

JANUARY 2026

HELMETTA HAPPENINGS

Official Newsletter of the Borough of Helmetta



A Fresh Fix in 2026!

BY MAYOR CHRISTOPHER SLAVICEK

Dear Neighbors and friends:

As we stand on the threshold of a brand-new year, I want to express my gratitude to our Borough employees, first responders, avid volunteers, service providers, local businesses, residents, and the greater community. This past year has had its challenges and triumphs, but the true highlight has been the shared journey amongst the Helmetta family and community.

The New Year is often seen as a blank book, a fresh page waiting to be written. This past year, we learned valuable lessons: we discovered resilience we didn't know we had, and we celebrated moments of pure, simple joy. It's not about making a brand-new start as much as it is about making a brand-new ending to our story.

The Borough Administration, Governing Body, and team have worked collaboratively to provide distinct services to our residents. Through robust recreational programs and events, Borough beautification, and sound fiscal responsibility each chapter in our 2025 story book was well-written.

As we turn the page to 2026, my hope for us is simple: that we look for potential, not flaws, and that we greet the future with open hearts and curious minds.

So, as we close this chapter and welcome all the possibilities that lie ahead, here's to a 2026 novel year filled with health, happiness, growth, and unforgettable memories.

Happy New Year, Helmetta!
Mayor Chris Slavicek



This issue:

A Fresh Fix in 2026!
PAGE 01

Community Calendar
PAGE 02

Department of Public Works
PAGE 03

Jamesburg Police Department
PAGE 04

Clerk's Corner
PAGE 05

Helmetta Fire Department
PAGE 06



Community Calendar

January 1st	Reorganization Meeting	Borough Hall 7:00pm
January 14th	Planning Board Meeting	Borough Hall 7:00pm
January 19th	Borough Hall Closed	Martin Luther King Jr. Day
January 21st	Council Meeting	Borough Hall 7:00pm
January 22nd	Pizza & Pop with a Cop	Community Center 6:00pm
February 5th	Service & Sweets	Community Center 6:00pm
February 12th	Borough Hall Closed	Lincoln's Birthday
February 16th	Borough Hall Closed	President's Day
February 18th	Council Meeting	Borough Hall 7:00pm
March 17th	Lucky Leprechaun Leap	Helmetta & Jamesburg
March 18th	Council Meeting	Borough Hall 7:00pm
March 19th	Dunk with the DPW	John Street Park
March 24th	Rabies Clinic	DPW Garage 6:00pm

“A new year begins best when a community begins it together, united in purpose and ready to make meaningful change.”



BY PAUL REED, CPWM

Winter Weather Safety Tips

- Dress in warm layers and protect exposed skin from wind and cold
- Limit time outdoors and take frequent breaks to warm up
- Pace yourself when shoveling or doing outdoor tasks
- Eat well-balanced meals to help maintain energy and body warmth
- Stay hydrated, even in cold weather
- Avoid excessive caffeine and alcohol, as they can contribute to dehydration and reduced body temperature

Don't forget your pets. Make sure they have access to warm shelter, fresh (unfrozen) water, and are not left outside for extended periods during cold or snowy conditions.

As winter weather continues, please be mindful of snow and ice buildup around your property. Keeping trash and recycling areas clear and accessible helps ensure uninterrupted service during storms.

Snow Plowing Reminder

When snow events occur, the goal of the Public Works Department is to clear roadways to make them safe for travel as quickly and efficiently as possible. During this process, it is not intentional when snow is pushed toward or blocks driveways — it is simply part of the plowing operation.

We kindly ask residents, when possible, to wait as long as they can before clearing driveways and walkways, as multiple passes may be necessary during a storm. We understand that residents still need to go about their daily lives, and we appreciate your patience and cooperation as we work to keep the community safe.

I would like to also add that keeping the roadways clear of vehicles, garbage, and recycling cans will help us do the best we can with plowing.

Community Reminder

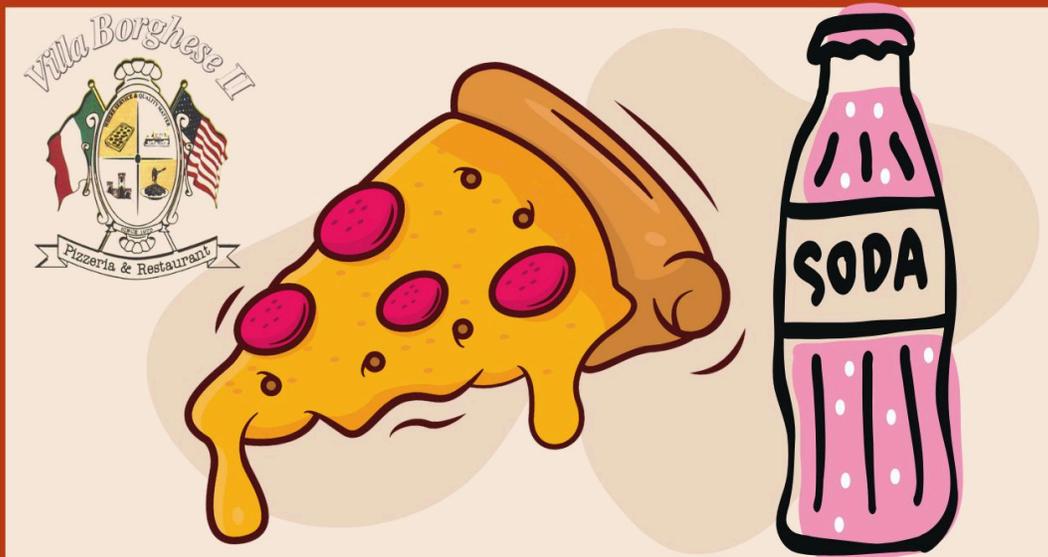
Let's continue to make a conscious effort to lift each other up — especially during the winter months, when small acts of kindness can make a big difference. A smile, a wave, or offering help to a neighbor can brighten someone's day.

There's strength in staying present and choosing compassion. That pause to reflect can shift how we respond — whether it's giving someone grace on the road, lending a hand to a neighbor, or helping keep our town clean after a storm.

Here at Helmetta Public Works, we strive to live these values every day. We are more than a service department — we are part of the community, here to support our neighbors and meet your needs. With your continued cooperation and understanding, we'll work together to keep Helmetta safe, connected, and moving forward this winter.



PIZZA & POP WITH A COP



THURSDAY, JANUARY 22, 2026
HELMETTA COMMUNITY CENTER
6:00PM - 7:30PM

**Join us for a fun filled night with the
Jamesburg Police Department!**

Clerk's Corner



BY MELISSA HALLERMAN, RMC, CMR

As we step into 2026, the Borough of Helmetta is embracing a year of renewal, progress, and community connection. This year's theme, "A Fresh Fix in 2026," reflects our shared commitment to continuous improvement both in Borough operations and in the everyday experiences of our residents.

In the Municipal Clerk's Office, we're taking this message to heart. Throughout the coming year, we will introduce several updates designed to make interacting with Borough Hall easier, faster, and more convenient. From refining our licensing and permitting processes to offering more intuitive digital forms, our goal is to reduce paperwork and provide quicker, more efficient service. These improvements are driven by your feedback, and we're grateful for the opportunity to build a system that better serves our community's needs.

Transparency remains a top priority in 2026. We're enhancing the way information is shared by improving the accessibility of agendas, minutes, and public notices, ensuring residents can stay fully informed about local decisions. We will also continue expanding opportunities for civic participation. Your voice matters, and we want to make it easier than ever for you to be heard.

This year also offers a chance to strengthen community ties. With new initiatives, events, and outreach efforts planned across various departments, 2026 will provide fresh opportunities to connect with neighbors and celebrate what makes Helmetta such a special place to call home.

As always, I extend my sincere thanks for your continued engagement, patience, and support. With teamwork, open communication, and a shared vision, we can make A Fresh Fix in 2026 more than a theme, we can make it a reality. Here's to a productive, positive, and inspiring year ahead in the Borough of Helmetta.

A large, three-dimensional blue number "2026" is centered on the page. The numbers are thick and have a slight shadow, giving them a 3D appearance.



Put a **FREEZE** on Winter Fires

Home fires occur more in winter than in any other season. As you stay cozy and warm this winter, be fire smart!



Half of all home heating fires occur in December, January and February.



Heating equipment is involved in **1 in every 7** home fires and **1 in every 5** home fire deaths.



Keep anything that can burn **at least 3 feet** from any heat source like fireplaces, wood stoves, radiators or space heaters.



Keep portable generators **outside, away from windows, and as far away** from your home as possible.



Install and test carbon monoxide alarms **at least once a month**.



Plug only **1 heat-producing appliance** (like a space heater) into an electrical outlet at a time.



Have a qualified professional clean and inspect your chimney and vents **every year**.



Store cooled ashes in a tightly covered metal container, and keep it **outside at least 10 feet** from your home and any nearby buildings.