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Councilman Thomas Brennan
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June 15, 2022

Dear Belmar Resident,

Our summer season has started. Luckily, the weather cooperated for the Seafood Festival and Memorial Day weekend.

This time of the year, we are finalizing our budget. I am happy to say for the second year in a row, we will be having a zero increase in our municipal tax rate.

As you are aware, the additional expense due to inflation, rising gas prices, increased costs due to supply shortages and salary increases for employees normally would lead to an increase our local taxes.

Some examples of the ways that we are able to keep a zero increase again this year and collect extra revenue are by expanding Parkmobile, upgrading and advertising our marina resulting in fully rented slips, increased revenue from reassessments on properties with new construction, and making sure we are getting the best deal for every dollar we spend. Because of these and other cost savings measures, we were able to offset rising expenses in the borough.

In this year's budget, we will be paying down our debt by over two million dollars. We will also be able to put in \$170,000 for capital improvements.

This year we recouped \$711,000 for the Lake Como outfall pipe. In addition, we received \$605,000 from FEMA that we discovered was still owed to us.

We were approved to receive \$135,000 from the Monmouth County Community Development Block Grant Program; these funds are earmarked for ADA Improvements including upgrading sidewalks and curbs, around the Belmar Plaza area. This is the first time Belmar has ever received this grant.

We will be receiving Transportation Trust Fund Grants to pave some of our streets. The next street scheduled to be paved is Inlet Terrace.

We have been approved for a \$250,000 grant for our Emergency Medical Services regionalization program.

Our Administration, Department Heads and employees will continue to be vigilant in looking for grants and other sources of revenue to keep our municipal taxes stable and ensure that our tax dollars are being spent wisely.

We have completed the purchase of the building at Main Street and 12th Avenue to house our Belmar Emergency Medical Services and Hook & Ladder Fire Company. We are awaiting construction drawings so we can start rebuilding the site and make it a public safety building to be proud of and a focal point on Main Street in the center of town.

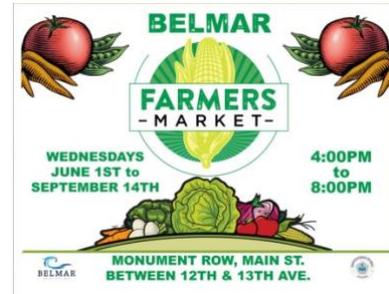


On July 1st, the regionalization of our Emergency Medical Services with Lake Como, Sea Girt and Manasquan will be finalized. This will result in a huge savings for our taxpayers and will bring Emergency Medical Services into the future so we can assure that when residents need an ambulance, it will be available quickly. As always, this administration's main focus, is and always has been, providing our residents with the best public safety response in an emergency.

We are continuing with events for our 150th anniversary celebration. Unfortunately, due to inclement weather predictions we've had to cancel our "A Day of Baseball in Belmar" plaque dedication, baseball game and movie twice. It is now rescheduled for June 25th and hopefully the weather will cooperate.



On Friday, July 1st, we will be having a fifteen minute laser lights and pyrotechnics show at Taylor Pavilion in celebration of the Independence Day holiday weekend. Taylor Pavilion will be lit up on the outside with lights synchronized to patriotic music and a fireworks show will follow. Please watch our social media sites for updates. The rain date for this event will be Friday of the Labor Day weekend, Sept. 2nd.



The Belmar Farmer's Market is back every Wednesday from 4 - 8 pm in front of Memorial Row, between 12th & 13th Avenues. Choose from locally grown vegetables and fruit, artisanal meats, pickles and other marinated items, honey, baked goods, soups, pirogues and kielbasa, fresh made mozzarella and hand crafted items, just to name a few.

We have some exciting business news in Belmar. Mystic Lobster Roll is opening in the Belmar Plaza. We had a ribbon cutting for a new shop, Luvseason Luxury Resortwear Boutique and a grand re-opening of Big Frog Custom T-Shirts. Also for three new eateries, Jack's by the Tracks, El Rey Mexican Restaurant and Berg's Smoked Meats & Poutine. Coney Waffles has expanded to two locations, Ocean Ave and the Belmar Plaza.



The new buy a board signs on the boardwalk are all in place and look great!



Enjoy the summer season in Belmar and sign up or watch our social media posts for all events.

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Mark Walsifer
Belmar Mayor