

THE BELLEVILLE SENIOR MOMENT

MAY '22

A MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

Dear Seniors,

I hope you are enjoying the spring!

I can never get tired of the cherry blossoms that always mark the beginning of rebirth in Belleville. In recent weeks, we have held numerous events and celebrations in town, as we once again marveled at another burst of cherry blossoms.

And just like the cherry blossoms marks a new spring, with all the wonder and potential that goes along with it, this is also a special time to be in town. Just look around: Everyone is beautifying their homes and our shopping areas have never been more clear or vibrant.

I hope you take some time to stroll around Belleville and perhaps visit a neighborhood you haven't seen in awhile. I know you will be impressed with all the great new changes in Belleville, as we all work together to make our town the best and most beautiful in New Jersey.

Thank you for playing such an important role in making it all happen!



Michael Melham

BELLEVILLE SENIORS URGED TO APPLY FOR SENIOR FREEZE

Township seniors have until Oct. 31 to apply for this year's "Senior Freeze," a state program that reimburses eligible senior citizens for property tax increases.

Let's first go over the program.

To be eligible for the Senior Freeze, you or your spouse or civil union partner must be age 65 or older as of Dec. 31, 2020 or receiving Social Security disability benefit payments.

You also would have needed to live in New Jersey continuously since Dec. 31, 2010 as either a homeowner or renter. If you were a homeowner, you must have lived in your home since Dec. 31, 2019. You also must have paid your property taxes by June 1 each year.

You qualify with income in 2021 of \$94,178 or less. The state looks at the current and prior year income.

To apply as a first-time applicant, you need to fill out a PTR-1 form. It is a four-page document that gathers information about income and property taxes so that the state can determine whether you qualify.

Learn more here: www.state.nj.us/treasury/taxation/ptr/



MAYOR MELHAM VISITS BELLEVILLE SENIOR CENTER TO SPREAD EASTER CHEER (AND PEEPS)



BELLEVILLE'S BLUE STAR ASSISTANCE PROGRAM IS FOR YOU

Blue Star is an assistance program for a senior citizen or person with disabilities living alone to register vital information with the police department in the event of a true emergency, when there is reasonable cause to believe that their health, safety, or welfare has been compromised and that they may be physically unable to call for assistance or admit emergency service personnel to their home.

Under the program, a house key is kept in a secure location at police headquarters (and also with the individual's neighbor, if desired) so that access can be quickly gained to the person's residence when needed in an emergency.

If you have any questions or would like more information on this program, please contact Sgt. Anthony Abate at 973-450-3348 or email aabate@bellevillenj.org.

KEEPING OUR TOWN CLEAN AND GREEN

We know that Belleville seniors want our community to be as litter-free as possible. In carrying on the tradition that you have established, Belleville volunteers celebrated **Earth Day on April 23** by coordinating a community-wide trash pick-up through the enormous help of the Belleville Green Team.

The Melham Team was on board, covering a lot of ground with many other volunteers of all ages. With bags, rakes and gloves, we focused on cleaning areas of Main Street near the Nutley border where we noticed plenty of litter.

As part of the day, free seedlings were handed out and everyone was invited to plant a tree in Belleville. The goal is to add more and more trees to all of our neighborhoods so future generations can enjoy tree canopies on their streets.



The Essex County Department of Citizens Services can answer many of your questions about senior services.

973-395-8375

Melham

TEAM for a #BetterBelleville

Paid for by the Mayor Michael Melham Civic Association

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