



A Publication of  
The Borough of Fort Lee

# FORT LEE TODAY

Keeping Our Residents Informed

Winter/Spring 2015

## Fort Lee Renaissance

Fort Lee's renaissance will no longer have Main Street being the area of town to avoid...instead it will be the area of town that you brag about!!

Encompassing new and different businesses, we are creating a climate which helps all businesses, both existing and new, to thrive in our community. Our resurgence through both solid policy and sound economic strategy sets us above and apart.



# The Mayor's Corner by Mark Sokolich



Just over 7 years ago, I made a commitment to restore Fort Lee to its rightful place as one of the best, most dynamic communities in Bergen County; I want everyone to brag about Fort Lee, take pride in Fort Lee, live, work and raise our families in Fort Lee. Thanks in large part to the support provided by the entire community we are well on our way to that enviable position. The days of staring at a dilapidated 16-acre parcel of property in the heart of our community are almost over, our parks have undergone rehabilitation, government has been restructured to work less expensively and more efficiently and our tired Main Street is on the verge of a complete facelift that we can all be very proud of. As is the case in any community, progress MUST be

coupled with intelligent fiscal policy so as not to visit an unfair tax burden on our residents or eliminate programs which improve the quality of all of our lives...perhaps the most important part of our renaissance is that tax stabilization is about to become reality in Fort Lee for the first time in 27 years!!!!

Our major Redevelopment at the foot of the George Washington Bridge is well underway. We already boast perhaps the most iconic luxury hi-rise in Northern New Jersey called the "Modern" with a second luxury hi-rise scheduled to start in late 2015. There will soon be an incredible mixed-use development with over 165,000 square feet of ground floor retail including IPIC Movie Theatres offering moviegoers upscale dining and 7 movies to choose from. In the near future, Fort Lee residents will no longer travel to "other" places to meet friends, enjoy shopping and choose from multiple eateries...rather, Fort Lee will soon be

the place "to be!"

7 years ago I asked all of our residents for their support and patience in allowing this administration to make Fort Lee the absolute best it can be... you have kept up your end of the bargain and momentarily government will have delivered its promise as well. As we progress Fort Lee is becoming the subject of multiple articles alerting the world of our success. From the New York Times to state-wide periodicals Fort Lee has already become the example of what hard work, vision and community support can deliver.

The FORT LEE EDUCATION FOUNDATION is now accepting scholarship applications from Fort Lee High School seniors.

Applications are available in the Fort Lee High School guidance department and the deadline is April 24, 2015.



## The Business District Alliance



2014 saw the birth of the Business District Alliance of Fort Lee (BDA). This is a non-profit organization and in partnership with the Borough of Fort Lee it will work toward the revitalization and promotion of the Main Street Shopping Corridor. The objective is to create an environment where people will shop and live and

for retailers to grow and thrive. The BDA consists of a volunteer board of trustees and includes Fort Lee Mayor Mark Sokolich, Romina Starace (President), Frank Patti (Vice President), James Liu (Secretary), Michael Beyer (Treasurer), Victor Civdini, Robert Clark, Anthony Clores, Robert M. Durando, Janice Friedman, Denis

Glennon, Kathy Lee, Ashley Yook, Councilman Joseph Cervieri and Councilman Harvey Sohmer. The BDA Executive Director is Stuart Z. Koperweis. Stuart has valuable experience in both the private and public sector that includes service as President of the Jersey City Economic Development Corporation where he was responsible for creating \$55 million in public sector development which led to private sector investment and the creation of thousands of jobs in the retail sector for local residents.

### THE FORT LEE ARTS & MUSIC FESTIVAL 2015

SUN. JUNE 7TH, 11 AM. TO 6 PM.  
MAIN STREET, FORT LEE, NJ

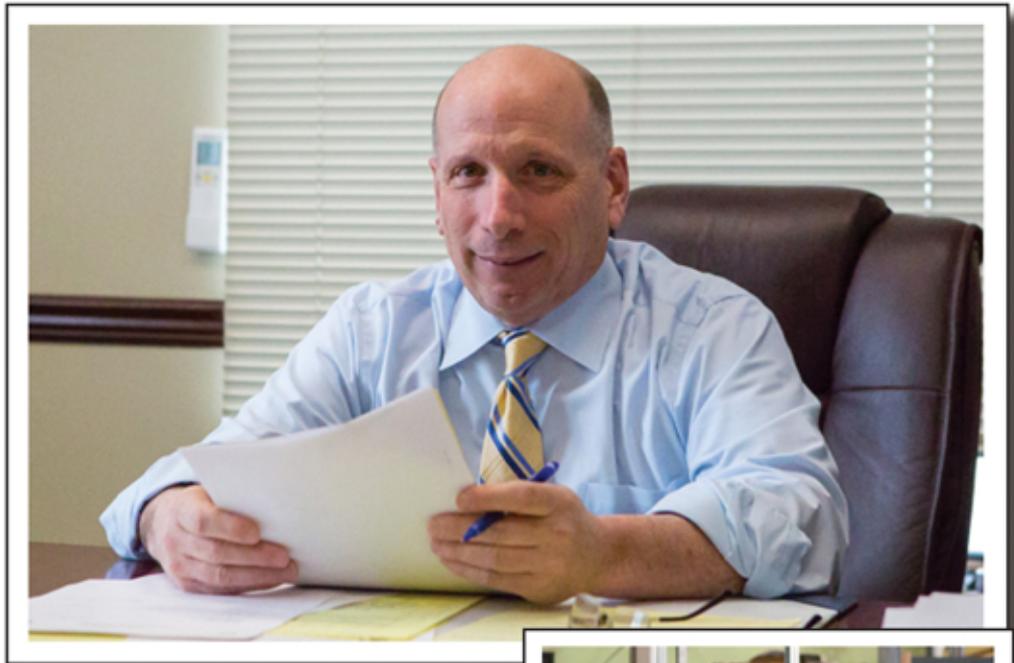
**A CALL FOR ARTISTS  
VENDORS • CRAFTERS**

Call (201) 592-3663 for Vendor Application Forms or visit [www.fortleenj.org](http://www.fortleenj.org) to download Vendor Applications.  
Vendor fee - \$75 for 10ft. x 10ft. space  
Application Deadline - May 29th, 2015

# Meet the Borough Administrator: Al Restaino

Our Borough Administrator Al Restaino came to Fort Lee in late 2013, a time of flux and change in the Borough and he has hit the ground running blending in with the Mayor and Council's vision of the renaissance of Fort Lee. Al worked for ten years in Essex County ascending to the position of Director of Housing and Community Development.

His background is in public service and public administration. Al also worked for nine years in the City of Plainfield, beginning as the Director of the Office of Community Development and departing as the acting City Administrator. His professional career with the City of Plainfield saw his service in various departments including finance and he brings this expertise in all areas of local government to Fort Lee. "The daily challenge in my position is to balance the financial constraints placed on a municipality with the need to provide the levels of service residents are accustomed to in Fort Lee." Al adds "I have an open door policy and I have met regularly with residents and we



have discussed a wide range of items." This interaction between Borough Administrator and residents along with Al's ability to work effectively with not just the Mayor & Council but with officials on every level of government affords Fort Lee the services of a skilled professional suited to help lead the Borough in the 21st century.



## Parking Authority building schedule for Residential Parking Digital Permits



**Fort Lee Residential Digital Permits Available April 7th!**  
*Presentation Schedule*

To better serve you, Fort Lee has new parking technology! Join us for a **free presentation** on how to manage your digital parking permit(s) online using your license plate number.

**Fort Lee Recreation Center**  
1500 8th Street • Fort Lee, NJ  
(located at the bottom of Stillwell Ave past the middle school)

<b>Wednesday</b> <b>March 25th</b> <b>7pm - 9pm</b>	<b>Thursday</b> <b>April 2nd</b> <b>7pm - 9pm</b>
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**MOBILE NOW!**

**Why did the Borough change the program?**

The Borough wanted to provide a more flexible, convenient, and efficient parking program. This new service renews every two years and these new digital permits can be purchased in person or online.

**What if I want to go into the office to speak with someone?**

Residents may still visit the parking office at 309 Main Street Fort Lee, NJ 07024

Monday: 8:30AM - 8:00 PM  
Tuesday through Friday: 8:30 AM - 4:00 PM

**Is there an additional cost to the \$5 fee if I register online?**

No, it's the same price either way.

**How do I register my vehicle online?**

Go to [www.fortleeparking.org](http://www.fortleeparking.org) and click on the Residential Parking tab.

**Do I have to show proof of residency if I register online?**

Yes, you can scan your documents by following the step by step instructions.

**Can my visitors park on the street?**

Yes, you may register up to 2 visitors for free.

- March 25th • 7pm  
Presentation Recreation Center
- April 2nd • 7 pm  
Presentation Recreation Center
- April 9th • 5pm - 7:30pm  
Linwood Park 1170 Apt Corp
- April 13th • 5pm - 7:30pm  
Carriage House
- April 14th • 5pm - 7:30pm  
Horizon House 3
- April 15th • 5pm - 7:30pm  
Horizon House 5
- April 20th • 5pm - 7:30pm  
Linwood Park 1170 Apt Corp
- April 22nd • 5pm - 7:30pm  
Mediterranean West
- April 23rd • 5pm - 7:30pm  
North Bridge; Central Ct Condo
- April 28th • 5pm - 7:30pm  
Century Towers
- April 29th • 5pm - 7:30pm  
Colony
- April 30th • 5pm - 7:30pm  
Regency

Visit your app store today to download the FREE MobileNOW! app. | [mobile-now.com](http://mobile-now.com)

Anyone can purchase their digital permits at these locations, come to the Parking Authority office, or purchase online.



# The Police Chief's Corner



Winter has unleashed snow and bitter cold upon us for months. Hopefully March will quickly transition us to bright Spring days. The FLPD and the DPW work closely together to ensure that no cars are parked on designated Snow Streets so they can plow the snow and open the road up to traffic. The streets need to be cleared in order to facilitate and maintain the ability of emergency responders to provide emergency services during and after the snow fall. Until the ice melts away please ensure that your parked vehicle does not block the roadway for emergency vehicles. While shoveling out your driveway, sidewalk and any fire hydrant on your property, please don't throw snow into the street

as it is a borough ordinance violation. The Fort Lee Police Department is continuing our Pedestrian Safety Campaign. Both drivers and pedestrians are asked to reduced distractions and remain focused on driving or walking. We are very proud to report a 36.8% reduction in struck pedestrians, from 76 in 2013 down to 48 last year. Even more important 2014 was our first year without a pedestrian fatality since 2009. Our Patrol Division works 24/7/365 to ensure the safety of our community.

The Detective Bureau investigates criminal acts and develops cases for court. Fort Lee's crime rate dropped 7.5% in 2013, the latest year available: Burglary -36%, Simple Assaults -29%. Together we can continue to make Fort Lee even safer. Reminder: If You See Something, Say Something. Please visit [www.fortleepolice.org](http://www.fortleepolice.org) and sign up for SwiftReach; Nixle updates, Facebook: Fort Lee Police Department, Twitter: @FortLeePoliceNJ. Have a safe Spring!

Keith Bendul, Chief of Police

## "Fiddler on the Roof" at FLHS



The FLHS International Thespian Society Troupe 3103, under the direction of Fort Lee High School Drama Department's Jodi Etra will perform the award-winning, critically acclaimed Broadway musical "Fiddler on the Roof" on April 23, 24 and 25 at 7:30 pm.

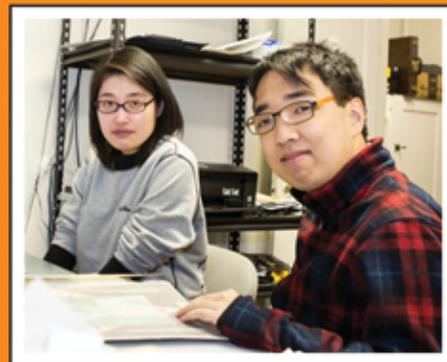
Based on the book by Joseph Stein, "Fiddler on the Roof" is the story of Tevye, a Jewish man living in Imperial Russia at the beginning of the 20th Century with his wife and five daughters. Cultural and religious

challenges arise when one of Tevye's daughters seeks to marry a poor tailor rather than the man chosen by her father. Featuring a brilliant musical score by Jerry Bock and memorable lyrics by Sheldon Harnick, the show will come to life with a talented cast of thespian veterans and debutants.

Come and support the work of our students in one of the most famous musicals in Broadway history!

Ticket prices are \$7 for adults and \$5 for senior citizens and students. Seating is general admission. Tickets can be purchased in advance by contacting the producer, Matt Pokoj at [mpokoj@flboe.com](mailto:mpokoj@flboe.com) or at the Fort Lee High School auditorium (3000 Lemoine Avenue) on the day of the show. For further information, call the Fort Lee High school office at (201) 585-4675.

## Fort Lee Interns: Woosik and Seryung Jung



This brother and sister team are the latest interns to work out of the Fort Lee Museum in the archive of the Fort Lee Film Commission and Fort Lee Historical Society. While the ground floor of our museum serves as exhibit space the second floor contains the single largest collection of archival photographs and artifacts of Fort Lee history.

The Fort Lee Film Commission archive is accessed on a yearly basis by documentary filmmakers, researchers, authors and students from around the world, the most recent being from Spain. Woosik is currently a senior at Fort Lee High School and is active in the Fort Lee High School Drama Department under the direction of Ms. Jodi Etra. Since his work as a volunteer intern commenced last year Woosik notes "there are so many hidden parts of Fort Lee I have discovered in scanning photos and documents and assisting in the organization and collection of artifacts at the museum. I am looking forward to the development of a museum solely devoted to our film history as part of the new development on Main Street, which will be housed in the Barrymore Film Center."

Seryung, a recent graduate of Fort Lee High School, adds "my work in this archive helps me understand Fort Lee and realize that I too am a part of this great history." The Fort Lee Historical Society can be reached at [www.thefortleehistoricalsociety.org](http://www.thefortleehistoricalsociety.org) (201) 592-3580 and the Fort Lee Film Commission can be reached via [www.fortleefilm.org](http://www.fortleefilm.org) or (201) 693-2763 for those interested in volunteer internship positions.

# Bulletins

- **OFFICE OF THE MUNICIPAL CLERK:** Important Election Dates for the 2015 Primary Election  
Tuesday, May 12 – Voter Registration Deadline for the Primary Election  
Tuesday, May 26 – Deadline to apply for a Mail-In Ballot by Mail for the Primary Election  
Tuesday, June 2 – Primary Election Day, 6:00 A.M. – 8:00 P.M.

For further info call the Clerk's Office at (201) 592-3500 ext. 1040.



- **NEWS FROM THE FORT LEE TAX COLLECTOR'S OFFICE:**

Property taxes are due quarterly each year. February 1st, May 1st, August 1st and November 1st. Taxes may be paid online by credit card or e-check on our website [www.fortleenj.org](http://www.fortleenj.org) or your check and stub can be mailed to the Borough of Fort Lee, P.O. Box 824202, Philadelphia, PA 19182-4202 during the ten day grace period. After that, directly to the Borough of Fort Lee Tax Collector at 309 Main Street, Fort Lee, NJ 07024. Please make checks payable to the Borough of Fort Lee. Our office hours are Monday-Friday 8:30 am to 4:00 pm. Any questions or inquiries please E-mail [TaxCollector@fortleenj.org](mailto:TaxCollector@fortleenj.org) or call 201 592-3500 ext.1504.

Angela Napolitano of the Tax Collector's Office was recently promoted to the position of Tax Collector. Angela has been an employee with the Borough of Fort Lee for over 30 years and served 28 years as Assistant Tax Collector. She resides with her husband and children in her hometown of Fort Lee.

- **FORT LEE AMBULANCE CORPS ANNOUNCES PURCHASE OF CPR EQUIPMENT:**

The Fort Lee Volunteer Ambulance Corps, Inc. is proud to announce the purchase of three LUCAS™<sub>2</sub> Chest Compression Systems from Physio-Control, Inc. on November 19, 2014. The LUCAS™<sub>2</sub> is a state-of-the-art device designed to deliver effective and uninterrupted cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) to patients suffering from cardiac arrest. Once applied and activated, the LUCAS™<sub>2</sub> automatically delivers near-perfect chest compressions to patients, allowing healthcare providers to perform other life-saving measures. "We are incredibly grateful to the residents and businesses of Fort Lee who have enabled us to purchase this state-of-the-art life-saving equipment," said Chief Catherine Umrichin. "We are all very excited to see how the LUCAS™<sub>2</sub> will improve patient outcomes." Fort Lee Volunteer Ambulance Corps, Inc. has deployed these devices in the field as of January 2015.

- **CHANGE IN RECYCLING PICK-UP SCHEDULE :**

A change has been made by our Governing Body with our current hauler, Miele Sanitation, to modify their recycling pick-up now to every week for their designated day, versus every other week. A revised map has been posted replacing the previous one at [www.fortleenj.org](http://www.fortleenj.org). Miele Sanitation is our new garbage and recycling contractor. Garbage pick-up has not changed. The recycling pick-up will be once a week according to the schedule. This includes all recycling (paper / cardboard / plastic / glass). For further information contact the Department of Public Works at (201) 592-3632. Thank you for your patience and cooperation.

- **PROGRAMS AT THE RICHARD NEST ADULT ACTIVITY CENTER (319 Main Street):**

Programs and services to Fort Lee senior residents include Bridge, with a fully sanctioned duplicate game on Friday's at the Recreation Center on Stillwell Ave. Call (201) 592-3500 x1301 to register.

Medicaid SHIP counseling happens on the second Wednesday of every month, appointments are necessary; Please call Etta at (201) 592-3500 x1300 to make yours. Our monthly dinner dances with live music by Peter Lieberman will be held on March 22nd, April 19th and May 17th. This is a fully catered evening of dining and dancing, please call (201) 592-3500 x1300 to make reservations, the cost is \$15.00 for Fort Lee residents and \$18.00 for out of towners.

We have a full weekly calendar of classes with dance, art, music, cards and exercise too not to mention our trips and dances. Please come in and pick up a calendar and check out our event wall with flyers and information for all activities.

- **SUMMER CAMP COUNSELOR AND WADING POOL ATTENDANT POSITIONS AVAILABLE WITH THE RECREATION DEPARTMENT:**

The Fort Lee Recreation Department is currently accepting applications for Summer Camp Counselors and Wading Pool Attendants. Applicants must be at least 15 years of age by July 6, 2015. Applications are available at Borough Hall, 309 Main Street, 2nd floor (Administration), between 8:30 AM and 4 PM, Monday through Friday. Last day for filing applications is Tuesday, May 12. For further information, call the Recreation Office at 201-592-3612.

# FORT LEE THEN AND NOW



Celebrate Fort Lee's History

Every issue of the Fort Lee Today newsletter will include Then & Now photos associated with Fort Lee history. The photos are from the Fort Lee Film Commission and Fort Lee Historical Society archives. This issue we will focus on Fox Studio, born in 1915 in Fort Lee, the first American film town. The studio was located on the corner of Main Street and Linwood Avenue opposite Holy Angels School. Fox operated its studio here from 1915 to 1919 after which it became a film laboratory that was destroyed in a nitrate explosion in 1925 which resulted in the death of Fort Lee fire fighter Fred Cavaliere.



Photo provided by the Fort Lee Film Commission



Photo by Lous Azzollini

Since 1950 it has been the site of a garden apartment complex. A commemorative street sign "Theda Bara Way" was placed on the corner of Main and Linwood to celebrate Fox Studio's first star, the vamp Theda Bara. The wall opposite Linwood and Main that once surrounded Holy Angels remains and surrounds the Mediterranean Towers. The Fort Lee Film Commission has mounted an exhibit at the Fort Lee Museum (1589 Parker Ave.) "Fox Studio Centennial: From Fort Lee, NJ to Century City, CA 1915-2015." For further info visit the websites at [www.fortleefilm.org](http://www.fortleefilm.org) or [www.thefortleehistoricalsociety.org](http://www.thefortleehistoricalsociety.org).



The official newsletter published  
by the Borough of Fort Lee

Fort Lee Borough Hall  
309 Main Street  
Fort Lee, NJ. 07024  
[www.fortleenj.org](http://www.fortleenj.org)

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**POSTAL PATRON**  
**Fort Lee, NJ 07024**

The Borough of Fort Lee  
is an equal opportunity employer