

**Borough of Matawan**  
201 Broad Street, Matawan New Jersey 07747



**Honorable Joseph Altomonte**  
**Mayor**  
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Dear Residents,

Happy New Year!

We set out to Restore Matawan in 2016. Although there's plenty of work to do, we have had some successes over the past 3 years that I wish to recognize. As our vision of a prosperous downtown is on the horizon, let's reflect on some items that contributed to the progress within our beautiful borough thus far.

1. Since taking office in 2016, we have continued working on our commitment to improve our infrastructure. With roads in the borough approaching 30 and 40 years old, we simply found that unacceptable. **20 streets** have been paved in the last **3 years** (7 streets in 2016, 8 streets in 2017, 5 streets in 2018, and this will continue in 2019).
2. A grant from the state provided us with \$300,000 of non-matching dollars to improve our sidewalks and walkways by the train station. This allowed us to improve and provide a safer route for our commuters.
3. We also obtained the Community Development Block Grant Phase 3 totaling \$160,000 of federal dollars provided by the county. This is how we enhanced Main Street with new sidewalks, lamp posts, lighting, and benches. We plan on applying for additional grants in 2019 to continue the work on Main Street.
4. Our DPW was severely underfunded, underequipped, and undermanned when we took office. Over the last 3 years, we have expanded the department, replaced aged and broken equipment, replaced our broken down street sweeper, and are in the process of creating a parks department within the DPW to take back maintenance of our parks, thus saving money that was being spent on outside contractors. This is one of our most visible departments, and we strive to show YOUR tax dollars at work.
5. We made significant movement with the train station redevelopment, which will allow us to search for a developer in 2019. Ahead of this plan we have plans for additional parking on Main Street, which we will keep you apprised of in 2019 as details and plans emerge.
6. The Burrowes Mansion rehabilitation project is now 90% complete. It greatly improves our Main Street aesthetic while preserving this landmark and our town's unique history.
7. Gravelly Brook Park Phase 1 was completed which allowed for the reopening of this park. It is being enjoyed by the community for soccer, baseball and softball. Phase 2 will include new playgrounds and basketball court and that work will begin in the Spring.
8. Borough Hall was enhanced with multiple energy efficient recommendations as a result of our audit. A new heating and air conditioning system, energy efficient windows and lighting were installed. The solar panel installation is now complete at borough hall and we are generating power. We will now continue with panels at the police department and the water plant. Residents will be able to see the cost savings via a monitor when they visit borough hall.

9. Most recently, we've begun conversations with the property owners of some of the properties in town that have been an eyesore. We've had a positive response and most will be moving forward with improving their properties.

Overall, we have secured over \$1.5 million dollars in grant money to fund the projects around town. Included in this amount is the \$500,000 grant that was recently obtained through the State with the help of Governor Murphy's office and State Senator Vin Gopal for the reconstruction of the Lake Lefferts dam.

Thank you for allowing me to serve as your Mayor. The Council and I look forward to 2019. We will continue to work hard for the borough. We aim to enhance Main Street, rehabilitate our parks, address our infrastructure needs, redevelop the train station, and move Matawan forward. I wish you a Happy and Healthy New Year!

Respectfully,

Joseph Altomonte