

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER FALL 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

OCTOBER 13
COLUMBUS/INDIGENOUS
PEOPLES' DAY

MUNICIPAL OFFICES CLOSED
TRASH WILL BE COLLECTED ON THE
14TH. PLEASE EXPECT DELAYS.

OCTOBER 31
HALLOWEEN
TRICK OR TREATING HOURS:
3:00 PM - 8:00 PM

NOVEMBER 4
ELECTION DAY
POLLS OPEN FROM:
6:00 AM - 8:00 PM

NOVEMBER 11
VETERAN'S DAY CEREMONY
11:00 AM

@ MUNICIPAL BUILDING
MUNICIPAL OFFICES CLOSED. TRASH
WILL BE COLLECTED AS SCHEDULED.

NOVEMBER 27
THANKSGIVING DAY
MUNICIPAL OFFICES CLOSED ON
THE 27TH AND 28TH.
TRASH WILL BE COLLECTED ON THE
28TH PLEASE EXPECT DELAYS.

DECEMBER 25
CHRISTMAS DAY
MUNICIPAL OFFICES CLOSED ON
THE 25TH AND 26TH.
TRASH WILL BE COLLECTED ON THE
26TH PLEASE EXPECT DELAYS.

A Message from Mayor Zimmerman

Protecting Your Municipal Tax Dollars

As your mayor, I believe you deserve to know how your tax dollars are being managed. It's about being open, communicative, and demonstrating that our team is working hard to keep our Township on solid financial ground.

Mantua Township recently received its annual audit for 2024 from Bowman & Company, LLP. This report indicates that there were no findings or recommendations, also known as a "clean audit." A clean audit confirms that our municipality adheres to relevant accounting standards (e.g., Generally Accepted Accounting Principles) and regulatory requirements.

In 2024, S&P Global Ratings raised our bond rating from AA- to AA. This upgraded rating reflects the Township's improving economic indicators following a 46% increase in market values resulting from the 2023 revaluation, and our four-year build-up in reserves, maintained based on our formal reserve policy.

Our municipal budget is \$17.62 million for 2025. This year's budget saw a nominal increase of \$652,000 over the 2024 municipal budget. We've been continually tightening the belt on spending, as this year's increase is only the second time in the last five years we've had to incrementally raise taxes locally. This budget has no fluff and reflects the current state of the economy and the higher cost of living that we all face.

These practices don't happen by accident—this is the result of good governmental operations and dedicated team members working together. These efforts demonstrate transparency, accountability, and our commitment to protecting your taxpayer dollars.



Proclamation Honoring Sidney Marks

The Mantua Township Committee and Jim Jefferson, Deputy Director of the Gloucester County Board of Commissioners, recently paid special tribute to long-time resident Sidney Marks on the occasion of his 50th anniversary with the Mantua Township Fire District.

"Mr. Marks is more than just a firefighter—he is a true asset to the department and a proud symbol of service, strength, and tradition in Mantua Township. The Township Committee and I want to offer our heartfelt thanks to Sid. He's been a true friend and a staple in our community for many years. He always goes above and beyond the call of duty to help others—well beyond his commitment to the fire services. Congratulations on a job well done, my friend," said Mayor Zimmerman.



Mayor Zimmerman, Deputy Mayor Legge, Committeewoman Lukens, Committeeman Snyder, Committeeman Steen, and Jim Jefferson, Deputy Director of the Gloucester County Board of Commissioners, presenting a proclamation to Sidney Marks.

2nd Annual Police Night Out!

On Thursday, September 18, 2025, Mantua Township hosted its second annual "Police Night Out" event at Chestnut Branch Park. It was an incredible evening that brought our community together - strengthening connections with the police and celebrating the pride we share in our officers.

Events like this remind us that true collaboration is what makes a community safer, stronger, and more united. Hundreds of families, friends, and neighbors from Mantua and beyond came out in support, joining the Police Dept. in their efforts to build trust and meaningful relationships with the people they serve.



Mayor Zimmerman, Deputy Mayor Legge, Committeewoman Lukens, Committeeman Snyder, and Committeeman Steen attended Police Night Out with Chief White, Captain Murphy, Lieutenant Hauss, and Detective Sergeant Layton.

Mantua Township Municipal Building
401 Main Street
Mantua, NJ 08051

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24th Anniversary Gloucester County Patriot Day Ceremony

On Thursday, September 11, 2025, Mantua Township hosted the 24th Anniversary Gloucester County Patriot Day Ceremony at the Place of Reflection in Chestnut Branch Park.

Residents from Mantua Township and nearby communities gathered to honor and remember those lost on September 11, 2001, including local hero John Rodak. The event also supported his family: Joyce Rodak, his loving wife, and their daughters, Devon Lovell and Chelsea Primavera.



Mayor Zimmerman, Deputy Mayor Legge, Committeewoman Lukens, and Committeeman Snyder with the Rodak Family at the 2025 Gloucester County Patriot Day Ceremony.

Mayor Zimmerman reflected on the event, stating, "As a Mantua community, the Patriot Day Ceremony is very near and dear to our hearts. On this 24th anniversary, it was an opportunity for us to once again reflect on the devastating loss of resident John Rodak, and to continually support our dear friends, Joyce Rodak (John's widow) and his daughters, Devon Lovell and Chelsea Primavera. John will always be our hometown Patriot, and the Rodaks will always be a significant part of our Mantua family. We vow to never forget and to keep John's legacy alive!"

Remembering Dr. Bob Harris, LUB Chairman

We are saddened to announce that Dr. Robert "Bob" W. Harris passed away at the age of 72 on Monday, September 15, 2025, at his home in Mantua Township, surrounded by family.

Dr. Harris was a resident of Mantua for 43 years and served our community with passion and integrity for 35 years on the Planning and Land Use Board. Our thoughts and prayers are with his wife, Dorothy, his two children, Kyle and Sarah, and the entire Harris Family.



Mayor Zimmerman and Dr. Bob Harris discuss the purpose of the Land Use Board for Mayor's Message 26.

"We are devastated by the recent passing of our good friend, Dr. Harris. He loved our community and always had Mantua's best interests at heart. Our sincerest condolences and profound sympathies go out to his family and to all who knew and loved him throughout our community and beyond."
- Mayor Bob Zimmerman

Digging Deep for Anthony Mirigliani

The Township of Mantua proudly stands with its very own hometown hero, Anthony Mirigliani and his family, along with the more than 1,500 families worldwide who are affected by Pitt Hopkins Syndrome. The strength, resilience, and hope the Mirigliani family brings to the community and beyond is recognized through this extremely worthy cause. Their unwavering dedication and advocacy have inspired countless individuals to raise awareness for Pitt Hopkins Syndrome.



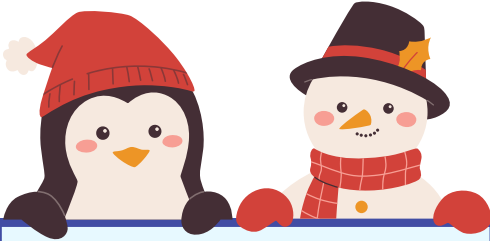
Mayor Zimmerman, Committeeman Snyder, and Committeeman Steen with the Mirigliani family at the 2025 Pitt Hopkins Fundraiser.

This marks the thirteenth year that this proclamation has been awarded to Anthony and the Mirigliani family, recognizing their unwavering dedication to raising awareness of Pitt Hopkins Syndrome.

October 2025 Blood Drive

Mantua Township is proudly partnering with the **American Red Cross** to host a blood drive at the **Mantua Township Municipal Building** on **Tuesday, October 28, 2025, from 9 AM - 2 PM.**

Scan the QR code or call **1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767)** to schedule an appointment!



Annual Winter Festival!

Join Mantua Township on **Thursday, December 4, 2025, from 5 PM - 8 PM** for our Annual Winter Festival at **Chestnut Branch Park!**

You can expect a fun-filled night with food trucks, Santa, fireworks, and rides! We look forward to seeing you there!

New Solicitation Ordinance

On September 8, 2025, at the Township Committee Meeting, Ordinance 5-2025 was adopted.

This Ordinance enhances solicitation laws and penalties. Offenders now face fines up to \$2,000/violation and risk suspension or permanent revocation of solicitation licenses. Police can now hold corporations accountable for unpermitted solicitors and other violations. Please report illegal solicitors to the police at 856-589-0911. For more information, watch Mayor's Message Video #33 on our social media and website.

Upcoming General Election Alert!

Mark your calendars: Election Day is **Tuesday, November 4, 2025**, with polls open from **6 AM to 8 PM.**

But why wait? Take advantage of early voting opportunities starting Saturday, October 25! The nearest early voting center for Mantua Township residents is at the RCSJ Behavioral Science Center, 1400 Tanyard Rd., Sewell, NJ 08080. Visit the Gloucester County Elections' Website for full dates and times for early voting!

Prefer to vote by mail? Use the secure ballot drop box at the Mantua Township Municipal Building, 401 Main St., Mantua, NJ 08051.

Voting questions? Call 1-877-NJ-VOTER (1-877-658-6837) for assistance.