



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

## **Ask the Mayor** a monthly impromptu column

### **March 2010**

[mayor@cityofbridgeton.com](mailto:mayor@cityofbridgeton.com)

Well, we finally can see the lawns or what is left of it. So starts the cleaning up from one of the worst winters we have experienced in a long time. I was told that we actually got more snow than Anchorage Alaska. After this winter I know everyone is eager to beautify their gardens and take care of outside of the homes. Getting the earth between your fingers, pull weeds, planting flowers, the smell of a mowed lawn is truly therapeutic. I want to wish everyone the best this spring and please work hard on your homes and respect your neighbor's property as well.

The respect of others property is a problem in Bridgeton. Every day the city wages a war on graffiti and it has sprang up again over this past few weeks. I asked city council to outlaw the sale of spray paint to minors inside the city. I had proof of where they are buying the paint, pictures of the destruction to people's property with the thousands of dollars of damage to homeowners, business and public property that is detracting from the neighborhood. With the exception of Councilman Salvatore, City Council said "lost revenue to the business from the sale of the spray paint would harm the small business owner. " What about the home owner who has spent hours making his house a home only to find a tagger defaming his home? How much is enough? When we had a problem in the park with illegal dumping I stopped vehicles from entering the parks by blocking the walking paths to vehicles and installed video cameras. This stopped the problem. The sale of spray paint to minors has to stop as well, Wal-Mart does not sell spray paint to minors. Please contact your councilman and tell them to pass the ordinance or come up with a better solution.

For my part I have contacted the county probation office who handles the community service program for minors. Starting this month we will have those caught defacing our town cleaning it up. I have received word that the community service will begin this month and they will work three hours a day cleaning up the graffiti all over the town. The City of Bridgeton has and will remain my priority I ask anyone affected by graffiti to call

my office and leave your address I will schedule the community service to take care of your home. If you have a certain paint you want us to use tell my boss Irene @ 856-455-3230 Ext. 200 how to get a hold of you. I will keep you informed about our progress and ask if you see a person defacing property call the police. The more we arrest the more we can have working to clean up Bridgeton during these hard economic times.

James Begley  
Mayor  
City of Bridgeton  
181 E. Commerce Street  
Bridgeton NJ 08302  
P 856.455.3230 ext. 200  
F 856.451.5305  
Email [mayor@cityofbridgeton.com](mailto:mayor@cityofbridgeton.com)