



City of Bridgeton
City Hall Annex, 181 E. Commerce Street, Bridgeton NJ 08302

Ask the Mayor

A monthly impromptu column

September 2009

Mayor@cityofbridgeton.com

In August ATM column I wrote about the graffiti in our community that appeared to be growing over the past six month with no end in sight. Working with residents who were as fed up with the situation as I was, the city asked residents to remove the graffiti on there property and report new graffiti as soon as it appeared and again remove it. I received several phone calls from residents who because of physical or financial situations could not get ride of the graffiti from their property themselves. I was fortunate to have several volunteers that helped me and the property owners rectify the situation. To those who were able to remove or paint over the graffiti I want to thank you for your efforts in this area. A letter was sent from Bridgeton Code Enforcement that identified the graffiti and expressed the cities appreciation for your cooperation.

This type of community cooperation has led to a major break in efforts to catch the vandals. A resident who just painted over a tagged wall saw the juvenile defacing his property again and call the police this time the teenager was caught and confessed to the crime. This arrest is significant; it marks a community that is watching and reacting to what goes on outside their homes and want to end this type of behavior.

Please continue to be vigilant in your community if something does not look right call the police, call city hall, but do something fast before it's too late. Community involvement is what will turn this town around. Big ideas will come but it's up to all of us to address the basics needs of our community. I know this is happening in every neighborhood, on every street, in every home people are taking an active roll in their piece Bridgeton.