

## **Mayor's Message**

### **April 2010**

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Last month we witnessed some of the worst flooding in our town. Events such as this put a community to a test. As high as the flood waters may have risen, I feel that we as a community have risen even higher. The amount of concern, care, support and positive attitude from the vast majority of town was evident throughout the storm and its aftermath. While we must all reflect on the damage done and the disruption to our friends and neighbor's lives, there is much we must be thankful for. Most importantly is the fact that in an emergency which affected nearly 600 homes in town, many times that number of residents and a response from over 200 emergency personnel, we had no loss of life or even a major injury.

I would like to take a moment to let you know of some individuals and groups that deserve recognition for their efforts.

Our OEM staff was putting things into motion the day before the storm hit. Operations expanded over the next few days to involve members of our CERT team, shelter operations and emergency hotline phones.

Our PD was busy handling the effects of Saturday's high winds, initial resident phone calls and road closures as the flooding began.

Our Fire Department ran emergency operations for over 60 straight hours handling evacuations from over 150 homes taking out over 200 individuals. In addition to the evacuations, LP responded to a house fire on the Wayne side of the Pompton River which Wayne was unable to respond to. The FD was supported by members of the Lincoln Park EMS who ran every call with the FD along with medical calls of their own. The Ladies Auxiliary of Hose Company #2 spent many hours serving food and refreshments for the members of HC2.

I would like to thank the Morris County Fire Coordinators and following Fire Departments for sending crews to cover our town for fires while our own bravest were handling water operations: Mountain Lakes, Mt. Tabor, Parsippany, Boonton, Schooly's Mountain, Boonton Township, Mt Arlington, Budd Lake, Mt. Olive Township, Brookside, Mendham Township, Morris Plains, Chatham Borough, Butler, Madison, Flanders, and Lake Hiawatha.

202 Bistro, A&A Fine Foods and The Lincoln Park American Legion helped to feed all of the volunteers from OEM, CERT, Fire, First Aid and the many other volunteers we had in town.

Shop-Rite of Lincoln Park donated much of the water and bleach which was distributed to and delivered to residents following the flood.

There were a tremendous amount of property owners that allowed our Emergency Services to stage equipment and apparatus on their property. Wolfson's Market and Maggie Moore's were two of the more used properties for this purpose.

Our CERT team along with members of Jacksonville Chapel and the Lincoln Park Girls Scouts walked the flooded neighborhoods on Saturday handing out important information to residents.

I would also like to thank the members of the Borough Council who were very present during this emergency. Many of them took an active role in OEM meetings and spent time in the areas affected by flooding or visiting with our emergency service personnel.

I would like to thank the many residents who have made the inquiry and the offer of help to our neighbors.

I am sure there may be others who made special efforts during the event that I may have omitted, please know that your efforts are appreciated.

I can not say enough about how great the attitude was of nearly everyone I came in contact with during the week. Even in the face of destruction and much personal loss, there was a great, positive feeling present throughout much of the town...that is what a great community does and that is what a great community we are! If anyone saw Lincoln Park resident Chris Britton interviewed on ABC news earlier in the week, when asked when he would leave because of the floods...Chris answered simply..."This is my home."