

2018 Mayor's Statement

Good evening everyone, and happy New Year!

Welcome to Roseland's first televised council meeting of 2018. It has been my practice as mayor to offer a statement each year highlighting the accomplishments of the previous year and to update our residents on the important matters that are of the essence in Roseland now.

First, I would like to congratulate and welcome our newly elected council member Christopher Bardi to the Dais and wish him all the best with his service to our community. I also congratulate and welcome back Council member Michele Tolli who was reelected to her fifth term on the council this past November and I congratulate Council woman Tolli on having been selected by her peers to serve as this year's Council president.

Some of the notable accomplishments for 2017 are as follows:

We authorized the purchase of a 110 foot aerial platform ladder truck and related equipment. We thank the members of the Roseland VFD for their patience and persistence as we moved towards the acquisition of this newest firefighting tool. The new truck will replace an old ladder truck that is nearly three decades old.

We conducted the boroughs first ever comprehensive water and sewer inventory and system assessment. We have initiated some action plans on how we can prudently invest in our water and sewer infrastructure and keep our systems functional. As a first phase of our action plan, we will paint our water tower and replace outdated water meters with new, more accurate meters that can be read remotely thereby saving on the cost of labor required to read the older outdated meters while also improving the accuracy of the bills we present to our rate payers.

We approved and completed road resurfacing projects for Phillips Lane, Wingate Way, Clarendon Court and Kincaid Court. We also approved the resurfacing of Locust Ave, a project that will be completed as soon as the winter weather clears.

We settled the Patrolman's contract directly with the members of the Patrolman's Union and without the use of attorneys on either side of the negotiations. In doing so, we saved valuable taxpayer dollars. We thank the members of the Roseland Patrolman's Union for working with the governing body and arriving at an amicable contract settlement.

We hired two new patrolman, Mark Aue and Richard Romeo, who were added as newest members of the police force. Lt. Detective Livio Cioffi was promoted to the rank of patrol captain filling the one captain seat that had been left vacant upon the retirement of Captain Kevin Kitchen two years ago.

Captain Cioffi was recently awarded the Essex County Police Executive of The Year Award by the Essex County Chiefs of Police Association. It is noted that this is the first time ever that the Executive of The Year award went to an officer of the rank less than Chief of Police. We congratulate Captain Cioffi for bringing this award home to Roseland.

Assistant Superintendent of DPW, Chris Critchett earned his certification as a certified Public works manager as per the guidelines required of the State of NJ.

We hosted some great events for our residents!

We resurrected the Mayor's Trophy softball game wherein the Roseland Police Department team battled the RFD/RFAS team for the trophy and Bragging rights.

We held our 3rd annual borough bonfire which had, by far, the largest attendance ever.

We held our first ever meet the mayor and council open house event where members of the public had a chance to meet with governing body members in a casual setting.

In an effort to help our residents fight against the nationwide epidemic of opiate abuse and with the help of our police department, we proudly installed a "Project Medicine" drop box in our police HQ. The convenient drop box allows residents to securely dispose of unused or excess medications in a safe and secure place. The drop box is accessible 24 hours a day and no questions will be asked of anyone using this service.

We created a safe location where people can meet up and complete transactions that originated by way of the internet. A lot of folks choose to conduct transactions through web sites and we figured it would be great to provide a public, video monitored area, for folks to complete these types of transactions. The designated area is right in front of our police station located at 15 Harrison Ave. There is a sign in one of the parking spots identifying the area as a safe zone.

We acknowledged many of our residents for their achievements and for their service to our community as well as their service to others.

2018 brings new and continued challenges:

I look forward to working with the council to introduce and adopt an ordinance that will set one standard as it relates to road maintenance for our homeowner associations. There seems to have been multiple methods adopted in the past and I believe we need one universal approach on this subject.

The court case between Roseland and the FSHC continues and we will provide updates to the community as the matter matures.

We continue to work with Mack Cali relative to the redevelopment and revitalization of the Becker Farm Road Complex. This matter has been the subject of much discussion in our open public meetings and I encourage the exchange of thoughts on this subject to continue.

In my opinion, one of the best ways to gauge the current appeal of a community is to count the number of homes listed for sale. I am pleased to report that as I write this message, there are only 10 homes listed for sale in Roseland as per the Garden State Multiple Listing Service. That is the fewest number of homes listed that I can remember seeing in a long time. I believe it is proof that Roseland remains a very desirable place to reside.

In Closing, I feel strongly that Roseland can become an even more desirable place to reside if the members of this governing body work hard together with a focus on nothing but the betterment of our great borough.

Once again, Happy New Year!