



Joseph K. Hemphill

## Mayor's Message

Happy New Year! Following an eventful 2019, we are looking forward to introducing our families to new, exciting projects we have been working on.

This newsletter includes the details from our January 1, 2020 Re-organization meeting. As always, I encourage residents to attend Borough Council meetings to meet your council members and understand everything happening in our community. I am looking forward to seeing you in 2020!

At this year's meeting, we had the privilege of honoring a number of great individuals from our community. In addition to those mentioned below, Mrs. Barbara Kendall, who's property currently holds the largest gingko tree in the state, was recognized during the meeting. We look forward to providing everyone with more information on this historic landmark in the months ahead.

On behalf of the town council, we want to thank everyone for their continued support. We look forward to making 2020 a great year for The Borough.

### Mayor's Address - January 1, 2020

The following is a report of the Borough events and activities of 2019 and a brief look forward to the New Year and 2020.

#### The Borough Council

The Borough Council members have met the year's challenges with diplomacy and with the dignity that would be expected from such an experienced group. I applaud each of you for the contributions you have made on behalf of all the residents of Rumson, and I extend my heartfelt thanks for your support and assistance throughout the past year.

In November, Council President Laura Atwell and Councilman Clay Kingsbery were each elected to a three year Council term, and I was elected to a new four year term as mayor. On behalf of the Council members and myself, it is our honor and privilege to serve our community as your volunteer elected representatives and we appreciate your support.

#### Major Community Events

Rumson is a small, close-knit town with a big heart and a lot of spirit. There are numerous community events throughout the year that bring our residents together for fun and, often, to benefit a good cause. Some are sponsored by the Borough and others by independent entities, but all add to the feeling of community and togetherness long enjoyed by our residents. This past year we saw residents turn out for the Annual Rumson Saint Patrick's Day Parade, the Annual Baseball Parade, the Memorial Day Parade and the Halloween Party. In addition, we supported the Kelleher Triathlon and the Rumson Boat Race. We ended the year with our traditional Veteran's Day and Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremonies. We hope that you will keep an eye out for those events and join us in 2020.

#### Rumson EMS

The Rumson First Aid Squad has dozens of volunteer members, many of whom have completed the rigorous, 250-hour Emergency Medical Technician course. The Squad responded to over

400 calls in Rumson and assisted in neighboring communities. The residents of Rumson should take pride and comfort in knowing that their First Aid Squad is ready, 24-hours per day, to respond to every type of medical emergency. If you are interested in joining the Rumson EMS as a volunteer please see our website or drop by Borough Hall for more information.



EMS Captain Richard Perry

At the 2020 Re-Organization meeting, I had the honor of reading Richard Perry the Oath of Office and presented him with the EMS Captain Badge, which was the first of his career.

#### Rumson Fire Department

The Rumson Fire Department responded to approximately 350 fire calls in the Borough and in surrounding towns. The Department is staffed solely by trained volunteer members. The Department was ably led by Fire Chief James Anderson and Assistant Fire Chief Robert Boyer. We also wish to thank all of the volunteer officers and membership that continue to support our Volunteer Borough Fire Department.

In 2020, The Rumson Fire Department will be led by Fire Chief Robert Boyer and Assistant Fire Chief Kevin McCarthy.

Volunteers are always needed and Borough residents are encouraged to apply and learn about how they can assist with the Borough's First Aid and Fire Protection. Applications for both Departments can be obtained at Borough Hall.

## **Rumson Police Department**

The Rumson Police Department, led by Chief Scott Paterson, is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year to serve the Borough of Rumson. All officers of the Rumson Police Department each complete approximately 100 hours of training annually to sharpen their skills and stay up-to-date on the latest law enforcement tactics.

The department saw three retirements in 2019: Ron Vilardi, Peter Koenig and Kevin Gaynor. We thank them for their many years of service to our Borough. We also hired two new officers in 2019. Patrol Officers Stephanie Lehner and Donald Morse were hired this past summer and both have completed all required departmental training.

This year also saw the complete replacement of the Police Department's radio systems. This important investment includes an upgrade in technology to a digital format system with greater area wide coverage.

## **Department of Public Works**

The Department of Public Works does a fantastic job keeping our streets clear, our sewers flowing and our parks looking their best. They handle all kinds of work in all sorts of weather conditions. The team, led by Mark Wellner, works hard year-round to address all different types of issues helping to keep Rumson looking its best.

The Borough's often forgotten but vital sanitary sewer system requires around the clock care, service and maintenance. The Borough has approximately 75 miles of sewer pipe that sends household sewage to one of the eleven pumping stations in the Borough and then eventually to Monmouth Beach, where it is processed.

The Department of Public Works Toy Drive in early December was a great success. The Toy Drive brought in 740 toys, which were distributed to Family and Children's Services and the Salvation Army in Red Bank and will benefit local children in need. Thanks to everyone for your generous gifts, and to our Public Works employees who donated their time to help.

## **Parks & Recreation**

Rumson Recreation, overseen by Kevin Delia, offers over 25 programs annually, enjoyed by more than 4,800 residents of all ages. Activities include a variety of recreational youth sports and non-sports programming, summer camps, as well as featured family events and holiday parades. We continue to look for new programming and for ways to improve our recreational processes.

Rumson Rec utilizes more than 300 volunteer coaches each year and provides volunteer opportunities for local teens and seniors. The council and I would like to thank all our rec volunteers for their time and devotion to the benefit of our children and our community. We would also like to thank our parents and participants for their support.

Maintaining the highest quality parks and recreational spaces is a high priority for the Borough. As such, grass playing fields are periodically closed for rest and maintenance and DPW is regularly checking our facilities to ensure maximum safety. As part of our on-going park maintenance, the Borough installed new basketball backboards in Victory Park and in Rogers Park. The total redesign of Piping Rock Park was also completed and was opened on a limited basis this past fall.

## **Construction and Engineering**

The Borough of Rumson's Construction and Engineering Offices are two of the best in Monmouth County. With the skilled fulltime and part-time staff, the Construction Office, led by Dennis Peras, oversees all the building projects within our Borough as well as in Little Silver and Fair Haven, through a multi-town shared service agreement.

The Borough's Engineering Office, overseen by David Marks, designs and manages projects such as roadway improvements, sidewalk and curb improvements, sewer upgrades and park projects. The office also is the Borough's representative for many Monmouth County projects, including but not limited to, the two new bridges planned in our near future. Having the Engineering Office as part of the Borough staff has significantly reduced the cost and reliance on outside consulting firms.

## **Infrastructure Improvements**

The Borough has continued its successful road improvement program with the paving of eleven Borough streets. A major part of this year's Capital Improvement Program included the installation of new curbs, sidewalks, and handicap ramps on Lafayette Street, Church Street, and Hunt Street. That project also included the expansion of angled parking at Victory Park and improved one-way circulation on Lafayette and Hunt Streets.

The Borough is currently working to advance numerous infrastructure improvement projects in 2020. Through our diligence, the Borough has been awarded three NJ Department of Transportation grants for the installation of new curbs, sidewalks, and handicap ramps along River Road totaling nearly \$1.2 Million. The Borough anticipates the first phase of that work to start in 2020 on E. River Road between Bingham Avenue and Black Point Road. A schedule for the subsequent phases on W. River Road will be announced as the plans are further developed.

In addition to Borough sponsored infrastructure projects, the Monmouth County Board of Chosen Freeholders has authorized the final design stages of the Sea-Bright Rumson Bridge (S-32) Replacement. It is currently anticipated that construction on the new bridge structure will begin in 2021.

## **Borough Staff & Commission Volunteer Updates**

We appreciate our Borough's municipal staff, including the Borough Hall Staff, Department of Public Works and Police Department, which all continue to provide the best and most courteous service to our residents. Borough employees provide the high level of services our residents expect, as they work within the budget and regulatory constraints set forth by the State of New Jersey.

Personally, I would like to extend a special thank you to the Chairs and Members of all the various Committees, Commissions and Boards. Each of these volunteers give considerable amount of time attending meetings and reviewing issues important to our community. Their personal commitment and volunteerism is one of Rumson's most valuable assets and is greatly appreciated. Any resident interested in volunteering to help run our wonderful community should reach out at any time. We welcome your involvement.

Our Police Department and our volunteer Fire Department and First Aid Squad are to be commended for their unconditional commitment to the safety and welfare of our residents, addressing every emergency with courtesy and respect.

We appreciate your service, thank you.

On behalf of all our Council Members and myself, I want to wish everyone a Happy, Healthy and Peaceful New Year.

May God Bless us all and God Bless America.



Sincerely,

Joseph K. Hemphill  
Mayor

---

### Historic Preservation Commission 2019 Award

On July 9, 2019 at the Borough Council meeting, Mayor Hemphill had the pleasure of presenting the 2019 Historic Preservation Commission Award for Stewardship to Karen and Bob Austin of 39 First Street.

On behalf of the Mayor, the Borough Council and the Historic Preservation Commission we would like to thank and recognize the Austins for their preservation of one of Rumson's oldest homes.



The Stewardship Award is defined as the effective ongoing maintenance and care of properties of historic and/or architectural significance. Each year the Rumson Historic Preservation Commission honors a project and/or individual for their contribution to the preservation of Rumson's historic resources. For an historic property to be eligible, it must be listed on the Historic Property Inventory located on the Borough web site. Nominations for the award are judged on the basis of exterior appearance only.

The home was built about 1865, and for years Mr. Austin's grandparents and family traveled by steamboat from Hoboken to rent this house for the summer. In 1924, Mr. Austin's grandmother, then a widow, purchased the home. It was passed down to his father and then to himself. He and his wife have restored the interior in keeping the age of the house, with open beam ceilings, plank floors and fireplace. The exterior has been shingled over clapboard and period-style 6-over-6 windows added. An addition was added to the north side of the house. Most recently, a brick walkway and antique iron gate at the front of the house was added to the period style.

---

### Rumson Holiday Season 2019

This holiday season featured the Traditional Christmas Tree Lighting at Victory Park, Menorah Lighting at Congregation B'nai Israel and the 20th annual Rumson DPW Annual Toy Drive.

The tree lighting included its traditional festivities, highlighted by Tim McLoone & the Shirleys, The Deane-Porter Third Grade Chorus, refreshments, and, of course, a visit from Santa.



December 13 & 14 marked the 20th Annual Rumson DPW Toy Drive. Since 1999, the holiday toy drive has been a project in which the DPW staff participates by donating their time to the event.

For those unfamiliar with the annual Toy Drive, all of the collected and unwrapped toys are donated to the Salvation Army in Red Bank, NJ, as well as the Family and Children's Services organization in Long Branch, NJ. Following more than 600 toy donations in 2017 and 2018, respectively, the 2019 event saw more than 700 gifts donated by families throughout the community.

"This was our 20th DPW Toy Drive, Rumson Department of Public Works Superintendent Mark Wellner said. "Everyone at DPW is just as happy and proud as if it was our first. 20 years ago, I brought up the idea to the guys, some who are now retired, and everyone was on board. There is no better feeling than giving and knowing that we will be making a lot of children happy this holiday. We cannot thank those that donated enough! It is now a tradition in Rumson and everyone looks forward to it. Also, I cannot say enough about the DPW team, who donate their time to make this all happen."



Rumson DPW held its annual Holiday Toy Drive December 13 & 14, 2019. This year, they collected more than 700 toy donations


  
 Join Our Emailing List  
 Visit: [www.rumsonnj.gov](http://www.rumsonnj.gov)  
 Select: "Sign up for Borough Emails"  
 Enter & Complete: Your Contact Information  
 SUBMIT

## Borough Reminders & Information

### 2020 Quarter One Taxes Due

February 1, 2020

Last Day of Grace Period: February 10, 2020

### Dog License Information

Visit: [www.rumsonnj.gov](http://www.rumsonnj.gov)

Select: "Time to Renew Dog Licenses"

Download & Complete: "2020 Dog License Application here"

Drop off or mail to Borough Hall

**RUMSON BOROUGH BULLETIN**  
**POSTAL CUSTOMER LOCAL**  
**RUMSON, NEW JERSEY 07760**

PRRST STD  
 U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
 Permit No. 321  
 Red Bank, N.J.

BOROUGH OF RUMSON  
 RUMSON, NEW JERSEY 07760