

JANUARY 2024

# HELMETTA HAPPENINGS

Official Newsletter of the Borough of Helmetta



## Happy New Year!

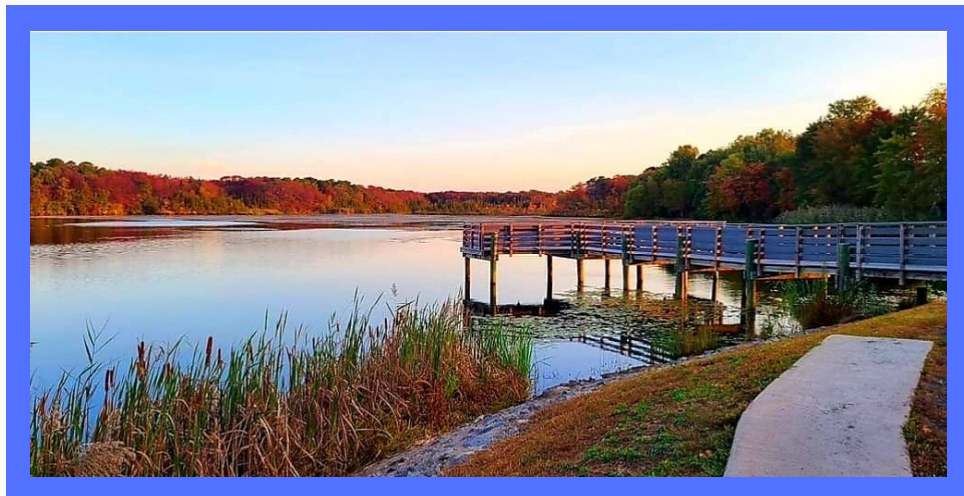
BY MAYOR CHRISTOPHER SLAVICEK

Happy New Year, Helmetta friends and neighbors! As we embark into 2024, I'd be remiss if I didn't reflect on the fine efforts of our dedicated employees, first responders/emergency management, and volunteers throughout 2023. Their commitment to our community is continuously focused on the best interests of our residents.

Collaboratively, the Borough Administration and Council are proud of the many accomplishments this past year that continue to make Helmetta a better place to call home. From the robust variety of community events, enhancements to the beautification of the Borough, to sound fiscal responsibility, we have paved the way for an exciting and successful year ahead.

Plato says, "The beginning is the most important part of the work." It's a new year, new ideas, new outlook to make Helmetta the best-of-the-best.

Best wishes to you and yours for a joyful and healthy new year filled with all that life has to offer!



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# Community Calendar

<b>January 3rd</b>	<b>Reorganization Meeting</b>	<b>Borough Hall 7:00pm</b>
<b>January 15th</b>	<b>Borough Hall Closed</b>	<b>Martin Luther King Jr, Day</b>
<b>January 17th</b>	<b>Council Meeting</b>	<b>Borough Hall 7:00pm</b>
<b>January 18th</b>	<b>Subs &amp; Sirens Event</b>	<b>Community Center 6:00pm</b>
<b>February 8th</b>	<b>Service &amp; Sweets Event</b>	<b>Community Center 6:00pm</b>
<b>February 12th</b>	<b>Borough Hall Closed</b>	<b>Lincoln's Birthday</b>
<b>February 19th</b>	<b>Borough Hall Closed</b>	<b>President's Day</b>
<b>February 21st</b>	<b>Council Meeting</b>	<b>Borough Hall 7:00pm</b>
<b>March 14th</b>	<b>Lucky Leprechaun Leap</b>	<b>Select Locations 6:00pm</b>
<b>March 19th</b>	<b>Dunk with the DPW</b>	<b>John Street Court 6:00pm</b>
<b>March 20th</b>	<b>Rabies Clinic</b>	<b>DPW Garage 6:00pm</b>
<b>March 26th</b>	<b>Council Meeting</b>	<b>Borough Hall 7:00pm</b>
<b>March 28th</b>	<b>Bunny Hop Easter Event</b>	<b>Community Center 6:00pm</b>
<b>March 29th</b>	<b>Borough Hall Closed</b>	<b>Good Friday</b>

"Community is about doing something together  
that makes belonging matter."





## Department of Public Works

BY PAUL REED, CPWM

As winter settles in, the Public Works team is gearing up to ensure our community stays safe and well-maintained. In this edition, we bring you important information about pick-up and drop-off schedules, recycling dos and don'ts, helpful tips for snow removal, and friendly reminders from our dedicated plow truck drivers.

### Snow Removal Tips: Navigating Winter Safely

Sidewalks and Driveways:

- Early Action: Clear sidewalks and driveways promptly to prevent ice buildup.
- Use Ice Melt Sparingly: Avoid excessive use of ice melt to protect the environment.
- Some tips for shoveling and snow blowing from the National Safety Council:
  - Do not shovel after eating or while smoking.
  - Take it slow and stretch out before you begin.
  - Shovel only fresh, powdery snow; it's lighter.
  - Push the snow rather than lifting it.
  - If you do lift it, use a small shovel or only partially fill the shovel.
  - Lift with your legs, not your back.
  - Do not work to the point of exhaustion.
  - Know the signs of a heart attack and stop immediately and call 911 if you're experiencing any of them, every minute counts.
  - Don't pick up that shovel without a doctor's permission if you have a history of heart disease. A clear driveway is not worth your life.
  - In addition to possible heart strain from pushing a heavy snow blower, be safe with tips from the American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons, including:
    - If the blower jams, turn it off.
    - Keep your hands away from the moving parts.
    - Be aware of the carbon monoxide risk of running a snow blower in an enclosed space.
    - Add fuel outdoors, before starting, and never add fuel when it is running.
    - Never leave it unattended when it is running.

Vehicles:

- Park Responsibly: Assist plow trucks by parking in designated areas.
- Operation of vehicles: Please practice caution while driving during and after storms specifically. Just because the road may be clear and dry does not mean there can't be a cold spot of ice up ahead.



## Department of Public Works

BY PAUL REED, CPWM

### Pickup and Drop-off Schedules: Keeping Things Running Smoothly

#### Residential Waste Collection:

- Regular Pickup Days: Household garage is picked up every Friday.
- Holiday Adjustments: Be aware that in the event of a holiday or an unscheduled mishap pickup will be the following Monday.

#### Drop-off Center:

- Locations: Take advantage of our drop-off centers for particular items. Located at 51 Main Street right behind the Municipal Building.
- Operating Hours: 7a-3p Monday – Friday & 7a-12p on the 1st and 3rd Saturdays
- Acceptable Items: If not on the list below or if you need to schedule a pickup, please call Public Works at 732-521-4946, Ext. 110. Tires-on or off the rim, used motor oil, paint, metal, electronics, household hazardous waste.

#### Acceptable Items:

- Adhesives, aerosol cans, antifreeze, brake fluid, car batteries, cleaners, drain cleaners, fire extinguishers, flares (road only), fluorescent bulbs (no broken bulbs), gasoline, gas/oil mix, kerosene, lighter fluid, mercury, motor oil/filters, paints (latex/oil), paint thinner, pesticides/herbicides, photographic chemicals, pool chemicals, propane tanks, stains/varnishes, thermometers, thermostats.
- Rechargeable & button cell batteries. Alkaline batteries can be disposed of in regular trash.
- Asbestos containing materials: call to pre-register, must be double bagged.

#### Non-acceptable Items:

- Appliances/furniture, computers, electronics, empty containers, explosives and munitions, infectious/medical waste, printers, smoke detectors, televisions, tires.
- No containers over 10 gallons.

### Recycling Dos and Don'ts: Green Choices Matter

#### Recyclables:

- Accepted Items: Paper, cardboard, glass, plastic, and metal containers.

#### Common Mistakes to Avoid:

- No Plastic Bags: Please refrain from placing recyclables in plastic bags.
- No Pizza Boxes: Please place pizza boxes in your regular household garbage as the grease contaminates the cardboard rendering it subgrade.



# Department of Public Works

BY PAUL REED

## Friendly Reminders for Plow Trucks: Our Snow Heroes

### Safety First:

- Give Them Space: Maintain a safe distance from plow trucks on the road.
- Be Patient: Plowing takes time, especially during heavy snowfall.
- Assistance Appreciated:
- Clearing Obstacles: Keep roadways clear of obstacles to help plow trucks navigate safely.
- Report Issues: If you notice any concerns, report them promptly to our Public Works Department. 732-521-4946 Ext 110. For emergencies call 911.
- Understanding: A friendly note from myself, Paul Reed, to all frustrated residents. As we work to clear the roads, we do understand there is often a need to clear your driveway and walkways or perhaps you just have a 'stay on top of it' attitude. When we are working to clear the roads, we cannot help but to push snow back into what you just worked tirelessly on. I assure you this is not a great feeling for us; however, we must continue to work to clear the roads. I will take any calls for comments, concerns, complaints and even if you would like to express your feelings of frustration with me.

Keep an eye out for our Mayor's updates, marquee out front of 51 Main Street, our website Borough of Helmetta, [www.helmettaboro.com](http://www.helmettaboro.com) and our Nixle alerts. Remember, your cooperation is crucial in making our community safe and vibrant during the winter season. Thank you for your continued support!

Stay warm and stay safe.

## Connect with the DPW...Stay Informed and Engaged



### Website:

**[www.helmettaboro.com](http://www.helmettaboro.com)**

### E-mail:

**[P.Reed@HelmettaBoro.com](mailto:P.Reed@HelmettaBoro.com)**

### Phone:

**732-521-4946 Ext: 110**

We are here to help. Call, e-mail, stop one of us on the road and we will figure things out together.  
Wishing you a happy and healthy 2024 and beyond.



Congratulations to the 2024 Helmetta Fire Department Officers:

Joseph Reid, Fire Department Chief

Robert Simonelli, Jr., Fire Department Deputy Chief

Eric Knapp, Fire Department Captain

Steve Magno, Fire Department Lieutenant



Duane Hoven, President  
John Talnagi, Vice President  
Jack Kramer, Treasurer  
Erin Ciantar, Secretary



## Clerk's Corner

BY MELISSA HALLERMAN, RMC, CMR



A friendly reminder to all of our Helmetta pet owners that state law requires all dog and cat licenses to be renewed every year. All current licenses expired on December 31, 2023, regardless of when you received it. All dogs and cats that are six months of age or older, residing in the Borough of Helmetta, are required to be licensed.

If this is the first time you are applying for a license, you must submit the original spayed/neutered statement from your veterinary with the application. Rabies vaccinations must expire after October 31, 2024, as per NJ State Law. If it expires before then, you must get a new vaccination prior to receiving the license. License fees paid by January 31, 2024, are \$8.00 for spayed/neutered and \$11.00 for non-spayed/non-neutered.

Our free rabies vaccination clinic will be held on Tuesday, March 26, 2024, from 6:00pm - 8:00pm at Helmetta Borough Hall. Please contact the Clerk's Office at 732-521-4946, ext: 100 to register your pet or if you have any questions or concerns.



# Jamesburg Police Department



BY CHIEF JAMES CRAPAROTTA

Jamesburg Police Department's patrol cars are getting a face lift. The old design of all black vehicles will be changing over to a more sleek looking two-tone black and gray design. The new design gives a more streamlined, uniform appearance and will feature the Jamesburg Police Patch on the front door, along with the words "Proudly Serving Jamesburg and Helmetta" on the rear quarter panel of the vehicles. We're excited for the change and very pleased with the results.

The Police Department purchased two Chevy Tahoe's, three Ford Interceptor SUVs and a Chevy pickup truck. The existing units will change over gradually to match the new vehicles. Our new units were all outfitted with new computers that are capable of interfacing with our computer aided dispatch. New defibrillators, first aid equipment and radar units were also purchased for these vehicles as well.

Officers can now issue electronic summonses and complete police reports from within their vehicles. The new patrol units were also updated with new state of the art emergency lighting. This lighting syncs all of the cars together and flashes in a toned-down pattern when vehicles are stopped, making it not as distracting and blinding to other vehicles on the roadway.

Expect to see all Jamesburg patrol cars patrolling your neighborhoods with its all new look and equipment.





## STREET SIGNS ARE STILL AVAILABLE!

Avenue A  
Avenue B  
Baker Street  
Brookside Place  
Chester Court  
Heatherwood  
Holly Manor  
John Place  
Madison Avenue  
Maple Street  
North 12th Street  
North 13th Street  
North 14th Street  
North Shore Boulevard  
Ridgefield Place  
Sutton Place  
Tanglewood Street  
Washington Street  
Willow Street  
York Avenue

**Contact Borough Hall at 732-521-4946, Ext: 100 if interested.**



# A Year in Review



PJs & Pizza with the Police



Mornings with the Mayors



Service & Sweets for our Troops



Happy Easter!



Serving Family Meals at St. George's Church



Project Senior Week



Easter Egg Roll



Girl Scouts Cookies VIP



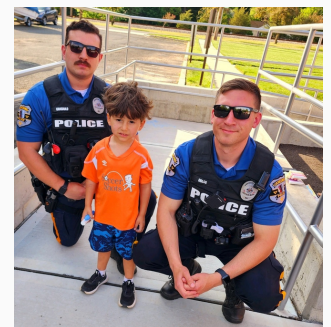
Lucky the Leprechaun



New Street Signs



Dunk with the DPW



Chalk it Up for JPD



# A Year in Review



Memorial Day Parade



Small Town Big Heart at Schoenly School



Fishing Derby



Earth Day



DPW's Chris Koenig Employee of the Year



Helmetta Day



Helmetta Hometown Heroes



New Borough Hall Front Steps



Hayrides & Bonfire



Happy Halloween



It's Santa!



Menorah Lighting



Spark in the Park



Picture Perfect for Prom