

# TOWNSHIP OF DENVILLE

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**TO: Denville Chamber of Commerce**

**FROM: Mayor P. Ted Husa**

**DATE: January 8, 2009**

## **January 2009 Chamber of Commerce Address**

Many steps were taken in 2008 to make Denville a more desirable place to live, shop and play.

Beautification - we had a successful year of an all-volunteer Beautification Committee. It is currently 29 strong. Soon we will start our planting year all over again. We hope you liked the way we decorated for the Holiday season. Next year we would like to have a member of the chamber work together with us to point out anything we missed. This year no one informed us about the candy canes, but we made a good recovery once we found out.

We hope those who volunteered to water the brown planters will renew their commitment. Also we are open to your suggestions for the downtown areas. The beautification committee has discussed it and we decided to maintain a uniform look on those planters. They were recently planted with hundreds of tulips and new junipers. The tulips will bloom in the spring.

We appreciate all the businesses that maintain their own islands, Denville Pizzeria, the Bridal Boutique, Seven West and many more. We recently gave awards to all those who gave so graciously of their time and resources (Marie can give those awards to any business who did not receive it yet). There are always openings on the Beautification Committee as a worker.

Economic Development and Downtown Business Committee – Under the leadership of Kristin Pamparin, the committee spent a lot of time in 2008 analyzing our parking configuration. Although no changes have been made, the committee

came up with a lot of good ideas and discussion. We hope to have a concrete proposal in 2009. Also, the process of becoming a Main St. USA town was started.

Additionally, there was concern about vacant stores in town and I have wonderful news as of this writing. On Jan 8, I personally spoke to the manager of the Trader Joe's Manhattan store, Lance Violet. He said one of his associates in the company is the real estate manager for the east coast and Lance was willing to deliver him a letter from the Mayor of Denville and also from the Chamber of Commerce as to why we are a great place for a Trader Joe's. This is a success, finally after many months of reaching out to Trader Joe's at the request of many business owners and residents. He said not all Trader Joe's require a liquor license.

There is one seat open on the Economic Committee.

Denville Fiscal Health – Marie may talk about this some more about this. By restructuring several departments and positions we achieved a savings to the taxpayer of \$300,000 in salary and overhead. We feel this helped us achieve greater productivity and accountability. We hope these procedures that worked so well here can be a model for other towns of how to save tax dollars. This was done at the same time while maintaining the same level of service to the town.

At the same time Marie Goble and I feel we have increased our availability to residents and business owners by maintaining basically an open door policy all year long. We handled many constituent calls and facilitated the resolution of many complex township issues.

Open Space – We should be closing on three new large parcels of open space parkland in 2009. They are adjacent to Knuth Farm, Muriel Hepner Park and Jonathan Woods. We have begun the process of developing some of our newer parks by applying for state and county trail grants.

Special Activities – Thank you to those businesses who helped put on the Energy Fair in November, the Bike Safety Fair in July, the Health Fair in October and the fundraiser for Jersey City Battered Women's Shelter. These will be annual events.

Future Priorities – We would like to work together with you to increase recycling among our businesses. Many curbs and sidewalks have been replaced, but with grant money, we are after more as we move towards Main St. USA.

Also in the spring a major bike use promotion initiative will be kicked off. The bicycle plan was studied in 2008 and we hope to implement it in 2009. The mayor has talked to some business owners about specific plans and will be reaching out to many more of you over the next few months.

Working together the Denville Mayor and Administration and Chamber of Commerce can achieve more than by each working on it's own.