

2018: A Year Of Achievements In Hunterdon County

Freeholder Board Director Matt Holt noted several County achievements during his year-end wrap up report on December 18th, including initiating a riverfront preservation/tourism project in Milford, moving the South County Library back to East Amwell, and having a record number of seniors participate in the County's Senior Citizen programs.

Holt pointed out, "The vital transportation infrastructure in the County is the responsibility of the Department of Engineering and Public Works, and in 2018 the unit had a record performance that included; Twenty-five bridges and twenty-nine culverts being repaired or reconstructed, seven bridges being painted, over one million linear feet of traffic lines re-striped and twenty-five miles of twelve different County roadways being resurfaced.

That is an outstanding record of keeping County roads safe for the motoring public by the Engineering and Public Works Department in 2018."

Holt reported, "Land preservation has been, and will continue to be, a priority for the Freeholder Board. In 2018 the County, with the assistance of POSAC and the CADB, preserved seven open space properties, totaling 443 acres, and closed on the preservation of seven farms, totaling 370 acres.

Our County Parks summer program is a true asset for the people as it continues to grow. We saw a record number of participants this year, while the Planning Board adopted the new Open Space Strategic Plan that will guide the County for the next decade."

Holt noted that, "It hasn't all been a bed of roses. Back in March, I made several of my friends at JCP&L angry with me when I was critical of the utilities' storm response.

Subsequently, however, there were some positive results. The attention brought to the matter resulted in the Board of Public Utilities holding a public hearing in Hunterdon County. In my memory, that may have been the first public hearing the BPU has held in our County in a long, long time."

As a result of that hearing, and others held around the state, the BPU issued orders requiring power companies to make improvements, particularly in storm response and communication to the public and officials.”

Holt concluded, “I look forward to continuing to work on even more achievements in 2019 with my current Freeholder colleagues, Suzanne Lagay, John Lanza and Shaun Van Doren, and our new colleague, Freeholder-elect Sue Soloway.

Happy New Year.”

