

September 2017



Borough of Paramus

www.paramusborough.org
(201) 265-2100

Mayor
Richard A. LaBarbiera

Council President
Joseph Garcia

Council Members
MariaElena Bellinger
Holly Tedesco-Santos
Jeanne Weber
Ralph Amato
Pat Verile

Paramus Community Garden



By the spring of 2008, as the recession worsened, pantry supplies were dwindling as the number of residents in need increased. At that time Irene Maury, Human Services Director, successfully solicited the then Mayor Tedesco and the Council to initiate the first community garden. The Paramus Shade Tree Commission and the Sunrise Rotary helped get the garden off to its first harvest. The garden was hugely successful, not only because it provided healthy food options but because it offered the community an opportunity to help those in need during hard times. Every year community organizations, local merchants, scouts, houses of worship, students and pantry recipients donate and volunteer to maintain the garden.

As a result, community awareness of the food pantry has increased. Bergen County Special Services (BCSS) Adult Training Program became the core volunteer group to tend the garden.

When the pantry opened in its new location, 105 N. Farview Avenue, the garden moved to its permanent spot. Here, it has a permanent fence, sprinklers, and fresh top soil. The Paramus Community Pantry and BCSS still maintain the garden and many recipients benefit from the fruits of their labor. If you are interested in becoming part of our Community Pantry, email us at pantry@paramusborough.org or give us a call at 201-265-2100 ext. 6102.

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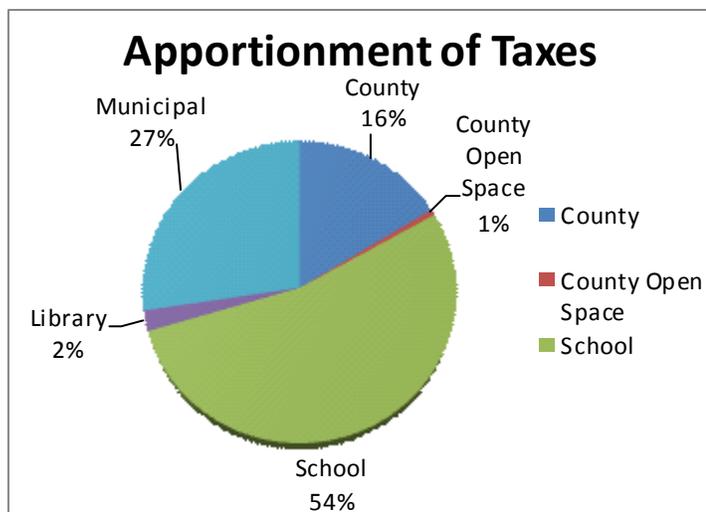
Message from the desk of Mayor Richard A. LaBarbiera

This issue of our newsletter will be the last publication of the year. I would like to share this year's successes and improvements in the Borough as well as share our expectations for 2018.

First and foremost is the financial health and stability of the Borough. Paramus taxpayers have enjoyed a **zero** municipal budget tax increase for the seventh consecutive year. No other community in New Jersey has been able to achieve that objective. Our bond rating consistently remains at **triple A** and our management and financial team is dedicated to maintaining the current level of financial stability into the future. By law the Borough is responsible for the collection of taxes for the municipal government, the County Government, the Board of Education and the Library. While the Borough tax portion of your tax bill has a \$0 increase, the non-municipal increases on a home assessed at \$425,000 is as follows:

Local School	\$47
County of Bergen	\$110
Bergen County Open Space	\$34
Paramus Library	\$17

The Borough has been able to be progressive in its operations, making continuous improvements, expanding its services to our residents and making Paramus a very desirable community for both residents and businesses. Many of our achievements may go unnoticed but they should be highlighted. Unlike many communities struggling to staff a Fire Department, Rescue Squad, Special Police, EMS, library, Boards and Commissions, volunteer services are exceptional in the Borough. Paramus has a wealth of talented residents volunteering their time and talent to help us achieve so many of our goals and objectives. Our previous newsletters have highlighted a number of those achievements. Our volunteer operations continue to grow as we provide the facilities, equipment, tools, training and financial support.



PERCENTAGE CHANGE BETWEEN 2016 and 2017 LEVY

<u>LEVY</u>	<u>% CHANGE</u>
MUNICIPAL	0%
SCHOOL	1.37%
COUNTY	10.14%
COUNTY OPEN SPACE	342.69%
LIBRARY	10.67%



Mobile Command

Our Volunteer Fire Department has received new trucks and the Emergency Management center has been upgraded to include a new mobile command center.



A new picnic deck has been added to the grounds of the Senior Center and plans are underway for an addition to the building. The

Senior Center activities have grown and the number of our residents enjoying the activities, trips, picnics and programs has been remarkable.



STORY WALK

The Library renovation has been completed, and patrons and staff

are equally pleased with the result. A Story Walk, which combines the pleasure of reading a story aloud with the fun of being outdoors, has been added to the grounds for the enjoyment of all.

The Golf Course has undertaken the maintenance of the pool interior grass as well as the fields at the Sports-plex and Petruska Park bringing them to a competitive standard.

Paramus has always held its Veterans in the highest regard. In keeping with that commitment we have made significant improvements to the Veterans Monument Walk at Memorial School. The monument was cleaned, and new flag pole, signage and monuments depicting wars that our residents have served have been added. The new monuments include WWI, WWII, Korea and Vietnam. Two additional monuments are being manufactured and will be installed for Memorial Day 2018, completing our upgrade of the Paramus Veterans Memorial Park.



2018 is projected to be an equally positive year for the Borough as we complete the addition to the Senior Center, begin construction on a new EMS ambulance building, complete our emergency generator plan and dedicate our first playground for handicapped children located in Petruska Park.



SPORTS PLEX



PARAMUS POLICE DEPARTMENT 201-262-3400

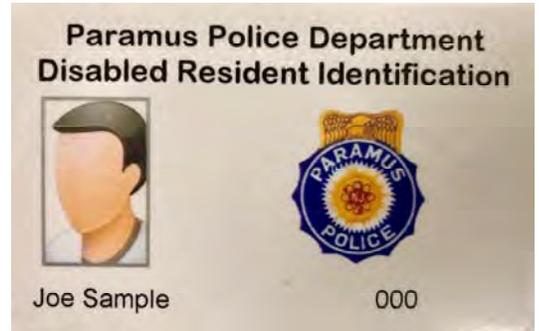


Paramus Police Department Disabled Resident Identification Program

The Paramus Police Department is proud to introduce our Disabled Resident Identification Program. This card will serve as a tool to foster communication between the public and our first responders to de-escalate stressful situations and help first responders provide the necessary care to our residents with special needs.

The information gathered from the resident will be held in a secure database by the Paramus Police Department for use during emergency situations. The resident will be required to update the information as needed. The basic information needed is: name, address, emergency contact(s), a photograph, list of medications and disability information.

Any resident interested in participating in this program should contact the Paramus Police Department Community Outreach officer, Sgt. James Teehan at 201-262-3400 ext. 1375 or via email at jteehan@paramuspolice.org



New Buildings and Grounds Projects around Town

BY MICHAEL O'CONNELL

We are in full swing for approving construction projects here in Paramus! The residents of our community are currently building pools, additions and houses. On the commercial side, construction of a new hotel is underway as are many alterations, with more projects planned each day. A stable commercial environment is a healthy environment for a stable tax base in Paramus.

The department hosted a West Brook student interested in architecture as a future career during Student

Government Day. During our time together, we showed her the permit process from start to finish and explained why we need inspections to ensure public safety. We even went on a field trip to a construction site to show her first-hand what we do! We also welcomed a new plumbing and building inspector to our staff, Darian Martin, who is fitting in great with our team. If you have any questions with the permitting process or about construction in general please do not hesitate to call us at 201-265-5631.



PARAMUS VETERANS MEMORIAL BRICK PAVER PROJECT

MAKE A DONATION BY PURCHASING A BRICK TO HONOR OR MEMORIALIZE A VETERAN OR FAMILY MEMBER
OFFICE OF VETERANS AFFAIRS, 201-265-2100 EX 6110 SERVICEOFFICER@PARAMUSBOROUGH.ORG

Snow Removal with Priority Given to Health and Safety

The Borough of Paramus Department of Public Works is responsible for clearing the Borough streets of snow and/or ice in a safe and efficient manner, with priority given to the health and safety of Borough residents and traveling public.

The Department of Public Works would like to advise all residents of the snow plowing and street salting procedures for the upcoming winter months.

Each snowplow is assigned a specific section to plow and will remain in that section around the clock until all roadways have been sufficiently cleared. This may require the snowplow to make multiple passes on each street. Borough roads will be plowed curb to curb every snowfall.



AS A REMINDER:

It is unlawful to throw, place or dispose of any snow or ice upon any portion of any street, highway or roadway. Disposing of snow onto public roadways creates hazardous driving conditions and property owners can be held responsible for accidents that may result from snow being deposited onto roadways.

During snow removal operations snow may be pushed onto sidewalks or into driveways. This is unfortunate and is in no way intentional. Borough crews do their best to prevent this but it is a normal occurrence. It is recommended to leave the last six feet of your driveway un-shoveled until all plowing operations have ceased.

PLEASE REMEMBER:

- Borough ordinance 383-26 requires sidewalks to be cleared within 24 hours after every snowfall.
- For your own and your neighbor's safety, clear snow from fire hydrants nearest to your home or property.
- Parking on Borough streets is prohibited during snow events. Please park all vehicles off the street whenever snow is forecast.
- Please do not pass snow plows during any emergency snow operation.
- Basketball hoops should be removed from the curb to avoid damage to snowplows or property.
- After any plowable snowfall, please keep garbage and recycling cans out of the street.
- Plowed snow may damage mailboxes. Wet, heavy snow increases the chances of damage. To reduce the potential for any damage to your mailbox, make sure the mailbox is secured tightly on a sturdy post. Residents are reminded that damage occurring from plowed snow is the property owner's responsibility. The Borough of Paramus will make every effort to avoid causing any damage.



For questions or additional information, please contact the Department of Public Works at 201-265-2100 ext. 3100.

Come out and play a round of golf!

BY ANDY SCHUCKERS

It's been another great season here at the Paramus Municipal Golf Course! The Pro Shop is open from 6 am – 6 pm on weekdays and from 5 am – 6 pm on weekends. Be sure to stop in and check out our newly renovated Driving Range! Buckets of balls are still only \$5. The golf course is in championship condition and we hope to see you soon! The Paramus

Miniature Golf Course is open Fridays 4 – 9 pm and weekends 10 am – 9 pm, weather permitting. A round of mini golf costs \$8 for adults and \$6 for children and senior citizens. Thank you for your continued patronage

and support for your municipal golf course.



Summer and Fall at the Paramus Public Library

BY LEN LOPINTO, LIBRARY DIRECTOR

The Paramus Public Library had a fabulous summer! More people visited the library this July than ever before with attendance of over 50,000. Our summer reading program was busier than ever. The library kept children reading to help avoid the summer side. As the increase in library use shows, the community truly appreciates the renovated Main Library building. The renovation was a team effort lead by Mayor LaBarbiera and the Borough Council.

Library grounds have beautiful new shrubs and plants. A Story Walk to be shared by all ages, a refurbished Peace Park made possible by generous donations from the Rotaries, Friends of the Library, and the leadership efforts of Bill Comery and Ken Raschen.

The Library is introducing a new series of programs for adults. These programs will be scheduled for Thursday nights at 7 pm and some

Mondays beginning in October at the Main building. Offerings will include the True Crime Book Club, Yoga, Knitting Group, Adult Paint Night and African Mask Making. There will also be an intergenerational program the first Friday of every month at 4 pm at the Main Building. Evening ESL Classes will be held at the Reid Branch Library. Please check the library's website, www.paramuslibrary.org, or call 201-599-1305 for more information.

Terrific Tuesdays!

BY THE PARAMUS CULTURAL ARTS COUNCIL



The Berkeley College Terrific Tuesday Summer Concert series at the Valley Hospital Paramus Bandshell, located behind the Paramus Public Library, really were TERRIFIC!

Generous donations totaling over \$30,000 from The Valley Hospital, Berkeley College and Westfield Garden State Plaza made the summer series possible.

THANK YOU!

Attendees enjoyed a Motown Revue by R&B band Smooth; songs from boy bands that span decades with the Boy Band Project; Beatlemania and their salute to the ultimate “boy band”; a touch of Modern Country with Radio Nashville; and Beginnings with a tribute to the rock n’roll band with horns, Chicago.

The Cultural Arts Council is looking forward to another summer of music in 2018!

What is Quality of Life?

The Quality of Life Division is multi-dimensional. The staff continuously works in collaboration with the community to identify and address those areas requiring improvement, including the well-being of our community and the residents of our community and evaluating initiatives to maintain and improve the appearance of residential, commercial and municipal properties in Paramus.

The Quality of Life Division enforces all building/residential codes and ordinances to protect public health and safety. For example, abandoned/junk/inoperable vehicles, unkempt properties, grass and weed, abandoned buildings/houses, parking on lawns and buildings/structures not being up to code.

We work in partnership with all Borough Departments to ensure a comprehensive approach to compliance and to promote the town a positive manner.

The Quality of Life Division is committed to maintaining the community's appearance, monitoring compliance with Borough codes and ordinances, and ensuring the preservation of our neighborhoods. The Quality of Life staff recognizes their duty to be responsive to the needs of all who live and work in the town.

Common Borough Ordinance violations enforced by the Q of L staff

Parking

- Parking of vehicles on the grass/lawn is prohibited.
- Parking of commercial vehicles over 10,000 GVW in a residential driveway is prohibited.

Garbage/Recycling Collection

- Trash cans are to be placed at the curb after 6 PM, the night before pick-up.
- Bring your trash containers back onto your property after collection.
- Otto and recycling containers are placed at the curb the same week to place out brush.
- Grass/weeds may be placed at the curb every Wednesday.
- Report any violations such as unkempt businesses, residential homes, or vacant property
- Metal or electronics pick ups **MUST** be scheduled with the DPW, call 201-265-2100 ext. 3100.



Properly maintain your house appearance.

- Lawns must be maintained.
- Homes should be free of chipping/peeling paint.
- Fences should be in good repair.



Permits

- Your landscaper must have a Borough of Paramus permit for landscaping your property.
- You must obtain permits for garage sales, and the permit should be posted on the property.
- Posting signs of any type on any of borough tree, street sign, utility pole, or electrical pole is not permitted.

Garage Sale permits are required in the Borough and are obtained through the Borough Clerk's Office. The application fee for a permit is \$15.

Applications are available on the Borough Website: www.paramusborough.org.

Joseph Cipolla Paramus Senior Activity Center

BY ANNE SCHNEIDER, DIRECTOR (ASCHNEIDER@PARAMUSBOROUGH.ORG)

The Joseph Cipolla Senior Center is pleased to announce the installation of a new deck on our grounds. Outdoor activities include shuffleboard, bocce, mahjong and meditation, weather permitting.

We have begun the construction of a new addition to the senior center. The Human Resource building has been demolished, and the parking lot has been expanded so that we can handle more cars. With the senior population in the Town of Paramus constantly rising it is more important than ever to accommodate their needs. While we go through a phase of renovating and improving our existing facilities we encourage seniors to come down and take a look at what we have to offer.

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Yoga	Zumba	Yoga	Bocce	Yoga
Cards	Cards	Meditation		Zumba
	Bocce	Cards		Meditation
Coloring and Conversation	BINGO!			Bocce
				Line Dancing

Inquire about hours at 201-265-2100 ext. 6120.

From the Office of the Borough Clerk

BY ANNEMARIE KRUSZNIS, BOROUGH CLERK (AKRUSZNIS@PARAMUSBOROUGH.ORG)

With the 2017 General Election taking place on Tuesday, **November 7**, now is the perfect time to register to vote. In order to vote you must be a United States citizen and a resident of the county for 30 days prior to the election. You must be at least 17 years old to register, but you must be 18 to vote. Polls will be open from 6 am to 8 pm.

The deadline for registering to vote is 21 days before the election. The Borough Clerk's office will be open until **9 pm** for registration on **Tuesday, October 17**.



A U.S. Passport agent is available by appointment in the Borough Clerk's office. For an appointment, please call 201-265-2100.

Business, landscaper, and garage sale permits are obtained at the Borough Clerk's office

The Paramus Fritz Behnke Historical Museum *presents*

HOP THE TROLLEY!

Take a Historical Tour down memory lane ● See where the farms were located ● Visit old and current landmarks

Sunday, October 8, 2017 or Sunday, October 15, 2017

10 am & 1 pm tours

Tours are approximately 2 1/2 hours long and begin at the Paramus High School Parking Lot (across from the Main Library).

\$25 per person. Reserve your seat today by calling Deb at 551.206.5775 or emailing fdbehnke@gmail.com.

Space is limited. Please make check payable to The Fritz Behnke Historical Museum.

Recreation Department New Program!

BY BOB COWPER, CPRP, CPSI, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF RECREATION

The Paramus Recreation Commission is proud to announce the unveiling of our affordable Enrichment Program for Paramus children with diff abilities in Kindergarten through grade 5.

You may ask yourself, what does diff abilities mean? Diff abilities is a term used by some organizations, including the Special Olympics, to remove the negative connotation of “disabilities” and focus on the skills and abilities that every individual has. **This program will start in September and meet on Tuesday afternoons at Ridge Ranch. The cost is \$65 per child.** It will feature a multidisciplinary curriculum allowing children to experience a wide variety of activities. The program was designed, created by and will be overseen by speech pathologist Barbara Anderson.

Each class meeting will feature three components:

- 1) Creative therapy, **such as art or music**, with a qualified instructor;
- 2) A wellness segment, such as **soccer, basketball, gymnastics, karate, yoga or dance**, taught by an instructor who specializes in that activity; and
- 3) Pet therapy with **certified therapy dogs and their handlers**. A pilot program was held last winter and proved beneficial to the children and their families.

Registration is accepted online or in-person. In-person registration will be accepted at the Recreation office between the hours of 1 - 4 pm on weekday afternoons. Online, please look for the program titled “Enrichment Program for Children with Diff Abilities” under Fall 2017.

New registrants will be required to register in person and show proof of residency and the child’s birth certificate. Space is limited so register today!

Volunteers are needed to help run this program. If you are an educator, parent or student who would be interested in helping, please contact Bob Cowper at 201-265-9321.



Recycling Center

Paramus Recycling Center

PROOF OF RESIDENCY
REQUIRED!



HOURS

- Monday: 7 am - 3 pm
- Tuesday: 7 am - 3 pm
- Wednesday: 7 am - 6 pm
- Thursday: 7 am - 3 pm
- Friday: 7 am - 3 pm
- Saturday: 10 am - 4 pm
- Closed Sundays and Holidays

ITEMS ACCEPTED AT RECYCLING CENTER

- Cardboard, Clothes (useable/clean),
- Commingled Materials (bottles, cans, plastic containers)
- Computers and Electronics, Metal, Newspaper,
- Oil (used), Tires



(There is a surcharge for each tire disposed of at the recycling center to be paid by the resident at time of drop off.)

No Net Loss Tree Planting Grant

BY J. A. SEXTON III



This June the second phase of the New Jersey DEP Forestry Service's No Net Loss (NNL) Grant was successfully completed with the planting of an additional 453 trees at various locations throughout the Borough. The NNL Grant was awarded to Paramus to replace the existing tree canopy that was removed for improvements to the Garden State Parkway and Route 17 interchange. A total of 816 trees were planted, 363 in the fall of 2016 and 453 this spring, by a private contractor under the direct supervision of Shade Tree & Parks personnel.

In addition to the street tree plantings, trees were also planted at the High

School, East Brook, West Brook, Midland School, Ridge Ranch, Stony Lane, Parkway School, Memorial School and the Golf Course. Nine different species and varieties were planted, including two utility friendly varieties approved for planting near overhead utility service wires.

Shade Tree requests the assistance of the residents and occupants of locations where new trees have been planted. Please keep the green bag known as a "gator bag" filled with water through the fall. This will help establish a healthy tree for future generations. Before the winter, Shade Tree & Parks crews will remove the gator bags.

BESEN PARK BRIDGE REPLACEMENT

The arched bridge replacement for Besen Park is currently being fabricated in Pennsylvania and is expected to be installed later this fall. The bridge is being manufactured by EnWood Structures and is comprised of laminated wood girders and wood planking. The new bridge will comply with ADA accessible standards and codes. Shade Tree & Parks employees will be working with the manufacturer's crews to complete the

bridge installation and the additional required site work. The bridge serves as access to Besen Park from Ramile Court over the Herring Brook.

ATHLETIC FIELD RENOVATIONS

The following locations will be closed to field sports during the fall for field and turf renovations: Petruska Park, both the little league field and the major league field, and the fields at the Parkway-Plex behind Parkway School. Shade Tree & Parks crews will be replenishing the clay on the four ball fields and adjusting the grading for better drainage. The natural turf areas will be core aerated, over seeded and fertilized. Significant wear areas that occurred in front of the pitcher's mound or goal areas will be top soiled and sodded.

We ask for the understanding of all groups and individuals who have utilized these facilities in the past for organized sporting activities to refrain from using them during the renovation period. The Parkway-Plex is shared with the Paramus Board of Education and their use of the Parkway-Plex fields, with the exception of any areas that are sodded, will not be interrupted. Thank you.



Ticks are on the Rise

BY JUDITH MIGLIACCIO, HEALTH OFFICER

The Paramus Board of Health Offers “Tick-Tips”

Lyme disease is the most widely reported infectious disease in New Jersey. Lyme disease rates have significantly increased in the northern states due to the increased population of ticks. A contributing factor to this rise is climate change. With warming temperatures and unpredictable weather, ticks are showing up in places that were once thought to be too cold. As a result, the deer tick population is on the rise.

Lyme disease can produce varied symptoms, which may include a flu-like illness with achy joints, muscle pain and headache. A bull’s eye shaped rash is often seen at the site of the bite. To prevent infection, it is critical to be aware of where ticks are typically found and simple safety precautions to prevent infection.

If you spend time in areas where ticks may be found, take these simple precautions to prevent Lyme disease:

- Avoid wooded areas with dense shrubs and leaf litter, where ticks like to hide.
- Make your yard less attractive to ticks: mow lawns and prune trees.

- Wear solid, light colored clothing with pants tucked into socks. This will help prevent a tick from attaching to your skin and will also make sighting a tick on clothing easier. Use insect repellent on yourself and your pets. Two types of repellents that are effective for ticks are those containing DEET for use on clothes and exposed skin, and those recommended for use on clothes only. Read label directions carefully.
- Examine yourself frequently for ticks while in tick-infested areas.
- Perform a full-body exam on yourself, children, and pets after leaving a tick habitat.
- Remove attached ticks promptly. To do this: Use fine-pointed tweezers. Grasp the tick’s mouth parts close to the skin. Apply steady outward pressure. Wash the area with soap and water. Do not use petroleum jelly, noxious chemicals, or hot objects to remove ticks. Improper removal can increase the chances of infection.



If you find and remove a tick, document the date and watch for a bull’s eye rash—red with a clearing in the center—that may follow infection. The rash is usually painless and may be in places not usually inspected, such as the crease behind the knees and the buttocks. In addition, watch for flu-like symptoms such as fatigue, fever, headache, stiff neck, muscle aches and joint pain. If you suspect an infection, seek medical attention promptly.

<http://www.state.nj.us/health/cd/lyme/index.shtml>

<https://www.cdc.gov/lyme/stats/index.html>

New Website in 2018!

BY TONY LJUBICICH, IT DIRECTOR

The Borough of Paramus Department of Information Technology announces the launch of its new municipal website in 2018; part of an ongoing effort to improve communications with the public across multiple channels. The goal of the new website is to improve navigation to make it easier for residents to find answers to

their questions. The new site offers a responsive design to enable better viewing on mobile devices. The site also features increased functionality including an online calendar of events, online fillable forms, community alert sign-up and problem reporting.

**The website address is
www.paramusborough.org.**



Borough of Paramus

www.paramusborough.org



One Jockish Square
Paramus, New Jersey 07652

PRESORTED

STANDARD

US POSTAGE PAID

PARAMUS, NJ

PERMIT NO 67

**PARAMUS
NEW JERSEY
PROUD TO BE
STIGMA-FREE**

PARAMUS RESIDENT



I WANT YOU

**ALL WWII VETERANS ARE ASKED TO
CONTACT PARAMUS VETERANS
SERVICE OFFICER SAM CASIELLO
FOR A PHOTO SHOOT FOR A
BOOKLET BEING PRODUCED TO PAY
TRIBUTE TO OUR WWII VETERANS.
THIS EVENT IS PLANNED FOR
DECEMBER 7, 2017.**

CALL: 201-265-2100 ext. 6111

EMAIL: serviceofficer@paramusborough.org