

**BOROUGH OF HASBROUCK HEIGHTS**  
**MINUTES - REORGANIZATION MEETING**  
**JANUARY 1, 2010**

The Reorganization Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Hasbrouck Heights was held on January 1, 2010 at 11:55 a.m. at Borough Hall, 320 Boulevard, Hasbrouck Heights, New Jersey.

The Oath of Office was administered to Councilman John Dingertopadre and Councilman Russell A. Lipari by Mayor Rose Heck with their families surrounding them.

Mayor Heck asked for a motion to open the 2010 Reorganization Meeting which was made by Councilwoman Link, seconded by Councilman Gonzalez, and unanimously carried.

Mayor Heck declared the 2010 Reorganization Meeting in session and Borough Clerk Rose Marie Sees stated that the meeting complied with the Sunshine Law, due notice having been made to all members of the Council on December 7, 2009 to The Observer, The Record and the Herald News on December 7, 2009.

**ROLL CALL:** Present: Mayor Rose Heck, Councilman Justin A. DiPisa, Councilwoman Sonya Buckman, Councilman David Gonzalez, Councilwoman Pamela J. Link, Councilman John Dingertopadre, Councilman Russell A. Lipari

Absent: None

**SALUTE TO THE FLAG AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Mayor Heck led in the Salute to the Flag and Pledge of Allegiance.

**SINGING OF "GOD BLESS AMERICA":** Tax Collector Conchita Parker led in the singing of "God Bless America." She was accompanied by Steven Thomas on guitar.

**INVOCATION:** The Invocation was offered by Reverend Lewis V. Papera, Pastor of Corpus Christi R.C. Church.

**OATH OF OFFICE ADMINISTERED TO FIRE DEPARTMENT OFFICERS:**

Mayor Heck administered the Oath of Office to Fire Chief Joseph Taylor, First Assistant Chief Richard Giarratana and Second Assistant Chief Patrick Hayes with their families surrounding them.

**OATH OF OFFICE ADMINISTERED TO FIRE DEPARTMENT OFFICERS (cont'd):**

Mayor Heck then administered the Oath of Office to the following 2010 Fire Department Officers: Secretary, David Gumbrecht; Treasurer, Paul Elenio. Engine Co. One: Captain, Bernardo Valente; Lieutenant, Edmund Carter III; Secretary, Justin Watrel; Treasurer, Christian Semenez. Engine Co. Two: Captain, Michael Thomasey; Lieutenant, Michael Greco; Secretary, Robert Munoz; Treasurer, David Gumbrecht. Hook and Ladder Co. One: Captain, Brain Morrow; Lieutenant, Michael Christensen; Secretary, Ryan Raney; Treasurer, Mark Waring. Ambulance: Captain, Elizabeth Waring; Lieutenant, John Riordan; Secretary Patrick Mucha. Rescue Company: Captain, Christopher Halloran; Lieutenant, David Gumbrecht; Secretary, Daniel Wixon.

**2010 BOROUGH COUNCIL COMMITTEES:**

Mayor Heck read the following list of Borough Council Committees:

Commissioner of Finance & Public Facilities	Pamela J. Link
Deputy Commissioner of Finance & Public Facilities	Justin A. DiPisa
Commissioner of Police	Justin A. DiPisa
Deputy Commissioner of Police	Rose Heck
Commissioner of Fire	David Gonzalez
Deputy Commissioner of Fire	Rose Heck
Commissioner of Health & Social Services	Russell Lipari
Deputy Commissioner of Health & Social Services	Pamela J. Link
Commissioner of Streets, Sanitation & Transportation	John Dingertopadre
Deputy Commissioner of Streets, Sanitation & Trans.	David Gonzalez
Commissioner of Land Use	Russell Lipari
Deputy Commissioner of Land Use	Pamela J. Link
Commissioner of Recreation & Parks	Sonya Buckman
Deputy Commissioner of Recreation & Parks	David Gonzalez
Senior Citizens' Ombudsman	Rose Heck
Juvenile Outreach Ombudsman	Sonya Buckman
Library Liaison	Sonya Buckman
Drug Alliance Chairperson	Rose Heck
Municipal League Liaison	Russell Lipari
Intergovernmental Services Liaison	Justin A. DiPisa
Chamber of Commerce Liaison	John Dingertopadre
Community Awareness Access For All Liaison	Pamela J. Link

**2010 BOROUGH COUNCIL COMMITTEES (cont'd):**

Environmental & Transportation Commission Liaison	David Gonzalez
DPW - Mayor's Liaison	Garrett R. Pepe
Fire Department - Mayor's Liaison	Thomas Meli
Recreation Department - Mayor's Liaison	Ronald Kistner
Finance Committee - Mayor's Liaison	Steven Pikowski

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT:**

Mayor Heck asked if there was a motion to nominate a council member as Council President for the year 2010. Councilwoman Buckman made a motion to nominate David Gonzalez, which was seconded by Councilman DiPisa, and was unanimously carried.

**COMMUNICATIONS:** None

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

1. Petty Cash Funds
2. Authorize CFO to Invest Idle Funds
3. Authorize CFO to Prepare Payrolls
4. Designate Official Depositories for Borough Funds at Valley National Bank
5. Authorize CFO to Pay Medical Insurance Premiums
6. Authorize Signatures for Borough Checks
7. Designate Official Newspaper as The Observer, The Record and the Herald News
8. Set Meeting Dates for 2010 Council Meetings
9. Temporary Budget
10. Continuing Tax Settlement Committee
11. 2010 Debt Service Budget
12. Designating Number of Hours per Week as Minimum Requirement for Full Time Status
13. Authorizing Rate of Interest to be Charged for Nonpayment of Taxes
14. Adoption of By-Laws for 2010

On a motion by Councilman DiPisa, seconded by Councilman Gonzalez, and unanimously carried, the foregoing Resolutions on Consent Agenda were adopted (Resolutions attached).

**COUNCIL MEMBER TO PLANNING BOARD:**

Mayor Heck asked if there was a nomination of a council member to the Planning Board. Councilwoman Link nominated Councilman Lipari as representative to the Planning Board which was seconded by Councilman Gonzalez and unanimously carried.

**NOMINATION OF PROFESSIONAL APPOINTEES FOR 2010:**

Mayor Heck made the following nominations and requested confirmation by the Council:

<b>POSITION</b>	<b>APPOINTEE</b>	<b>TERM</b>
Borough Attorney	Ralph W. Chandless, Jr.	1 Year
Borough Engineer*	Kenneth G. B. Job, P.E.	1 Year
Borough Auditor*	Paul Garbarini, Jr.	1 Year
Bond Attorney*	Steven Rogut	1 Year
Labor Attorney*	Mark Ruderman	1 Year
Appraiser*	Ernest DelGuercio, Jr.	1 Year
IT Specialist*	Cameron Arabi	1 Year
Borough Planner	Remington & Vernick	1 Year

\*Subject to adoption of resolution by the Governing Body authorizing contract and further compliance with N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.4 et seq.

Mayor Heck asked for a motion to make the foregoing appointments which was made by Councilman DiPisa, seconded by Councilman Gonzalez, and unanimously carried.

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**NOMINATION AND/OR APPOINTMENTS FOR 2010:**

Chief Fin. Off.	Michael J. Kronyak	Tenure
Administrator/Treasurer/ Purchasing Agent/ Administrative Officer of Land Use	Michael J. Kronyak	1 Year
Borough Clerk	Rose Marie Sees	Tenure
Supt. D.P.W. /Recycling Coord.	William Spindler	1 Year
Asst. Supt. D.P.W.	James Schneider	1 Year
Construction Code Off./ Building Subcode Off./Prop. Maint./	Nick Melfi	1 Year

**NOMINATION AND/OR APPOINTMENTS FOR 2010 (cont'd):**

Zoning Enforcement Off. Property Maintenance Officer	Ronald Monteleone	1 Year
Plumbing Inspector	Richard Vanatta	1 Year
Electric Sub-Code Official	Scott Pomarico	1 Year
Fire Code Official	Arthur Jackson	1 Year
Hotel/Multiple Dwelling Inspector	Jesse D'Amore	1 Year
Court Administrator	Susan Paul	Tenure
Public Defender	Thomas Mason	1 Year
Public Defender Alt.	Mark Musella	1 Year
Prosecutor	Rosario Presti	1 Year
Prosecutor Alt.	Thomas Flynn	1 Year
DPW Liaison	Garrett R. Pepe	1 Year
Fire Dept. Liaison	Thomas E. Meli	1 Year
Finance Dept. Liaison	Steven Pikowski	1 Year
Borough Historian	Louise Davenport	1 Year
Dep. Borough Historian	Judi Ferrari	1 Year
Board of Health Secretary	Laura French	1 Year
Board of Health	Constance Doheny	4 Years
	Robert Corso	4 Years
	Catherine Collins	2 Years
	Lisa Ratkowski- Alt. 2	1 Year
Local Assistance Board	Dorothy Petroulas	3 Years
General Assessment Board	Douglas Lanzo	3 Years
Planning Board	Mayor Rose Heck	Incumbency
Class II	Nicholas Melfi	1 Year
Alt. Class II	Dorothy Bernice	1 Year
	Gilbert Hunt	4 Years
	Kenneth Hampel	4 Years
Alt. 1	Marlene Verrastro	2 Years
Zoning Board	William Kremer	4 Years
	David Roche	4 Years
	Jurgen Hofheinz	2 Years
	Frank D'Amico	2 Years
Alt. 1	Rick Palummieri	1 Year
Free Public Library	Mayor Rose Heck	Incumbency
	-Mayor's Alt. Thomas Verrastro	1 Year
	Sch. Supt. Joseph Luongo	Incumbency
	BOE Alt. Edwinna Carroll	1 Year

**NOMINATION AND/OR APPOINTMENTS FOR 2010 (cont'd):**

Rent Leveling Board	Patricia Link	5 Years
	Ronald Monteleone	1 Year
	Joan Verile	1 Year
	Constance Militzia	1 Year
	Patricia Tobin	1 Year
	David Fanale	1 Year
	Ronald Kistner	1 Year
Recreation Programs Advisory Committee	Mayor Rose Heck	1 Year
	Council Commissioner	1 Year
	Mayor's Alt.	1 Year
	Mayor's Liaison: Ronald Kistner	1 Year
	Eileen Kiick	3 Years
	George Campen	3 Years
	Craig Messery	3 Years
	Kenneth Partyka	3 Years
Dir. Of Recreation Committee of Community Celebrations	Robert Brady	1 Year
	Debbie Azzalina	1 Year
	Dorothy Bernice	1 Year
	Anthony Bernice	1 Year
	Mary Catherine Blanusa	1 Year
	Robert Call	1 Year
	Theresa Call	1 Year
	Lois Carlson	1 Year
	Jack Coneys	1 Year
	Madeline de Velasco	1 Year
	Juana DiBisceglie	1 Year
	Ronald DiBisceglie	1 Year
	Kim Guido	1 Year
	Bryan Horowitz	1 Year
	Kathy Iappelli	1 Year
	Michael Latona	1 Year
	Rose Latona	1 Year
	Madeleine Leddy	1 Year
	Patricia Link	1 Year
	Helen O'Shea	1 Year
Rose Pagan	1 Year	
Darlene Parente	1 Year	
Lisa Quish	1 Year	
Joan Spaldo	1 Year	

**NOMINATION AND/OR APPOINTMENTS FOR 2010 (cont'd):**

	Lynn Taylor	1 Year
	Thomas Verrastro	1 Year
	Brian Willard	1 Year
	Rosemary Willard	1 Year
Community Awareness Access For All Committee	Mayor Rose Heck	Incumbency
	Council Liaison: Pam Link	1 Year
	Police Chief or Designee	1 Year
	Richard Giarratana - Fire Dept. Rep.	1 Year
	Anne Ciavaglia McMahon	1 Year
	Robert Ciavaglia	1 Year
	Eric Bischoff	1 Year
	John Dingertopadre	1 Year
	Maryann Pisani	1 Year
	Brenda Colaneri	1 Year
	Dorothy McCarthy	1 Year
	Patrick McCarthy	1 Year
	Aimee McCarthy	1 Year
	Joseph Bonelli	1 Year
Environmental/Transportation Commission	James Dressel	3 Years
	John Fargo	3 Years
Ethical Standards Board:	Elizabeth Moser	4 Years
Mayor's Business Community Committee	Thomas E. Meli	1 Year
	Ronald Kistner	1 Year
	Fritz Rethage	1 Year
	Ray Vorisek	1 Year
	John Kosakowski	1 Year
	Bill Kundert	1 Year
	Bill Lenox	1 Year
	Sam Papasavas	1 Year
	Mary Ellen Courtney	1 Year
	David Fanale	1 Year
	Joseph Costa	1 Year
	Al Hamdi	1 Year
	Jason Cosimano	1 Year
	Vickie Oller	1 Year
	Peter Gallo III	1 Year
Mayor's Research Committee	Pam Link	1 Year
	Steven Pikowski	1 Year
	William Foley	1 Year
	John Baratta	1 Year
	Michael Flynn	1 Year
	Russell Lipari	1 Year

**NOMINATION AND/OR APPOINTMENTS FOR 2010 (cont'd):**

Mayor's Senior Citizens Committee	Carol Ann Minimi	1 Year
	John Fitzin	1 Year
	Dorothy Fitzin	1 Year
	Peter Gallo	1 Year
	Thomas Mason	1 Year
	Andrew Link III	1 Year
	Madeleine Leddy	1 Year
	Dorothy Petroulas	1 Year
	Dolores Jones	1 Year
	Ethel Ball	1 Year
	Jack Coneys	1 Year
Mayor's Youth Committee	Robert Brady	1 Year
	Vincent Marchese	1 Year
	Kristen Marino	1 Year
	Joe Marino	1 Year
	Pat Mucha	1 Year
	Cadea Robinson	1 Year
	Catrina Valente	1 Year
	Zachary Ketcho	1 Year
	Jon D'Onofrio	1 Year
	Gabriella Reynaldo	1 Year
	Cristina D'Costa	1 Year
	Danny Byun	1 Year
Chief Radio Communications Officer NIMS Coordinator/ Identification Officer Special Law Enforcement	Dr. Roger Szanto	1 Year
	Dr. Roger Szanto	1 Year
	William Pols	1 Year
	Thomas Rubino	1 Year
	George Shihanian	1 Year
Police Matrons	Karen Carney	1 Year
	Frances L. Sanzo	1 Year
Borough Examining Drs.	Louis Napolitano, MD	1 Year
	Thomas Bellavia, MD	1 Year
	Mark Delcalzo, DC	1 Year
	David F. Porter, DO	1 Year
	Michael Shustyk, DC	1 Year
	Paul Kovatis, MD	1 Year
	Valley Health Medical Group	1 Year
School Marshals	Karen Carney	1 Year

**NOMINATION AND/OR APPOINTMENTS FOR 2010 (cont'd):**

	Jean Reyngoudt	1 Year
	Arthur Horne	1 Year
	Marilyn A. Collum	1 Year
	Christie Harrington	1 Year
	Donald E. Lucas	1 Year
	Vincent Varelas	1 Year
	Frances Sanzo	1 Year
	Renita Goldsberry	1 Year
	Agnes Anderson	1 Year
	Michael Niekrewicz	1 Year
	Paul Malin	1 Year
	Edward Powers	1 Year
	Peter Parrish	1 Year
	Robert Cuccio	1 Year
Substitute Crossing Guard:	Yvonne Taylor-Chaubert	1 Year
Substitute Crossing Guard and/or Walking School Bus Guard	Gail Canavatchel	1 Year
	Helena Brady	1 Year
	Robert Blauvelt	1 Year
	Francis J. LaCorte	1 Year
	Kevin T. Makely	1 Year
	Anna Horne	1 Year
	Michael A. Gingerelli	1 Year
Fire Official U.F.S.A.	Arthur Jackson	1 Year
Assistant Fire Official	Edmund Carter, Jr.	1 Year
Fire Inspectors	Frank Pistilli	1 Year
	Albert Saulnier	1 Year
	Kenneth Kubler	1 Year
	Kevin Todd	1 Year
	Bruce Werner Jr.	1 Year
	Paul Elenio	1 Year
	Ryan Raney	1 Year
Fire Mechanics		
Eng. Co. No.1	Christian Semenez	1 Year
Eng. Co. No.2	Robert Thomasey	1 Year
Hook & Ladder	Anthony Greco	1 Year
Rescue	Daniel Wixon	1 Year
Ambulances - EMS 1	Joseph Benkovic	1 Year
EMS 2	Ryan Raney	1 Year
Crash/Foam Truck	James Halloran	1 Year

**NOMINATION AND/OR APPOINTMENTS FOR 2010 (cont'd):**

Public Info. Off.	Joseph Taylor	1 Year
Dept. Safety Off.	Michael Christensen	1 Year
Dept. Chaplain	Deacon Vincent deFedele	1 Year

On a motion by Councilman DiPisa, seconded by Councilman Gonzalez, and unanimously carried, the foregoing Appointments were approved.

## **MAYOR'S YEAR END REPORT**

### **POLICE DEPARTMENT**

*given my Mayor Rose Heck*

*submitted by Police Chief Michael Colaneri*

The year 2009 was a very active and busy year for the Police Department. We answered over 12,000 calls for service, which is the most ever. Listed below are some highlights of programs, equipment and activities by the department that are in addition to our calls for service:

**Personnel:** 2009 saw the retirement of Deputy Chief Robert Kroncke who retired after 37 years of service and Lt. James Krisinski after 25 years. We wish them the best and good health in their retirement. Ptl. Joe Armeli was appointed to the Department in March. In July, Ptl. Corey Lange was seriously injured while conducting a motor vehicle stop. Ptl. Lange is improving and is working hard to return to duty.

**Traffic Bureau:** Traffic continues to be one of our toughest challenges. We are constantly looking at ways to improve traffic flow, improve pedestrian safety and manage parking issues. Four-way stops signs have been added on Oak Grove and Franklin; Kipp and Oak Grove; Kipp and Burton; Madison and Burton. AAA recognized the department with their awards of excellence for our efforts. (One of only a few in North Jersey) Participated in nationwide Click It or Ticket, over 150 summons issued. Two DWI checkpoints conduct this year, one in June and one in October with 10 DWI arrest and 58 summons issued. The Child car seat installation program continued.

**Equipment:** New guns were obtained for the entire department replacing ones that were over 15 years old. The old guns were traded in for the new guns at no cost to the Borough. Three new police vehicles were purchased. One marked car was paid with funds charged to private contractors for traffic details and one unmarked purchased from insurance proceeds. New Sign: A Solar Powered School Zone with speed display has been installed on Passaic Avenue. The insurance company of a motorist who struck the old sign paid for this. There was No cost to the Borough. A sprinkler system was donated for the Police Memorial. The Department signed up for NIXLE, a free service to notify residents of events, traffic issues and/or emergencies. 2010 we will upgrade the existing CAD

### **POLICE DEPARTMENT (cont'd):**

(Computer Aided Dispatch) and RMS (Records Management System).

**Honor Guard:** The department's Honor Guard was busy attending many Borough events/parades as well as County and State Police Memorial Services. The members of the Honor Guard volunteer for these assignments.

**DARE:** The DARE Program again did a great job educating the children of all of our schools K-12 on the dangers of drugs, alcohol, and violence. Members of the Police Department participated in Anti Drug Week, which was held in January. Space Odyssey trip was held on April 8, 2009 for all 5<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students. 8<sup>th</sup> Grade swim party was held in June at the Swim Club. 5<sup>th</sup> Grade DARE parent's night was held on December 2, 2009 with approximately 40 parents attending. Special Olympics Beefsteak and Torch Run were held with our Department raising over \$30,000 and being #4 in the entire state. Jr. Police Academy was held for our 8<sup>th</sup> graders who then become Jr. Auxiliary members and assisted at Town Day and other Boro functions. 7<sup>th</sup> grade camping trip and 8<sup>th</sup> grade Washington trip were chaperoned and the BADGE program continued.

All second grade students were fingerprinted and photographed. Internet Safety Program was held in April.

The Walking School Bus continues to be a success. It is in operation every school day.

Personally I would like to add how proud I am of this department and their ability to add new programs as we work to replace retired officers. They have kept us safe even as towns around us are experiencing increased crime rates. Prevention has always been and will always be a mainstay of the Borough of Hasbrouck Heights Police Department. In 2010 an additional effort will be made to increase pedestrian and traffic safety. A number of programs will be given at the PTAs and Senior Citizens meetings. My thanks to Chief Colaneri and his department for a job well done.

## **MUNICIPAL COURT**

Tickets Issued	
Parking	3,839
Moving	2,077
DWI	64
Total	5,980
Court Revenue	\$229,216.06

## **FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT:**

*given by Councilman DiPisa*

*submitted by CFO Michael Kronyak*

## **FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT (cont'd)**

**Tax Collections and Tax Rates:** The 2009 Collection rate is on target to meet prior year collection rate of 98.86%. This collection rate has been very consistent and stable over the 10 years and is anticipated to continue to be stable.

**Borough Debt:** As of the end of 2009 the Borough's Net Debt was \$10,121,218.48, or 0.54% of Net Assessed Valuation, well below the allowable limit of 3.5% of Net Assessed Valuation. The Borough paid off \$1,100,000.00 in 2009 and incurred additional debt in the amount of \$605,000.00, a net reduction in debt in the amount of \$495,000.00 for the year ended December 31, 2009.

**Budget and Finance Committee:** The Budget and Finance Committee worked very hard to formulate a Budget that both met the needs of the residents and minimized the impact on taxes. The total Borough Budget increased by \$566,519.25 in 2009. This includes all salary increases as well as increases in utilities, fuel and all other expenses as well as an increase in the amount of \$135,466.60 for Pension Costs. Debt Service was also increased by \$249,906.25. We are taking advantage of the decreased interest rates to apply more funding to retiring debt. The 2009 budget paid off Bonds in the amount of \$375,000.00 and Notes in the amount of \$725,000.00. State Formula Aid was decreased by \$34,912.00 and the budget did not include Extraordinary Aid in the amount of \$200,000.00 which was received in 2008. Based on the terms of the program we did not qualify under this program in 2009. Other revenues are affected by the economy such as interest on investments and construction permits and this all needed to be considered by the Finance Committee. The Pension Deferral was something we were all watching very closely. The deferral would have allowed us to postpone paying up to \$548,855.00 of our pension liability. Beginning in 2012 we would need to start funding the deferred liability over the following 15 years with a provision that at any time the Borough could pay off the liability in full. The amount of the deferred liability would fluctuate based on the pension system investment earnings on the deferred amount. This is where the financing costs would become material. The deferral of \$548,855.00, would be payable over 15 years plus 8.25% in financing charges. We decided that it is in the best interest of the Borough to pay our liability and avoid the high interest cost in the future.

It seems as though we just finished the 2009 budget and we are now getting ready to review a draft of the 2010 budget.

#### **TAX APPEAL REPORT TO MAYOR**

*given by Mayor Heck*

*submitted by Borough Attorney Ralph W. Chandless Jr.*

You have requested that I provide a summary update in respect to pending tax appeals in addition to the more specific reports that I periodically issue in regard to all of the pending cases. Since the formation of the Tax Settlement Committee in 1995 and the assignment of all tax appeals to the Borough Attorney, we were able to reduce the number of pending

**TAX APPEAL REPORT TO MAYOR (cont'd):**

appeals to approximately 25 or 30 cases still pending at the end of any year. Only a few of those cases would date back more than two years. It was our goal to reduce the backlog in order to diminish the potential liability to the Borough and its taxpayers that could result from any possible adverse determinations. We were successful in achieving that goal until we left office in January of 2007.

During that year, the number of pending appeals rose to 54 by year end. That increase was not the result of any unusually large influx of appeals but rather the failure to successfully address any of the appeals except for one. Further, it should be noted that the only appeal during that year was settled by the Borough Appraiser and Tax Assessor rather than the tax attorney who had been additionally engaged to represent the Borough IN 2007.

When we returned to office in 2008, we immediately undertook to reduce that backlog. By the end of that year, 45 of the 54 inherited cases were resolved leaving only 9 remaining. Unfortunately, an unusual number of new cases, 61, were filed in April leaving us with a total of 70 pending cases. Nonetheless, by the disposition of 14 of the new cases, we were left with only 56 cases by the end of the year. In April of 2009, 25 new cases were filed resulting in a total of 81 cases. To date, of those 81 cases, 30 have been successfully disposed of and only 51 remain.

We continue in earnest to reduce the number of pending cases to our pre-2007 level. Since the revaluation in 2006, our ratio remains at a remarkably strong 97.35% despite the current slump in the real estate market. This effectively inhibits the filing of new appeals. Consequently, at the current rate of successful disposal of cases, we should be able to achieve our goal by the end of 2010 thus making up for the lost time incurred by the virtual inaction during 2007.

**RECREATION DEPARTMENT:**

*given by Councilwoman Sonya Buckman*

*submitted by Dir. Of Recreation Robert Brady*

The Hasbrouck Heights Recreation Department has had another fun-filled exciting year, thanks to the Hasbrouck Heights Mayor & Council, all of our great volunteers, and of course our many participants in our recreation programs. The goal for our recreation department is and always will be: to include as many participants that we can safely accommodate into every single program that we offer, also to offer the most organized and fulfilling programs to our citizens and their families. In 2009 our department offered 12 different programs for the children of our community, 6 different programs for the adults in town, and 9 different programs for our senior citizen community. The recreation department also runs the many different community events that the entire family can enjoy, such as Town Day and Halloween in the Park. The Hasbrouck

## **RECREATION DEPARTMENT (cont'd):**

Heights Recreation Department does not operate but contributes funds to these other great town organizations: Little League, Junior Football/Cheering, Men's Softball, The Leisure Club, Hasbrouck Heights Soccer Association, Aviator Soccer Club, and Senior Babe Ruth. This past year the recreation department has given over 1,000 children a safe place to play, run, shoot a basketball, wrestle, or hit a softball with their friends and families watching and cheering them on. While also giving the community the opportunity to enjoy events like Town Day and Halloween in the Park as a family. The recreation department also offers a great working environment for many high school and college age residents: either in our summer camp, recreation center, or our many sporting events.

### **2009 Highlights**

- Recreation Softball having four teams finishing at the top of their divisions in the South Bergen Softball League.
- Establishing a partnership with 24 Hour Fitness for the benefit of our Recreation Youth Basketball Program, holding our 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> grade clinics at 24-hour fitness with certified basketball instructors.
- The Recreation Wrestling team won the Passaic County Youth Wrestling League.
- Being involved with many great town events like the "Hasbrouck Heights Street Fair".
- 7<sup>th</sup> grader Tyler Loughlin winning his 2<sup>nd</sup> State Championship in Recreation Wrestling.
- Hosting our largest crowd ever for Halloween in the Park.
- Recreation Wrestling hosting our Hasbrouck Heights Invitational Tournament and District 5 Championship Tournament.
- Starting the Adult Zumba Class, a fitness class that meets once a week. Zumba combine dance and aerobics for a great workout.
- Assisting the Mayor & Council in upgrading Woodland Park Playground, Miers Park Playground, and Central Avenue Playground.
- Hosting our very own Senior Citizen Halloween Costume Party.
- In 2009 we had our largest summer camp registration for our "Camp Rec Trek".

Director Rob Brady along with the Mayor and Council would like to take this opportunity to thank our many great volunteer coaches and programs advisors that give up so much time from their family to make sure the children and adults in our community have a safe and fun experience in our recreation programs. These volunteers make Hasbrouck Heights Recreation Department the best it can be.

**LIBRARY:**

*given by Mayor Heck*

*submitted by Library Director Mimi Hui*

The Free Public Library of Hasbrouck Heights celebrated 30 years of resource sharing among 75 member libraries of the Bergen County Cooperative Library System (BCCLS). Marge Hendey, the Hasbrouck Heights Library Director was its first president. Our community has access to over 5.5 million items. Hasbrouck Heights was the very first member library to go online.

**Circulation:** As of December 29, we have circulated a record breaking number of over 112,700 items. This is the highest figure ever recorded in the history of this Library. An increase of 16% from last year's total circ. An average of 528 people uses our computers each week. And over 87,829 people walked through the doors of our library to use one or more of our library services this past year. Library services include circulating a variety of books and media to our patrons, programs for residents of all ages, and interpersonal services such as reference and referral, material loans, free internet access, notary public services, proctoring exams and computer training classes. We try to anticipate our patrons' needs by keeping an eye on current trends and cutting edge technology. We plan for the coming year to expand our collection of DVDs, music CDs, and books-on-CD collection.

**Programming:** Our programs continue to flourish and draw people of all ages. To date, 4,653 people attended 297 library programs. We have book discussion groups for children and teens, a variety of self-help seminars for adults, and craft programs.

Our wildly popular Crafts-to-Share Club draw a dedicated following under the direction of Reference Librarian Melissa Singlevich. The ladies from the Craft-to-Share program have continued to volunteer their time, materials, and talent to knit and crochet blankets, hats and other items to donate to the Hackensack Medical Center. To date, a total of 3,422 hours of donated time was given in 2009.

Established in April, the Library offers a weekly meeting of the Job Search Club for the purpose of networking and further education. It is our latest effort to help our residents. We began a series of seminars and invited guest speakers to assist the participants in various aspects of their job search and polish their interview skills. Our mailing list has over 70 people. Several individuals have gotten jobs and are enrolled in further training. All agree that they have benefited from our efforts.

The attendance for the Young Adult Programs continues to grow in leaps and bounds under the care and direction of Reference/Young Adult Librarian Catherine Dodwell. We have innovative and successful cross generational craft programs where teens and adults are in one room as they learn from one another. Other activities offered this past year were learning about stage combat, how to play bridge, and leadership training.

Under the direction of Children's Librarian Rosalie Nickles, the children's activities

**LIBRARY (cont'd):**

continue to bring in high attendance. There are always wonderful and creative year round programs being sponsored for all age groups. We held our 20th Annual Lego Night with over 150 people in attendance.

One of the most memorable moments took place this summer when the Library held its first Movie Night. Special thanks to all the borough agencies and individuals involved in making it a smashing success. This event was held to promote and to encourage families to spend quality time together. 300 people were in attendance. A wonderful time was had by all. Who couldn't resist staying up till 2 in the morning at their local library when they offered to have four movie screenings, a karaoke area, makeovers by the Parisian Beauty Academy, costumed characters, a long red carpet, a 7 foot Oscar statue, gaming, and a concession stand that offered a number of wonderful treats.

The Library facilities continue to offer a haven for local organizations to meet -- 150 groups used the meeting rooms this year. A total of 2,409 people met at the Library for meetings.

The public can register for various library programs from the comfort of their homes by going to the library's website – <http://hasbrouckheights.bccls.org>

**Funding:** The Library has received the following grant:

Per Capita State Aid -- \$ 10,808                      Used for Operating Expenses

**Friends Of The Library:** The Library receives steadfast support from the Friends of the Library, presided over by Susanne Kepsel. The Friends help finance all children's and young adult programs, and pay for all the refreshments and prizes. They have been diligent in planning their fundraisers throughout the year in order to ensure the success of library activities. Besides having two seasonal book sales, they also held a Chinese New Year Luncheon, a Wine & Delights fundraiser in partnership with the Chamber of Commerce, and participated in the Town-wide Street Fair. To date, \$ 14,000 has been donated to support ongoing activities and includes the following gifts to the Library:

- CD/DVD Cleaner to help maintain the health of the collection
- Two-Year Movie License for public screenings

Through the generous donations of community minded individuals, the Friends' Endowment Fund, whose mission is to provide for library programming and to keep the Library on the cutting edge of technology, paid for the following:

- Upgraded the security system for media and library materials
- Online reservation and program calendar
- Added a people counter at the door

**LIBRARY (cont'd):**

- Revamped DVD Media Cases

In conclusion, the Library continues to provide the community with outstanding public service. The Mayor and Council commends the Library Director, her staff and the Library Board who work so hard to offer quality service. The local public library has a wealth of resources and services to offer and an opportunity for lifetime learning.

**FIRE DEPARTMENT:**

*given by Councilman David Gonzalez*

*submitted by Fire Chief Michael Ratkowski*

Fire Department and Ambulance Corps are to be commended for an outstanding year of volunteer work on behalf of all of the people of Hasbrouck Heights.

As of Firematic Year ending 11-30-09:

Number of EMS Calls --- 1,637    Number of Fire Calls --- 580

Equipment Purchased in year 2009:

- 2 AEDs
- 1 Gas powered saw
- 1 set Air bags
- 1 Hydra-Ram forcible entry tool
- 4 Handline nozzles
- 1 Little Giant ladder

The Port Authority made a generous contribution of \$80,000 towards the purchase of a new ambulance. The bid was received and accepted and the Ambulance will be delivered in 2010. The Fire Department also participated in many activities in 2009, including the following events:

April- The Easter Egg Hunt  
The 11th annual 5K run  
The HHFD assisted the West Paterson Fire Department in a Gasoline Tanker Drill

May- The first annual Street Fair  
HHFD Annual Inspection  
The Memorial Day Parade

July- The 4th of July Children's Parade and the Annual Fireworks Display

September- Wings and Wheels Expo

**FIRE DEPARTMENT (cont'd):**

Participated in the MDA Labor Day Telethon at the VFW Post  
Town Day

October- HHFD hosted a breakfast for the Israeli Police, Fire and Emergency Personnel  
Visited the schools in town during Fire Prevention Week

November- The Annual Holiday Parade and Tree Lighting

December- Santa around town.

We are very proud of the work they do and thank them for all of their volunteer work and the hundreds of hours it takes for them to professionally operate and care for all the major equipment that is required for them to perform their duties. They are the best.

**DPW REPORT:**

*given by Councilman Gonzalez  
submitted by DPW Supt. Bill Spindler*

The Department of Public works is proud to report on the progress of its many various services throughout the Borough:

**Building & Grounds:** Under this heading the Department of Public Works (DPW) maintains the mechanical systems (heating, A/C, plumbing, and electrical) for the Borough Hall, Library, Senior Center, and all meeting rooms as well as the Public Safety Building which houses the Police Department, Fire Department, and Municipal Courtroom. In addition, the DPW cleans the buildings and maintains all the landscaping of the grounds. The buildings are inspected annually by the New Jersey Department of Labor and are in compliance with all regulations. Some improvements this year were the installation of an irrigation system at the Police Memorial and new flower beds were constructed at the circle. Through donations of local contractors and the assistance of the DPW the Police Memorial is complete with landscaping and a sprinkler system. The DPW completed a large project at the circle that entailed the excavation of five areas, 18-feet long by 6-feet wide to add new flower beds. Upon excavation, top soil was mixed with a moisture control product and placed in the beds. Flowers, both annuals and perennials, were planted and fertilized. The project was the combined effort of the Honorable Mayor Rose Heck, Michael Kronyak, Rose Marie Sees, Bill Spindler, Ray Vorisek, Ann Lustberg, Elizabeth Moser, and Maria Proscia along with several other members of the community. The DPW also assisted in the installation of the new solar powered "Slow School Sign" that is now in place on eastbound lane on Passaic Avenue. As everyone knows that road is heavily traveled

**DPW REPORT (cont'd):**

by tractor trailers and trucks. The new sign was greatly needed.

**Shade Trees:** The DPW performs all tree services needed for the entire town. On staff are a Tree Foreman and a Tree Trimmer. These employees in conjunction with the Assistant Superintendent Jim Schneider determine the priority of hazardous trees to be removed or trimmed. The department also provides a Tree Replacement Program which replaces 50-60 trees each year. The Shade Tree crew responds immediately to hazardous conditions arising from any severe weather conditions. The DPW purchased a new stump grinding machine this year replacing the old one that was manufactured in 1970. That put the old machine at 39 years-old and was ready for retirement.

**Leaf Removal:** The DPW performs leaf removal every fall, starting October 19<sup>th</sup> in both Zones, by removing leaves from our street and transports them to them a recycling compost center in Woodland Park, NJ. (Formerly West Paterson). With the purchase of a claw attachment we have a better system of leaf collection which saves taxpayers money on labor, fuel, and dumping fees. Leaves may be raked into street (but not within 10 feet of a storm drain/catch basin) and will be picked up on non-scheduled basis once a week, weather permitting. Leaves can also be placed in brown paper sacks/bags and put. NO PLASTIC bags will be accepted

**Recycling:** This year, the Hasbrouck Heights Recycling Program has added the collection of electronics (eWaste) to our curbside collection program. eWaste can be put out at the curb on newspaper collection days and will be picked up after newspapers. eWaste is every piece of electronic equipment such as computers, monitors, keyboards, stereos, televisions, telephones, etc. Electronics can also be taken to our Recycling Center at the DPW located at I Plant Road or to our satellite recycling station, the first Saturday of every month, located in the Borough parking lot on Central Avenue from 7:00 AM to 12:00 Noon. So far this year, eWaste recycling has been very successful in that we have collected 7.42 tons (14,840 lbs.) of electronics not ending up in our landfill. The Recycling Education Program has been in place for three years in our schools in conjunction with the Bergen County Utilities Authority (BCUA) at no cost to the borough. Our schools are in full compliance with the New Jersey State recycling regulations. This year our recycling program has recycled 669 tons (1,338,000 lbs.) of revenue producing items, which has generated a savings to the borough from revenue earned and avoided costs of solid waste disposal fees of \$57,768.52. Be on the lookout for our 3<sup>rd</sup> Free Town Wide Shredding Event in spring 2010. This service gives you the opportunity to safely dispose of your sensitive documents.

**Road Repairs/Maintenance:** The DPW inspects all roads throughout the borough and submits a list to the Mayor and Council in need of resurfacing each year. Pothole repairs continue all year along with painting of yellow curbs and crosswalks. Snow

**DPW REPORT(cont'd):**

plowing and snow removal are a large part of maintaining the roads. Every storm in our winter months either brings out our salt spreading trucks or our plows. Snow is transferred to the DPW Yard (as shown above) after removal from the streets. The DPW takes pride in plowing the streets, curb to curb, and needs the cooperation of all residents by not parking in the street until the department cleans the roads. All borough and county roads in town are cleaned by our street sweeper once a week with exceptions during leaf season and winter storms. This year the DPW will be using a new dump truck equipped with an angle plow and salt spreader. The new truck replaces one that was 26 years-old and was beyond its life span. The DPW plows 30 miles of road of which five miles are owned by Bergen County. Upon completion of every snow storm an invoice is sent to the county for services rendered. (Refer to Snow Regulations Notice to Residents.) PSE & G has completed a large project on Passaic Avenue and the Boulevard that continues into Wood-Ridge. The utility company replaced the natural gas main line with new pipe and has resurfaced the road. The Hasbrouck Heights Department of Public Works and the Bergen County Roads Department attended all construction meetings that pertained to this project.

**Garbage and Trash:** Garbage and trash is picked up twice a week with a backyard pick up of household garbage only. Trash is collected by placing items at the curb. No more than eight trash items on each pick up day. We also provide grass and brush pick up (Refer to the Recycling Calendar.) Construction and demolition materials will not be collected and must be disposed of privately. Please separate and remove any items that can be recycled in order to save taxpayer dollars.

**Sewer Maintenance:** The DPW operates and maintains two types of sewer systems: Sanitary and Stormwater. In our sanitary sewer system, also called Wastewater Collection, has a complex series of pumps and pipelines which transport waste from your home to a treatment plant in Moonachie. The stormwater system drains only rain water from your property into the streets and from the streets into catch basins which drain into Riser Ditch that is part of the Tidal Water System. Under New Jersey State Law, the DPW inspects and cleans all 144 basins once a year. The Borough has completed the repair of two sanitary sewer main pipe lines this year. The first repair replaced 100 feet of sewer pipe on Oak Grove between LaSalle and Ottawa Avenues. The other repair was 50 feet of sewer pipe on LaSalle between the Boulevard and Oak Grove Avenue.

**Parks and Playgrounds:** The borough has within its boundaries several parks, Woodland, Veterans, Polifly, and Miers that the DPW maintains. There are also many other areas that are maintained such as Policemen's Memorial, Firemen's Memorial, Little League, and 32 other locations throughout the town. At Woodland Park, residents have used the facility for 50 picnics. The DPW performs services for picnics such as cleaning restrooms, turning on water and electric and removing trash. Some of our maintenance duties are seeding, fertilizing, watering, grass cutting, weeding, and

**DPW REPORT(cont'd):**

planting of flowers. Improvements have started this year at several of our facilities through the use of funds received by grants. In the playground at Woodland Park, the "Strata Stone" has arrived. This stone is use for rock climbing and is the only one of its kind in the State. At the playground at Miers Park, a new multi-functional piece of equipment similar to that at Central Avenue Park will be installed as well as new basketball courts. At Central Avenue Park, new infant swings were installed and a covered shelter to house picnic tables and benches. The Lions Club of Hasbrouck Heights sponsored two big projects at Woodland Park. First, the installation of two new backstops in the corners of each end of the fields and the other project was rebuilding of the BBQ pits at the Pavilion. The rebuilt pits were lined with brickworks and the DPW assisted by manufacturing the metal grills.

**Other Town Events:** The DPW also assists in the set up of the Outdoor Mall and our annual Thanksgiving, July 4<sup>th</sup> and Rag-a-Muffin parades, the Easter Egg Hunt, Town Day and Halloween in the Park, etc. The Public Works Department played a part in the Street Fair by placing barricades around the area to close off the roads, putting out trash and recycling receptacles, and keeping them empty throughout the event and clean up which included sidewalk and street sweeping. Also, the DPW helped vendors with their electrical extension cords that were hung from the street lights to provide power. In May the Town held an auction to sell Borough equipment and generated \$9,952.00 which goes into the Miscellaneous Revenue Account. Some of the items sold were a Front-End Loader, Dump Truck with salt spreader, two Police Cars, bicycles, office furniture, and computers.

Just a reminder to our residents to help during snow storms:

**NO PARKING ON STREETS WHEN SNOW COVERED**

As a reminder, pursuant to the Code of the Borough of Hasbrouck Heights § 261-27 & § 261-52. Schedule XXII: Snow Emergency No-Parking Areas, whenever snow has fallen and the accumulation is that it covers the street or highway, no vehicle shall be permitted parking on either side of any of the streets. This parking prohibition shall remain in effect until the snow has ceased and the streets have been plowed sufficiently to the extent that parking will not interfere with the normal flow of traffic.

**NO THROWING SNOW / ICE INTO THE ROADS**

Also, pursuant to the Code of the Borough of Hasbrouck Heights § 236-28 & § 236-6, Snow, garbage and waste, no person shall place or deposit snow, for the purpose of disposing of the snow or ice, in or upon any public street or road, public sidewalk or between the street curb or any public sidewalk. It shall be the responsibility of the owners or owners, tenant or tenants of any premises bordering upon sidewalks shall remove all snow or ice from the sidewalk in front of said premises within twelve (12) hours of daylight

**DPW REPORT(cont'd):**

after the snow formed or had fallen.

Your cooperation in following the above ordinances will greatly increase our ability to clear the roads of snow and ice in a prompt and timely manner.

Thank you for your cooperation for all future snowstorms. Any questions, please call the Department of Public Works at 201-288-1072.

DPW Supt Bill Spindler and Asst. Supt. Jim Schneider along with the members of their department are to be commended for the tremendous amount of work they do for the Borough. The work they did during the recent snow storms gave us clean and safe passage on the streets throughout town. Thank you.

**BUILDING DEPARTMENT REPORT:**

*given by Councilwoman Buckman*

*submitted by Construction Official Nicholas Melfi and members of the Building Dept.*

The entire department would like to take this opportunity to compliment the residents of Hasbrouck Heights who continue to take pride in their property and maintain their homes. The residents continued to make upgrades to their property despite the downturn in the economy.

The Building Department has issued 753 permits as of this date for December 8, 2009.

TOTAL VALUE OF CONSTRUCTION \$12,345,243.00.

TOTAL PERMIT FEES COLLECTED \$263,239.00

TOTAL INSPECTIONS by the Building Department were 1,599.

The Planning Board heard no applications this year.

30 Letters of Denial were written during 2009. 15 of these chose have been heard by the Board of Adjustment. There are 3 that are pending due to items missing from the check list and are planning to be heard in January. There are eight who have chosen to make application at a later date. Four have chosen not to pursue a variance.

**Property Maintenance** has continued to respond to complaints and insure compliance was achieved. Necessary legal action was taken when required. Although it may seem that there have been more property maintenance issues, the number has remained stable. This department has a difficult time establishing the responsibility for the maintenance of unoccupied homes, but continues to pursue the matter until compliance is achieved.

**BUILDING DEPARTMENT REPORT (cont'd):**

The Construction Code Official/Zoning Officer has office hours on Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. The Property Maintenance Inspector has Office hours from 8:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. on Monday and Wednesday. These in the office hours were established to better serve the public. The Construction Code Official has 20 working days to give plan approval on permit applications and it is this department's goal to try to get the applications through the approval process in a much shorter time.

Members of this department were pleased to report the 2009 completion of Sonic on Route 17, the townhouses at 10 Terrace Avenue which are currently being sold, the refit of a store front into a restaurant, and major renovations at the Holiday Inn. All added ratable to the tax base. The big disappointment this year was the stalled Touro University project on Route 17 North. The department looks forward to that beginning again in the near future.

The goal to continue running this department efficiently and to help the residents of Hasbrouck Heights is of primary importance.

**BOROUGH CLERK'S AND TAX OFFICE REPORTS:**

*given by Councilman DiPisa*

**MUNICIPAL BUILDING USE**

The Municipal Building continues to be well utilized by many organizations for various meetings and gatherings. Very often every available room is occupied with requests sometimes overlapping. This past year the Caucus Room was used for 87 events, with 102 in 2008; there were 209 events in the Community Room with 194 in 2008; the Council Chambers was used for 69 meetings, 58 in 2008; and the Senior Center 31 events, 58 in 2008. This was in addition to the regular Senior events that occur on a daily basis, and does not take into account the Recreation Center/Community Room nights. There was a total of seven soccer or junior football registrations held in the hallway, as all rooms were in use. The Borough Clerk's office keeps a calendar to insure that each event is recorded and there is no double booking.

**PERMITS ISSUED:** The Borough Clerk's office issues many permits on a daily basis. Here are some of the breakdowns for 2009: Garage Sales - 126 permits issued (not including Town Wide Garage Sale). Woodland Park - 46 permits issued. Open House signs - 7 permits issued. New Merchant - 5 permits issued. Peddler/Solicitor licenses - 42 permits issued. There were 96 requests for public records which were filled within the required time.

**POLLING PLACE CHANGES:** This year the polling places for District 3 & 4 which was the Methodist Church and District 5 & 6 which was the High School Library were moved into

**BOROUGH CLERK'S AND TAX OFFICE REPORTS (cont'd):**

the Senior Center to allow for easier accessibility and for the safety of children. The four elections held included the School Election in April, Primary Election in June, the General Election in November and a Special School Election in December. Districts 1 & 2 remains at Euclid School and Districts 7, 8 & 9 remains at Lincoln School.

**AUTO WHOLESALERS LICENSES:** There were 46 applications received for auto wholesaler licenses in the Industrial Zone. The fee was increased from \$500 to \$1,000.

**TAX COLLECTIONS AND TAX RATES:** The 2008 Collection rate is on target to meet prior year collection rate of 98.86%. This collection rate has been very consistent and stable over the 10 years and is anticipated to continue to be stable. There were four residents who were granted a 100% veterans exemption on their property taxes this year.

**HEALTH DEPARTMENT:**

*given by Councilwoman Link*

*submitted by Laura French, Secretary/Registrar)*

Fees Collected for 2009: \$92,248.00

Health Inspections: 822 of various natures, by Mid-Bergen Health Commission

Dog Licenses: 1159 licenses

Dog License Fees: \$16,605.00

Animal Control Services: 306 responses of various natures

Births Recorded: 113 babies born to town residents.

Town Resident Deaths: 74 residents

Total Deaths Recorded: 808 Deaths

Marriage Licenses Issued: 39 Applied

Civil Union: 1 Applied

Certified Transcripts: 2,617 issued (Death, Marriage & Birth)

The Board of Health was very successful this year with providing services and information to the residents of Hasbrouck Heights. The Health Dept. published valuable information about "How to Protect Yourself Against Lyme Disease", "The Benefits when eating together as a Family" and "The Facts About Norovirus". Along with advising the public about a captured rabid raccoon and informing the public on what precautions to take.

The Board of Health also offers important Health Clinics like the Annual Seasonal Flu Program, which was held on Wednesday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>. Over 140 residents received their Annual Flu Shot. The Board of Health in conjunction with Mid-Bergen Regional Commission and the cooperation of the HH Public School District was able to offer H1N1 Vaccinations right here in Hasbrouck Heights. The Clinic was held on Monday, November 23<sup>rd</sup> and over 500 vaccinations were given out.

### **HEALTH DEPARTMENT (cont'd):**

Another important event is the annual Health Fair, which was held on Saturday, October 17<sup>th</sup>. This year's event had twenty-four vendors and medical personnel offering valuable health screenings, samples, and literature to the many who attended.

This year's Senior Wellness Luncheon was held on Thursday, August 20<sup>th</sup> and was a big success. There were over 100 seniors who enjoyed the complimentary lunch donated by Care One at Wellington. The speaker during the luncheon was Carol Brush, from H.A.R.P. who spoke about skin damage and how to prevent it. Ms. Brush also brought along a Derma Scan machine to show individuals the damage caused by the sun on their skin.

Along with other programs offered like the Child Health Services, the monthly Health Consultations, our first AARP Safe Driver Program, and the Annual Dog Census, The Board of Health is dedicated in improving all our resident's health and well being through valuable services and education.

### **FOOD PANTRY:**

*given by Mayor Rose Heck  
submitted by Robert Brady*

The Hasbrouck Heights Food Pantry is open on Monday mornings every week for the entire year. The pantry helps over 18 families in need on a weekly basis. This year Borough Clerk, Ro Sees along with myself helped coordinate several local food drives, a holiday gift drive for families in need with children, and also received monetary donations for the purchase of gift cards.

The pantry is operational only because of the generous donations from local church and civic organization as well as youth groups like, the local Boys and Girls Scouts, and many individual generous residents. Also the pantry is thankful to the many volunteers that operate the food pantry on Monday mornings.

In the fall of 2009 the pantry was overwhelmed with the generosity of our residents and local organizations. Each family in need was able to receive a turkey and trimmings for a thanksgiving dinner, as well as holiday presents for children, gift cards for adults and another turkey and trimmings for a holiday dinner.

Anyone who would like to volunteer to work the pantry or to organize a donation please call the Robert Brady at the Recreation Department at (201) 288-4143.

**CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS:**

*given by Mayor Heck*

*submitted by CFO/Admin. Michael Kronyak*

**Central Avenue Park**

The improvement of Central Avenue Park has been completed with the addition of a 16'X16' pavilion and infant swing. This is the last part of the project which started last year with the installation of the playground equipment in the newly created park adjacent to the parking lot.

**Miers Park and Woodland Park**

Miers Park will be receiving a much needed improvement. The project will include removal of the old pavilion, concrete slab and fencing. A new 18'X18' pavilion will be installed on a new concrete slab. The basketball court will be reconstructed and new playground equipment will be installed. Also, new picnic tables and benches will be installed at the park.

The improvements at Woodland Park continue. This project will include the rebuilding and extending of the walking path. The asphalt on the basketball courts next to the pavilion will be removed and replaced and a new barrier curb will be installed at the west side to prevent erosion. Curb will be installed and repaired around the pavilion and damaged areas of the asphalt will be repaired. There will also be the addition of a new piece of equipment in the park. A "Strata Stone", which is a 7&1/2 foot tall climbing stone, will be installed in the existing park.

The total budget for the Miers Park/Woodland Park improvements is \$250,000.00 with \$46,208.00 from a Community Development Block Grant and \$80,000.00 from Bergen County Open Space funds. All equipment has been delivered and the contracts have been awarded for the site work and installation. If the weather holds, some of the work will be started in the winter with completion in the spring.

**BOULEVARD STREETScape**

This year brought about the continuation of the Boulevard Streetscape Improvement project. Although it may seem as though this project just got started in actuality it began back in the late 1990's when the Borough Engineer was asked to prepare a Streetscape Improvement Plan. This plan became the basis for the many applications made to the Department of Transportation Trust Fund for their consideration. For many years, for each application we made came a letter informing us that we were not eligible for funding under the program.

When the Municipal Building was being constructed on the Boulevard we took that opportunity to incorporate the Streetscape Plan in order to improve the block and to

**CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS (cont'd):**

demonstrate our commitment to the Boulevard Improvement Project. The same logic was used when the parking lot at the corner of Central Avenue and The Boulevard was being constructed and the Streetscape Plan was again used. This commitment on the part of the Borough helped convince the State that we were serious about the project and were willing to expend funds, other than grant money, on the project.

We now find ourselves 11 years after the first plan was formulated and the first phases of the Boulevard Improvement are almost completed. The Borough was awarded two Department of Transportation Trust Fund grants in the amount of \$150,000.00 each for a total of \$300,000.00. The Borough put up \$50,000.00 for each grant received bringing the total for Phase I and II to \$400,000.00. The good news on the project continues with the recent award of \$140,000.00 in Department of Transportation Funding towards Phase III of this project.

In an effort to move the project along quickly, Phase I and II were combined and in July of 2009 bids were received for the improvements between Washington Place and Jefferson Avenue. The improvements included the replacing of sidewalks and curbs, with the sidewalk finished in the same design found at the Municipal Building. The area in between sidewalk and curb is finished with pavers and new curb cuts are installed. Decorative lighting will be installed by PSE&G following the style installed at the Municipal Building and Parking Lot. Unfortunately, this project required the removal of 11 trees on the Boulevard. This is always a sensitive topic but it is one that cannot be avoided. In order to complete the improvements the trees needed to be replaced and twelve new trees have been planted to replace the eleven removed.

Hopefully we will be successful in our application for future funding and the improvement plan can continue.

**Grant Applications:**

The following grants were either utilized in the 2009 operating budget or have been awarded this year for use in 2010 to pay for services that would otherwise have to be funded by your tax dollars:

Governors Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse	13,267.00
Clean Communities Program	13,359.41
Drunk Driving Enforcement Fund	13,654.86
Alcohol Education and Rehabilitation Fund	1,231.65
Recycling Tonnage Grant	9,492.81
Body Armor Fund	2,817.94

Grants are also sought for the funding of Capital Projects. These grants help us complete large projects, which do not fall within the operating budget, without incurring additional debt. The following projects are either completed or in progress in 2009 as a result of grants received:

**CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS (cont'd):**

Acquisition of a New Senior Citizen Bus	54,194.00
Boulevard Streetscape Improvement Phase I & II	150,000.00
Improvements to Miers Park and Woodland Park	126,208.00
Boulevard Streetscape Improvement Phase III	140,000.00
Improvement of a Portion of Jefferson Avenue	90,000.00
Safe Routes to Schools Program	173,000.00
Installation of a New Pavilion at Woodland Park	69,500.00

In addition to the above, the Mayor and Council have already applied for grants to fund projects such as:

- Acquisition of Gear and Equipment for the Fire Department
- Improvement of a Portion of Division Avenue
- Improvement of a Portion of Burton Avenue
- Improvement of a Portion of Collins Avenue

**CLOSING:**

As I close these Annual Reports, I especially want to thank the exceptional work done by the Borough Clerk Rose Marie Sees who continues to handle a complex amount of Borough Business in such a friendly and professional manner. The Borough is very lucky to have her. She makes everything so much easier for me and the Council, keeping us regularly informed of all that is happening.

Another invaluable asset to this Borough is our Borough Administrator/Finance Officer Michael Kronyak who has kept us in excellent financial shape through his careful management skills and ability to handle day to day emergencies that arise. Both Mike and Ro are outstanding individuals with special skills and I thank them on behalf of the entire Borough.

My personal gratitude to both Ro and Mike for all of the extra work they did to keep me abreast of everything going on in the Borough on a day to day, up to the minute basis during my stay in the hospital and rehab center. We didn't miss a beat, but it did take a lot of effort on all our parts.

My thanks to our IT expert Cameron and our Library who set me up with a laptop connection to the Borough. I was at first able to stand and use one finger to open the e-mails, type and send e-mails to Mike and Rose. I used my cell phone as a working source of communication as well. I was unable to make the first meeting in September but thereafter through the kindness of Jay Lustberg and his Ambu Car, was able to get from Wellington Care One to the other meetings via wheelchair and after that a semi-walker into the Council Chambers. The DPW built a ramp from the Caucus Room to the Council Chambers to make my travel easier. Thank you, thank you all for that and so

**CLOSING (cont'd):**

much more.

My thanks to all for their many kindnesses this past year. It would take me forever to recount all of the wonderful ways in which so many people have helped me. So please know that you are all very much appreciated.

We are very fortunate to have department heads, staff and professionals with all the many talents needed to make our Borough so special and responsive to the needs of our residents.

My personal thanks to all of the volunteers who make up the Mayor's special Committees and Liaisons for their accomplishments over the past two years. The addition of the Outdoor Malls and our spectacular 2009 Street Fair were two examples of what we all did together.

I welcome the new Council Members to those already seated here, knowing how much work we have done and will continue to do on behalf of our town. We are here to serve the people and we will never forget the faith you have placed in us.

Together all of us will continue to seek Grants, hold special events, and forums, come up with ideas to encourage business in town, increase ratables, add to beautification projects, and clean streets and sidewalk programs; seek ways and means to become more efficient, work on shared services and expand our successful recycling programs. In these times of economic challenges, we must all work together to stretch our dollars and meet the surprises that have come down upon us from the State and County. I promise to personally work diligently with all of you.

May hope, love, and kindness  
be in everyone's heart,  
and may the New Year  
bring you and yours  
many blessings. Happy New Year!

**MISCELLANEOUS FROM THE PUBLIC:**

Mayor Heck asked for a motion to open the meeting to the public which was made by Councilwoman Link, seconded by Councilman Gonzalez and unanimously carried.

**SENATOR ROBERT GORDON:**

Mayor Heck invited Senator Gordon who first wished everyone a Happy New Year and noted he was happy to see Mayor Heck in good health. He extended his best wishes to Russell Lipari and John Dingertopadre as they begin their service. He said he has

**MISCELLANEOUS FROM PUBLIC (cont'd):**

served at every level of government for the past 40 years, in Washington, at the State level, having served as Mayor and Council member in Fair Lawn for 10 years. Looking back he concluded that some of the most satisfying experiences were at the local level. He hoped they would experience the same. He along with Assemblywoman Joan Voss and Assemblywoman Connie Wagner are prepared to continue their partnership with Hasbrouck Heights. Referring to the report just given, he hoped everyone heard the great interaction with State Government and Hasbrouck Heights, where grants have been provided and involvement in many projects. He continued that this coming year will be viewed as probably the most challenging time in our public lives, the State budget has a deficit ranging from 8 to 10 billion dollars resulting from bad decisions made by both parties over many years, that the new governor will be making cuts to municipalities and school districts. He presented certificates to Russell Lipari and John Dingertopadre.

**FREEHOLDER-ELECT JOHN DRISCOLL:**

Freeholder-Elect Driscoll extended holiday wishes and congratulated the new councilmen. Listening to the Mayor's report, he commended the DPW on the amount of work they do. He concurred with Senator Gordon that it would be a rough year, and when he gets on the Freeholder Board on Wednesday night, all will be working together to get out of this with bickering and partisanship ending.

Mayor Heck asked for a motion to close the public portion which was made by Councilwoman Link, seconded by Councilman DiPisa and unanimously carried.

**MISCELLANEOUS FROM THE COUNCIL:**

Councilman DiPisa thanked his family, who have always been his best supporters and probably if not for them would not have been here for so many years. He considered himself privileged to be a councilman in Hasbrouck Heights, that it is probably one of the best run towns in Bergen County and was fortunate to live here. He congratulated Councilman Lipari and Councilman Dingertopadre. He considered the reports just given a testament to what has been accomplished this past year.

Councilwoman Buckman wished everyone a happy new year, concurring with Councilman DiPisa and looked forward to working with the Mayor and Council, the employees of the Borough and volunteers and looked forward to a great year.

Councilman Gonzalez wished everyone a happy new year, agreed it would be a challenging year but agreed it would be our best year, that even though all don't agree, we work and come up with the best resolution for the residents and the Borough. He was extremely proud of living in Hasbrouck Heights, working with the employees. He welcomed Councilman Dingertopadre and Councilman Lipari to the dias. He then invited everyone for refreshments after the adjournment of the meeting.

**MISCELLANEOUS FROM COUNCIL (cont'd):**

Councilwoman Link also wished everyone a health and Happy New Year in 2010, that her first year was a great learning experience and welcomed the new councilmen, that without the borough employees, including Laura French, Mike, Ro, Jean and Bernice. It was a continuing effort and one she was proud to be serving on.

Councilman Dingertopadre thanked the residents of Hasbrouck Heights for the opportunity to serve on the council, that it was a new experience and was looking forward to it. He wished everyone a health and happy New Year.

Councilman Lipari thanked the Council, the Republican Club, Tom Meli, the people of Hasbrouck Heights and his family. He would like to be the eyes, ears and mouth of the public.

There being no one else wishing to speak, the public portion was closed on a motion by Councilman Altobelli, seconded by Councilman DiNanno and unanimously carried.

**BENEDICTION:** The Benediction was given by Rev. Anthony Lipari, son of Councilman Lipari.

**ADJOURN:**

There being no further business to be conducted by the Mayor and Council, Mayor Heck asked for a motion to adjourn which was made by Councilman DiPisa, seconded by Councilwoman Link, and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 1:55 p.m.

I, ROSE MARIE SEES, Borough Clerk of the Borough of Hasbrouck Heights, do hereby certify that the foregoing Minutes are to the best of my knowledge a true account of the Reorganization Meeting held on January 1, 2010.

Rose Marie Sees

Borough Clerk

