Bulletins

• HISTORIC JITNEY TOUR:
There will be a historic jitney tour of Fort Lee out of the Farmers Market at the Community Center plaza on Sunday, June 26th. Sign up time is from 9 am to 11 am at the Film Commission table. The free tour is provided on a first come basis. The bus will run on the hour from 11 am to 2 pm with the last tour ending at 3 pm. This tour will include a visit to the Fort Lee Museum to view our exhibit on the 60th anniversary of the legendary Rock & Roll group The Royal Teens whose members came from Fort Lee. For further info visit **www.fortleefilm.org** or **www.thefortleehistoricalsociety.org** or call the Film Commission at **(201) 693-2763.**

• THE ANNUAL FORT LEE FARMERS MARKET:
The Market opens Sunday, June 26th and runs each Sunday through November 20th from 8 am to 2 pm in the plaza area of the Jack Alter Fort Lee Community Center at 1355 Inwood Terrace. Vendors include Sunden's Stone Pointe Farms, Vesco Foods, J&R Cookies and Mortgage Apple Cakes. For further info contact the Fort Lee Office of Cultural & Heritage Affairs at **(201) 693-2763** or visit **www.fortleenj.org**

• FORT LEE VFW POST 2342 SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS:
Fort Lee graduating seniors Justin Picache and Shirley Lin have won the 2016 Fort Lee VFW Post 2342 scholarship. This scholarship program for graduating Fort Lee High School students was recently revived by the Fort Lee VFW.

• SUMMER RECREATION DEPARTMENT NEWS:
The Fort Lee Recreation Department is pleased to offer a variety of Summer Mini Camps. The camps are held on various weeks throughout the summer for children of different ages. They include Junior Chefs Creative Cooking, Tech Titans Transportation Engineering Camp, a variety of art camps hosted by Abrakadoodle, Tennis Camp, Lacrosse Camp, Golf Camp, and Multi Sports Camp. For further information regarding Summer Mini-Camps, call the Recreation Department at **(201)-592-3612** or visit the Borough website at **fortleenj.org** and click the Recreation Department link.

The Fort Lee Recreation Department is pleased to announce that the town's four wading pools will open on Friday, July 1st for the 2016 summer season. The pools will be open from 11 AM through 5 PM, 7 days per week until Friday, August 19th for children 12 years old and younger. Residents may obtain badges at no cost when they register for the pools at the Recreation Center, 1500 8th Street (the bottom of Stillwell Avenue). Proof of residency is required. Registration for pools will begin in mid- June. For further information regarding wading pool registration, call the Recreation Department at (201)-592-3612 or visit the Borough website at fortleenj.org and click the Recreation Department link.

• FORT LEE PUBLIC LIBRARY ANNUAL USED BOOK SALE:
Saturday, September 17th 10:00 am- 4:00 pm and Sunday, September 18th 1:00 pm- 4:00 pm in the Library Meeting Room on the lower level. The Library will be collecting donations of gently used books, CDs & DVDs, August 22nd-September 9th. All proceeds will benefit the Library. For further info visit the Fort Lee Public Library at 320 Main Street or call **(201) 592-3614 ext. 4008.**

• FORT LEE RECOGNIZED AS A NJ "HEALTHY TOWN TO WATCH" :
The New Jersey Health Quality Institute's Mayor's Wellness Program has recognized Fort Lee as a Healthy Town to Watch for 2015! Nearly 380 Municipalities participate in the Mayor's Wellness Campaign. Fort Lee was one of only four towns to receive this honor. Fort Lee stood out for the Health Department's Annual Health Fair that attracts more than 2000 participants and 70 vendors, a vaccination program, obesity prevention and exercise events, excercise machines at Constitution Park, outstanding recreation programs and additions that have encouraged a healthy lifestyle including a weekly farmer's market, community garden, and outdoor ice skating rink. The opening of three new public parks and a second community garden will further expand the health quality of life in Fort Lee.

Mayor Mark Sokolich pledges that the health and fitness of our residents will continue to be a high priority with many more improvements to come in the future.

• THE FORT LEE BOARD OF HEALTH ADVISES RESIDENTS TO FOLLOW THESE RULES FOR MOSQUITO CONTROL TO PREVENT SPREAD OF THE ZIKA VIRUS:
• Eliminate all standing water. • Dispose of all useless containers that hold water. If you wish to save any containers, turn them upside down. • Cover and/or seal all containers, garbage cans and dumpsters. • Clean roof gutters and drainage ditches. • Old tires may fill with stagnant water. Dispose of them properly or bring them inside. • Change water in birdbaths and fountains weekly. • Empty wading pools when not in use and keep swimming pools clean and filtered. • Install and repair proper screening for windows and doors to help keep mosquitoes from coming into the house. • Trim weeds and grass around your property. • Please contact the Fort Lee Health Department with any questions and to report any areas of stagnant water within the Borough at **201-592-3500 x 1510** or **health@fortleenj.org.**

FORT LEE TODAY

The official newsletter published by the Borough of Fort Lee

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FORT LEE THEN AND NOW

Celebrate Fort Lee's History

Started in 1932 and located at 1345 Palisade Avenue, Hiram's began as a location where people in traffic on Palisade Avenue en route to the legendary Palisades Amusement Park, could purchase drinks and food. Thus it is the last business in Fort Lee with roots to Palisades Amusement Park. Original owner Neil Watson is pictured in this photo from the archive of the Fort Lee Historical Society (www.thefortleehistoricalsociety.org).

Joe Barneo purchased Hiram's in 1955. Joe is 92 and is alive and well much like Hiram's. Long time employees included Earl Tufford and Charlie Costanza. Jeff Escudero started working there in 1981 and Pete Demiris in 1982. They purchased Hiram's from Joe in 2002. Jeff and Pete added chili to the menu in 1995 when Joe was on vacation and that was the first menu change in Hiram's history and the event was covered by TV news.

Photo by Lou Azzollini

Fort Lee Poet Laureate Auggie Kleinzahler had his photo taken at his usual table in Hiram's when the New York Times did a story on him in 2005 as one of America's leading poets. The article opens with these lines "On a gray and rainy day recently, the poet August Kleinzahler was eating a hot dog and greasy fries at a hot dog shop in Fort Lee, NJ, called Hiram's, a gruff, no-nonsense place that Mr. Kleinzahler says is about as close to the literary establishment across the river in Manhattan as he cares to be." Like the rest of us, Auggie loves Hiram's, a part of Fort Lee's history that survives and thrives today.

Design by Blue Point Graphics 2016

FORT LEE TODAY

A Publication of The Borough of Fort Lee

Keeping Our Residents Informed

Spring/Summer 2016

Fort Lee Honors Its Volunteers

"Volunteering is the ultimate exercise in democracy. You vote in elections once a year, but when you volunteer, you vote every day about the kind of community you want to live in." – Author unknown

Each and every day, new residents ranging from young professionals, entire families and retirees move to our community, each group having their own reasons; however, the reasons shared by all of our new residents is that Fort Lee is on the move, there is a true sense of community and we offer a wide range of benefits, activities and programs for anyone and everyone willing to participate.

Thank you to all of our existing volunteers. For those residents who are thinking about volunteering please do so and contribute in your own way to making Fort Lee the best community possible and at the same time have a most rewarding experience.

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.**

Fort Lee Legendary Volunteer, Sal Luppino

Photo courtesy of the Luppino Family.

Fort Lee lost one of its great volunteers this year with the passing of Sal Luppino. Sal was the St. Rocco Feast President and kept that tradition strong on Main Street each year.

From the Mayor's Desk by Mark Sokolich

Fort Lee is nothing without volunteers. At no time in her 112 year history has Fort Lee had more volunteers serving on more boards and committees than at the present time. From our Planning Board to our Environmental Commission, our multiple youth sports programs to our Business District Alliance, Fort Lee boasts well over 250 volunteers who truly serve as the spirit of our community. Over the past 8 years, Fort Lee has progressed into one of the most envied communities in northern New Jersey, which in large part is attributable to the folks that give their time and devote great effort to our many committees, commissions and boards.

Some volunteer positions require a considerable time commitment, while other positions are less demanding; however all of our volunteers are of great value to our community. In order for Fort Lee to maintain the momentum that we have created over the course of recent years, our spirit of volunteerism must continue with equal momentum. For a complete list of our boards, committees and agencies, please contact the Mayor's Office at **201-592-3500 X 1003** and let us know what your interests are so that we may suggest a place for you in our volunteer community. While many of our volunteer board positions are filled, there is always room for a resident who wishes to contribute to community, devote time to a worthy cause and make Fort Lee the wonderful place to live, work and raise our families. Our office of Emergency Management, Volunteer Ambulance Corps and Fire Departments are outstanding community focal points for volunteerism that are always looking for assistance. Over the past several years and as a result of the spirit of volunteerism that exists in our community we have introduced an annual Holiday Tree Lighting that attracts well over 3000 folks, a 5K Diabetes Run, the Tour de Fort Lee bicycle race, Halloween events across our town, including our dog park, and an incredible Memorial Day Parade. The personality of our town is directly impacted by the pride we possess in community and here in Fort Lee, our level of pride is on the rise.

Fort Lee Receives $20,000 Grant for 2nd Community Garden

The Borough has received a $20,000 grant from Sustainable New Jersey for the creation of a second community garden in Fort Lee. The borough received a $10,000 grant in 2015 to establish the first community garden located on Stillwell Avenue. The second garden will be located on 15th Street south of the Charlton condominium complex and will be open later this year. For those interested in obtaining space in the gardens contact the Mayor's office at **(201) 592-3500 ext. 1003.**

Meet Councilman Joseph L. Cervieri

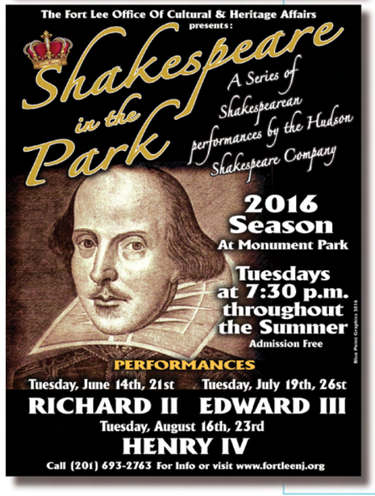
Joe (as he prefers to be called) is a life-long, third generation Fort Lee resident, now serving in his seventh consecutive term on the Fort Lee Borough Council. His grandfather, John A. Cervieri, opened his real estate, insurance and travel agencies at the foot of the George Washington Bridge in 1931 coinciding with the opening of the GWB. John built the first high-rise in Fort Lee, which still stands at 1450 Palisade Avenue. Councilman Cervieri stated, "In 1963, my father, along with two partners formed Triangle Film Laboratories in Fort Lee. I am very proud of my family connection to the history of our borough". Joe, a Cum Laude Graduate of Boston College with a B.A. Degree in Economics, is married to his childhood sweetheart, JoAnn Hein. She is also a lifelong 3rd generation Fort Lee resident and a graduate of Fort Lee H.S. JoAnn holds a Masters Degree plus 70 graduate credits in guidance and counseling and worked in the NJ educational system for 31 years.

Joe believes his extensive financial experience in the institutional private sector aids his work as a Fort Lee Councilman. "My prior experience involved work with international investment banks and pension funds. I am currently a small business owner with management and bottom-line responsibility. Utilizing my fiduciary background, I am able to assure that government services are delivered to the citizens of Fort Lee at the best possible cost to its taxpayers".

During the past 19 years, Joe made significant contributions to Fort Lee. As an integral member of the Fort Lee Borough Council, he participated in the acquisition, planning and development of the Jack Alter Community Center, the Police Department Facility, the Building Department and Fire Prevention Facility. He also spearheaded the acquisition of three pocket parking lots to support the business districts. In 1999, he negotiated the purchase of the 3.3 acre Department of Public Works site located at 540 Main Street combining it with the original DPW site to enhance the efficiency of the borough departments housed there. Joe also promoted the revitalization of the public parks including the creation of a dog park. He championed the purchase by the Fort Lee Housing Authority of ten affordable housing units on 8th Street and the acquisition and conversion of the historic Rambo Hotel building on 1st Street (one of the last remnants of Fort Lee's role as the birthplace of the American film industry) into affordable housing units for veterans. Joe was an active participant in the creation of the Business Improvement District for the revitalization of Main Street and is currently a Board Member of the Fort Lee Business District Alliance. As a Trustee of the Fort Lee Public Library, Joe works tirelessly to ensure that the Fort Lee Public Library will become one of the best in the entire State of New Jersey.

Joe believes the diversity of our community is one of Fort Lee's greatest assets. "Fort Lee's rich history combined with its diverse population will bring us to the forefront to become one of the most progressive and innovative communities in America". Joe stated that his goal is "to leave Fort Lee as a much better place to live, work and raise a family than when I first took office".

The Spring / Summer Schedule of Outdoor Events



Wednesday Night Summer Concert Series

at the Jack Alter Fort Lee Community Center. All Events are Free to the Public. Please bring a chair or blanket.

JULY 6: Music: Jukebox Heroes Live, THE MAHONEY BROS.
JULY 20: Music: Beachboys Tribute, GOOD VIBRATIONS
AUGUST 3: Music: THE DUPREES
AUGUST 17: Music: THE BRONX WANDERERS

All Wednesday Evening Performances will begin at 7:30 pm., with rain dates scheduled in case of inclement weather. For further info contact the Community Center at **(201) 592-4699** or **visit www.fortleecommunitycenter.org**

Onstage with The Duprees

The outdoor movie

The Fort Lee Film Commission presents: Fort Lee Movies & Music Under the Stars

From July 2nd through September 3rd at the outdoor stage of the Jack Alter Fort Lee Community Center (on 2nd floor of Community Center in case of rain). Live music runs from 7 - 8:30 pm. followed by a film at sunset. All events are FREE to the public but please bring a blanket or lawn chair.
For further info visit www.fortleefilm.org or call (201) 693-2763.

JULY 2 : Music: JOE LEO BWARIE & HIS ORCHESTRA
Movie: JERSEY BOYS (2015)

JULY 9: Music: DOUBLE DOWN
Movie: THE PEANUTS MOVIE (2015)

JULY 16: Music: THE NERDS
Movie: STAR WARS: THE FORCE AWAKENS (2015)

JULY 23: Music: THE GAS HOUSE GORILLAS
Movie: BATMAN (1966) *50th Anniversary*

JULY 30: Music: SLAMBOVIAN CIRCUS OF DREAMS
Movie: THE CHRISTMAS STORY (1986) *30th Anniversary*

AUGUST 6: Music: THE SWINGAROOS
Movie: HOLLYWOOD OR BUST (1956) *60th Anniversary*

AUGUST 13: Music: Southside Johnny & POOR FOOLS
Movie: THE MARTIAN (2015)

AUGUST 20: Music: Deming/Greunling's JEWEL TONES
Movie: ROCKY (1976) (40th Anniversary)

AUGUST 27: Music: Michael Arenella & DREAMLAND ORCH.
Movie: HAIL CAESAR (2015)

SEPTEMBER 3: Music: ROYAL TEENS (60th Anniversary)
Movie: CRYBABY (1987) *Language, Adult Situations *

Newly Appointed Library Director Chris Yurgelonis

Ms. Yurgelonis began the newest chapter of her career on May 2 as director of the Fort Lee Public Library, bringing 17 years of experience at the Ridgewood Public Library where she served in various titles ranging from patron facing services to leadership roles, most recently as assistant director since 2010. "My most rewarding accomplishments include ensuring the Library's connection and collaboration with the community and delivering top-notch customer service. The possibilities are endless when people collectively pool their passion and skills and work together," Ms. Yurgelonis said.

Ms. Yurgelonis, who has a Masters in Library Science from Rutgers, is a longtime resident of Bergen County and lives in Ridgewood with her family. "Fort Lee is a vibrant and thriving community that values diversity and cultural and educational opportunities. I look forward to working with the library team to help create the synergy that can develop when partnering with residents, the Council, school system and the many Fort Lee organizations to provide meaningful experiences for the community," she added.

Ms. Yurgelonis envisions this as a two-fold process. First in solidifying the Library as a destination for the people of Fort Lee, where there is something for everyone whether you visit to study, attend a concert or storytime, utilize multicultural services or just want to connect others. Secondly, by recognizing that the reach of the Library expands beyond its physical walls. "I am excited for the Library to take their show on the road and participate in all that Fort Lee has to offer and create many opportunities to meet with residents and find out firsthand how the Library can best serve their needs. These two initiatives, coupled with expanding its social media presence, will send a clear message that the Library is here to engage and inspire the community and welcome even more users in the coming years."

iPic Sponsors Little League Opening Day Sign

iPic Theaters Director of Strategic Marketing Jim Nowicki was on hand for the Fort Lee American Little League opening day as he helped unveil the new Fort Lee Film Commission sponsored sign on the outfield fence. Any player who hits the sign will receive complimentary tickets to the new eight-screen iPic Theatres which will open in August in Fort Lee at 2023 Hudson Street as part of the new Tucker Development site near Main Street and Lemoine Avenue. This will be the first cinema in Fort Lee in over 25 years.

Pictured left to right, Fort Lee American Little League President Rich Radoian, Fort Lee Councilman Peter Suh, Fort Lee Film Commission Chair Nelson Page, Fort Lee Mayor Mark Sokolich, Fort Lee Film Commission Executive Director Tom Meyers, iPic's Jim Nowicki and Councilman Harvey Sohmer.

Fort Lee Celebrates Arbor Day

Council persons Harvey Sohmer and Ila Kasofsky plant trees at Hudson Terrace parks for Arbor Day.

The Borough of Fort Lee Historic Preservation Commission and Environmental and Beautification Committee presented the Linwood Park Co-operative Apartments with the 2016 Fort Lee Arbor Day Award. Each Arbor Day a business, residence or organization are presented with this award for their work in encouraging and preserving tree growth in Fort Lee. Linwood Park has a long tradition of tree plantings and preservation of old growth trees.

Among those on hand for the presentation were Fort Lee Environment Committee Liaison Council person Ila Kasofsky, Mayor Sokolich, Councilman Harvey Sohmer, members of the Historic Preservation Commission, Linwood Park Co-operative Apartments Manger Geraldine Feehan (holding the award), and members of the Linwood Park Board of Directors including its President, Noel Albert.