



Township of Belleville  
*New Jersey*

Media Contact:  
Chuck O'Donnell  
908-789-0700  
[Chuck@jaffecom.com](mailto:Chuck@jaffecom.com)

---

## **Belleville Mayor to Celebrate Progress and Focuses on Future at “State of the Township” Address on Monday, April 29**

**BELLEVILLE, NJ – APRIL 15, 2024** – The “State of the Township” address in Belleville has evolved to feel more like an annual celebration than a traditional government speech from Mayor Michael Melham. It has become a signature event for the township to mark its major milestones, while announcing future initiatives, in a festive, fun atmosphere.

While seats remain, residents are cordially invited to for a small, nominal fee to be part of the live audience as Melham delivers the address, set for 6 p.m. on Monday April 29 at Nanina’s in the Park, 540 Mill St. As taxpayer funds are not used for this event, there is a fee to attend, covering the expense. Any excess funds are used for charity via the non-profit Michael Melham Civic Association.

“When we began the State of the Township Address when I first was elected to office, I thought it was important to celebrate all that Belleville can be, our enormous potential,” Melham said. “Today, through the work and vision of this Administration, as well as a proactive and committed Township Council, we have been able to accomplish so much together over the past six years of hard work. And I feel we are still just getting started.”

Near the top of the list of highlights is the number of redevelopment projects that continue to break ground around the township, with investors attracted to Belleville’s strategic proximity to mass transportation, highways and major commercial hubs.

While Belleville is just minutes from Manhattan via rail, it is has still managed to remain affordable. And, it enjoys tight-knit, safe neighborhoods with housing prices at all levels.

“So much of our success since I was elected mayor in 2018 can be traced to ensuring our local law enforcement is second to none,” Melham said. “We have invested in the latest crime-fighting technologies, such as cameras, as well as have focused on getting back to the basics, with officers walking the beat or going on bike patrols. Our officers have developed deep relationships in all of our neighborhoods, and the entire community has benefitted.”

Public safety goes hand-in-hand with civic pride. And it is obvious that Belleville residents are joining in, with spring plantings in the commercial shopping districts, bright, hand-painted murals in areas that had once appeared neglected and a collective effort to remove litter from the streets

and waterways, as Belleville leverages its Clean Communities state funding to coordinate volunteer clean-ups through the Green Team.

The mayor continues to highlight the fact that dozens of ethnicities are represented in Belleville, and township officials are eager to celebrate diverse cultures at every turn. It is rare for a week to go by that Belleville is not raising a flag in front of Town Hall to honor residents who come from countries around the globe. Celebrations to mark Three Kings Day and Chinese New Year are just a few of the ways Belleville pays homage to its long, welcoming history of acceptance and tolerance.

Reinvigorating Belleville's aging housing stock has also been a focal point of Melham's tenure. As private investment dollars pour in to Belleville, offsetting the tax burden for residents and further improving services for seniors and youth, there are a number of new projects that will be highlighted.

And although housing remains a priority, the township has also been able to work with developers to transform long-dormant industrial and commercial properties into new, tax-generating opportunities.

Seating is limited for the 2024 State of the Township Address. Tickets can be purchased at [MichaelMelhamCivic.org](http://MichaelMelhamCivic.org). Note that tickets will not be available at the door.

End