

JANUARY 2025

HELMETTA HAPPENINGS

Official Newsletter of the Borough of Helmetta



Reflect and Recharge

BY MAYOR CHRISTOPHER SLAVICEK

As we look to 2025 and the theme of REFLECT and RECHARGE, I must focus my attention to our incredible Borough of Helmetta team members, the heartbeat of our everyday. This certainly includes our dedicated first responders and emergency personnel.

REFLECTING upon their accomplishments, this team was dedicated the whole year through to providing adequate services to our residents with an emphasis on customer service and resident satisfaction. They are also a team that stands united to support innovative initiatives and solutions for the betterment of the greater community.

Congratulations to Melissa Hallerman, Assistant Business Administrator/Borough Clerk, as the 2024 Employee of the Year for her excellence in delivering superior services. She is the epitome of a true leader and exudes the skills and expertise of a genuine professional. Melissa exemplifies compassion to the community through her consistent efforts and love for Helmetta. Congratulations to Melissa on her well-deserved recognition!

When I think of the team, community and RECHARGING for this new year, the word energy immediately comes to mind. I'm a firm believer that energy is contagious, and success is driven from the combination of energy and ideas. Positive energy derives from passion and without passion you don't have energy, without energy you have nothing. Our team exudes that gift of positive energy and passion that will equate to yet another successful year in Helmetta.

To our residents, I encourage you to personally take a moment to REFLECT and RECHARGE yourselves to find a new profound energy and passion in 2025!



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Reflections of 2024 Holidays in Helmetta





Community Calendar

January 1st	Borough Hall Closed	New Year's Day
January 2nd	Reorganization Meeting	Borough Hall 7:00pm
January 15th	Council Meeting	Borough Hall 7:00pm
January 20th	Borough Hall Closed	Martin Luther King Jr. Day
January 23rd	Pizza and Pop with a Cop	Community Center 6:00pm
February 6th	Service & Sweets	Community Center 6:00pm
February 12th	Borough Hall Closed	Lincoln's Birthday
February 17th	Borough Hall Closed	President's Day
February 19th	Council Meeting	Borough Hall 7:00pm
March 17th	Lucky Leprechaun Leap	Locations in Town Time
March 19th	Council Meeting	Borough Hall 7:00pm
March 20th	Dunk with the DPW	John Street Park 6:00pm
March 23rd	Rabies Clinic	DPW Garage 6:00pm

“The beginning of the year is always the best time to relax, recharge, and reflect.”



BY PAUL REED, CPWM

As we turn the page to a new year, the theme of "Reflect and Recharge" guides us to look back on our accomplishments and embrace the fresh opportunities ahead. At the Department of Public Works, we are filled with gratitude for all we've achieved and are excited for the new projects and services we have planned for 2025. This year is all about renewal, growth, and taking purposeful action toward improving the community of Helmetta.

Reflecting on 2024 – A Year of Progress and Community Impact

2024 was a year of significant strides for our department. From enhancing our recycling to continuing with the Manalapan Brook clean up, our collective efforts have contributed to a cleaner, safer, and more sustainable Helmetta. Some key achievements include:

- **Green Initiatives:** Our recycling programs saw increased participation, contributing to a significant reduction in waste sent to landfills. We're proud to be moving toward a greener, more sustainable future, and we encourage residents to continue participating in recycling efforts.
- **Manalapan Brook Cleanup –** Joint efforts from Monroe, Spotwood, and Helmetta have significantly reduced stormwater back up while also massively benefiting the ecosystem.

Upcoming Events & Opportunities to Get Involved

- **Earth Day Cleanup:** Mark your calendars for Saturday, April 19th, when we'll be hosting our annual Spring Clean-Up Day. Volunteers are invited to help tidy up streets, parks, and public spaces, making Helmetta shine brighter for everyone.
- **Shoveling Snow & Frigid Temperature Safety:** When shoveling snow, take frequent breaks and avoid overexerting yourself. Cold temperatures can put extra strain on your body, so it's important to warm up before you shovel and wear layers to stay dry and insulated. If you feel fatigued, dizzy, or short of breath, stop immediately and seek warmth.
- **Be mindful of icy conditions and wear sturdy footwear with good traction to avoid slips and falls.** In extremely cold temperatures, limit time outdoors to reduce the risk of frostbite and hypothermia. Bundle up in warm clothing, and make sure to cover exposed skin when venturing out.
- **By staying safe while shoveling and being mindful of the cold, we can help make this winter a safer season for everyone. Stay warm and stay safe!**

As we move into 2025, we are reminded of the power of intention. This year let's commit to small actions that make a big difference. Whether it's taking time to care for our parks, maintaining cleaner streets, or simply being more mindful of our waste, every contribution counts. Together, we can make Helmetta an even better place to live, work, and grow.

Wishing you all a happy, healthy, and fulfilling 2025. Let's reflect on our past accomplishments, recharge with renewed purpose, and move forward with intention!



Jamesburg Police Department



BY CHIEF JAMES CRAPAROTTA

WELCOME PATROLMAN ANTHONY CERAS TO THE JAMESBURG POLICE DEPARTMENT!

The Jamesburg Police Department is proud to welcome Anthony Ceras as our newest full-time Patrolman.

Anthony was born and raised in Jamesburg and is the son of retired Jamesburg Police Captain Louis Ceras. He attended Middlesex College and began his law enforcement career as a Class I Special Law Enforcement Officer (SLEO I) with the Point Pleasant Beach Police Department.

After being elevated to SLEO II, Anthony attended the Ocean County Police Academy, where he earned his Police Training Commission (PTC) certification. Over the past summer and fall, he served with distinction as an SLEO II for the Point Pleasant Police Department.

In November, Anthony joined the Jamesburg Police Department as an SLEO II and has since been appointed to full-time status.

Anthony is deeply committed to serving the Jamesburg and Helmetta communities, the area he has called home his entire life. His familiarity with our neighborhoods, schools, and residents will undoubtedly strengthen the bond between our department and the communities we serve. As a member of the Jamesburg Police Department, Anthony proudly serves the Boroughs of Jamesburg and Helmetta, continuing our tradition of excellence in public safety.

We are excited to have Anthony on board and look forward to the positive impact he will make as we work together to ensure the safety and well-being of our residents. Welcome, Patrolman Ceras!



Clerk's Corner



BY MELISSA HALLERMAN, RMC, CMR

It's time to reflect, recharge and reorganize!

A reorganization meeting for a local municipality holds significant importance especially for the Borough of Helmetta. It occurs at the beginning of the year and serves as an organizational foundation for the governance of our town.

One of the primary functions of a reorganization meeting is to swear-in newly elected or re-elected officials. This marks the official start of their term and is a ceremonial occasion that fosters public confidence in the electoral process. The appointment of various committees such as finance, public safety, public works, and education are also appointed at the reorganization meeting. These committees oversee different aspects of municipal operations and ensure the efficient functioning of our Borough.

The reorganization meeting often sets the tone for the year by discussing and establishing the Borough's priorities, such as budget decisions, infrastructure projects, or community initiatives. This ensures that all elected officials are aligned on the municipality's objectives for the year. It is also an opportunity to review or update internal policies, procedures, and protocols. It makes certain that the Borough is operating under up-to-date rules that reflect current needs and mandatory legislative changes.

Reorganization meetings are open to the public, promoting transparency in the Borough's decision-making processes. The public has the opportunity to observe the election of officials, the appointment of key positions, and understand how important decisions are being made at the start of the new year. This is a chance for residents to witness their elected officials take office and see the direction of our local government in action. It provides an opportunity for public comment and feedback from our constituents.

A local municipality's reorganization meeting is crucial for ensuring the effective governance of a community, with clear leadership, defined roles, and a focused agenda for the upcoming year. It facilitates transparency and public engagement and ensures decisions that are made for the betterment of the community are done efficiently. A reorganization is the perfect way to start the new year with a moment or two of reflecting and recharging!





HELMETTA FIRE DEPARTMENT BINGO

EVERY TUESDAY NIGHT STARTING JANUARY 7TH

DOORS OPEN AT 6:00PM
CALLING STARTS AT 7:45PM
HOLY TRINITY CHURCH

100 MAIN STREET, HELMETTA, NJ 08828

Admission \$3.00

BA 25-01 License#205-9-29109