Bulletins

• ANNUAL SENIOR PICNIC:
The annual Senior Citizen Picnic will be held at Fort Lee High School on September 25th from 1 pm to 3:30 pm. All seniors from the borough are welcome to attend this lovely BBQ and picnic with live music from the Tercels, prizes and raffles and plenty to eat. Transportation provided by the Parking Authority. The Senior Jitney bus will begin making pick-ups at 11:30 am.

Pick-up schedule: 11:45 am & 12:30 pm – 505 North Avenue. 12 noon & 12:45 pm – 475 Main Street. 12:15 pm & 1:00 pm – Senior Center. The Main Street shuttle will start its regular route at 11:30 am.

• 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 COMMEMORATES THE 75th ANNIVERSARY OF PEARL HARBOR IN DEC. :
Fort Lee VFW Cairola-Barber Post 2342 will honor the veterans of World War II in the month of December in conjunction with the 75th Anniversary of Pearl Harbor on December 7th. World War II vets of the post will receive special plaques at the VFW December Holiday Dinner Dance.

• FORT LEE PUBLIC LIBRARY EVENTS:
Fort Lee Library Annual Used Book Sale- Saturday, September 17, 10:00 am - 4:00 pm Sunday, September 18, 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm in the Library Meeting Room on the lower level. All proceeds will benefit the Library.
Fort Lee Library Open House- Saturday, November 5, 11:00 am to 3:00 pm. Hosted by the Library Board and staff, join us for a a fun-filled day of music, refreshments and games while you meet the Library team and learn about programs and services for all ages.

• OCTOBER IS FIRE PREVENTION MONTH :
Annual Fund Drive: Throughout the month of October, members of the Fort Lee Fire Dept. will be collecting donations on the streets of Fort Lee. Since the Fort Lee Fire Dept. is 100% volunteer, your generous donations will help fund the day-to-day operations of each of the four individual fire companies for the upcoming year. The Borough of Fort Lee is protected by four fire companies, who will be collecting in their respective districts, as well as sending their annual mailing notices requesting donations for our annual fund drive.

Fire Prevention Month: October is National Fire Prevention Month. This upcoming school year the Fire Dept. and the Fort Lee Fire Prevention Bureau will be providing education materials through our continuing school initiatives targeted towards young children ranging from pre-kindergarten through grade school.

TIME TO CHANGE YOUR BATTERIES: The members of the Fort Lee Fire Dept. would like to remind all residents to change their batteries in all smoke and carbon monoxide detectors when daylight savings ends November 6th. When you set the time on your clocks please change the batteries in the detectors in your home.

A Call for Volunteers

The Fort Lee Volunteer Fire Dept. seeks volunteers. For information, contact the office of the Department Chief at: **(201) 592-3500 ext 1013** or visit **www.fortleefire.org.**

• FORT LEE FILM COMMISSION FALL CLIFFHANGER:
The Fort Lee Film Commission & the Palisades Interstate Park Commission present "Horror on the Hudson: A Century of 20,000 Leagues Under the Sea" on Friday, October 7th, 8 pm at Ross Dock on the Hudson River. Admission is FREE, bring a blanket or a lawn chair. They will screen segments of the 1916 Universal Studios film "20,000 Leagues Under the Sea" part of which was shot in the Universal Studio in Fort Lee. This will be followed by a screening of the classic 1954 Walt Disney film "20,000 Leagues Under the Sea."

For additional info, visit **www.fortleefilm.org** or call **(201) 693-2763.** For directions to Ross Dock, visit **www.palisades.org/directionsRossdock.html**

FORT LEE TODAY
The official newsletter published by the Borough of Fort Lee

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COUNCILMAN Armand Pohan
COUNCILMAN Michael Sargenti
COUNCILMAN Harvey Sohmer
COUNCILMAN Peter Suh

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POSTAL PATRON
Fort Lee, NJ 07024

FORT LEE THEN AND NOW

Celebrate Fort Lee's History

The Lee Theater, built in 1950 on Lemoine Avenue near the George Washington Bridge, was the most extravagant cinema in Fort Lee with a seating capacity of 1,500, which included 700 balcony seats. The theater was operated by the B.S. Moss Theatres circuit. The Lee Theater operated until 1973 when it was demolished for a proposed large-scale development of the downtown area. This spot remained undeveloped for four decades until today.

The site of the Lee Theater is now the site of the newly opened 8-screen iPic Theatre and City Perch Kitchen and Bar. iPic is a great addition to the first American film town of Fort Lee, NJ.

Design by Blue Point Graphics 2016

FORT LEE TODAY
A Publication of The Borough of Fort Lee
Keeping Our Residents Informed
Summer/Fall 2016

Hudson Lights Development Rolls Out

The past several weeks have been historic for our Borough...after over 50 years of remaining patient, our new state-of -the-art redevelopment has opened to the public. The iPic Theaters and our first farm to table restaurant known as City Perch has opened with well deserved fanfare. These openings represent only the beginning as the next several weeks will see many other grand openings including a variety of other restaurants, an exercise and wellness studio and well over 100,000 square feet of new and exciting retail uses for the entire community to enjoy. Coinciding with these new openings is our new 1-acre passive park located at the corner of Main Street and Lemoine Avenue which is now open with free Wi-Fi ready for all to enjoy.

Our new retail district, called Hudson Lights, also boasts luxury apartments with on-site parking for those residents that enjoy the conveniences of retail at their fingertips.

From the Mayor's Desk by Mark Sokolich

The other portion of our redevelopment has recently seen the start of construction of the second iconic hi-rise, the Modern II. This second hi-rise will top off in approximately 12 months and will be ready for occupancy in late 2018. The first Modern is almost fully occupied and has had a very limited impact on local traffic as many of those residents rely on public transportation or the shuttle services provided. Once the second hi-rise is completed a new 2-acre park between the buildings will be conveyed to Fort Lee and will boast a new freestanding restaurant to add to the variety of culinary choices that Fort Lee will soon offer and our Barrymore Film Center will also be well under way which will serve as the main venue for film festivals which will rival the best festivals in the region.

While we here in Fort Lee are proud of our progress thus far, we must always remember we are not just about brick and mortar...it is our residents which make Fort Lee the very special place that it is. We are all proud of our progress thus far....our new retail district, new Main Street, additional public parks, new schools and a host of many other long-awaited improvements...it is the energy of our residents that make Fort Lee the incredible place that it is. Without the energy, the enthusiasm and support of our residents we simply become a community of brick and mortar....Not here!!! Our residents have never before been more excited and enthusiastic about the present, as well as the future of this great community. Never before has Fort Lee's level of enthusiasm been higher which was evident by the more than 4,000 people that attended the borough's first Night Out at our community center...yes, over 4,000 enthusiastic Fort Lee residents and friends which came together to celebrate our community. From our Night Out to our Holiday Tree Lighting.... from our charity races and Halloween events to our concerts and movies under the stars...never before have Fort Lee residents more enthusiastically attended these community events.

The remaining phases of our renaissance will bring you a new handicap accessible post office, a new passive park in the heart of Main Street, a convenient and modern parking facility with neighborhood retail, a completely upgraded Borough Hall and a new state-of-the-art adaptive traffic signalization system which is expected to go on-line in the Fall of this year. However in the forseeable future the construction crews will be gone and the cranes removed and Fort Lee will look back and not point to a building or a park or even an iconic theatre as our greatest achievement...to the contrary, we will look to each other and recognize that our sense of pride, our enthusiasm, our spirit of volunteerism, our desire to maintain the highest quality of life for all of our residents, and our commitment to each other is, by far, our greatest asset.

Meet Councilman Armand Pohan

Armand Pohan brings a lifetime of experience to his role as member of the Fort Lee Council. "My career in law, business, transportation, politics, and non-profit endeavors gives me the ability to serve the people of Fort Lee based on my experience that relates directly to municipal government." Councilman Pohan is a graduate of Harvard College *magna cum laude*, and also of Harvard Law School. He began practicing law at McCarter & English, LLC, one of the nation's oldest and largest law firms and he eventually became a partner. "During this period I served as Fort Lee Borough Attorney under Mayors Burt Ross and Richard A. Nest and those years of service allowed me to accrue knowledge of the intricacies of municipal government," Councilman Pohan said.

In 1977 Councilman Pohan joined his stepfather, Arthur E. Imperatore, in the management of numerous family businesses, which include his current work as Chairman of the Board of NY Waterway, the largest private commuter ferry operation in the United States. "In 2002 Mayor Jack Alter appointed me to the Fort Lee Planning Board and in 2002 I was elected to the Fort Lee Council. I have been Council liaison to the Fort Lee Film Commission during my terms of office and in this capacity I have worked closely with Mayor Sokolich and the Council to integrate the iPic Theatres into the Hudson Lights Development as well as include the construction of a 250 seat cinema and film museum as part of the developer's agreement on the adjacent Modern site. This Barrymore Film Center will be owned by the Borough and operated by the Fort Lee Film Commission as a showcase for classic retrospectives, foreign and art house films as well as the home of numerous film festivals on the street where the American film industry was born."

Mr. Pohan's father, Lt. Col. Armen Pohan, USAAF, was reported missing in action in World War II. The councilman is the father of three children: Andrew, Alicia and Amanda. Councilman Pohan resides in Fort Lee with his wife, Nancy Rieger, who shares his love of of books, travel, nature and classical music. "I believe Fort Lee's best days are ahead of us and we once again will be a destination for entertainment, fine restaurants and recreation."

Things To Do This Fall In Fort Lee

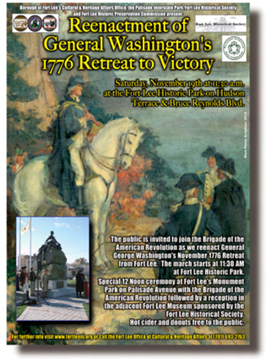
Fort Lee Holds 1st Restaurant Week

Fort Lee's first-ever restaurant week will be held from Sept. 22 to 25. All participating bars and restaurants will offer prix-fixe menus ranging from $15 to $25 and other special discounts/promotions. The event is being organized by the nonprofit Business District Alliance of Fort Lee. "I love the diversity, and I'm excited to see what's coming," says Manhattan chef Justin Smillie. He cooks nationally acclaimed food at the Park Avenue Restaurant Upland, but on his days off, Smillie and his family can be found dining all over the town they moved to two years ago, Fort Lee. For more information and the list of participants, which include the new restaurants Aquarius, T-Swirl Crepe, and Babalu's visit: **www.bdaftlee.com.**

22nd Annual Health Fair

On Saturday, October 8, 2016 the Fort Lee Health Department will hold the 22nd Annual Health Fair from 9 am to 12 pm, at the Jack Alter Community Center, 1355 Inwood Terrace.

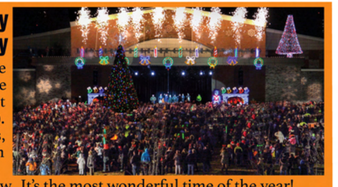
Participate in fun activities, enjoy free refreshments and door prize raffles. Featured services include: seasonal flue vaccine to anyone 6 months of age and older, free for Medicare Part B cardholders, $15 for all others. Blood Work: $15 for seniors & $30 for all others. Screenings include oral & skin cancer, body fat analysis, eye & hearing screening, ask the pharmacist, chiropractic, blood pressure, pulmonary function, diabetes screening, nutrition advice, make up advice, massage, and more! Face painting, dance and exercise demonstrations. Door prizes and raffles at 11 am. Call the Fort Lee Health Deptartment for more information at **201-592-3500 x1510.** See our web-site at **www.fortleenj.org** or e-mail us at **Health@fortleenj.org**. Note: Pre-registration required.



Paws in the Park Halloween Costume Contest

The 2nd Annual Paws in the Park Halloween Costume contest will take place Saturday, October 29th from 11 am to 3 pm at the Fort Lee Dog Park located at the foot of Stillwell Avenue adjacent to the Fort Lee Recreation Center (500 Stillwell Avenue). Rain date is Sunday, October 30th. Dogs can walk the red carpet in this Halloween costume contest. There will be complimentary nail clipping, training tips, local vendors, photo booth, tricky tray raffle and pet Halloween costume sales. There will be fun for the entire family including music, food, face painting, pumpkin decorating and free ice cream for pups provided by Norm's Ice Cream. Red Roof Animal Hospital will provide free rabies shots between 11 am – 1 pm (Saturday only). The Fort Lee Board of Health will be on site to register your pet. For sponsorship info please contact Randi Raskin at **(201) 694-3972.**

Save the Date- Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony



Fort Lee's Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony will be held on Thursday, Dec. 1st (rain date: Friday, Dec. 2nd). There will be music, rides, refreshments, and visits from some very special people!

Mark your calendars now. It's the most wonderful time of the year!

Meet Fort Lee Municipal Court Judge John DeSheplo

Long time Fort Lee resident John DeSheplo has served as Fort Lee Municipal Court Judge since 1977. Judge DeSheplo is a graduate of The Catholic University of America where he earned a Juris Doctorate Degree.

"I was appointed Municipal Prosecutor for the Borough of Fort Lee in 1973 where I served until I was appointed Municipal Court Judge in 1977. I also have served as Leonia Municipal Court Judge since 2005." Judge DeSheplo is married and has two children and two grandchildren.

"My work in Fort Lee involves interaction with the public under difficult circumstances. I seek to be a compassionate presence in the courtroom of the Fort Lee Municipal Building and bring understanding to my role as a Municipal Judge." Fort Lee's Municipal Court is a very active court due in large part to the fact that the George Washington Bridge and Port Authority Police Department bring much activity to this courtroom. Judge DeSheplo brings a small town decency and respect to a very busy courtroom. "My role as Judge involves outreach to the community. I have been the speaker at Fort Lee Public School Sixth Grade DARE (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) graduations for 15 years, I have conducted Moot Court proceedings for gifted and talented students, set up DWI demonstrations for Fort Lee High School seniors prior to prom night and all of this has assisted me in my work in the Municipal Court of Fort Lee and has made me a better Judge."

Photos From the Borough of Fort Lee's First Night Out

Many borough service providers organized a National Night Out on August 2nd at the Fort Lee Community Center.

The event was an opportunity for residents to meet members of the police department, fire department, and first responders. The night included rides and activities for children and free hot dogs from Fort Lee's Callahan's.