



The HUB Times

January 2016

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MESSAGE FROM MAYOR TOM ANDES

Dear Denville Resident:

During the past four years much of the attention and efforts of your local elected and appointed officials' have been focused upon flood recovery from Hurricane Irene, proactive future flood mitigation and downtown economic development.

The dedicated volunteer members of the Township's River & Stream Committee have proven to be excellent stewards of our waterways. In the past four years they have performed numerous de-snagging and river cleanup projects on both the Rockaway and Den Brook Rivers.

The Township was successful in securing Federal, State and County grants to enable us to purchase 11 homes on Riverside Drive in the flood way that were virtually destroyed during Hurricane Irene. A park was dedicated in late-2014 where these homes once stood, called Denville Park Meadow.

The Township also purchased and installed two state-of-the-art flap valves on the drainage pipes that go from Denville Park neighborhood to the Den Brook River, which will mitigate flooding during future storm events. Through additional grant funding, the Township dredged the sections of the Rockaway River to provide for additional water capacity in the river and also removed two of the concrete coated canal peers from the river which had previously caused a damming effect in the river exacerbating upstream flooding.

The Township was recently notified that its petition to the Army Corp of Engineers to work collaboratively with the Township on its flood mitigation efforts has been approved. If any of the large-scale projects being reviewed are approved by the Army Corp, it could avail the Township to upwards of \$7 million in grant funding to complete a larger improvement that might not otherwise be possible utilizing only local source funding.

We have implemented a philosophy of undertaking those beneficial improvements that are locally achievable and affordable; while, aggressively seeking grant funding for those larger projects.

Regardless of the size of the flood mitigation effort, the one thing we learned from Hurricane Irene is that 1 inch of water could make all the difference on whether a home is lost.

The State of New Jersey and Federal Government have finally released the \$821,000 federal grant money to Denville for Phase 1 and Phase 2 of our Downtown Streetscape project. The project is in the public bidding process and a contract should be awarded shortly. The Township anticipates construction of new curbs, brick utility corridor and decorative lamp posts along Broadway to commence in March 2016 and be completed by early summer.

As grant opportunity become available, the Township will apply for grants in order to eventually perform the above mentioned improvements on First Avenue Main Street, Diamond Spring Road and Bloomfield Avenue.

TOWN HALL HOURS:
Monday - Friday 8:00 am - 4:00 pm

COURT WINDOW
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday
8:00 am - 4:00 pm
Thursday 8:00 am - 3:00 pm

SOCIAL SERVICES
Tuesday & Thursday
2:30 am - 2:00 pm
Wednesday 1:00pm - 7:00 pm

2016 Property Tax Revaluation Update

The New Jersey Property Tax system was designed for all property owners to carry their fair share of taxes - no more and no less. The inspection and valuation process is complete.

Letters stating your 2016 assessed value were mailed to each owner. Your previous assessed value was a 2002 market value. Regardless of the year of construction; since 2012 all values were converted to a 2002 value for taxing purposes.

Our new standard will be the 2016 market value. Subsequent new construction and added assessments will be converted to 2016 value. A new house built in 2020 will be converted back to 2016 value, not valued at a 2020 market price so that everyone is taxed utilizing the same standard in accordance with State law.

The total assessed value of the Town has increased. The 2016 tax rate will be less than the 2015 tax rate. Tax rates are certified by the State in July, once the regional school district, local Board of Education, County and Municipal budgets are adopted and a tax rate certified by the County.

Owners who disagree with their assessment may file an appeal with the Morris County Board of Taxation on or before May 1, 2016.

Property owners may call the Assessor's office with any questions regarding their assessments, 973-625-8300 ext. 290 or 292.



Property Tax Deductions

Contact the Tax Assessor for Applications

Veterans/Surviving Spouses of Veterans - An individual's service must have been during time of war or qualified peacekeeping missions (Peacekeeping Missions require service in the specified zones to qualify). The Property Tax Deduction is \$250/yr.

Senior Citizen Deduction – To qualify an individual must be 65 years of age and combined spousal income cannot exceed \$10,000/yr (Social Security or Government Pension excluded from income limits). The Property Tax Deduction is \$250/yr. (**Please Note-** If Government pension is excluded from the income limits listed above, then all of the Social Security income shall apply towards the \$10,000 limit.)

Disabled Property Tax Deduction – Property Owner must be 100% totally & permanently disabled as declared by medical/social security documentation. Income requirements same as Senior Citizen deduction. There are no minimum age requirements. The Property Tax Deduction is \$250/yr.

Tips from the Health Department

Basics To Preventing The Flu



Seasonal influenza (flu) typically begins in October. The single best way to prevent the flu is to get vaccinated each year. The upcoming season's flu vaccine will protect against the flu viruses that research indicates will be most common that year. The flu is a contagious respiratory illness caused by an influenza virus. Serious outcomes of flu infection may result in hospitalization or death. Older people, young children & people with chronic health conditions, such as diabetes, heart disease and asthma are at a higher risk for serious flu complications. Good health habits may help protect you against the flu & stop the spread of germs.

Here are six good health habits:

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick. Keep distance from others.
- If possible, stay home from school, work and errands when you are sick.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing or sneezing.
- Washing your hands often will protect you from germs, soap & water or alcohol-based hand rub.
- Germs are often spread by contamination and then touching your eyes, nose & mouth.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces at home, work & school.

Garbage Collection

Trash collection is scheduled twice weekly as follows:

North of US Highway 46 Tuesday and Friday
South of US Highway 46 Monday and Thursday



As the collection route is at the discretion of the garbage company, residents are encouraged to place their garbage curbside anytime after 5:00 PM the night before your designated collection date.

Each household is permitted two 30 gallon cans (with lids) and one bulky item per pickup. Household waste should be contained within plastic bags and not loose within the can. Also, any construction material must fit inside the cans as it will not be picked-up loose at the curbside. Finally, for sanitary reasons, residents are strongly encouraged to spray down the inside of their garbage can monthly during the summer.

There will be no trash pick up and the recycling center will be closed on New Year's Day, Memorial Day, July 4th, Labor Day, Thanksgiving and Christmas Day. If your collection is scheduled for these

Metal Items

Denville provides curbside pickup of large metal items (Air conditioners, dehumidifiers, freezers, microwaves, refrigerators, etc.) by appointment only, every Wednesday. Please phone 973-625-8334 no later than 11:00 am Tuesday to schedule a pick-up.

DPW & RECYCLING CENTER HOURS:

Monday - Friday 7:00 am - 2:30 pm
Saturday 8:00 am - 2:00 pm
Sunday 10:00 am - 2:00 pm

CONSTRUCTION DEPARTMENT PERMIT PROCESS

If you are contemplating a project and have questions or concerns, please feel free to visit the Construction Office, business days, between 8:00 AM and 10:30 AM or by appointment, during such time the Construction Official and Zoning Officer will be available to assist you and answer any questions you may have regarding the construction permitting process. The Construction Department staff is dedicated to try and make your project proceed as smoothly as possible and therefore encourage residents to stop in or call to determine if permits or even board approvals might be required.

MINOR PROJECTS - *Are those project that do not request prior approvals from the Zoning Board of Adjustment or Planning Board but still require permits (such as: kitchens, baths, basements, home generators, etc.). Permits are also required for roofing and siding installation and can usually be issued immediately.*

For a minor project, you will need to submit the following:

- Completed technical forms with contractor information including signatures and seals.
- Construction Department Folder (available at Construction Department)
- 3 sets of drawings (if applicable). If they are architect plans, 3 sets required—2 sets must be sealed. If they are homeowner drawings, each page must be signed by owner.
- Electric and plumbing diagrams (if applicable).
- Manufacturer Specifications on any mechanical element of your project.
- Photocopy of your contractor's licenses.

MAJOR PROJECTS - Many larger project require prior approvals by either the Zoning Board of Adjustment or Planning Board (new construction, additions, rebuilds, garages, accessory structures, decks, swimming pools)

In addition to the documents listed above for minor projects you must also include the following in your application:

- zoning application with a good copy (not reduced or enlarged) of your Boundary survey. Location of your construction must be scaled out on your survey
- A check for \$35 for zoning review.
- COAH Development Application (for all new construction, additions & rebuilds)
- Copy of Resolution (if applicable)



Zoning review typically takes 10 days or less (workload dependent). The Zoning Officer checks for local land use ordinance compliance, including property boundary setback requirements as well as adherence to all requirements of any resolutions for your property.

Plan review typically takes 20 days or less and reviews are completed on a first come/first serve basis. Plan review includes a review by all subcode inspectors to ensure your project is fully code compliant.

You or your contractor will be notified when your permit is ready to be issued.

Thomas W. Andes
Mayor

Township Council
Christopher P. Golinski
Council President - Ward 2

Douglas Gabel **Ward 1**
Gene Fitzpatrick **Ward 3**
Donald Kuser **Ward 4**

Council - At Large
Stephanie Lyden
John Murphy
Nancy Witte

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National Flood Insurance Program *Flood Hazard Mapping*

Through its Flood Hazard Mapping Program, FEMA identifies flood hazards, assesses flood risks, and partners with states and communities to provide accurate flood hazard and risk data to guide them to mitigation actions. Flood Hazard Mapping is an important part of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), as it is the basis of the NFIP regulations and flood insurance requirements. FEMA maintains and updates data through Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM) and risk assessments.

For more information, you may call a Map Specialist in the FEMA Map Information Exchange;

toll free at 1-877-FEMA-MAP (1-877-336-2627) or access their website at www.FEMA.gov

CRS: 6

The Township of Denville was recently granted a CRS (Community Rating System) rating of 6 by the National Flood Insurance Program and FEMA for the measure we have taken to protect our Township from future flood events. A rating of 6, which is the highest in Morris County and amongst the top 12 in the State of New Jersey, will entitle our residents within the floodplain to a 20% reduction on their flood insurance premiums starting May 1, 2016.

Thank you to all of the volunteers, staff, professionals and elected officials for all of the hard work in order to achieve such an elite rating.

DENVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT MESSAGE

Telephone scammers use many scenarios for soliciting money from unsuspecting victims. Be very cautious when receiving calls in which anyone asks you to send money. There are no scenarios in which you should agree to send money to someone you do not know.

NIXLE

BE PREPARED FOR AN EMERGENCY!
STAY INFORMED BY SIGNING UP FOR
DENVILLE'S OFFICIAL
EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM

You will receive emergency notices & road closure alerts on your cell phone

To sign up: **Text 07834 to 888777**

Animal Licensing

All dogs and cats residing/being harbored in Denville Township must be licensed by 7 months of age or at the time they possess permanent teeth. If your dog is licensed from another New Jersey municipality, you do not need to obtain a license from Denville Township until the current license expires. Dogs licensed in other States are required to be licensed in Denville within 90 days of moving into the Township.

All unlicensed dogs and cats must be licensed within 10 days of moving into the Township.

To obtain a dog or cat license:

You must fully and legibly complete and sign a dog or cat license application. The application is available online at the Denville Health Department page of the Township website (www.denvillenj.org) or you can pick one up in the Health Department office Monday through Friday, 8:00 am - 4:00pm.

You must include the required fee made payable to the "Denville Division of Health". The fees for dog and cat licenses are as follows:

Neutered Dog or Cat	\$15 per animal
Unneutered Dog or Cat	\$18 per animal



IMPORTANT: By state law, all dogs and cats must have a **RABIES VACCINATION CERTIFICATE THAT MUST BE VALID 10 MONTHS OUT OF THE LICENSING YEAR.** The licensing year for dogs is January 1, 2016 to December 31, 2016. This means that your dog's rabies certificate cannot expire before November 1, 2015. The licensing year for cats is June 1, 2015 to May 31, 2017. This means that your cat's rabies certificate cannot expire before April 1, 2017. You must include a copy of the current rabies certificate with your application if it has been updated since your last license renewal. By state law, the Township is not permitted to process your license renewal otherwise.

Message from Stephen Dublanica, Denville's Social Services Coordinator

The English churchman Robert South once wrote, "*If there be any truer measure of a man than by what he does, it must be by what he gives.*" If that is so, then Denville is filled with wonderful people.

Within weeks of my arrival as social services coordinator, St. Clare's Auxiliary donated fifty thousand dollars to help support Denville's food pantry. While this wonderful gift will help maintain and improve a vital service providing families with much needed nutrition assistance, I've discovered the Auxiliary's amazing bequest is just *one* example of Denville's enduring generosity.

Every week I field emails and phone calls from residents wishing to donate money, food, gift cards, clothes and baby supplies. In my first two months on the job, local churches, civic organizations, anonymous individuals, businesses and schoolchildren have organized food drives and/or donated funds to help support Social Services' mission. More people signed up for the annual Adopt a Family program than we had families and seniors to adopt and had a small *surplus* of turkeys and hams donated this past Thanksgiving. No matter how great or small the need, local Denville residents rise to the occasion. And, what can I say about my wonderful group of tireless volunteers? Without question, I simply could not do my job without them.

What Robert South wrote hundreds of years ago also holds true for cities and towns – for how a community responds to its less fortunate citizens is a measure of its character. I'm happy to report Denville's character is strong as the spirit of giving is alive and well.

2016 Curbside Pickup of Leaves and Brush

Monthly Brush and Leaves Pickup is in effect April through September by voting ward in accordance with the schedule below. From October 19 through December 24 *brush pickup is suspended and only leaves are picked up*. The brush and leaf collection schedule is as follows:

1st Monday of the month **Ward 1**
3rd Monday of the month **Ward 3**

2nd Monday of the month **Ward 2**
4th Monday of the month **Ward 4**

Brush must be tied in manageable bundles no more than 6 feet in length and placed curbside. Branches may be no greater than 6 inches in diameter. **Leaves must be in biodegradable paper bags (Denville Ordinance # 21-06)** or rigid containers (garbage cans or cardboard boxes). There is no curbside pickup of grass. Grass may be brought to our recycling center.

Fall Leaves Only Schedule —

Ward 1 - Weeks of November 7, December 2

Ward 2 - Weeks of November 14, December 9

Ward 3 - Weeks of November 21, December 16

Ward 4 - Weeks of November 28, December 23

If you are uncertain of which voting Ward you live in, you may contact the Denville Municipal Clerk's Office or DPW.



Christmas Trees

Christmas trees will be picked up starting in early January and continue until mid-February. The schedule may be modified as a result of inclement weather. Christmas trees may also be dropped off at the recycling center. Please do not place the Christmas trees in a bag.

Wood Chips and Compost Available to Residents

The Ultimate Recyclable - Leaves, brush and grass are transported to the Morris County Municipal Utility Authority processing facility. Your leaves, brush and grass are converted into woodchips, mulch and compost. Beginning in April each year, the woodchips, mulch and compost are available for pickup at the DPW yard. These products are free to local residents although all products may not be available at all times.

Snow Removal

It is the mission of the Department of Public Works to clear Denville's roads of snow and ice as quickly as possible. We have a dedicated workforce and maintain the appropriate equipment. Depending on the severity and composition of a storm, there may be delays in clearing some roads. Our initial objective is to open all roads beginning with our primary arteries and proceeding to our secondary and tertiary roads. Once all roads are open, the Township begins the process of widening the cleared roads to their full width and clearing intersections. It is during this process that we are likely to plow snow back across the driveway you just cleared. Please understand that we have no alternative. We need your cooperation to ensure the roads are rapidly returned to a safe condition. Please observe the following regulations:

Denville Township Municipal Code §3-4.3 "All persons are **PROHIBITED** from shoveling, throwing, casting, placing, plowing, or depositing snow and ice, which accumulates on private property, upon sidewalks or streets of the Township. Furthermore, "Sidewalks must be cleared by the property owner within 12 hours from the end of snow fall."

Denville Township Municipal Code §7-3.8 prohibits parking on streets that are snow covered until the "roads have been plowed sufficiently and to the extent parking will not interfere with normal traffic flow."

MAYORS MESSAGE CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Please be advised that in an effort to further enhance the efficiency of parking in our downtown, new parking regulations have been adopted for the Upper Bloomfield Avenue municipal lot. A color-coded Downtown Denville Parking Map is included in this newsletter which details the parking regulations throughout our downtown.

Improvements to the Veteran's Field facility on Zeek Road have been completed and all facilities have been open for use since August 2015. The project included enhancement of the dog park, lighting of an existing baseball and softball field, the construction of a new multipurpose rectangular turf field with lights and the expansion and paving of the parking lots.

Improvements to Muriel Hepner Park were also completed this year. This project included a paved handicapped accessible walkway around the pond, new park benches and a resurfacing of the park entrance and front section of the parking lot. Both of the aforementioned projects were funded through the local dedicated Open Space and Recreation Trust Fund.

The Township is in the final stages of the revaluation, which had been ordered by the Morris County Board of Taxation. Every property owner should have received a letter stating value of their property. If you disagree with the stated value, property owners are encouraged to call "follow the instructions" on the letter in order to establish a meeting with the licensed appraisal firm who performed the revaluation.

I would like to thank our elected & appointed officials, our staff and our many dedicated volunteers for all their hard work and efforts which continue to make Denville the finest place to live, work, raise a family and retire.

On behalf of the Township Council and Township staff, I hope you have a joyful holiday Season and wish you and your family good health and prosperity throughout the new year.

Mayor Thomas W. Andes



Denville Beautification

Denville's Beautification Committee is one of the dedicated groups of volunteer that greatly improved the quality of life in Denville by improving appearance of our town. The Beautification Committee does not limit their activities to the downtown area, which contains planters and mini parks, but its created colorful floral "paintings" throughout our town. To make this possible the Committee needs people to volunteer to make Denville a place unique in Morris County. Join the Committee so you can say, "I was a part of the movement that made our town, Denville, the jewel of New Jersey." Give a few hours each week or even each month and enjoy both camaraderie and sense of enhanced pride in our community.



For more information or to join the Beautification Committee, you can email Irene: irenes@denvillenj.org or call 973-625-8300 ext. 290.