



 **MAYORS WELLNESS CAMPAIGN**®

We will kickoff the **Mayors Wellness Campaign** on **Saturday, April 17, 2021, from 1-3pm** at our **Weimann Sports Complex!**

I invite you to join me to **Walk with the Mayor...** bring your children for **Kids Yoga...** meet Edgewater Park Police Department's **K-9 Belle & McGruff the Crime Dog...** get important health information from **Burlington County Health Department** exhibit... meet the **Endeavor Emergency Squad...** and meet your **Edgewater Park Township Committee!**

*All COVID-19 health and safety guidelines will be and are expected to be followed.*

The Mayors Wellness Campaign (MWC) is a statewide community health initiative that provides evidence-based tools and strategies for mayors and community leaders to help their residents achieve healthier lifestyles and to improve overall health and wellness in their communities. The New Jersey Health Care Quality Institute has been leading the Mayors Wellness Campaign in partnership with the **New Jersey State League of Municipalities** since 2006. The campaign includes over 400 participating communities and is growing.

ⓘ **Please note:** before you come for the Mayors Wellness Campaign, bring your important documents for the Public Works' Shredding Event from 8am-Noon and bring your old electronics for recycling from 8am to 2pm... all at the Public Works Garage and the Weimann Complex.

## **ANNUAL EDGEWATER PARK AWARDS!**

On February 19, the Township had an awards ceremony. Awards are typically presented at the Township Reorganization meeting in January. However, due to the COVID-19 restrictions, the Reorganization was held virtually, so we decided to have a separate ceremony for these awards. The purpose of the awards is to recognize and acknowledge businesses and residents for achievements in town during the year. We hope that the award recipients know that the township is grateful for their hard work and dedication to our community. As you will read, the recipients were given awards for a range of reasons.

### **Citizen of the Year 2020**



**Mrs. Marian Johnson.** Mrs. Johnson has been a very active and involved Edgewater Park resident for the past 15 years. Throughout this time, she was the Recreation Coordinator managing events such as the Memorial Day Parade, Summer Camp, Christmas with Santa, and Breakfast with the Bunny. She has been a member of the Edgewater Park Planning Board for the past 12 years, serving as Chairwoman for 11 of those years! Besides the Planning Board, she has also been Secretary of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks #2550 for the past six years. In this role she was personally responsible for writing several grants that were approved and enabled the Elks Organization to make a large donation to the Beverly Methodist Church food bank as well as other projects, as detailed in the March edition of the Beverly Bee and on our Township website.

## Outstanding Service Recognition Award



**Mr. James Bernard**, Superintendent of Public Works, accepted this award. If you own a house in town, you understand why Jimmy deserves this award. Jimmy and the Public Works crew really take care of our town. They work day... and with the recent snows... through the night. They maintain fields so sports can be played and parks so kids can play. They clean up leaves and brush -- even if they see a property 'off schedule', it's cleaned up. Resident concerns are handled, and I know this based on many accolades and thank you emails I receive which praise them for their time, attention and dedication to our town. With so many people home and cleaning their properties, a lot of extra work was placed on this crew these past 12 months. On top of that, they have been handling maintenance at the Township Building making building modifications for COVID 19 safety. We want our town to look the best and so does Jimmy and the crew!

## Years of Service



**Mr. John Augustino** was presented his retirement award to recognize his 29 years of service as the Edgewater Park Fire Official. What made this presentation even more special was that his son, Matt Augustino, presented the award to him and will follow in his footsteps as our new Fire Official in town!



## Community Kindness Award



**Mr. Chacca Singh** and **Mr. Jassi Singh** accepted the award for the **USS Car Wash**. When the pandemic first hit (us), the car wash donated PPE gear to the Police Department. Although it might seem like a small gesture, it meant a lot to the township. At the start of the pandemic and months through, supplies were scarce and so to donate something of such value was greatly appreciated, and well... kind!

## Business of the Year 2020



**Mr. Jawad Alam**, owner of **United Dollar Plus**, accepted the award for the Business of the Year 2020. Known by his customers as “Jay”, he kept his business, located on Cooper Street, a frontline business during the entire pandemic by keeping his convenience store open. We also recognize that this business has been in our community for 15 years! If you have never shopped at this convenience store before, be sure to pop in sometime. They sell seasonal items as well as the lottery. If there is something you would like them to carry, just let Jay know!

## Outstanding Community Service Award

**Mr Donald Dahلمان** accepted the award on behalf of the **Edgewater Park Elks Lodge #2550**. During the Pandemic, the Elks remained active in supporting the community and beyond!

The Edgewater Park Elks Lodge 2550 is one of the smaller lodges with a membership of 131 dedicated members who tend to focus their efforts in helping within their own community as well as participation with the State and National Programs. The Lodge is located at 315 Green Street in Edgewater Park and considers its community to include Edgewater Park, Beverly, Delanco, Riverside, Delran, Riverton, Cinnaminson, Palmyra, Pennsauken and the Cities of Burlington and Camden as its local community area.



**To summarize the article about our Elks Lodge, published in the March Beverly Bee...**

In May of 2020 the Elks took advantage of several *Elks National Foundation Grants*, starting with the **Gratitude Grant** which enabled the Lodge to donate \$2000 to **Beverly United Methodist Church “Meals of Love”** program to help them provide food, groceries, and cleaning products to anyone in need.



The Lodge’s **Veterans Service Committee** in September of 2020 used the **Beacon Grant** to provide \$2500 of products to help the homeless in the community by partnering with **Healthy Soles of Camden** & the **Beverly Library**, to give 200 personal hygiene care packages to help our citizens living on the streets. The **Beacon Grant** provided \$1000 to buy 30 new winter coats for the 30 Veterans residing in temporary transition housing through **Home of the Brave** in Camden. The Veterans Committee also collected approximately \$500 of non-perishable food products from local citizens and Lodge members for the **Home of the Brave Pantry**.



In October 2020, **Beverly United Methodist Church “Meals of Love”** program used the Elks’ \$2000 **Spotlight Grant** to help provide food during the Thanksgiving season. In all, the Elks Lodge provided local community organizations with \$7500 from just three Grants applied for in 2020. The Veterans Committee also organized a **Thanksgiving Food Drive** by distributing 32 Thanksgiving Dinner Baskets to community members in need.

This extended to the Veterans Committee's **2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Toys for Tots** drive by partnering with the **Riverside Police Department, Beverly Fire Department** and a few local businesses who graciously allowed Elks' drop boxes within their establishments. Thanks to local citizens, several motorcycle organizations and 3 other Elks Lodges, Lodge #2550 delivered approximately \$1800 worth of new unwrapped toys and \$575 in cash and checks donated during the drive and also supported the United States Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Program.



During the Thanksgiving Drive the Elks identified a young mother who is struggling and did a quick fundraiser to help provide a memorable Christmas for her two young daughters. They delivered enough food for a delicious and healthy Christmas meal, with extra items to help sustain the family for several more meals. The young girls received multiple gifts and toys and two bicycles... all donated by Lodge 2550 Members and citizens within the community.

In 2021, the Veterans Committee has raised \$900 for a February donation to the **New Jersey Mission of Honor** to help them locate and provide dignified burials of Veterans cremated remains sitting on shelves throughout the state.

These charitable endeavors help Elks Lodge 2550 meet its mission to be part of the community. The organization continues to help and partner with other local government organizations and community-based organizations to help youth through the **Youth Activities Committee**; children and adults with special needs through the **Special Needs Children Committee**; to promote patriotism and civic duty through the **Americanism Committee**; and to provide resources to Veterans, Active Military Members and their Families through the **Veterans Service Committee**.

## Fond Farewell



Last, but definitely not least, Mayor Emeritus Azunnah C. "Charles" Amutah received tokens of appreciation for his time served on Township Committee. From Committeeman to Deputy Mayor to Mayor, Mr Amutah was a valuable asset to Committee. He had the knowledge and professionalism to be a great leader and led us through the COVID 19 pandemic. He made sure the proper decisions were made and followed to keep our town residents and employees safe and



made sure all possible arrangements were made to keep the

office functions running without any break in service. Township Committee presented him a plaque and clock as tokens of appreciation. We will miss Charles but know he is moving on to bigger things and wish him much success!



### **In closing...**

**Earth Day is April 22!** Let's all do something for the environment on that day. Maybe walk instead of drive somewhere locally, or pick up litter we see on the ground, or plant a tree or flowers. Remember that the **Annual Spring Cleanup, is April 12 thru April 24!**

Whatever it is you do, I hope it is something you find enjoyable and rewarding for helping our planet.

Speaking of planting a tree, **April 24th** is our spring **Tree Giveaway**, from **8am to 2pm** at the **Weimann Complex**, sponsored by the **Senior Advisory Committee**. *This is by appointment only* so please call 609.877.2050 x400.

**Arbor Day is Friday, April 30.** The township plants a tree annually in honor of Arbor Day, so this year it will be at Magowan Elementary School. Look out next month for pictures!

My closing thoughts on all these spring events... please be mindful of more kids out playing and riding bikes! Please look out for kids' safety and please educate your kids on bike riding safety and crossing the streets... 'Be safe' is not only the mantra of the pandemic, but also as we should always be!