

# Bulletins

## • FORT LEE OFFICE OF HUMAN SERVICES HOLDS TRICKY TRAY FUNDRAISER

The Tricky Tray fundraiser for the Fort Lee Department of Human Services was held in February at the Fort Lee Recreation Center with a capacity crowd in attendance. The Church of the Madonna is the sponsor for this event and without their help this fundraiser would not be possible. Human Services Director Jillian Raimondo was assisted by a large group of volunteers. "Each year this fundraiser involves more people from the community and raises more funds to assist those in need in Fort Lee. I look forward to this event each year and I applaud Jillian and her staff of volunteers who put this wonderful event together which results in assistance to residents in need in our community." Councilwoman Ila Kasofsky said.



Fort Lee Human Services Director Jillian Raimondo at work at the Tricky Tray fundraiser



Fort Lee Councilwoman Ila Kasofsky greets those in attendance at the Tricky Tray fundraiser

## • SNOW REMOVAL:

The Borough of Fort Lee reminds residents that every owner or tenant of any residential property abutting upon any public street shall remove all snow and ice from the abutting sidewalk of such street at least a total width of the finished walkway or four feet, whichever is applicable; any and all depressed curbs that may intersect two streets at a corner property; and any fire hydrant which abuts the property, within 12 hours after the cessation of the snowfall.

## • CAMP COUNSELORS AND WADING POOL ATTENDANTS WANTED:

The Fort Lee Recreation Department is now accepting applications for Camp Counselors and Wading Pool Attendants for the 2016 summer season. Applications are available at the Recreation Center, 1500 8th Street (at the bottom of Stillwell Avenue) Monday through Friday, between the hours of 8:30 AM – 4:00 PM. Applicants must be at least 15 years of age by July 5, 2016. The application deadline is May 9, 2016. For further information, call the Recreation Office at 201-592-3612.

## • CELEBRATING THOMAS PAINE'S 279th BIRTHDAY:

On January 29th the Fort Lee Office of Cultural & Heritage Affairs and the Fort Lee Historical Society celebrated the 279th birthday of patriot Thomas Paine in Fort Lee's Public School #2. Thanks go out to Thomas Paine reenactor Ken Miller, troubadour Thaddeus McGregor and Fort Lee Councilman Harvey Sohmer for helping to make Thomas Paine and Fort Lee Revolutionary history come alive for the children of 21st century Fort Lee... these kids exemplify the best of Fort Lee and they have the spirit of 1776! Thomas Paine was a member of General Washington's army here in Fort Lee in 1776 and he witnessed the fall of Fort Mifflin from the bluffs of Fort Lee's Palisades and this is where he started to pen the "American Crisis." Soon we will unveil a new sculpture of Thomas Paine by sculptor David Frech of Beacon, NY in Fort Lee's own Monument Park.



Photos by Donna Brennan



## • FORT LEE VFW PRESENTS PERSONS OF THE YEAR AWARD:

The Fort Lee Veterans of Foreign Wars presented their first annual Person of the Year Award to borough residents George Porto, who helped bring back the Memorial Day parade in 2014 after a 20-year absence, and longtime volunteer Millie Brudie for their contributions to veterans and the community, presenting both with commemorative plaques. Former Fort Lee Police Chief Thomas Ripoli, now the VFW's public relations officer, said the group created the award to "show the residents that we're involved with the town, recognize those making a difference in the lives of veterans and promote the work of the organization."



## FORT LEE VFW POST 2342



# FORT LEE TODAY

The official newsletter published by the Borough of Fort Lee

- MAYOR Mark Sokolich
- COUNCIL PRESIDENT Ila Kasofsky
- COUNCILMAN Joseph Cervieri
- COUNCILMAN Armand Pohan
- COUNCILMAN Michael Sargenti
- COUNCILMAN Harvey Sohmer
- COUNCILMAN Peter Suh

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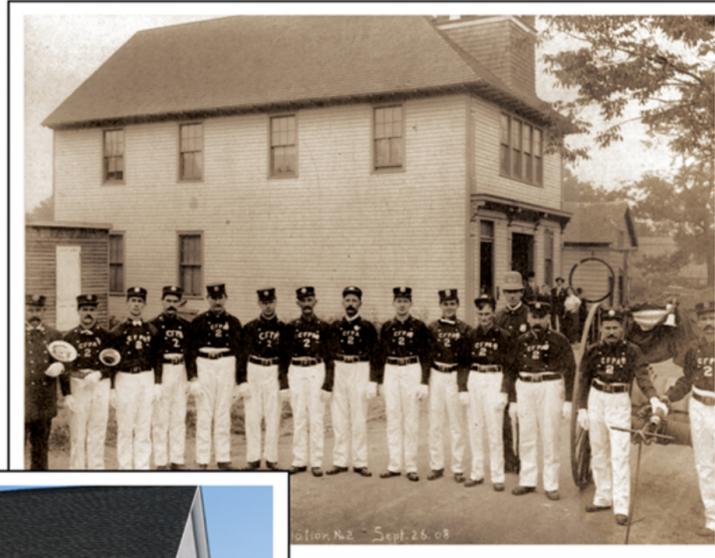
The Borough of Fort Lee  
is an equal opportunity employer

# FORT LEE THEN AND NOW



Celebrate Fort Lee's History

Pictured here is Fire Company #2 firehouse on Washington Avenue in the Coytesville section of Fort Lee circa early 1900s. The building was used as a firehouse through most of the 1950s until the present day firehouse was constructed on Lemoine Avenue. Today that same building survives and houses a private business. In 1900 the Fire Department in Coytesville was formally initiated and a year later Coytesville resident, America's greatest thespian, Maurice Barrymore, ran a benefit performance at Buckheister's Park on Main Street & Central Road in Fort Lee. Among those performing were Maurice Barrymore's youngest son, 18-year-old John. This was John Barrymore's stage debut. John spent



Design by Blue Point Graphics 2016



a year with his dad in Coytesville. With the proceeds of the benefit, land was purchased on Washington Avenue and a firehouse and community hall was constructed. Each year the Fort Lee Film Commission celebrates John Barrymore's birthday on February 15th by laying a wreath on the corner of Main St. and Central Road and that intersection today is named John Barrymore Way. The Film Commission then visits a local restaurant and raises funds for the student actors of Fort Lee High School in John Barrymore's name.



# FORT LEE TODAY

A Publication of  
The Borough of Fort Lee

Keeping Our Residents Informed

Winter/Spring 2016

## New Parks For Fort Lee



Fort Lee will have 3 new parks in 2016, including one with space for an additional community garden. The corner of Main Street & Lemoine Ave. will have a new park leading to the new Hudson Lights retail district, which will include iPic movie theaters and an acclaimed Italian Restaurant. This park will be complete with benches and coffee kiosks. A larger park will be constructed adjacent to the existing Modern hi-rise on Park Avenue. This park will include a pond, walking paths and will be abundantly landscaped with areas for live music. The Borough of Fort Lee will own both of these parks with no fees for acquisition. This is the most additional park space acquired by any local borough in decades and will be an integral part of Fort Lee's vibrant and exciting community.



Park View looking Northeast



Park View looking Southeast



## From the Mayor's Desk by Mark Sokolich

It is not often that a municipality is in a position to boast the opening of a new public park...especially in East Bergen

County. The availability of land and the costs of acquisition alone pose insurmountable challenges to most municipalities. Fort Lee is the exception!

In the very near future, Fort Lee will proudly add three new public parks to its growing inventory of open space. These parks include a one-acre open space public park at the corner of Main Street and Lemoine Avenue in the heart of our new downtown district; a two-acre public park located at Redevelopment 5 East adjacent to The Modern high rise with nature walks, beautiful plantings and perhaps even a small pond; and thanks to the generosity of a giving and caring Fort Lee family, a third public park on 15th Street will also be opened this summer, a portion of which will be devoted to our second Community Garden program and provide more planting

spaces for our local gardeners. Without exception, each of these parks will be owned by Fort Lee at absolutely no additional cost to our taxpayers. Each of our new parks will be "passive" in nature and offer residents and visitors an opportunity to sit, relax, meet friends, and take a break from the hectic lives that we lead.

With the support of the Governing Body, I continue to lobby the United States Postal Service to relocate their existing obsolete post office on Main Street to our new state-of-the-art parking facility and convert the existing dilapidated post office building which is not A.D.A. accessible into yet another public park beautifully located in the heart of Main Street for our entire community to enjoy.

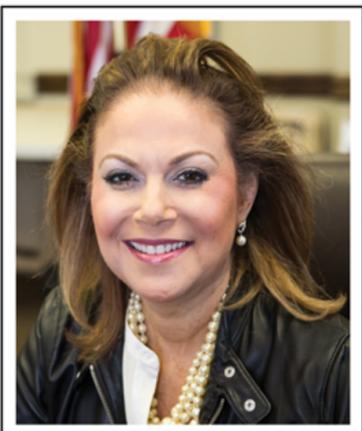
The introduction of our three new public parks (and hopefully a fourth), as well as our other "green" initiatives, have earned the attention of environmental agencies across the state and have helped Fort Lee to earn "Bronze" designation from Sustainable New Jersey. There is arguably no greater challenge to a municipality than to acquire and introduce new parks in light of the costs and expenses associ-

ated with these types of gains. As a result of our smart growth policies, our emphasis on "quality of life" initiatives and the generosity of a Fort Lee family, these additional parks have been made possible here in our community without no additional cost to our taxpayers.

Thank you for your continued support and please try to attend the upcoming opening ceremonies for each of these public parks (all information will be posted on our website [www.fortleenj.org](http://www.fortleenj.org) as well as advertised in local newspapers) which are sure to be fun for all...I will be the guy sitting on the bench with a cup of coffee spending time with fellow residents...I hope to see you there!



## Meet Councilwoman Ila Kasofsky



Council President Ila Kasofsky has been a borough resident since 1988 and has served the community as councilwoman since 2001. Her daughter Brett is a graduate of Fort

Lee High School. The work Councilwoman Kasofsky undertakes on behalf of the community includes liaison to the Fort Lee Public Library. "During my tenure as liaison the library underwent a major renovation and addition and is now in the process of various upgrades thanks to the work of the Library Board of Trustees," Councilwoman Kasofsky said. Councilwoman Kasofsky is liaison to the Fort Lee Local Assistance Board that works with the Fort Lee Department of Human Services on their annual fundraiser in February. She is liaison to the Fort Lee Board of Health and works with the Board on their annual Fort Lee Health Fair, which serves thousands of Fort Lee residents. Councilwoman Kasofsky has been a major force in Fort Lee's move towards environmental sustainability in the 21st century. She spearheaded the

effort to upgrade the Fort Lee Environmental and Beautification Committee, create the Fort Lee Green Team and directed the effort to create a community garden in Fort Lee in 2015. "The community garden was created via grant funds and it is located near the Fort Lee Recreation Center on Stillwell Avenue. This community garden has proved so successful that another community garden will open later this year," Councilwoman Kasofsky said. For those interested in getting on the list to participate in the Fort Lee Community Garden contact the Mayor's office at (201) 592-3500 extension 1003.

## Spotlight on Fort Lee's DPW Superintendent Tony Lione



Fort Lee's Superintendent of DPW, Parks and Buildings & Grounds life-long resident Tony Lione recently retired after almost a quarter century of service to the borough. Tony is a decorated Vietnam War veteran having been awarded the Purple Heart while serving in the US Marines. He is a long-standing member of the Fort Lee VFW Cariola-Barber Post # 2342 where he serves along with his father

-in-law, Post Commander Jim Viola. Tony is married to Jim's daughter Karen Viola and has three children.

When asked what he is most proud of during his tenure with the borough Tony speaks of Fort Lee's Monument Park on Palisade Avenue. "I grew up in this very neighborhood and even as a child knew the history of the first American veterans who served in this area of Fort Lee in 1776. I consider the work I did for the borough in the renovation and rehabilitation of this park over the last 15 years to be the most important of my career with the borough. The assistance my office received from the Fort Lee Historical Society and the Fort Lee Office of Cultural & Heritage Affairs in the course of this work was critical to the success of the project." Each November, on the Saturday before Thanksgiving, Tony has the VFW post lay a wreath at the statue in Monument Park as

part of the annual Brigade of the American Revolution living history program sponsored by the Borough of Fort Lee and the Palisades Interstate Park which includes a recreation of Washington's "Retreat to Victory" along the Main Street Retreat Route to Monument Park.

Tony looks forward to his continued service to the people of Fort Lee through his work with the VFW and the Fort Lee Historical Society.



## 2016 Fort Lee Fire Chief Swearing In



Long Time Fort Lee Volunteer Fire Department member Gary

Krautmann was installed as the 2016 Fort Lee Chief of the Fire Department earlier this year. Pictured in the photo is Chief Krautmann being sworn in by Mayor Mark Sokolich as Trish Petersen holds the bible during a ceremony in the Municipal Building.

2015 Fort Lee Volunteer Fire Dept. Chief Chris Ipek delivered his state of the department speech prior to the swearing in of the new chief for 2016.



**A Call for Volunteers**  
The Fort Lee Volunteer Fire Department seeks volunteers.

For information, contact the office of the Department Chief at: (201) 592-3500 ext 1013 or visit [www.fortleefire.org](http://www.fortleefire.org).




Fort Lee Rescue Company #2 volunteer Lt. John Klein pins badge on 2016 incoming Fort Lee Fire Department Chief Gary Krautmann

## 2016 Fort Lee Arts & Music Festival June 5th



Photo by Donna Brennan

The Borough of Fort Lee seeks vendors / artists for our annual Arts & Music Fest. Applications can be downloaded off the borough web site [fortleenj.org](http://fortleenj.org). The festival will be held on Lemoine Avenue between Main Street and Bruce Reynolds Boulevard.

There will be two stages of free music, a Harley Davidson Motorcycle Show, crafters, artists and food vendors and free rides for children. For further info contact the Fort Lee Office of Cultural & Heritage Affairs at (201) 693-2763 or email us at [ftleefilm@gmail.com](mailto:ftleefilm@gmail.com).



Photo by Donna Brennan

**THE FORT LEE ARTS & MUSIC FESTIVAL 2016**  
SUNDAY JUNE 5TH 11AM - 6PM  
LEMOINE AVE. (between Main Street & Bruce Reynolds Blvd) FORT LEE, NJ

**a call for artists and vendors**

FOR FURTHER INFO, CHECK THE WEB SITE [WWW.FORTLEEFESTIVAL.COM](http://WWW.FORTLEEFESTIVAL.COM) OR CALL (201) 693-2763

## 2016 Fort Lee VFW Memorial Day Parade: Tribute to Rosie the Riveter

The Fort Lee VFW Memorial Day Parade is set for Monday, May 30th at 10 am. This year the theme of the parade will be a tribute to the women who served in the armed forces and who worked the factories and plants on the home front during World War II. Our two parade Grand Marshals will be Fort Lee VFW Commander and World War II veteran James Viola and Fort Lee's own Rosie the Riveter Maureen Ford. Rosie the Riveter was



**THE FORT LEE ANNUAL MEMORIAL DAY PARADE**  
A Tribute to Rosie the Riveter  
We Can Do It!

Mon., May 30th, 2016  
10 am. - 2 pm.

FOR INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT PARADE DIRECTOR, GEORGE PORTO AT [CAPORTO7@GMAIL.COM](mailto:CAPORTO7@GMAIL.COM) OR AT (201) 615-7058.




Maureen Ford, as a young girl on the steps of her Fort Lee home on Summit Avenue.

an image that represented all the women in this nation who went to work in defense plants during World War II in place of the men who were fighting overseas. President Franklin Delano Roosevelt called our nation the arsenal of Democracy and it was the Rosie the Riveters who kept the factories producing the weapons that won the war. Maureen was born into the Walsh family and lived most of her life in the family home on Summit Avenue. She was married to late Fort Lee Police Captain Martin Ford and is the mother of six children, two of whom served in the Fort Lee Police Department - retired Police Sergeant John Ford and current Fort Lee Deputy Police Chief Tim Ford. As a teenager during World War II, Maureen travelled to Hudson County where she worked in a small defense plant manufacturing items

for the war effort.

As we pay our respects to all the men and women who served this nation in the armed services and those that died in battle we take time this year to also honor one of our own, Fort Lee's Rosie the Riveter, Maureen Ford.

