

APRIL 2024

# HELMETTA HAPPENINGS

Official Newsletter of the Borough of Helmetta



## Spring Awakening

BY MAYOR CHRISTOPHER SLAVICEK

Patches of daffodils certainly bring excitement of Springtime and are a sign of change and growth. It is budget season in Helmetta, and the Finance Committee is working diligently to ensure fiscal responsibility with the goal of municipal tax stabilization.

As the flowers begin to bloom and warmer weather approaches, our focus remains on the beautification of our community, resident engagement and education through our Helmetta Happenings recreational program, and enhancements to the infrastructure of the day to day with innovation and streamlining systems top of mind.

With the season change also comes change in Administration. I am pleased to welcome John Podesta as our Business Administrator. John eagerly joins the Helmetta family with a positive outlook on his leadership role. Feel free to stop by Borough Hall to meet John! He is readily available to assist and support your needs. He can be reached at [j.podesta@helmettaboro.com](mailto:j.podesta@helmettaboro.com) or 732-521-4946 ext.105.

It's the perfect time of year to enjoy the benefits of our beautiful park and recreation areas! Take a stroll and walk down the pier at the Helmetta Lake, enjoy a good book or indulge in a picnic lunch or slice from Villa under the Ronald C. Wilson Pavilion, shoot some hoops on the basketball courts or play a match of tennis, cast a net with a morning of fishing, let the kids swing and run around the playground at Residence Park on North Shore, or even enjoy a quick game at our newly installed tetherball court at Maple Street Park.

On the home front, I look forward to helping to teach my niece, Hayley, how to ride a bike and spending time at her favorite playground in Helmetta, while chasing my soon-to-be two-year-old nephew, Gavin, across every patch of grass he can cross.

Spring is in the air in Helmetta! Go enjoy the fresh air and do something fun!



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# Community Calendar

<b>April 17th</b>	<b>Council Meeting</b>	<b>Borough Hall 7:00pm</b>
<b>April 20th</b>	<b>Earth Day</b>	<b>Pavilion 10:00am</b>
<b>May 15th</b>	<b>Council Meeting</b>	<b>Borough Hall 7:00pm</b>
<b>May 18th</b>	<b>Yard Sale</b>	<b>Townwide 8:00am</b>
<b>May 18th</b>	<b>Touch A Truck</b>	<b>Pavilion 10:00am</b>
<b>May 19th</b>	<b>Yard Sale</b>	<b>Townwide 8:00am</b>
<b>May 27th</b>	<b>Borough Hall Closed</b>	<b>Memorial Day</b>
<b>June 1st</b>	<b>Fishing Derby</b>	<b>Helmetta Lake</b>
<b>June 4th</b>	<b>Primary Election</b>	<b>Community Center 6:00am</b>
<b>June 19th</b>	<b>Council Meeting</b>	<b>Borough Hall 7:00pm</b>
<b>June 20th</b>	<b>End of School Year Party</b>	<b>Borough Hall 1:00pm</b>
<b>June 21st</b>	<b>Borough Hall Closed</b>	<b>Juneteenth</b>

**"Every person is defined by the community they belong to."**

# Spring Clean Communities

Rain Washes Pollutants into Storm Drains and Directly into Our Lakes, Rivers and Ocean

Properly Dispose of Pet Waste to Keep Our Water Supply Clean

LITTER FREE NJ



Grocery

SAVE EARTH

I'm not plastic

Litter Free NJ Has Helped Reduce Plastic Pollution with the Ban of Single-Use Plastic Bags

Remember to Bring Reusable Bags Every Time You Shop

LITTER FREE NJ



Celebrate Earth Day by Volunteering at a Local Litter Clean-Up Event





BY CHIEF JAMES CRAPAROTTA

With the spring season now upon us, it is time to consider some safety tips as the community will be spending more time outdoors.

**Pedestrian Safety:** With an increase in outdoor activities, it is expected to see more pedestrians on streets within the community. Drivers should take extra caution to be attentive, especially in areas where pedestrians are likely to be present, such as crosswalks, parks, playgrounds and neighborhoods.

**Water Safety:** Residents are reminded to always supervise children around water, even if they know how to swim.

**Bicycle Safety:** Always wear a properly fitting helmet. All children need helmets! Please follow the rules of the road, obeying traffic signals and lane markings. Stay visible by wearing brightly colored or reflective clothing. Stay alert and ride in the same direction as traffic. Avoid distractions such as headphones or mobile devices while riding.

**Weather Awareness:** During the spring and summer months, the likelihood for severe storms increases. Residents are encouraged to stay informed about weather forecasts and important updates regarding community safety. Please refer to Nixle alerts and social media posts for updates. Residents can be prepared for power outages by keeping emergency supplies on hand, such as flashlights, batteries and first aid kits.

**Fire Safety:** Spring and summer brings outdoor grilling and bonfires. Please follow proper safety protocols when grilling, such as keeping an outdoor grill away from structures and flammable materials such as canopies or tents. Always supervise fires and ensure that they are fully extinguished before leaving them unattended.

**Home Security:** With warmer weather, people often leave windows and doors open. Make sure to secure your home by closing and locking all windows and doors when you're not home.

**Car Safety:** Please be reminded that vehicles are to be kept locked, and valuables should not be left in plain sight inside your vehicle. Garage door openers and keyfobs should also not be left in vehicles.

**Community Awareness:** Lastly, stay connected with your community and report any suspicious activities to the Jamesburg Police Department. Neighbors looking out for each other and reporting suspicious activity to the Police Department can help prevent crime and ensure the safety of the entire community.





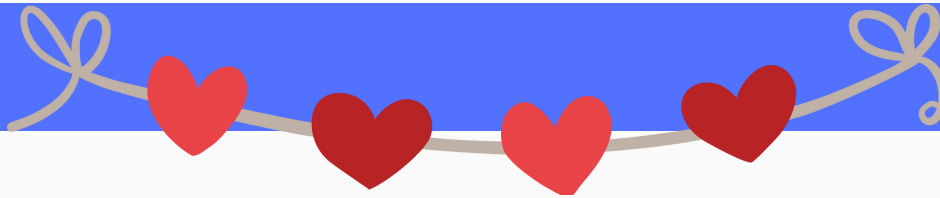
# Welcome to our new Business Administrator!



Hello, my name is John M Podesta. I am an ambitious, reliable, perseverant, community-oriented leader with experience in New Jersey municipal bids, purchasing, invoicing, and business development through representing manufacturers in various water, wastewater and industrial applications. This is complemented by education in New Jersey municipal government departmental and capital budgeting, procurement, administration, and contracts, together with dual Bachelor's Degrees from the University of Rhode Island in Economics and Political Science.

I was born and raised in New Jersey, and a co-founder of two separate organizations in college. Outside of professional and academic pursuits, I am a devout fan of the New York Giants, Mets, Rangers, and Knicks. On some weekends, I am also a great value golfer, meaning that I get the most shots for my green fees. This perfected optimization of the "stroke/cost formula" is a keen personal experience that I look forward to continuing for the foreseeable future.

I am very thrilled to serve the people of the Borough of Helmetta. I look forward to serving as a leader who maintains traditions where tradition is needed, and to implement and embrace change when needed. Lastly, I look forward to continuously and consistently bringing the "Small Town, Big Heart" mentality to life.



## Clerk's Corner

BY MELISSA HALLERMAN, RMC, CMR

Planning on getting married this spring or summer? Here are some friendly tips for the happy couple:

- The marriage or civil union license must be obtained from the registrar in the New Jersey municipality in which either applicant resides.
- Each applicant must supply valid identification that establishes name, age, date of birth and proof of residency.
- Be sure to contact me well in advance of the ceremony to find out on what days and during what hours I will be in the office.
- The marriage or civil union license fee is \$28.00, made payable to the Borough of Helmetta.
- Once the license is issued, it is good for 30 days from the date of issuance.
- The license application and more information can be found on our website, [www.helmettaboro.com](http://www.helmettaboro.com)

Please contact the Clerk's Office at 732-521-4946, Ext: 100 if you have any questions or concerns, and to schedule your marriage application license date.

# Springtime Fun!

Come stop by the Maple Street Park as the weather warms up for a game of tetherball! This recreational court was an Eagle Scout Project for Thomas Oresto, a member of local Troop 3. The designation of Eagle Scout is the highest achievement in the Boy Scouting program. Congratulations, Thomas!





# Happenings in Helmetta



Subs & Sirens



ShopRite Partners in Caring



New Borough Flag



Lucky Leprechaun Leap



Read Across America



# Happenings in Helmetta



MAIN ST NEW JERSEY  
TAKING A BITE OUT OF VILLA BORGHESE II PIZZERIA  
HELMETTA, MIDDLESEX COUNTY

International Women's Day

Main Street NJ - News 12



Service & Sweets

