

## Mayor's Message, May 2022

It's been a busy month at the Township. It's sad to say goodbye to Chief Bob Hess. He has retired after many years of service. We must congratulate him on great job as Police Chief for the past three years. Taking his place as Chief is Lieutenant Brett Evans. No need for introduction. I believe everyone knows him. He has been a pillar of this community for many years. From coaching, being a DJ at the Magowan Mighty Max events and excellent police work, his devotion to this community is unparalleled. We also swore in a new police officer, Patrolman Twitty. He comes to us from the Mount Holly Police Department. It was wonderful to meet his family and share the excitement of his new post in our town. Patrolman Twitty played college football in Arizona... I believe he was a lineman. When you see him, you will say "that guy must have played football."

Last weekend the Township hosted the Breakfast with the Bunny event. I want to thank our Parks and Community Engagement Committee on their hard work. The event was amazing. Our administrator Tom Pullion and Chief Evans cooked up breakfast sandwiches and pancakes. The Township Committee all rolled up their sleeves to make the day great for the kids. The Senior Advisory committee stuffed thousands of eggs with candy for the kids to find. Of course, the Easter Bunny paid a visit and snapped photos with the children. This event exemplifies our community coming together to make an event shine.

If you have not noticed (and perhaps that's because you're beyond the jungle-gym years of youth), almost every kid in town has now spotted and hopefully had an opportunity to try out our new playground located at the Weimann Field. Every time I go over there it's packed with kids. There are swings, climbing walls, a rope climber, tubes to slide down, ladders. Wow, I wish this was around when I was a kid! I must say I do miss the nostalgia of old stainless-steel slides that burned your rear when you slid down, and remember the horse on a car spring thing? I remember trying to make the horse's nose touch the ground. Alas, we have newer, safer playgrounds - but certainly no less fun or entertaining.

Monday May 30th is Memorial Day. This sacred holiday was established to honor all who served in the military and lost their life for this country. It has also evolved into the official start of summer. Please take time to attend the Edgewater Park Beverly Memorial Day parade.

Coming out of Covid it will be a nice time to reconnect with your friends and neighbors. Enjoy the holiday. Don't forget to reflect on the meaning of the day.

Mayor William A. Belgard III