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Councilman Thomas Brennan
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April 5, 2022

Dear Belmar Resident,

Spring has officially arrived, and we are now busy with preparations for upcoming events and the Summer to follow.

On March 6th, we had a tremendous turn-out for the 49th Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade. The weather was mild, and the rain had mostly cleared by parade time. It was a joy to see the streets once again lined with residents and visitors celebrating.



A week later, we had our Dine & Discover Restaurant Tour. Another successful, well attended event. The weather was a bit colder but clear. Our restaurants went above and beyond with their offerings. Everyone I spoke with raved about the quality and variety of food and drink. Many thanks to all involved.





On April 2nd the Easter Bunny came to Belmar. Our beaches were filled with local children ages one through nine with their baskets in hand to find all the colorful eggs scattered in the sand. Thank you, Barry Trogu and your many volunteers, for this enjoyable event.

The next major event planned is the Annual New Jersey Seafood Festival. It will be held in Pyanoe Plaza May 20 - 22. Check www.belmar.com for times. We decided to move the festival to Main Street in 2019 and it was so successful for our businesses that we are keeping it there. One plus is no busy streets have to be closed. In our promotion of this event, we encouraged visitors to come by train and many did. It keeps getting better every year.



The biggest event this year will be the celebration of Belmar's 150th Anniversary. The Belmar Mayor's Holiday Ball, held this past December, raised enough funds from sponsors and guests to purchase our commemorative clock. Along with the engraved brick sales, the installation costs will also be covered. There will be no cost to taxpayers for this beautiful addition to our Main Street. Work will begin shortly to reconfigure the center island at 10th Avenue and Main Street to prepare for the clock's installation. The clock will be dedicated on August 31, 2022.



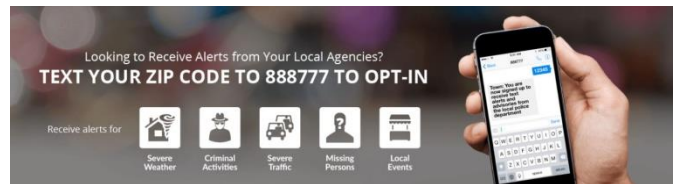
Among the upcoming anniversary celebration events being held is the dedication on May 14, 2022 of Belmar's Memorial Field and dugout to the baseball pros and semi-pros who played there. Notable among them were the Belmar Braves semi-pro team and members of the Negro League including, Josh Gibson (who may have hit the longest home run ever), Satchel Paige, James "Cool Papa" Bell and Judy Johnson.



Also, to commemorate Belmar's 150 years, Councilman Tom Brennan is updating the Belmar Treasure Trail. This is a self-guided tour of interesting sites in Belmar. New signs, recordings and added locations are planned. You will be able to listen to descriptions of the location on your smart phone with a QR code. Look for the updated map soon.



Our newest council member, Jodi Kinney, has been very dedicated to increasing communication with our residents. She is working closely with our administration to make sure important information is sent out to residents in a timely manner and in multiple formats. She is also working on improving the Parks & Recreation Commission.



In addition, to improve communication with our residents, we reinstated the Community Policing Program. Police officers are assigned to a zone and volunteer Block Captains bring any concerns or issues from their neighborhood to the officer.

Upcoming improvements planned for this year include, the paving of 16th Avenue and River Road, much needed upgrading to the electrical wiring, infrastructure and bulk heading at the marina docks and working with our engineers to begin some desperately needed dredging.

We are in the process of working with a vendor to order new signs to replace the damaged and vandalized Buy-A-Board signs on the boardwalk. The new signs will be manufactured from a rust proof material. We are very appreciative of the donations received to help rebuild our boardwalk and are dedicated to honoring those donors with proper signage. Ideally these new signs will last longer. We are hoping to have them installed as soon as possible.

We are in the process of purchasing the building at Main Street and 12th Avenue to house our Belmar Emergency Medical Services and Hook & Ladder Fire Company. We have the architectural drawings, site engineering and NJ Department of Environmental Protection on board. Look for future updates.

Being proactive, we are in the process of forming a regionalized Emergency Medical Services and have procured a \$250,000 grant for its inception. We currently have three neighboring towns that will be joining us in this regionalized EMS. Other towns have expressed interest also. With the high cost of maintaining individual services and the low volunteer rate, this is the future of EMS. Rest assured, this administration's main focus, is and always has been, providing our residents with the best public safety response in an emergency.



Wishing everyone a Happy Easter and Happy Passover.

Mayor Mark Walsifer