

JULY 2025

HELMETTA HAPPENINGS

Official Newsletter of the Borough of Helmetta

Summer Starts with Us!

BY MAYOR CHRISTOPHER SLAVICEK

Patriotic pride lines Main Street as a true indication that Summer Starts with Us in Helmetta! School is out! Congratulations to all the 2025 graduates on their fine accomplishments and best of luck in their next chapter.

We certainly look forward to celebrating the kick-off to summer, our great nation and community, at Spark in the Park on Thursday, July 3rd at 6 p.m. with food trucks, fireworks, and fun for the family. Don't forget to purchase a super 50/50 raffle ticket through the Clerk's Office. Hope to see you there!

Enhancements continue throughout the Borough this summer with various projects to support our hometown motto- small town, big heart.

On the home front, my niece, Hayley, graduated Pre-K and will be turning 5 already at the end of June and heading to kindergarten in September. The little guy, Gavin, will be turning 3 in July and attending preschool. As I always say, time flies when you're having fun!

I look forward to spending time soaking up the sun at the Jersey Shore with family and friends as often as possible. Hope you have the chance for a summer getaway or two, too!

Cheers to beating the summer heat as Summer Starts with Us in Helmetta!

Always available,
Mayor Slavicek



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Community Calendar

July 3rd	Spark in the Park	Maple Street Pavilion 6:00pm
July 4th	Borough Hall Closed	Independence Day
July 6th	Spark in the Park Rain Date	Maple Street Pavilion 6:00pm
July 9th	Planning Board Meeting	Borough Hall 7:00pm
July 16th	Council Meeting	Borough Hall 7:00pm
August 13th	Planning Board Meeting	Borough Hall 7:00pm
August 14th	Summer Splashdown	Maple Street Pavilion 6:00pm
August 20th	Council Meeting	Borough Hall 7:00pm
September 1st	Borough Hall Closed	Labor Day
September 4th	First Day of School	Spotswood Schools
September 10th	Planning Board Meeting	Borough Hall 7:00pm
September 17th	Council Meeting	Borough Hall 7:00pm
September 20th	Helmetta Day	Maple Street Pavilion 4:00pm
September 21st	Helmetta Day Rain Date	Maple Street Pavilion 4:00pm

“Everything good, everything magical happens between the months of June and September.”



BY PAUL REED, CPWM

Garbage pick-up moved from July 4th to July 7th in observance of Independence Day.

Tips to stay cool:

- Limit sun exposure and find shade
- Pace yourself and your outdoor tasks
- Have smaller portioned meals
- Drink adequate amounts of water while ensuring electrolytes are also consumed
- Avoid caffeine and alcohol as they can dehydrate you
- Run cold water or use chilled rags on your wrists and around your neck

Don't forget your pets. Make sure they have ample water and a cool place to beat the heat.

Make sure to clean out and sanitize your garbage and recycling cans as the weather ramps up. Kitchen scraps will break down at a much faster rate allowing for bugs and various scents to grow rapidly.

Look for any standing water and try to remedy the situation to avoid mosquito breeding grounds.

Disposal questions – If you should have any questions regarding how to dispose of something please contact Paul Reed at 732-521-4946 ext 110 and we will come up with a solution.

Let's make a conscious effort to lift each other up — it doesn't take much. A kind gesture like a smile, a wave, or offering a hand can brighten someone's day and leave a positive mark on both sides.

There's real strength in embracing the present — in choosing to be fully aware, right here, right now. When we focus on the moment, our decisions become more thoughtful and compassionate. Maybe that person who cut you off in traffic is going through something difficult — staying calm and letting it go may be the best thing you can do. Maybe the litter on the sidewalk wasn't carelessly tossed but simply blown by the wind — picking it up helps keep our town clean and sets an example. A simple hello or smile to a stranger? It might be exactly what they needed today — and it costs nothing. Stepping back to see the bigger picture helps us respond instead of reacting. It allows empathy to take the lead and reminds us that everyone's carrying something, whether we can see it or not. That pause to reflect can shift our entire approach.

Here at Helmetta Public Works, we strive to live these values daily. We see ourselves as more than just a service department — we're part of the community, here to support our neighbors and meet your needs. We're always happy to connect, listen, and do our part to make Helmetta an even better place to call home. With your help, we'll continue to stay grounded in the NOW and keep moving forward — together.



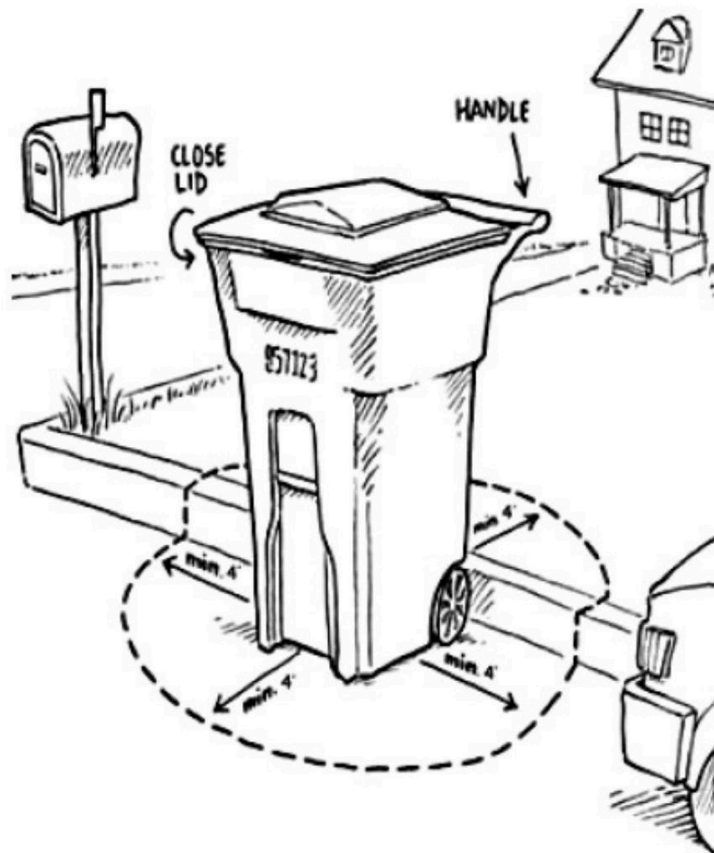
HELMETTA RECYCLING UPDATE

The Middlesex County Improvement Authority (MCIA) is pleased to announce the implementation of Automatic Side Load (ASL) service beginning **August 1, 2025**.

ASL service utilizes 95-gallon wheeled carts with lids which will replace the blue barrels or rectangular carts currently in use. **You are receiving your new cart in advance of the start of the program which is August 1, 2025. You should continue using your existing blue containers until your first recycling pick-up in August at which time you MUST use your new cart.** The cart delivered to you has a serial number and barcode linked to your address. If you should move out of your address, the cart must remain for the new resident. You may keep your old totes and bins if you wish, however they can no longer be used for curbside recycling once ASL service begins on **August 1. You can recycle your old blue containers by placing them in the new cart for pick-up.**



If you have any questions regarding this new program, please contact the Helmetta Department of Public Works at 732-521-4946, Ext: 110 or e-mail Director Paul Reed at P.Reed@HelmettaBoro.com. Visit middlesexcountynj.gov or scan the QR code.



On collection day please follow these ASL rules:

- **No** materials left on the ground or next to the cart will be picked up by the ASL vehicle.
- The cart must be **easily** accessible from the street at **a minimum 4 ft clear on both sides**
- Place the cart at the curblin in front of the curb or on top of the curb with the silver pick-up bar on the front of the cart facing the street and the wheels facing your home.

Please continue to follow all municipal recycling guidelines and rules for the type of materials you can put in the cart for pick-up. The carts are for **single stream** comingled materials so all your approved recyclables can be placed in the cart.

Curbside Recycling Do's and Don'ts:

DO:

- Place the following items in your cart:

	Plastic Bottles, Jars, Jugs, and Tubs	Glass Bottles and Jars all sizes, shapes, and colors
	Mixed Paper paper, newspaper, magazines, cereal boxes, softcover books	

DON'T: (Note: Any evidence of the following will deny pick-up of the container)

- No food waste, hazardous or flammable materials, chemicals, hot embers, construction debris or household trash may be put in the cart.
- No leaves, brush, plastic bags, textiles, batteries, tires, electronics, computers or white metal goods can be put in the cart.



	Plastic Bags, Film, Wrappers, Cups, and Utensils			
	Greasy or food-contaminated items	Shredded Paper	Pots, pans, and small appliances	Dishware, glass, and mirrors
	Tanglers Le. garden hoses, electric cords	Styrofoam	Syringes, batteries, and bulbs	

HELMETTA RECYCLING UPDATE



Middlesex County will be delivering new recycling bins to your homes soon!

Please continue using your old recycling bin for the months of June and July. Begin using your new recycling bin starting Monday, August 4th. Each new bin will come with an instruction sheet to help you get started. Thank you for your cooperation and commitment to keeping Helmetta clean and green! Any questions, please contact Department of Public Works Director Paul Reed, 732-521-4946, Ext: 110.

FAQS

Why are we converting to this new container?

The Middlesex County Improvement Authority (MCIA) is rolling out this new recycling service to provide a more efficient and safer collection system.

Will I have to pay for it?

No, the container is provided to you. Each container has a bar code and serial number linked to your address.

What happens if my container is damaged or stolen?

If a new container is needed, the homeowner should call the Helmetta DPW to request a new one. The cost of replacement will be the homeowner's responsibility.

Will my recycling schedule also be changing?

No, you will continue to follow your normal pick-up schedule.

Who does this not apply to?

Residents in Heather Glen and businesses who have their recycling privately picked up.

How do I get rid of my old bins?

Starting in August you must use the new container. You may keep your old bins for your own use or put them in the new container for pick up.

What happens if I move?

Please leave the container for the new residents because it is registered to your address.



BY CHIEF JAMES CRAPAROTTA

“Caught Doing Something Good” – A Sweet Surprise for Local Kids!

This summer, the Jamesburg Police Department is proud to bring back a fun and rewarding program for the kids of Helmetta and Jamesburg: “Caught Doing Something Good!”

If one of our officers spots a child wearing a helmet while biking or scootering, being kind to others, playing safely, waving hello to an officer, or simply making a good choice, they just might receive a “ticket” – good for one free kid-sized ice cream at Four Boys Ice Cream in Jamesburg!

This program is a great way to encourage safe and positive behavior while also giving our officers an opportunity to connect with the youth in our community in a fun and uplifting way.

And while we’re talking summer safety – a reminder to all drivers: School is out, and children will be outside more often – riding bikes, playing with friends, and enjoying the sunshine. Please slow down, stay alert, and use extra caution when driving through residential streets and neighborhoods.

Let’s all work together to keep this a safe and sweet summer for everyone!





Heart of Democracy in Helmetta

BY MELISSA HALLERMAN, RMC, CMR

As we finish wrapping up the Primary Election that was held in June and start preparing for the General Election on November 4th, the Borough of Helmetta would like to take a moment to express our sincere appreciation to the dedicated individuals who make our elections possible—our poll workers.

Poll workers are the backbone of the electoral process. From early morning setup to the final ballot count, these community-minded individuals ensure that elections run smoothly, securely, and fairly. They assist voters, safeguard election materials, and uphold the democratic values we all cherish.

In Helmetta, our poll workers have shown exceptional dedication and professionalism. Their service in June—and throughout the election cycle—helps guarantee every eligible voter has the opportunity to cast their ballot and have their voice heard.

In a small borough like Helmetta, voters often recognize the poll workers—they're neighbors, friends, or local community members. That familiarity builds trust and a friendlier atmosphere, helping voters feel comfortable and confident stepping up to the booth.

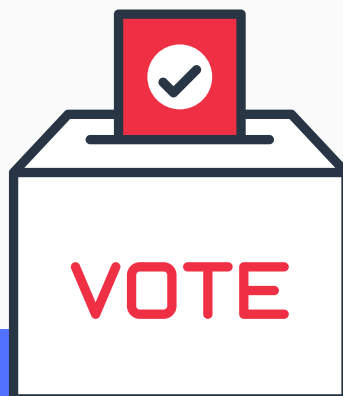
Poll workers in Helmetta are more than facilitators—they're community advocates. By ensuring elections run fairly, aiding voters with warmth, and grounding their service in local loyalty, they strengthen trust and unity. They truly make a small-town democracy shine bright.

For many, serving on election day is a tradition—raising civic awareness and reinforcing that “every vote matters” in a close-knit community. It's not just a job—it's part of what keeps Helmetta's heart beating strong.

To all of our poll workers: Thank you. Your commitment to civic duty strengthens our community and upholds the integrity of our democratic process.

If you're interested in becoming a poll worker in future elections, we encourage you to get involved. It's one of the most direct and rewarding ways to serve your community and protect democracy. Please contact the Clerk's Office for more information.

Together, we make democracy work—thank you for making it possible.





HEAT EXHAUSTION



HEAT STROKE

Faint or dizzy



Throbbing headache

Excessive sweating

No sweating



Cool, pale,
clammy skin

Body temperature
above 103°
Red, hot, dry skin



Nausea or vomiting

Nausea or vomiting

Rapid, weak pulse



Rapid, strong pulse



Muscle cramps



May lose
consciousness



- Get to a cooler, air conditioned place
- Drink water if fully conscious
- Take a cool shower or use cold compresses

CALL 9-1-1

- Take immediate action to cool the person until help arrives

millions