



MANTUA TOWNSHIP

PETER SCIRROTTO
MAYOR

ROBERT ZIMMERMAN
DEPUTY MAYOR



MICHAEL SILVANIO
COMMITTEEMAN

JOHN LEGGE
COMMITTEEMAN

EILEEN LUKENS
COMMITTEEWOMAN



SPRING/SUMMER ISSUE 2017

“Mantua Makes You Smile”

 @townshipofmantua

Mayor Scirrotto's Crusade to Combat Litter



It is my pleasure to present the Spring/Summer 2017 Township of Mantua Newsletter. The recent warm weather sparks many of our efforts to prepare our properties for spending our time outside as the summer approaches. As many of you know, I

take a lot of pride to keep Mantua Township clean, and I am continuing to make it my crusade and priority with my Administration to fight those who litter in our community and hold them accountable. It saddens me to see trash scattered in town. I spend many Saturday mornings picking up trash along the sides of the road and still cannot believe how many bags I can fill up in a short period of time. I have written to our lawmakers asking for assistance for more aggressive litter patrols along the Rt. 55 on and off ramps so that you do not have to look at trash when you enter into your hometown. Guess what—it worked and the 5th Legislative District responded to our request and came to our rescue by scheduling State clean up crews.

I have tasked my Departments to be creative and think of strategies that our community can use to increase public awareness about the effects of littering and how it negatively impacts our lives and community spirit. Did you know that in New Jersey, littering is considered a petty offense and the first time you are charged you can receive a fine between \$100 and \$500, with the option of 20 to 40 hours community service? Personally, I wish the stakes were higher so that it would make people think twice about throwing a piece of trash out of their car window. Throughout the year, you will notice

more and more proactive efforts on behalf of the Township to help combat this problem. We have placed additional signage with fine information, committed to weekend Litter Patrol clean up crews performed by community service folks along our main arteries in the Township and we are even considering distributing litter bags so that the trash stays in a bag versus on our roads. I directed our Police Chief to enforce the penalties so that we can send a message that we don't want these violators in our community. Our latest initiative is to team up with 7th and 8th graders from Clearview Middle School to challenge them in a poster contest to create a new no littering sign and slogan for our town. By teaching our children at a young age about ways to reduce litter, we are giving them opportunities to develop good character skills and a sense of responsibility to be good stewards in the community.

In closing, please join my crusade to keep Mantua Township clean. Think twice about littering. I promise you, we can fight this and make a difference in the appearance of our community one piece of trash at a time. I wish you and your family a healthy and safe summer.

Have You Spotted the New Welcome Signs?

As part of the Township Committee's initiative to enhance the beauty of our Township, new Welcome to Mantua signs replaced old signs that have faded over the years. The signs were placed at the borders of the roads entering into the Township. We take pride in our Township and want everyone to know it!



PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT: Spring into Action

Green Grass Cart Rules

Only grass, leaves, vegetative plants and garden trimmings are allowed.

Sticks and Twigs are NOT ALLOWED.

If you have small sticks that are unable to be piled at the curb for collection, we suggest placing those out in a biodegradable paper lawn bag next to your brush pile for collection.

Trash Container Placement - Please keep in mind that our trash containers are picked up with mechanical arms that extend off of our trucks. The mechanical arm needs room to grab each can. We ask that you leave at least 3 to 4 ft of empty space around your containers. This also includes space in between a telephone pole, mailbox or any other structure. In addition we ask that you "look up". If you put your can in an area where overhanging tree branches and or wires are present, we might hit them. Please place your can in an area free from these obstacles. We appreciate your assistance.



Get further away from me, that tickles!



Please keep plastic bags out of the Blue Recycling Carts.

Bags clog recycling sorting equipment and can't be recycled at our facility. Used propane bottles are very dangerous and can explode when processed.

Please do not place these items in your recycling container!



BULK Now Accepted: Dispose of Your Household Items

When: 4th Saturdays ONLY!
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Location: Public Works Facility located behind the Police/Justice Complex on Main Street.

- ◆ Used Motor Oil
- ◆ Household Bulk Items
- ◆ Yard Waste (brush, leaves, grass)
- ◆ Electronics (TV's, computers, etc.)
- ◆ Metal Items (light iron, refrigerators, BBQ grills, A/C units)

NO chemicals, paints or fluorescent light bulbs.

We reserve the right to reject any excessive bulk loads or any material not accepted.

CHESTNUT BRANCH PARK

Chestnut Branch Park is the core recreational area in our Township. We feel that it is important to keep its functionality high and continue to add features and improvements for more recreational opportunities for Township residents.

Over the course of the Fall and Winter, we have been working hard to finish infrastructure projects such as the installation of the new well to provide for more sufficient irrigation of the fields and the removal of the former "Bank Shot" area to a graded and safer picnic area. The Township Committee has allocated funding in their 2017 capital program to begin the installation of additional LED trail lights to illuminate the perimeter areas of the park that currently are unlit. The lights will improve visibility and create a safer environment for those utilizing the trails.

In addition to these larger projects, the Township Committee is undertaking smaller initiatives to make the park more welcoming. Here are a few examples: a new entrance sign, additional modernized playground equipment, and lastly the paving of the back parking lot. We hope you enjoy Chestnut Branch Park as much as we do and remember if you see something, say something. Visible special officers and park employees are on-site during off hours to monitor park activities.



A big thank you to our Public Works crews who worked hard to manually remove the steel and asphalt from the Bank Shot Area!



Pavilion Rentals

Mantua is proud to unveil the newly enhanced and rehabbed Pavilion at the Park. The original roof deck and fascia was replaced with brand new beautifully stained wood pieces and new concrete work to add to the finishing touches. Inside the pavilion contains all new picnic tables and benches. Chestnut Branch Park is waiting to show off its new look so don't hesitate to stop by and enjoy the new spot!

If you would like to rent the newly renovated pavilion at Chestnut Branch Park, please call 468-1500 x 110 for reservations and rental fee information.

The fee will be utilized to offset on-going maintenance costs for this newly invested enhancement.



International Pharmaceutical Firm Moving to Mantua **\$100 Million Investment / 200 New Jobs**

We are pleased to announce that in early April 2017 the South Jersey Technology Park at Rowan University signed an agreement with HIPRA, the Spanish multinational veterinary pharmaceutical company, to establish its North American headquarters here in Mantua Township.

Rowan University will sell 25 acres of their land at the SJTP West Campus located just off of Rt. 322 within this redevelopment area here in Mantua Township for HIPRA to build in phases: 375,000 square feet of space for their office, research and development, manufacturing, warehouse and distribution facilities.

The Spanish firm's long term investment may reach \$100 million and the firm's move here will create 200 new high-technology jobs. HIPRA has an international presence as a major veterinary pharmaceutical company dedicated to the research, production and marketing of products for prevention in animal health.

Arnau Nogareda, HIPRA's Managing Director stated, "We selected the Technology Park after evaluating numerous first-class host sites. We were impressed by the research already being done at Rowan and the Technology Park, in particular in the areas of science and engineering; access to outstanding faculty and student teams; support from New Jersey, Gloucester County and Mantua Township; and a location in the heart of the East Coast."

"South Jersey has a lot to offer, and there's room for more businesses like HIPRA here. This is New Jersey being open for business. From Lt. Gov. Guadagno to Gloucester County to Mantua Township to Rowan, this process has demonstrated exceptional teamwork in drawing such a prestigious company to our region.", said Steve Sweeney, NJ State Senate President.

Dr. Ali Houshmand, President of Rowan University stated "We anticipate that in establishing its North American headquarters here HIPRA will create short and long-term employment opportunities in diverse fields, from construction to biomedical engineering; open the door to spinoff companies; and benefit local businesses that will serve its employees. This partnership will be especially valuable for our faculty and students working in the sciences, engineering and business."

The Mantua Township Committee is extremely pleased to hear that the firm will apply to the Mantua Township Land Use Board shortly for approvals and will continue to work with the Township's Redevelopment Team and Dr. Shreekanth Mandayam, Rowan Vice President for Research and Executive Director of the Technology Park at Rowan University in Mantua Township.

Mantua Township Sells Land

April 17, 2017 Mantua Township Committee selected Ric and Jean Edelman's new company to acquire and redevelop the Township land, formerly known as the Branch Road/Ledden redevelopment project site, which is adjacent to the Edelman Fossil Park @ Rowan University in Mantua Township.

The Township acquired this property on December 29, 2016 for \$452,000 and then began an RFP/RFQ process on March 7, 2017 to seek a redeveloper to acquire and redevelop this 40.13 acre parcel. The Edelman's responded to this RFP/RFQ and proposed to acquire the property for \$655,000 and redevelop it into a world class destination to include entertainment, hotel, restaurants, meetings and convention space consistent and compatible with the adjacent fossil park redevelopment project that the Township is currently working on with Rowan University.

"The Edelman's are visionary leaders and we are thrilled to partner with them. Their decision to lead the redevelopment of the parcel adjacent to the fossil park will take our endeavor to the next level.", states Dr. Kenneth Lacovara, Director of the Jean and Ric Edelman Fossil Park of Rowan University.

"The Township continues to look for ways to be fiscally creative with our redevelopment project sites and we are especially proud to have the Edelman's enthusiasm and commitment to make this project redevelopment area a destination Mantua will continue to be proud of," stated Mayor Scirrotto.

Philadelphia Soul @ Total Turf

Mantua Welcomes the Soul To Our Community

The 2016 World Champion Philadelphia Soul of the Arena Football League has now partnered with Virtua/Total Turf Experience located on Lambs Road in Mantua Township! In March 2017 the Soul made the TTE complex their official practice facility for the team.

"Total Turf is an unbelievable facility and we are excited to call it our home. It provides us everything we need to run a first-class, championship operation and gives our players the best practice facility in the Arena Football League." said Ron Jaworski, Soul owner.

"Not only will our players have a state-of-the-art facility with indoor and outdoor options for practice every day, but the facility is perfect to hold our football related events there., "said Soul President John Adams.

"We are thrilled to welcome the Soul to our community and wish them luck in their 2017 season games which begun on April 29, 2017 at the Wells Fargo Center in Philadelphia, P.A.," stated Deputy Mayor Robert Zimmerman, Liaison to Economic Development.

To learn about Philadelphia Soul: www.philadelphiasoul.com/



News from Inside the Police Department



Mantua Congratulates Chief Rodney Sawyer on Retirement

HIS 22 YEAR TENURE: Wednesday, May 31st is Police Chief Rodney Sawyer's last day in office. Chief Sawyer was hired as a Mantua Township Police Officer in 1995. During his time with the Mantua PD, he achieved every rank and for the last nine years has been the Township of Mantua's Chief of Police. Chief Sawyer's leadership efforts include: initiating a more efficient police schedule to increase manpower and staffing within the department; initiating the Special Officer program with 4 class 1's and two class 2's; added two new K-9 dogs to the department; was President of the Gloucester County Chief of Police Association for several years; and is the current President of the Gloucester County Police Awards Committee. Chief Sawyer was also a valuable resource and key advisor with the creation of the joint municipal court.

"I'd like to thank Chief Sawyer for his twenty-two and a half years of dedicated service to our community, and for his nine years serving as our Chief. He's excelled in many aspects of policing and leadership, and has taken our department to heightened levels of professionalism. During his tenure, he's led the department through a formal accreditation process conducted by the New Jersey State Association of Chiefs of Police. This is quite an accomplishment as we're part of an elite and select group of police agencies in our area that are currently accredited. I know this is one of his most valued achievements as Chief, and we're thrilled by his efforts. Congratulations Chief on your retirement, and best wishes with your future endeavors." -**Deputy Mayor Zimmerman**

"I will miss Chief's Sawyer's valuable friendship and efforts to keep Mantua safe. I wish him all the best in the next chapter of his life as he begins "living the dream". **Mayor Scirrotto**

Mantua PD Establishes Safe Deal Zone

The Mantua Township Police Department has made application to become a nationally listed "Safe Deal Zone." The rise of Craigslist, and the easy online sale of unwanted goods has been accompanied by a dark side — the tense moments when strangers must meet to complete the deal. The stories are plentiful and some quite tragic. Residents will now be able to utilize this zone located in the parking lot of the Mantua Township Police Department as a safe place to make transaction set up over the internet.

Policing is not always about law enforcement, a lot times it's about providing quality-of-life-based services to our residents and business owners. So if you are an online buyer/seller, please make your exchange location, our location, a Safe Deal Zone!



Township Committee Shows Support for Mantua Police with "Blue Line" at Chestnut Branch Park

In an effort to show our continuous support for the Mantua Township Police Department and for all of law enforcement, the Township Committee decided to paint a "blue line" down the middle of the entrance way at Chestnut Branch Park.

For those who are unfamiliar with the "blue line" meaning, it's a symbol used to commemorate fallen law enforcement officers and to show support for those currently protecting and serving our communities. It symbolizes the relationship of law enforcement in a community as the protectors of fellow citizens from criminal elements.

To compliment the "blue line" we installed a sign at the bottom of the entranceway at Chestnut Branch that reads, "We Support Mantua Police". We want to thank Zone Striping for painting the line free of charge. The sign was also donated by Doug Powell of Job Signs of America who is a resident of Mantua Township.



"As a retired Chief of Police, I know first hand the challenges our police are faced with today. We can't say enough good things about the Mantua Township Police Department. This is just a small token of our appreciation for those who protect and serve our community." - Deputy Mayor Robert Zimmerman.



Community events are a great opportunity to bring folks together to celebrate the warm weather and long days. In addition to these events in Mantua, the Gloucester County Board of Chosen Freeholders hosts a variety of family fun events throughout the summer. These events are indicated with an asterisk (*). For more information visit www.gloucestercountynj.gov

MAY 23 Big Night Out



Mantua School District's 1st ever Big Night Out event will be an evening of fun and celebration for all within our community. Live music, special events, obstacle courses, food trucks, and a Color Run. This event will serve to build awareness about the district's Character Education program while allowing families to have fun and connect with their community from 5:00-8:00 p.m. at the JMT School.

MAY 29 Memorial Day Parade & Bike Contest



Come join us with your bicycle decorated with patriotic colors for our Memorial Day Parade and Bike Contest. If you would like to participate, K - 2nd graders are to meet at JMT School at 9 a.m. and 3rd - 6th graders are to meet at Van Meter's Garage in Wenonah at 8:30 a.m. The Parade will start at Van Meter's Garage on Mantua Ave. and will continue past the Wenonah Cemetery, past the Mantua Cemetery and will conclude at the Mantua Twp. Municipal Building for the Memorial Ceremony.

JUNE 17 School's Out Camp Out



The Mantua Twp. Recreation Committee along with the Mantua Twp. Police and the Police Explorers, are sponsoring a tent only Mantua family overnight campout at Chestnut Branch Park from 4:00 p.m., Sat., June 17th, through 11:00 a.m. Sun, June 18th. The theme for this year's event is a Luau. Activities: Crafts, Treats, Surprises, Campfire, Outdoor Movie, Jungle Book Flashlight Walk, Scavenger Hunt. Registration cost is \$30.00 per family (non refundable). For more information on this event call 856-468-1500 x 110.

JUNE 29 Whale Tales *



Come join us for a FREE Family Fun Show at Chestnut Brach Park where children and families are invited to enjoy a great interesting combination of real and artificial whale hand specimens, illustrative posters and photos, and a few short exciting video clips. No real whales of course!

AUG 3 BEACH*

Come join us for a FREE Family Fun Show at Chestnut Brach Park where children and families are invited to have a rockin' fun-filled interactive Beach Party! Put on your swimwear, bring out the beach blankets and get in the swim! Do "The Limbo", sing and dance, sail away on a ship, and marvel at all the wonderful sea creatures as you join them at the sea!



AUG 9 Movie in the Park*

Gather the family and bring your blankets and chairs to watch "Moana" at Chestnut Branch Park. The movie begins at Dusk.



AUG 17 Cowboy Ron*

Come join us for a FREE Family Fun Show at Chestnut Branch Park where children and families are invited to see Cowboy Ron entertain all with lasso tricks, juggling and cowboy magic.

SEPT 11 Patriot Day

The Gloucester County Board of Chosen Freeholders and the Mantua Township Mayor and Committee will hold the Gloucester County Patriot Day Ceremony to commemorate the September 11th attacks on the United States. The ceremony will begin at 8:30 a.m. at the Place of Reflection inside Chestnut Branch Park.

SEPT 16 Shredding Event

The FREE Shredding Event and tire amnesty will be held at the Mantua Twp. Municipal Building from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. The shredding will occur right on site. Only paper will be accepted. Mantua residents only.

SEPT 23 Community Fossil Dig

The 6th Annual Community Fossil Dig Day event will be held at the Edelman Fossil Park of Rowan University. Visit Rowan.edu/fossils to learn more about the park, ways to volunteer and to get your invitation to attend this **R.S.V.P. Only** event.

Community News

Extended Child Care: The Mantua Township school district is pleased to inform the community that they will be offering Extended Child Care options for pre-school students in the upcoming 2017-2018 school year. For additional information, please contact Terry Labbee at 856-468-2225 x1106.

Tall Pines State Preserve: Since the park was dedicated as Gloucester County's first NJ state park, visitors have been attracted to the miles of paved trails and natural beauty for passive activities. We ask that you be good stewards of the park and remember the following:

- ◇ Entrance and parking is located on Bankbridge Road
- ◇ The park is open from dawn to dusk
- ◇ It is a "Carry in-Carry out" facility-meaning you are responsible for your own trash disposal
- ◇ Dogs are allowed but must be leashed—please properly dispose of pet waste
- ◇ No Alcohol or Motorized vehicles allowed
- ◇ Park info www.friendsoftallpinespreserve.org

Mantua Township Municipal Building
401 Main Street
Mantua, NJ 08051

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“Senior Freeze” Property Tax Reimbursement



The NJ Property Tax Reimbursement (Senior Freeze) Application (Blue Book) reimburses senior citizens and disabled persons for property tax increases. To qualify for the 2016 reimbursement, an applicant must meet the following requirements:

- ◆ Must have been age 65 or older as of 12/31/15 or receiving Federal Social Security disability benefits as of 12/31/15 and 12/31/16.
- ◆ Must have lived in NJ continuously since 12/31/05 or earlier.
- ◆ Must have owned and lived in your home or have leased a site in a mobile home park on which you have placed a manufactured or mobile home that you own since 12/31/12 or earlier.
- ◆ Must have paid the full amount of the property taxes due on your home for 2015 by 6/1/16 and for 2016 by 6/1/17.
- ◆ Your total annual income must have been for 2015 \$87,007 or less and for 2016 \$87,007 or less.

This application must be filed with the State no later than June 1, 2017—this deadline may be extended by the State. The PTR-1 form is available at the Municipal Building in the Tax Collector's Office. For more info call 856-468-1500 ext. 116 during regular business hours.



Pinwheels for Prevention

Did you know that the pinwheel is the national symbol for **child abuse prevention**? Gloucester County Women's Club members Debra Kain, Joanne West and Gail Shast received a Township proclamation when Mantua Mayor Scirrotto Proclaimed April as Child Abuse Prevention Month in Mantua. Our community thanks the GCWC for their passion to support this cause and for also planting a beautiful pinwheel garden at the Municipal Building to the right of the main door entrance. This garden serves as a positive reminder that all children deserve great childhoods that are happy, healthy and safe. For more information on the national Pinwheels for Prevention campaign visit www.pinwheelsforprevention.org



Gail and Gregory Shast after planting the pinwheels