

# QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER SUMMER 2025

# MANTUA TOWNSHIP NEWS

YOUR SOURCE FOR COMMUNITY NEWS AND INFORMATION



**ROBERT T. ZIMMERMAN**  
MAYOR

**JOHN LEGGE**  
DEPUTY MAYOR

**EILEEN LUKENS**  
COMMITTEEWOMAN

**JASON SNYDER**  
COMMITTEEMAN

**JACK STEEN**  
COMMITTEEMAN

## UPCOMING DATES

**AUGUST 5**  
**CURRIER'S MAGICAL MANIA:**  
**YOSI LEVIN WEE ROCK**  
**10:30 AM**  
**@ CHESTNUT BRANCH PARK**

**SEPTEMBER 1**  
**LABOR DAY**  
**MUNICIPAL OFFICES CLOSED**  
**TRASH WILL BE COLLECTED ON THE 2ND.**  
**PLEASE EXPECT DELAYS.**

**SEPTEMBER 11**  
**PATRIOT DAY CEREMONY**  
**8:30 AM**  
**@ CHESTNUT BRANCH PARK**

**SEPTEMBER 13**  
**SHREDDING EVENT**  
**9:00 AM - 12:00 PM**  
**@ MUNICIPAL BUILDING**  
**GLOUCESTER COUNTY RESIDENTS ONLY**

**SEPTEMBER 18**  
**POLICE NIGHT OUT**  
**MUSIC•FIREWORKS•INFLATABLES**  
**FOOD TRUCKS•K9 DEMO**  
**5:00 PM - 8:00 PM**  
**@ CHESNUT BRANCH PARK**  
**RAIN DATE: FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 19**

**SEPTEMBER 28 - OCTOBER 3**  
**FALL HYDRANT FLUSHING**  
**CHANGES IN WATER**  
**PRESSURE ARE EXPECTED.**

## A Message from Mayor Bob Zimmerman

### Mantua Shines Among South Jersey's Best!

South Jersey Magazine recently named Mantua Township the 3rd Best Town in Gloucester County (out of 24 municipalities) and the 9th Best Town in South Jersey (out of 169 municipalities) for 2025.

Mantua Township (3rd), Woolwich Township (2nd), and Harrison Township (1st) make up the top three towns in Gloucester County for this year.

For many of us fixated on taxes, Mantua Township's average property taxes are by far the lowest out of the top three towns in Gloucester County. Mantua Township's average taxes are \$7,747.00, whereas, in comparison, Woolwich Township's taxes average \$10,808.00 and Harrison Township's taxes average \$11,286.00 for 2025.

Our average property values for 2025 are relatively close, with Mantua's being \$312,345.00, Woolwich's being \$321,904.00, and Harrison's being \$347,540.00.

Mantua has consistently ranked among the top towns in Gloucester County, earning a spot in the top three in 2020, 2021, 2022, 2024, and again in 2025. While we dipped slightly to 4th place in 2023, our strong track record speaks for itself. We've also been recognized as one of the top 10 towns in South Jersey for five of the past six years. We are truly honored to be consistently recognized as one of the best places to live, work, and play in South Jersey!

### FY2025 Municipal Budget

At the Township Committee Meeting on June 9, 2025, we adopted our municipal budget for the 2025 fiscal year. The local budget this year is \$17.62 million, with a nominal increase of \$652,000 over last year.

Our budget makes up only 20% of your overall property tax bill. The vast majority of your property taxes go towards our schools (53%). Your remaining taxes are for the county (23%), the local fire district (3%), and open space (1%).

We are constantly tightening the belt on spending, and this year's bump is only the second time in the last five years we've had to increase taxes at the municipal level. This budget has no fluff and is reflective of the current state of the economy: We are faced with a \$130,000 decrease in state aid, increased costs in health insurance benefits of \$238, and market-driven increases of \$578,000.

### FY2025 Capital Improvements

In the FY2025 Municipal Budget, the Township Committee also approved \$1.6 million for capital projects, primarily for road improvements and engineering costs, as well as police and public works vehicles and equipment. As a highlight, we're excited to announce that we will be repurposing two of the basketball courts at Chestnut Branch Park to become 6 state-of-the-art pickleball courts and revitalizing the entire playground area.

Last year, the park became "dog friendly," and this year we're putting in the new pickleball courts and the rubberized flooring to make the playground area safer and wheelchair accessible.

Our goal is to incorporate something new each year to serve our community better and meet recreational needs.

*- Mayor Robert Zimmerman*





**Local Softball Teams  
Win State Championships!**



The Township of Mantua is proud to announce that both the 10U and 12U Sewell Raildogs Girls Softball Teams have won the USA State Championships. This is an outstanding achievement and a tremendous honor for Mantua Township — not just one, but two state titles brought home by local athletes.

We commend the players, coaches, and families for their dedication and hard work, and we look forward to recognizing the teams at an upcoming Township Committee meeting.

Congratulations to all on this remarkable accomplishment!

**Tourette Syndrome Awareness Day**

On June 4, 2025, Mayor Bob Zimmerman and Committeewoman Eileen Lukens presented a special proclamation to long-time resident Carolyn Baldwin in honor of Tourette Syndrome Awareness Day. Carolyn and her family have been tireless advocates for education and awareness of Tourette syndrome, a neurological disorder often misunderstood by the public, after all three of her children were diagnosed with the condition at a young age.

"This has always been one of the most heartfelt proclamations for me," said Committeewoman Lukens. "We're grateful to stand alongside the Baldwin Family in raising awareness and offering support."



Mayor Zimmerman and Committeewoman Lukens present a proclamation to Carolyn Baldwin in honor of Tourette Syndrome Awareness Day.

**VFW Post 7679 Annual Community Awards Banquet**

Congratulations to all the honorees recognized at Mantua's VFW Post 7679 Lawson-Cox Community Awards Ceremony!

We are especially proud to recognize those serving Mantua Township:

**Police Officer – Arthur Ettore**

**Police Explorer – Andrew Meeks**

**Firefighter – Matt Repas**

**EMT – Josh Myers**

**Citizen of the Year – Jeff Gellenthin**



Mantua Township Historical Committee Chairman, Jeff Gellenthin, accepting the Citizen of the Year Award from VFW Post 7679.

A heartfelt thank you to VFW Post 7679 for celebrating the dedication of our teachers, first responders, and community volunteers.



**Welcome Officer Joshua Cummings and Officer Brenden Hiatt!**



The Township Committee and Mayor Bob Zimmerman are pleased to officially welcome Officer Cummings and Officer Hiatt to the Mantua Township Police Department. Both officers have completed their training

and are ready to serve the community with integrity, fairness, and dedication.

Mayor Zimmerman expressed his confidence in their ability to uphold the department's values while building strong relationships with residents. "We're proud to have Officers Cummings and Hiatt on board," said Mayor Zimmerman. "We know they're ready to protect and serve our community with the commitment and professionalism our residents deserve." We wish them the best as they begin their careers with Mantua Township!



**No Tolerance for Illegal Solicitation**

The Mantua Township Police Department is taking a zero-tolerance approach to illegal soliciting in our neighborhoods. All individuals going door-to-door for business purposes are required to have an official solicitor's permit issued by the Township and must carry that permit while canvassing (Codes 296-1 & 296-3).

Residents can protect themselves from illegal solicitation by joining the Township's "No Knock" Registry. If a resident is registered in the Township's "No Knock" program and displays the official decal, it is illegal for solicitors to approach their home (Code 296-3.1).

Residents can register for the free "No Knock" Registry at the Mantua Township Clerk's Office, located in the Mantua Township Municipal Building.

