

# South Harrison Township



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From the Office of the Mayor:

I hope everyone is well and enjoying the nice weather. It has been a while since my last update and a lot has changed. Most notably, life is slowly starting to return to normal. The COVID restrictions that have been in effect for over a year are easing up and everyone is anxious to resume their lives again. Locally, restaurants are increasing capacity; all sports and outdoor activities are in full swing; kids are back in school; and best of all is that graduations, proms, and other memorable events are returning for our students and children. The kids are really the ones that missed out on so much and, as a father myself, I welcome and encourage their lives returning to the normal as soon as possible! Clearly, these are events and life experiences they can never recreate or get back, which is why we must prioritize their needs moving forward!

As Mayor, I enjoy following the accomplishments of our residents and particularly the students that reside within our beautiful community. At last week's Township Committee meeting I recognized the following:

- The Kingsway High School Wrestling program. Kingsway had a tremendous record of 8-1 for the season and was also named "Team of the Year" with head coach **Mike Barikian** being named Coach of the year.
- South Harrison's **Josh Palmucci**, **Kevin Pandorf**, and **Dakota Morris** all made it to the NJ State Tournament, which is a tremendous accomplishment for that sport. Kevin placed 8<sup>th</sup> and Dakota placed 2<sup>nd</sup> earning him the distinction of "SJ All Area".
- Most notable is our student athletes' academic achievements and their career choices:
  - **Sean Horner** and **Kevin Pandorf** were accepted into the United States Coast Guard Academy and will continue wrestling for the Academy.
  - **Matt Murphy** is finishing up his freshman year at the United States Naval Academy and just qualified for the Olympic Trials in the breaststroke!
  - **Rich Jarmello**, who's grandparents live in Harrisonville, is in his freshman year at the United States Military Academy at West Point.
  - **Jarod Conroy** is proudly serving in the United States Army.

Congratulations to these fine young men and my sincerest gratitude for choosing a career in our armed services to defend and serve our great Country. May God bless them and all those who serve and protect us abroad and within our country on a daily basis!

Covid-19 impacted many municipalities pretty hard in regard to their municipal budgets. Thankfully, due to our commitment to keeping South Harrison a beautiful farming/bedroom community we remain financially sound and are in great shape moving forward. We do not have strip centers and retail ratables that unfortunately took a very hard hit in other communities. Our town's ratables and solid, clean commercial businesses seemed to weather the financial devastation caused by the pandemic.

Lastly, there is new information with respect to the troubled intersections along Route 45. The State finally made the necessary visual signage and traffic improvements to all 3 intersections requested by the Township. Additional enhanced safety measures and intersection upgrades are still pending, and I will provide an update as I receive the information from the State DOT.

There have also been significant upgrades to our audio/visual network that were made in our municipal meeting room to facilitate virtual meetings during the pandemic. All township committee and planning/zoning meetings are now available for public participation via zoom. The link to access all Township meetings are available on the Township website: <https://www.southharrison-nj.org/>

I encourage public participation and meetings are always open to the public for comment during the meetings.

I enjoy hearing about our students' accomplishments, as well as the accomplishments of our residents so I encourage everyone to please contact me with any news and I will gladly recognize them!

Best Wishes,

Joseph M. Marino

Mayor South Harrison Twp.