everyone stop by and spend a little bit of time at the Riverfront Historical Society on Cooper St in Beverly. You may even find photos of family and friends that bring back fond memories of our youth.

Thank you again, Edgewater Park, for giving me the opportunity to lead as we begin this next chapter for our community. Our accomplishments over the last year bode well for the future, I will do my very best to continue the progress we have made.

Thank you and wishing everyone a Happy New Year

Mayor Kevin P. Johnson