

Mayor's Message

Winter 2024



At the Our Lady of Fatima Filipino-American Association 41st anniversary celebration in October 2023 from left to right: [Councilmember Dennis Espinosa](#) (Ward 2), Mayor Brian C. Wahler, Association Secretary Leilani Malig, Association President Veronica Klein, [Council President Frank Uhrin](#) (Ward 1) & [Councilmember Sharon Carmichael](#) (Ward 3)

I am excited to move into 2024 with our community stronger than ever! Home values continue to grow while our [municipal tax rate lowered six years in a row](#) helps to keep your property taxes affordable.

Thousands continue to use our wonderful [YMCA at the Piscataway Community Center](#) and families have been enjoying our refurbished

parks as well as free [Township Recreation](#) programs for youth. Our [Senior Center](#) and [libraries](#) are filled with residents sharing together in fun and enriching programs.

We're also looking forward to a lot of special events this year like our [Street Fair](#) and National Night Out. But another aspect of the warmer weather to come in a few months will be the return of our robust road program. Each year we have been resurfacing and reconstructing streets in all neighborhoods – and 2024 will be another year of big upgrades!

For resurfacing, we give the road a new layer of asphalt. For reconstruction, not only do you get a new street but we often accompany that with new curbs, sidewalks and storm sewer piping.

Providing all of these high-quality services and improvements through a responsible budget often comes from making difficult decisions. That is why it is important to move forward with our long anticipated project, [Piscataway Ecological Park](#), in a way that is answerable to you as taxpayers.

I assure you that the land is dedicated for open space. It cannot and will not be sold to private developers. There will not be apartments, warehouses or stores. All of the land is set aside for your enjoyment in natural surroundings.

So again, Piscataway Ecological Park will be your open space park but the path to its completion will need all of our patience.

While environmental work has been taking place, new regulations from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection now require us to create two detention basins instead of just one to contain all of the rainwater that falls on the park. Also with a longer and more careful

process to prepare the land to build the park, the cost is much higher than anticipated.

So as we move forward in 2024 we will need to assess how we can most prudently steward your tax dollars and undertake this enormous project without diminishing our services or adding a financial burden to our community.

As always, please call my office at (732) 562-2301 if I may ever be of assistance to you.