

The ANNUAL Meeting of The Mayor and The Borough Council of The Borough of Glen Ridge was held on Monday, January 5th, 2015 in the Council Chamber of The Municipal Building, Glen Ridge, New Jersey at 6:53 p. m.

Municipal Clerk Rohal called upon Councilman - Elect Daniel T. **MURPHY** to present himself to The Clerk for the purpose of subscribing to the Oath Of Office.

Municipal Clerk Rohal called upon Councilman - Elect Arthur D. **DAWSON** to present himself to The Clerk for the purpose of subscribing to the Oath Of Office.

Mayor Hughes called the meeting to order and read a prepared statement that adequate notice of this meeting had been provided to the public as required by statutes.

Present: Mayor Hughes, Councilpersons Patrick, Lisovicz, Lefkovits, Dawson, Murphy and Morrow.

Absent: None.

The following Borough Officer was in attendance: Borough Attorney Malyska, Police Chief Byron - Lagatutta and Planning And Development Director Zichelli, III.

It was moved by Councilperson Murphy, seconded by Councilperson Morrow that Councilman **LEFKOVITS'S** name be placed in nomination to serve as **President** of The Borough Council for the year **2015**. No further nominations were offered. The Motion was adopted by an aye and no vote; Councilpersons Patrick, Lisovicz, Lefkovits, Dawson, Murphy and Morrow voting aye and noes none. Mayor Hughes declared that Councilman Lefkovits will serve as this Council's President for the year **2015** and he offered him his congratulations.

The following was introduced by Councilperson Murphy, seconded by Councilperson Dawson and adopted by an aye and no vote; Councilpersons Patrick, Lisovicz, Lefkovits, Dawson, Murphy and Morrow voting aye and noes none: (Resolution No. **1 - 15**)

BY - LAWS OF THE COUNCIL - ADOPTING FOR 2015

(See Resolution Book No. 19 - Page No. 19 - 106)

Mayor Hughes appointed the following **STANDING** Committees of The Borough Council for the year **2015**: (the first named on each Committee shall serve as that Committee's Chairperson)

FINANCE And **ADMINISTRATION** Committee: **PATRICK**, Lefkovits & Dawson
PUBLIC SAFETY Committee: **LISOVICZ**, Patrick & Dawson
COMMUNITY AFFAIRS And **PUBLIC RELATIONS**: **LEFKOVITS**, Morrow & Murphy
PUBLIC WORKS And **PUBLIC UTILITIES**: **DAWSON**, Patrick & Lisovicz
PARKS And **RECREATION** Committee: **MURPHY**, Morrow & Lisovicz
PLANNING And **DEVELOPMENT** Committee: **MORROW**, Murphy & Lefkovits

With the advice and consent of The Borough Council, Mayor Hughes appointed John N. **MALYSKA** to the position of Borough **ATTORNEY** for the term of one (1) year.

The following was introduced by Councilperson Lefkovits, seconded by Councilperson Morrow and adopted by an aye and no vote; Councilpersons Patrick, Lisovicz, Lefkovits, Dawson, Murphy and Morrow voting aye and noes none: (Resolution No. 2 - 15)

MALYSKA, JOHN N. - ATTORNEY - APPOINTMENT OF

(See Resolution Book No. 19 - Page No. 19 - 106)

With the advice and consent of The Borough Council, Mayor Hughes appointed Mark A. **CLEMENTE** to serve as **JUDGE** of The Municipal Court for a term of three (3) years.

The following was introduced by Councilperson Lisovicz, seconded by Councilperson Dawson and adopted by an aye and no vote; Councilpersons Patrick, Lisovicz, Lefkovits, Dawson, Murphy and Morrow voting aye and noes none: (Resolution No. 3 - 15)

CLEMENTE, MARK A. - JUDGE - APPOINTMENT OF

(See Resolution Book No. 19 - Page No. 19 - 106)

With the advice and consent of The Borough Council, Mayor Hughes appointed Elizabeth A. **BREWSTER**, Esq. to the position of Borough **PROSECUTOR** for the term of one (1) year.

The following was introduced by Councilperson Patrick, seconded by Councilperson Morrow and adopted by an aye and no vote; Councilpersons Patrick, Lisovicz, Lefkovits, Dawson, Murphy and Morrow voting aye and noes none: (Resolution No. 4 - 15)

BREWSTER, ELIZABETH A. - PROSECUTOR - APPOINTMENT OF

(See Resolution Book No. 19 - Page No. 19 - 106)

With the advice and consent of The Borough Council, Mayor Hughes appointed Delia J. **MURPHY**, Esq. to the position of Borough **PUBLIC DEFENDER** in the Municipal Court for the term of one (1) year.

The following was introduced by Councilperson Lefkovits, seconded by Councilperson Lisovicz and adopted by an aye and no vote; Councilpersons Patrick, Lisovicz, Lefkovits, Dawson, Murphy and Morrow voting aye and noes none: (Resolution No. 5 - 15)

MURPHY, DELIA J. - PUBLIC DEFENDER - APPOINTMENT OF

(See Resolution Book No. 19 - Page No. 19 - 107)

With the advice and consent of The Borough Council, Mayor Hughes appointed the following **OFFICERS** and **EMPLOYEES** for the year **2015**:

- Sheila E. **Byron - Lagattuta** - Director Of Public Safety
- Irene C. W. **WHEAT** - - - Certified Finance Officer
- Donna **ALTSCHULER** - - - Certified Municipal Tax Collector
- Denise C. **IANDOLO** - - - Acting Municipal Court Administrator
- John J. **BUONANNO** - - - Construction Official
- John J. **BUONANNO** - - - Building Subcode Official
- John J. **BUONANNO** - - - Building Inspector
- Michael **DeFRINO** - - - Electrical Subcode Official
- Michael **DeFRINO** - - - Electrical Inspector
- Robert **LANGFELD** - - - Plumbing Subcode Official
- Robert **LANGFELD** - - - Plumbing Inspector

John J. **BUONANNO** - - - Fire Subcode Official
 John J. **BUONANNO** - - - Fire Inspector
 John J. **BUONANNO** - - - Zoning Officer

The following was introduced by Councilperson Murphy, seconded by Councilperson Lefkovits and adopted by an aye and no vote; Councilpersons Patrick, Lisovicz, Lefkovits, Dawson, Murphy and Morrow voting aye and noes none: (Resolution No. 6 - 15)

OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES - APPOINTMENT OF

(See Resolution Book No. 19 - Page No. 19 - 107)

With the advice and consent of The Borough Council, Mayor Hughes appointed the following to serve as members of the various **BOARDS, COMMISSIONS** and **COMMITTEES:**

The Board Of Adjustment	(4 Year Term)	James H. ASHENFELTER
" " " "	" " "	James NAPOLI
" " " " (Alt. No. 1)	2 " "	Philip JOHNSON
The Planning Board	(Class I) (1 Year Term)	Robyn FIELDS
" " " (Class II)	(1 Year Term)	Michael J. ROHAL
" " " " III	" " "	Ann Marie MORROW
" " " " IV	4 " "	Mary MURPHY
" " " " IV	" " "	Ruby A. SIEGEL
" " " (Alt. No. 1)	2 " "	Thomas R. BORGER
The Board Of Health	(2 Year Term)	Debra PRIESTMAN
" " " "	" " "	Donna LIFSON
" " " "	" " "	Michael MOLINARO ut
" " " "	" " "	Donna HEINZEN
The Borough Risk Manager	(1 Year Term)	Bruce D. RODDY
The Library Board Of Trustees	(5 Year Term)	David GINSBURG
" " " " "	1 " "	Stuart K. PATRICK
" " " " "	" " "	Dr. John MUCCILO
The Borough Historian	(1 Year Term)	Sally Jane MEYER
The Historic Preservation Commission	(4 Year Term)	John WAY (A)
" " " "	" " "	Sarah GITHENS
" " " (Alt. # 1 C)	2 " "	
The Municipal Alliance Committee	(1 Year Term)	Nancy MCMAHON
" " " "	" " "	Christine HEINCKE
" " " "	" " "	Lorijeane MOODY,
" " " "	" " "	Aubrey BLANDA
" " " "	" " "	Peter A. HUGHES
" " " "	" " "	Michael J. ROHAL

"	"	"	"	"	"	"	Sheila E. BYRON
"	"	"	"	"	"	"	Joseph CARAVELA
"	"	"	"	"	"	"	Mark A. CLEMENTE
"	"	"	"	"	"	"	James T. COWAN
"	"	"	"	"	"	"	Mary Lynn DePIERRO
"	"	"	"	"	"	"	Maria DiCONDINA
"	"	"	"	"	"	"	Lauren DUTTON
"	"	"	"	"	"	"	Kathy WEISSENBERGER
"	"	"	"	"	"	"	Dr. John MUCCIOLO
"	"	"	"	"	"	"	Michael DONOVAN
"	"	"	"	"	"	"	Deborah FITZPATRICK
"	"	"	"	"	"	"	Fredric A. EGNEZZO
"	"	"	"	"	"	"	Vivian MARINO
"	"	"	"	"	"	"	Jon HEITMANN
"	"	"	"	"	"	"	Michael MEDICO
"	"	"	"	"	"	"	Heather KOBYLINSKI
"	"	"	"	"	"	"	President RAS H&S
"	"	"	"	"	"	"	Robert J. WOHLGEMUTH
"	"	"	"	"	"	"	Megan GUILLIANI
"	"	"	"	"	"	"	<i>President Linden H&S</i>
"	"	"	"	"	"	"	<i>President GRHS H&S</i>
"	"	"	"	"	"	"	Susan HUGHES
"	"	"	"	"	"	"	President Forest H&S
"	"	"	"	"	"	"	L.O' DRISCOLL-MARCHES
"	"	"	"	"	"	"	Suzzane O'CONNOR
"	"	"	"	"	"	"	Dirk PHILLIPS
"	"	"	"	"	"	"	Lynneve BERKOWITZ
"	"	"	"	"	"	"	Leah ZWEIG
"	"	"	"	"	"	"	Cindy REYNOLDS

The Cable Channel-36 Citizens Advisory	(1 Year Term)	Richard WATERS
"	"	Peter A. HUGHES
"	"	David A. LEFKOVITS
"	"	Linda W. SEYFFARTH
"	"	Kathryn SCHACKNER
"	"	Eric GOLDMAN
"	"	Mark H. DAVIS

The Shade Tree Commission (1 Year Term) Elizabeth K. **BAKER**

The Environmental Advisory Committee	(1 Year Term)	Elizabeth A BREWSTER
"	"	Elizabeth K. BAKER
"	"	Eric HANAN
"	"	Megan GUILANELLI
"	"	Joan LISOVICZ
"	"	Deborah MANN

"	"	"	"	"	"	"	Michael J. ROHAL
"	"	"	"	"	"	"	Sydney YOUNG
"	"	"	"	"	"	"	Jacqueline S YUSTEIN
"	"	"	"	"	"	"	Alexia De FAYS
"	"	"	"	"	"	"	Lauren PINCUS
"	"	"	"	"	"	"	George MUSSER
"	"	"	"	"	"	"	Alice ROBERTS
"	"	"	"	"	"	"	Chris HANSON

Rep. To Second River Joint Meeting	(1 Year Term)	Arthur D. DAWSON
Rep. To Third River Joint Meeting	(1 Year Term)	Peter A. HUGHES
Rep. To Essex County S.W.A.C.	(1 Year Term)	William BARTLETT
" " " " "	" " "	Michael J. ROHAL
Recycling Coordinator	(1 Year Term)	William BARTLETT
Clean Communities Coordinator	" " "	William BARTLETT
Rep. To Essex County C.D.B.G. Program	(1 Year Term)	Michael P. ZICHELLI
" " " " " "	" " "	Arthur D. DAWSON
Emergency Management Coordinator	(3 Year Term)	Michael J. ROHAL
Dep. " " "	" " "	Fredric A. EGNEZZO
" " " "	" " "	Sean QUINN

The following was introduced by Councilperson Lisovicz seconded by Councilperson Dawson and adopted by an aye and no vote; Councilpersons Patrick, Lisovicz, Lefkovits, Dawson, Murphy and Morrow voting aye and noes none. (Resolution No. 7 - 15)

BOARDS, COMMISSIONS & COMMITTEES - APPOINTMENTS TO

(See Resolution Book No. 19 - Page No. 19 - 107)

The following was introduced by Councilperson Dawson, seconded by Councilperson Murphy and adopted by an aye and no vote; Councilpersons Patrick, Lisovicz, Lefkovits, Dawson, Murphy and Morrow voting aye and noes none: (Resolution No. 8 - 15)

2015 REGULAR MEETINGS - MAYOR AND COUNCIL

(See Resolution Book No. 19 - Page No. 19 - 108)

The following was introduced by Councilperson Morrow, seconded by Councilperson Patrick and adopted by an aye and no vote; Councilpersons Patrick, Lisovicz, Lefkovits, Dawson, Murphy and Morrow voting aye and noes none: (Resolution No. 9 - 15)

2015 OFFICIAL HOLIDAYS - ESTABLISHMENT OF

(See Resolution Book No. 19 - Page No. 19 - 108)

The following was introduced by Councilperson Morrow, seconded by Councilperson Patrick and adopted by an aye and no vote; Councilpersons Patrick, Lisovicz, Lefkovits, Dawson, Murphy and Morrow voting aye and noes none: (Resolution No. 10 - 15)

TEMP BUDGETS - A&E, WATER & POOL - ADOPTING

(See Resolution Book No. 19 - Page No. 19 - 109, B & C)

The following was introduced by Councilperson Patrick, seconded by Councilperson Lisovicz and adopted by an aye and no vote; Councilpersons Patrick, Lisovicz, Lefkovits, Dawson, Murphy and Morrow voting aye and noes none: (Resolution No. 11 - 15)

CLAIMS - APPROVAL OF

(See Resolution Book No. 19 - Page No. 19 - 110)

The following was introduced by Councilperson Lefkovits, seconded by Councilperson Patrick and adopted by an aye and no vote; Councilpersons Patrick, Lisovicz, Lefkovits, Dawson, Theodorou, Murphy and Mayor Hughes voting aye and noes none: (Resolution No. 12 - 15)

THEODOROU, JEFFREY J. - COMMENDING

(See Resolution Book No. 19 - Page No. 19 - 111)

Mayor Hughes presented his eighth "State Of The Borough" address to the citizens in attendance.

I would like to welcome everyone to the 120th reorganization meeting of the Borough of Glen Ridge. Tonight we swear in (2) councilpersons - Councilman Art Dawson and Councilman Daniel Murphy, and we appoint the many volunteers who so ably staff our various boards and committees. We also recognize those volunteers who have completed their service to the Borough. I will also take the opportunity to review some of the highlights from 2014 and to present some of our goals for 2015.

Let me start first by extending an official welcome back to the Council to Art Dawson and to Dan Murphy. Art is beginning his 4th term on the Council and will once again chair the Public Works committee. Dan will lead the Parks and Recreation committee, and serve on Planning and Development with Ann Marie Morrow, and on Community Affairs and Public Relations with David Lefkovits.

I would also like to recognize Councilwoman Ann Marie Morrow who was sworn in just 4 weeks ago. She was elected to a 1 year term, and will chair our Planning and Development committee and will serve on our Finance and Administration and Public Works committees.

I am delighted that all of you are willing to serve on the Council. I can't thank you and your families enough for the service you give to the Borough. You have all proved yourselves to be excellent stewards of your community, and you all willingly give of your time, energy, and personal talents to maintain and to promote the high quality of life and standards of good government that we have all come to expect here in Glen Ridge.

At this time, I would also like to recognize the Honorable Mark Clement, who I am appointing tonight as our Judge for a 3 year term. Mark replaced Judge Joe Connolly last year on an interim basis and has done a terrific job with the Court. Everyone I have spoken with who has come into contact with Mark feels that his temperament in the courtroom is just what it should be and that all parties that have come before Judge Clement feel that they have been treated fairly and evenly in his courtroom. I appreciate the fact that the court has run very smoothly this past year, despite an almost twofold increase in the numbers of cases coming before the court.

Tonight I want to recognize two of our employees for their longstanding service to the Borough. Our Court Administrator and Deputy Clerk, Steve Berry, will start his 43rd year with the Borough this Thursday, and our Chief Financial Officer, Mrs. Irene Wheat recently celebrated her 25th Anniversary with the Borough. My thanks to both Steve and Irene for their hard work and their dedication to the Borough.

I would also like to recognize tonight Dr. Michael Molinari who will serve on our Board of Health, and Robyn Fields who I am appointing to the Planning Board.

This town only functions if qualified residents step up and volunteer to serve on our various boards and agencies and I thank Michael and Robyn for answering the call to service.

Every organization depends on the quality of its members to be successful. One of the hallmarks of this town is the high quality of the persons who agree to serve in elected office and on the many volunteer boards and committees that run our community. Tonight, I would like to recognize and thank two such highly successful persons who led two very important parts of our Borough organization.

Jeff Theodorou served 4 years on the Council. During that time he chaired our Parks and Recreation Committee, which is far from an easy assignment. This committee has to manage so many moving parts and it takes a highly organized and determined leader to keep all of the various parts moving in harmony with one another. Under Jeff's leadership, all of the elements within his responsibility improved. Membership at our tennis courts has grown annually and operating costs have come down. The GR community pool continues to draw big numbers and provide a wonderful experience to its members at no cost to the Borough. Under Jeff's guidance, the pool refinanced its debt, and has begun building a new office, bathroom and concession complex to better serve its members.

All of our fields are in better condition due to Jeff's almost daily involvement in their care and operation. Under Jeff's leadership, and in partnership with Essex County and Township of Montclair, George Washington field is being rebuilt as an all-weather field and will be striped for soccer, field hockey, lacrosse and baseball, and will have tic's for lining the field for football. This new synthetic field is part of a larger plan to reduce the amount of playing time on our other grass fields so that they can stay in good condition longer and hopefully with less cost.

Jeff has skillfully managed our permits from the county and we have enjoyed remarkable access to county fields at Watsessing, Glen Field and Brookdale parks. Without such access we would have an almost impossible task of scheduling the many sports activities that we have in this Borough.

Jeff is so much more than just a pretty face. He has the ability to see to the heart of an issue quickly. He has an extremely quick and analytical mind. He is passionate, he is eloquent and generous, and he has been a most valuable member of the Council. I thank you Jeff for your service on the Council. I wish you and Nancy a healthy and happy new year and continued success in the future.

Tim Delorm served on the Council from 1997 to 1999. More importantly, Tim has had a very successful career as a landscape architect, so he was the first person I contacted to lead the preliminary task force that studied the need for a shade tree commission, and he was an obvious choice to chair the commission once it was established by a Borough Ordinance in 2010. Under Tim's guidance, the shade tree commission has completed a Borough-wide inventory of all of our shade trees, and has created a master plan that will guide us as we move forward with a comprehensive plan to replant over 1000 trees in the Borough. Tim's expertise and his willingness to think big will leave a lasting legacy to the Borough, as we take control of this important Borough asset and manage it in a thoughtful, careful and proactive way.

Tim, I thank you for your service to Glen Ridge, and I wish you and Betsy all of the best as you move to your new home in New York State.

We had another significant departure from our senior staff last year when our Police Captain, Robert Wohlgemuth retired after 30 years of service on the force. Having joined the department in 1984, Captain Wohlgemuth was promoted to sergeant in 2001, lieutenant in 2009, and Captain in 2011. During his career he received over 25 awards and commendations for meritorious service and lifesaving. I've known Bob for over 20 years. We first met when we played together on the same men's softball team, the Yankees. He's a local guy who lives and works and raises his kids in GR. His parents still live here. He's a cop's cop, a consummate professional, who epitomizes what local policing is all about. We are very proud of Captain Wohlgemuth and equally proud of our entire police force that works hard every day and night to keep us all safe. Bob will be sorely missed by all of us.

I would also like to thank Glenn Trunley who is leaving the HPC this year, and I would like to thank Dr. Sujana Chandrasekhar for her years of service on the Board of Health.

As we take a look back to some of the highlights of 2014, turf gets the headline. We have long recognized that Glen Ridge does not have the fields needed to support demand, and the Council and I believed we were not getting enough value for the dollars we spend to maintain our fields. For these reasons, we recommended installation of an artificial surface at Hurrell. However, the majority of voters in town don't want Hurrell to be a synthetic field. In each of the last two years, a turf referendum has lost at the ballot box by almost the same margin, despite our having adopted the recommendation last year from our advisory committee that we eliminate crumb rubber as an infill material.

After the question failed in 2013, I empaneled an advisory committee comprised of residents who were both for and against the issue to review all of the data and to make recommendations on a way forward. We then published the committee's report and held a public hearing on the matter. We then put the question to a vote last November.

The process we used was inclusive and out in the open, and by holding a referendum, we involved the public in the decision making process. The result, I think, is that while the voters did not endorse the installation of an artificial turf surface at Hurrell, the voters retained their confidence in this elected body, and that is an outcome I can live with.

For me the issue is over. We are moving forward with a new synthetic field at George Washington, which will take some of the load off of our grass fields at Hurrell, Forest and Carteret. We will continue to count on Jim Cowan to manage the fields as wisely as possible, and we will spend what is needed to keep the fields in playable condition.

I would like to thank all of the members of the Turf advisory committee who worked so hard on this issue last year. In particular, I would like to thank the two committee chairpersons, Joe Auburn and Sujana Sandrasekar for their leadership and commitment to an open and transparent process that conducted a complete review of all of the relevant and available facts, data and options.

While Turf took all of the headlines, 2014 was a year when we saw our budget finally get back to something that is reasonable and workable. Since 2010, we have had to deal with a significant shortfall in all of our revenues. Tax receipts were impacted due to lower housing values and a dramatic increase in the number of tax appeals; fees from all permit applications were lower due to a general slowdown in activity from the recession; across the board, State aid was cut, and we had to lay out hundreds of thousands of dollars for storm damage and other weather related expenses. In the 5 years from 2010 to 2014, we saw general revenues increased by only \$81,000, which forced us to cut expenses and make some very painful decisions on staffing, while striving to maintain the same high level of service that our residents expect from us. To highlight just how bad things were, in 2010 our

capital reserve account was reduced to under \$50,000 on a budget of \$12M.

I am very happy to report that in 2014 our budget is finally fully mended and we have been able to restore staff levels to where they were before the recession. A borough-wide reassessment in 2013 coupled with a recovery in housing values has led to a sharp reduction in the number of tax appeals. Permit fees have recovered as more work is being done throughout the borough, and we finally have received long delayed storm related reimbursements from the State and FEMA. All of these developments have led to an improved budget. Today our capital reserve account is north of \$1 million, which is necessary to protect us from unexpected expenses like a severe storm or economic downturn.

I am excited to report that we are moving forward again on a number of fronts that will maintain a state of good repair in our infrastructure and will improve the level of service that we provide to our residents.

In 2014 we purchased new radios for the Ambulance squad, DPW and the Police department which will link all 3 groups and improve communications between all of them while maintaining operational security for the Police.

Last year we began PH 1 of a major sewer relining project along Ridgewood Avenue, at a cost of some \$600,000. That system is almost 100 years old and has to be maintained to avoid expensive breakdowns and repairs. It's a necessary expense and one that will pay dividends in lower maintenance costs for years to come.

We installed new playground equipment at Clay Field last year at a cost of \$95,000. Our insurance company had put us on notice that the equipment there had to be upgraded to meet current safety requirements. New fencing to replace what's there is on order and it will have the same look as the fencing around Hurrell field.

The Public Works yard was repaved in 2014, the fencing there was replaced and a new remote gate into the yard was installed. We also purchased a new multi-use truck that comes with various attachments as well as a new Jitney, chipper, and sand pro which is used to groom our various baseball infields.

Our Public Works department headed so ably by Mike Zichelli and Bill Bartlett does an excellent job day in and day out and Glen Ridge is the gold standard when it comes to keeping our streets open and ice-free during the winter. We are adding to our ability to keep our roads clear in the winter having purchased a brine storage and delivery system. This system will improve our ability to keep our roads ice-free while lower our costs because we can apply the brine solution in advance of a storm during daylight hours without using overtime. It also allows us to reduce the amount of rock salt which has much more adverse impact on the environment and which was in very short supply last year. Just this afternoon DPW sprayed brine in Town for the first time in advance of predicted snowfall tonight or tomorrow.

In 2014 we started renovations at the Glen Ridge train station. Phase 1 is complete and involved replacement of the floor in the building. In 2015, we will undertake phase 2, which involves repainting the interior of the station and replacement of much of the furniture, and we will do some repairs and painting to the outside of the building. This work is long overdue and I am glad that we are now able to bring this very important community center back into a condition that we can all be proud of.

In 2014 we awarded a contract to rebuild the pool house at the GR community pool. This project will be funded completely by membership fees and involves construction of 3 new buildings on the site. Gone will be the temporary trailers that housed locker, bathroom and staff

facilities. We will soon have permanent and attractive buildings that are worthy of our community and reflect the success of the pool. Work has already begun and the foundations have been poured. This will enable the contractor to work through the winter and meet his contract completion date of May 1, 2015.

We started work in 2014 on George Washington Field. This \$900,000 project involves the installation of a new all-weather synthetic field, which will greatly increase the utility of this field. The project is funded 1/3 by Glen Ridge, 1/3 by the Township of Montclair, and 1/3 by the County of Essex, and I would like to personally thank the County Administrator Joe DiVincenzo, and the Mayor of Montclair, Robert Jackson for their participation and support in this project. Glen Ridge is managing this project. Upon completion of the project, this field will greatly enhance the ability of both Glen Ridge and Montclair to support the needs of their student athletes.

I would like to say it again, we are extremely grateful for the ongoing attention and cooperation we have received from the county administration under Joe DiVincenzo, Jr. The rebuilding of George Washington field and our use of the county fields at Watsessing, Glen Field, and Brookdale Parks is the direct result of the County recognizing and addressing Glen Ridge's needs.

As we look forward into 2015, we will also see work being done inside and outside of this municipal building. Planned work includes reconstruction of retaining walls in front of our library, repair of the stairs on the side of the library, new fencing in the back of the building, and renovation of four bathrooms inside the building.

We are also upgrading our web site in 2015. I am pleased to report that as of today, our website has been expanded to add more content and more resources, and is in a format that's easier to use on mobile devices. The new website features an interactive Service request Center which allows residents to ask questions or request service from any GR department online 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Borough employees will use the Service Request Center to provide email updates until each issue is resolved. Additionally the Borough has expanded its presence on social media. Residents can stay connected via facebook and Twitter and are now able to view the most recent Council meetings on Glen Ridge's own YouTube channel. I hope that all of our residents will take a look at the new website and will check us out our YouTube channel. The picture and sound quality are excellent.

The Glen Ridge Public library has been revitalized by the energy, leadership and creativity of our Library Director, Jennifer Breuer. She is doing an excellent job. So much has happened there that I can't make a complete list, but in 2014, hours were expanded to offer a third evening, so the library is now open until 8PM on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. The local history and archive room was renovated, a new archival safe was installed, and additional workspaces were added for the public. In 2015, the library will work to develop an "EBranch" which will allow residents to use the library remotely 24/7. New digital services from Lynda.com online learning have been added, as have more digital magazines from Zinio. Streaming media in movies, TV shows, music and audio books from Hoopla (which Jen tells me is like Netflix for libraries) is coming this Spring, as are online professional, college, and school test preparation offerings from Learning Express Library.

I would also like to take a minute tonight to acknowledge the many changes that have occurred in our police department in the past several years and to recognize the contribution of our Public Safety Committee, and our Police Commissioner, Paul Lisovicz, and specifically to and recognize and acknowledge the outstanding leadership that our Chief, Sheila Byron-Lagatutta has provided to the department.

Our GRPD is transitioning under Chief Byron. With the retirement of Captain Wohlgeomuth, the Chief, along with the Public Safety Committee, has had to identify and develop new talent to manage the department. In 2014, Sean Quinn was promoted to Lieutenant to replace Captain Wohlgeomuth, and Patrolman Daniel Manley was promoted to sergeant to replace Sergeant Quinn. In addition, the PS committee has authorized a 6th sergeant, which is a new position, in order to allow the 6 sergeants to rotate through the various departments: patrol, detective, and administration to gain the experience they require to eventually become the future leaders of the GR police department.

We are fortunate to have such a capable leader in Captain Byron-Lagatutta. She works extremely hard and is on call 24 hours a day. She is a source of strength in times of crisis, and provides the foresight necessary to guide the department into the future. In recognition of the terrific job that she has done in managing the GRPD, I am promoting her to Director of Public Safety in the Borough.

I have just a couple of more topics to discuss tonight.

First, I would like to mention the proposed development of the School of Nursing Building at Mountainside hospital. If the project goes through, the plan is to construct a new medical arts building to support a larger medical staff at the Hospital. Certainly a strong and viable Mountainside Hospital is a real asset to our community and we all benefit if there are more doctors and specialists available to meet our community's medical needs. Not long ago, this hospital was much weaker and at risk of closing down. The fact that under new management the hospital has been rejuvenated is an important and very positive development. That said, we and the Township of Montclair will be vigilant as the project works its way through the planning and permitting process to insure that the redevelopment of that property is done in a way that fits well into the neighborhood.

Second, and in keeping with the spirit of the holiday Season, in 2015, with the participation of former Mayor Carl Bergmanson, I am forming a committee to relight our holiday tree on the corners of Ridgewood and Bloomfield Ave. This tree has heralded the Holidays in the Borough for many years but was severely damaged by hurricane sandy. The cost estimate to repair the lights is \$15,000. I believe that we have two challenge grants that will match donations made, so I am confident that we will be able to relight the tree next year. I am currently looking for volunteers to help me in this effort.

We have a lot going on in our Borough and I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge the essential contribution of our Borough Administrator, Michael Rohal. Mike makes it all possible. He is so knowledgeable about so many things. He has such a great way of getting things done. I can't say enough about Mike and the outstanding job that he does for the residents of Glen Ridge day in and day out.

Finally, and I know that I don't say it often enough, I want to acknowledge the help and support that I receive each day from my wife, Susan. She has been such a positive force in my life and has helped me to manage everything that I have on my plate. She shares the same passion that I have for this Town and what it represents as a community. I thank her for her encouragement, for her sage advice and for her insight, and for her unfailing support.

I thank you all for listening. I wish you all good health, happiness and success in the New Year.

Mayor Hughes invited comments from the audience.

Former Councilman Theodorou thanked Mayor Hughes for his leadership and he thanked Attorney Malyska, the Borough Council, Administrator Rohal, Planning Director Zichelli and Recreation Director Cowan for making him look very good.

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Councilman Theodorou also thanked his wife for all her support.

Former Councilman Tim Delorm of 60 Forest Avenue, Glen Ridge, reported that after 24 years he and his wife will be moving very soon. Mr. Delorm thanked the Mayor And Council for their service to this community and stated that this great Borough is a better place because of them. Mr. Delorm also thanked Mayor Hughes for appointing him to serve as Chairman of the Shade Tree Commission and for his support of their efforts to fund 1,000 trees. Mr. Delorm promised to follow the activities of the Borough on social media.

With no further remarks or business to come before this Council, Mayor Hughes entertained a Motion to adjourn this meeting.

It was moved by Councilperson Morrow, seconded by Councilperson Lefkovits that this meeting be adjourned. The Motion was adopted by an aye and no vote; Councilperson Patrick, Lisovicz, Lefkovits, Dawson, Murphy and Morrow voting aye and noes none.

Mayor Hughes thanked everyone for attending the meeting and he declared that this meeting is hereby adjourned.

Mayor Hughes extended an invitation to everyone in attendance to attend the Council reception at Fitzgerald's immediately following this meeting.

The Council adjourned at 7:22 p. m.

Michael J. Rohal
Michael J. Rohal,
Municipal Clerk