



MAYOR'S ADDRESS 2025

I would like to start out by wishing everyone a Happy New Year and best wishes for a healthy and successful 2025. Congratulations to Councilman Dave Desai and Matt Oswald on your reelection to the Council.



It has been an incredible honor to serve the residents of Riverdale for the past 9 years. We started this journey back in 2016 and have been able to establish a great team on the Borough Council. Each individual on the dais brings a level of expertise and professionalism that has served the community well. Our success over the years is a result of their continued efforts to make Riverdale the best place to live and raise a family.

I would like to take some time to reflect on the team accomplishments of 2024 and what is in store for 2025.

SEWER INFRASTRUCTURE

- We have successfully provided access to the borough's sewer system to 256 residential properties since 2016. To date, 181 residents have connected to the system. (71% connection rate)
- Phase 5 of our expansion started in November with an additional 51 residential properties. Phase 6 is scheduled to start in early Spring 2025 with an additional 31 homes bringing our grand total to **337** homes.

INDEPENDENCE PARK

- With the efforts of Councilman Matt Oswald, our park has never looked better. It continues to be the home field for the Pompton Lakes High School Girls softball team and has hosted several County tournaments.
- For safety, with the help of the Pompton Lakes Board of Education, lightning detectors have been installed to give advance warning of impending storms.
- In 2025, we plan to begin the long-awaited walking path around the entire perimeter of the park.
- We will expand the playground area with a Toddler Playground in the spring.

ROAD IMPROVEMENTS

- The Mayor and Council continue to make aggressive strides in the improvement of our Borough Streets. In the last 9 years, we have been able to upgrade, complete, and schedule 43 of the 57 borough owned streets. (75.4%)

YEAR	AMOUNT	PROJECT	NO STREETS
2016	\$90,000.00	Oak Street	1
2017	\$245,000.00	Newbury Place/Brown Court	2
2017	Capital Fund	Ryerson Avenue/Mickens/Mullens	3
2018	\$320,000.00	Hartung Avenue/Wesley Street/Cotluss Road	3
2018	Capital Fund	Riverview Terrace/Fernwood Terrace/Stratford Place/Firehouse Lot	4
2019	\$499,000.00	Cedar Street/Parkway/Sonya Terrace/Loy Avenue	4
2020	\$230,000.00	Post Lane/Munn Avenue/Cottage Place	3
2021	\$351,000.00	Newark Pompton Turnpike/Cotluss Road	2
2022	\$271,200.00	Greenwich Street/Van Duyne Avenue	2
2022	Capital Fund	Morris Avenue/Curtis Street/Drace Place/Linden Street	4
2023	\$274,745.00	Windbeam Section	6
2024	\$260,630.00	Mathews Avenue	1
2025	\$261,720.00	North Corporate/Kenner Court/Perry Court	3
2025	Capital Fund	Mead Avenue/Arlington Place/Haycock Avenue	3
2026	TBD	Halsey Avenue/Federal Place	2
TOTALS	\$2,803,295.00		
		TOTAL STREETS COMPLETED/SCHEDULED:	43
		TOTAL BOROUGH STREETS IN RIVERDALE	57
		PERCENTAGE:	75.4%

COMMUNITY EVENTS

- In 2024, we held our second annual Riverdale Carnival at the Armory.
- The Labor Day Street Fair continued to be a great event enjoyed by all.
- Riverdale Day was back in 2024 with our best Fireworks Display to date.
- Once again, a special thanks to Councilman Paul Purcell and Tilcon for once again sponsoring the fireworks.

PERSONNEL

- In 2024, we added some new employees to our team.
- Richelle DeFrank – our new Library Director
- Dennis Jarensky – Department of Public Works
- Benjamin Qira – Department of Public Works
- Connor Reap – Riverdale Police Department
- Honorary Police Officer Frank Sorgi – Badge #67 upon his 90th Birthday

WHAT'S NEXT

- The Riverdale Quarry is nearing completion.
- The Quarry Redevelopment Committee has been working with the owners of the property (Mahan Group) to finalize the next chapter.
- We expect a site plan application in the 1st quarter of 2025.
- On Hamburg Turnpike, some new buildings going up, primarily the old Wes' site at 57 Hamburg Turnpike and the new "Diamonds by Dawn" location. Both are a great addition to our downtown area.
- We also expect construction to begin on the corner of Hamburg Turnpike and Haycock Avenue with a new modern building as well.
- We have not given up on expanding the rail trail from the Pequannock border up to Independence Park at Post Lane.
- The project includes the purchase of the old JCP&L property on Post Lane with the plans to create a parking lot to service the trail. We are just finishing up on environmental testing.

IN SUMMARY

I want to thank the hard-working borough employees who make it all happen.

- Connie Anderson – our Finance and Tax Assistant
- Lisa O’Neill – our Deputy Clerk / Office Manager
- Stephanie Colella – our new Borough Secretary / Planning Board Secretary
- Steve Schotanus – our Public Works Superintendent and his team.
- A.J. Jalloh – our Borough Clerk
- Jill Morano – our Recreation Director
- Terri Pellegrini – Police Secretary

I would also like to thank the members of the Riverdale Volunteer Fire Department under the leadership of Chief Jim Regeling who is here tonight. They do a great job keeping us safe in the community. We also thank the Pompton Lakes Riverdale Fist Aid Squad for their service as well.

And the countless volunteers on all of our Boards.

Thank you all – we appreciate your hard work and dedication to Riverdale.

***HAPPY NEW YEAR AND MY GOD CONTINUE
TO BLESS THE BOROUGH OF RIVERDALE.***

Mayor Paul M. Carelli

January 8, 2025