A Reflection of “9/11”

By Freeholder Director Sylvia Petillo

September 11, 2019 marks the 19th Anniversary of the tragedy of 9/11: and our hearts are still broken. For many that day was so difficult and so daunting, that they still cannot talk about it. Nineteen years is a long time, but not long enough to forget the enemies that appeared on the horizon and the heroes that were born that morning.

We still clearly remember the bright crisp September morning and the beautiful blue sky above. People were scurrying to work as always. First Responders were at their posts talking with each other and enjoying a fresh morning coffee. Parents were putting their children on the school bus and waving good-bye. There was no reason to believe that on this ordinary day the whole world would witness the largest terrorist attack ever perpetrated on United States soil.

Nineteen years ago, the eyes of the world were fixed on New York City, the Pentagon, and an empty field in Shanksville, Pennsylvania. The images that were viewed on TV shocked our nation. We stood motionless and watched the apocalypse play out right in front of our eyes, unable to comprehend the immeasurable suffering and fear. What we didn’t understand at that time was that these unprovoked attacks and the global reaction would alter our lives forever.

On that Tuesday morning an American Airlines passenger jet, Flight 11, out of Boston, was hijacked. Unknown to the hijackers, flight attendants Betty Ong and Amy Sweeney were able to use crew telephones. They contacted American Airlines and gave crucial information about the hijackers to the FBI, which started an investigation and helped the FBI identify terrorists. At 8:46AM, Flight 11 crashed into the North Tower of the World Trade Center. In minutes, over 200 fire companies were dispatched to the twin towers. At the same time, the New York City Police Department mobilized over 800 police officers to the scene. Ambulance squads, paramedics and medical professionals responded to the call and started to care for the wounded in the midst of the chaos.

At first no one understood what was happening. They believed the event to be an accident, simple pilot error. But when United Airlines, Flight 175, from Boston, deliberately crashed into the South Tower at 9:02AM, everyone knew that it was an attack.

Continued on page two
People in the offices attempted to evacuate the injured and disoriented from the buildings. There was a tremendous determination to help each other survive even though they knew they were risking their own lives......so many heroes.

While office workers were trying to find a way out of the burning structures, first responders were running in hoping to rescue those who could not help themselves. The air was so black that many couldn’t see where they were going. One survivor said that she began to pray and heard a voice telling her to clap her hands. The firefighters heard her clapping, were able to walk toward the sound, and pulled her out of the rubble. Unfortunately, the attacks were not over. At 9:37AM, a third passenger jet, American Airlines Flight 77, crashed on a helicopter landing pad beside the Pentagon, the headquarters of America’s military operations. The impact of the crash caused one side of the structure to collapse.

People were horrified to learn that other planes that may have been hijacked were still not accounted for by the airlines. Soon loved ones of passengers on United Airlines Flight 93, began receiving phone calls that their plane had been hijacked. Tom Burnett told his wife over the phone that he was putting a plan together. Other passengers on board, Mark Bingham, Jeremy Glick and Todd Beamer, were a part of that plan as well. The passengers voted to fight back. These four men led the charge with Beemer’s last words......”You ready? Okay, let’s Roll!” Flight 93 crashed into an empty field in Shanksville, Pennsylvania at 10:03 AM. Flight 93 had been targeted for either the United States Capitol building, or the White House.

Continued on page three
As the day evolved, the images were so surreal, the loss so intensely heartbreaking, that people could not comprehend it. The whole world witnessed the heroic actions of the first responders that answered the call that morning, and a new understanding and respect emerged from the ashes for those who made the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty.

I can’t even begin to imagine how civilians inside the building felt when they saw the first responders in uniform reaching out to help them. I have heard many personal accounts of what happened that day; one was from a woman named Anne that was in the North Tower during the attacks. Anne wanted her story to be told so people would understand the many acts of kindness and heroism that took place that day.

After the plane crashed into the North Tower, Ann was trapped in her office with other employees. They were terrified because of all the structural damage and debris around them. The room was dark, it was hard to breathe, and they couldn’t find a way out. She could hear police and firefighters near her office. They made their way up the stairs and started to break through walls to reach the people stranded on her floor. There was water all over and they were forced to crawl through blockages and small openings in order to access the stairwells.

The firemen stayed with her group and carefully watched over them so no one would be left behind. Everyone was in shock and confused, but the first responders never faltered. They remained focused and were very kind under immense pressure. Ann described the firemen as “brave” and “compassionate.” When people became weary, the firemen carried them and continually reassured the group that everything would be OK.

Finally, they made it to the stairwells. When Ann turned around to thank the firemen, they had disappeared. The firefighters, who she referred to as her “guardian angels”, brought her to safety and then turned around and rushed back to the upper floors to rescue others. She didn’t know if they ever made it out of the building alive.

With tears in her eyes, she said she would never forget them. Their strength and determination to save her life gave her hope and calmed her fears. Their presence and reassuring words enabled her to fight, to squeeze through walls and to run down stairs out of the burning building before it collapsed.

Indeed, 9/11 showed the world the “Heart” of America. The heroism of civilians and first responders bewildered our enemies and left the rest of the world in awe. We saw the worst of humanity and the best of humanity all at one time. “Hatred” and “Love” stood against each other and fought for victory...and love won and conquered all.

Nineteen years later, we remember the lives that were destroyed and the dreams that were shattered. We remember that America, the Land of the Free and the Home of the Brave was severely wounded. But we must also remember that we did not stand-alone. People from around the world wept with us, then bowed their heads and prayed for us. That is the image that offers “Hope for All Humanity” and enables us to continue to strive for peace.

We Will Never Forget!

May God Bless the United States of America!
HEPTO provides funds to purchase and support various activities and supplies for our Hopatcong elementary students and staff.

**HEPTO sponsors...**
- Assemblies
- Author Visits
- Book Fairs
- Books and Beyond
- Reading Program
- Family Movie Nights
- Field Days including Lunch
- Holiday Boutiques
- Holiday Guesses
- “I Can” Program
- Laser Shows
- Music/Art/Gym/Nurse Supplies
- Moving Up Day (MUD)
- Offset Field Trip Costs
- Pre-K and Kindergarten Fun Day
- Seasonal Dances
- Staff Appreciation Luncheon

There are so many benefits to joining HEPTO: connect with other parents, be in the know about upcoming school events, have a voice in the activities and programs the PTO supports, learn how the students, teachers, and school benefit from HEPTO, and volunteering is a great way to be involved in your child’s life. We are always looking for parents to help during the school day or at evening/weekend events. Even if it is only an hour or one event, we would love your help and support. Join today!

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact us at: [HopatcongElementaryPTO@gmail.com](mailto:HopatcongElementaryPTO@gmail.com)

**HEPTO raises funds through...**
- Membership Dues
- Parent Donations
- Box Tops
- Amazon Smile

**Fundraisers:**
- Hudson Farm Charity Hike
- Spirit Wear
- Local Fundraisers
- Catalog Fundraisers

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**SEEKING NEW HEPTO OFFICERS!**

Interested in enhancing YOUR child’s school experience?

HEPTO has a great opportunity for you!

The following HEPTO board positions are available for the 2020-2021 school year:

- Durban Avenue School President
- Middle School President

Responsibilities include: being the liaison between the Executive Board and school staff, program execution at school level - including fundraisers, book fairs, holiday boutique, etc.

Please contact the HEPTO executive board @ [hopatcongelementarypto@gmail.com](mailto:hopatcongelementarypto@gmail.com) if interested! We are happy to answer questions; a conversation does not equal a commitment, so feel free to just inquire! Thank you for considering to serve!

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**Back to School Scramble**

Everything was almost ready to start the new school year but the labels for the classroom get jumbled. Can you unscramble the letters to form the names of 24 things you might find in your classroom? Watch out, one of the objects is formed from two words.

1. IRCAH
2. CRTOULACLA
3. RGAL
4. KADDCAK
5. BRKENOET
6. KACKCBAP
7. CLONAET
8. ROSSSICS
9. REETAR
10. CKLAL
11. LSARTPE
12. OLKC
13. MSEAFAT
14. EGLU
15. ASDT
16. MROABCA
17. IPLEAMR
18. ENDUST
19. CANLEPI
20. NIEBRE
21. KSED
22. APPRE
23. OASOCBEK
24. GLEBO

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Power Outage Information

If you do not have a back-up generator powering your grinder pump, then please limit/restrict water use until your power is restored. There is 38-46 gallons of storage capacity in the grinder pump unit, depending on the level in the tank when the power went out. Once that storage is full, wastewater will begin to back up in the sewer line in the house. Please note that if wastewater were to back up, it would back up first at the lowest point in the house (basement drain, if you have one, or the lowest drain on the first floor if you do not have basement plumbing). The “remote sentry” (the small battery-powered alarm panel your contractor installed inside your home; it looks like a thermostat) will go into alarm when there is 23 gallons of storage remaining in the grinder pump unit. You can silence the remote sentry alarm by pushing the “silence” button on the front.

While on Vacation

If you are going to be away from home for more than seven days, the following steps should be taken to minimize odors. First, run water from an inside tap long enough for the grinder pump to begin working. After the pump turns on, turn the water off. Grinder pump will run until the tank is empty and will shut off, this process will cleanse the pump and leave it filled with a minimum of clean water. Always leave the electrical power on. This allows the heating element inside the pump to operate which helps eliminate condensation and freezing.

For further information click on the following link:

Or you can pick up a copy at the
Building Department at Borough Hall
111 River Styx Road
SIGN UP
TO BE A VOLUNTEER FOR
HOPATCONG
CLEAN UP DAY
SEPTEMBER 12TH,
Rain Date 26th
9AM-12PM
Hopatcong Borough Hall
(mask & social distancing required)
We need your help to keep Hopatcong litter and mosquito free! Call 973-770-0461 or email jule.girman@gmail.com for more information
Sponsored by
Hopatcong Environmental Commission, Sussex County Mosquito Control & Hopatcong Clean Communities

COMMUNITY SHRED DAY
September 19th
10am to 1pm
Senior Center Parking Lot
32 Lakeside Blvd
Free to Hopatcong Residents!

Town Wide Garage Sale
September 5th and 6th
Maps will be available on our website at www.hopatcong.org

PACK 88 FLAG SERVICE
For just $20 local Cub Scouts from Pack 88 will display 12 flags on your lawn for both Labor Day and Patriot Day. Set up the weekend of August 28th and take down the weekend of September 18th. Email pack88fundraising@gmail.com to place your order before 8/17!
Save with our subscription service! 7 holidays for just $40!
Hopatcong Happenings

Borough of Hopatcong & Hopatcong Recreation Commission invite you to the

Annual Halloween Costume Contest

Where: Modick Park
When: Sunday, October 11th
Rain date: October 18th
Time: 12 PM—3 PM

Costume Contest—Treat Bags
Pumpkins—Cotton Candy
Popcorn—Music
### September Nutrition Center Lunch Menu

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<tr>
<td>Pot Roast with Gravy, Mashed Potatoes, Italian Blend, Rye Bread, Gelatin</td>
<td>Open Face Hot Turkey Sand. on Wheat Bread w/ Gravy, Mashed Potatoes, Cranberry Sauce, Mediterranean Blend, Wheat Bread, Pineapple</td>
<td>Sweet and Sour Pork Chop, Herbed Rice, Spinach, Wheat Roll, Angel Food Cake</td>
<td>Chicken Salad Platter, Wheat Roll, Lettuce/Tomato, Potato Salad, Fresh Fruit Cup</td>
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<td>Closed Labor Day</td>
<td>Spaghetti and Meatballs, Marinara Sauce, Cauliflower, Wheat Roll, Oatmeal Raisin Cookie</td>
<td>Lemon Chicken with Gravy, Mashed Sweet Potatoes, Spinach, Wheat Roll, Chocolate Pudding</td>
<td>Salisbury Steak with Gravy, Mashed Potatoes, Italian Blend, Rye Bread, Fruit Cocktail</td>
<td>BBQ Chicken Thigh, Mashed Potatoes, Broccoli, Wheat Bread, Peas</td>
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<td>Beef Stroganoff, Egg Noodles, Italian Blend, Wheat Roll, Gelatin</td>
<td>Chicken Marsala, Herbed Rice, Peas, Wheat Bread, Mandarin Oranges</td>
<td>Meatloaf with Gravy, Mashed Potatoes, Spinach, Rye Bread, Pears</td>
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Please Reserve your meal by 930am the day before. Call the Senior Center at 973-398-2608

This is a grab & go meal. The center is not open to the public. Suggested donation of $2.00 must be exact.
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If you cannot social distance please wear a mask (not exercise class)
Hopatcong High School Parent Teacher Student Organization
(We raise funds for all the students of Hopatcong High School.)

Membership for the 2020-2021 school year is $5.00 per Family/Staff Member
Check one: Family Member ☐ Staff Member ☐

Name: ____________________________________________________________

Phone Number: ____________________________________________________

Email Address: ____________________________________________________

Student’s Name and Grade: _________________________________________

Student’s Name and Grade: _________________________________________

Payment Received: Cash _____ Check _____

Payment must be received by January 31, 2021

**Please Note – Seniors wishing to be eligible for a scholarship:
Family must be member of HHSPTSO by January 31st of that school year
AND the Senior must have performed community service

Hopatcong High School Parent Teacher Student Organization
PO Box 47, Hopatcong, NJ 07843

Stacey Egner (open) Lori Harrison Wendy Sutton (open)
President Vice President Secretary Treasurer Trustee
What Do I Do With My Old Medications??

Like many of you, my medicine cabinet was full of outdated and unused prescriptions. I did not want to throw them away nor did I want to flush them down the toilet. Studies have shown that improperly discarded medicines may filter into the drinking water. To help our residents and the town, the Hopatcong Police Department started a program a few years ago to help those in need of getting rid of their unused medications.

The Police Department is located at 111 River Styx Rd. in the center of town. In the lobby you will find a mailbox specifically designed for you to discard your medications. The rules are simple; No liquids and no syringes. All you have to do is go into the lobby and drop your medicines in the mail box. No fuss, no muss.

Just a side bar – Most prescription bottles are recyclable! Just check the bottom for the recycle code to determine if you can. Don’t worry about washing out the residue because your local recycling center washes them thoroughly prior to disposing of the material. Try and remove the label containing your personal information. If it cannot be removed completely, scratch off your name as best as possible.
HOPATCONG FOOT CLINIC

With Dr. Fay Woomer
Providing routine foot care
Only $7.00 per visit
Call the Hopatcong Senior Center to schedule your appointment
862-414-4802
This Month’s date is September 17th

Hopatcong Warriors Football Sign Ups

It’s not too late to sign your child up for football!

For Info email John Young @ JJAutomotive@optimum.net
Back to School

Sharing the Roads Safely With Our Busses

It’s that time of the year when the leaves are starting to turn, the nights are getting cooler and children are going back to school. It’s also time when you will be sharing the roads with the big yellow school busses. The following is important rules we all need to follow.

Sharing the Road with School Buses

If you’re driving behind a bus, allow a greater following distance than if you were driving behind a car. It will give you more time to stop once the yellow lights start flashing. It is illegal in all 50 states to pass a school bus that is stopped to load or unload children.

- Never pass a bus from behind – or from either direction if you’re on an undivided road – if it is stopped to load or unload children
- If the yellow or red lights are flashing and the stop arm is extended, traffic must stop
- The area 10 feet around a school bus is the most dangerous for children; stop far enough back to allow them space to safely enter and exit the bus

Be alert; children often are unpredictable, and they tend to ignore hazards and take risks

What’s Life Without Humor.............

.............by John Scala

Accountants were interviewing for a position. 1st accountant was asked how much is 1 + 1? He answered 2. The second person looking for the job was also asked how much is 1 + 1? He answered 2. The third person looking for the job was also asked how much is 1 + 1? He answered “how much do you want it to be?” The CEO said, “you’re hired!”
November 2020 General Election
Frequently Asked Questions

1. How will we vote in November?
The November Presidential Election will be conducted mostly by paper ballot. All Active Registered Voters will receive their paper ballot in the mail. Ballots will be mailed the first week in October. Voters have several options to return their ballots:
a. Mail them back to the Board of Elections (the earlier the better)
b. Drop them off in one of our Election Ballot Drop Boxes (more coming soon)
   i. Hopatcong Municipal Building
   ii. Sparta Municipal Building
   iii. Hardyston Municipal Building
   iv. Newton Municipal Building
   v. Vernon Municipal Building
c. Drop it off to the Board of Elections office, 83 Spring Street, Newton (Bearer Law - bring your ID, you may only hand deliver your ballot plus three others)
d. Vote in person by personally delivering your paper ballot to your polling station on Election Day. You may not deliver anyone else’s ballot to the polls.

2. When will the Ballots be Mailed?
The County Clerk is expected to mail the ballots on or before October 4, 2020. If you will be away from your home and need your ballot mailed to a different address, please call the County Clerk to update your mailing address. Their number is 973-579-0900 x 1507.

3. How secure are the Drop Boxes?
Our Drop Boxes are bolted to a cement pad and are under 24 hour video surveillance by the police department. Ballots are retrieved daily by Election Officials until 8pm Election Night.

4. Will my Polling Place be open on Election Day?
We will have limited polling places open on Election Day, but at least one in each municipality. Due to COVID-19, our supply of poll workers is limited, plus we need much larger accommodations for social distancing requirements. A list of official polling places will be announced in October. If you are interested in becoming a poll worker, please call the Board of Elections at 973-579-0950 x 1591.

5. What if I Didn’t Receive a Ballot in the Mail?
Before Election Day, if you need a replacement ballot, call the County Clerk’s office at 973-579-0900 x 1507. On Election Day, if you did not return your paper mail-in ballot, you may go to your polling location on Election Day and vote by a similar paper ballot, called a Provisional Ballot.
6. What is a Provisional Ballot?
A Provisional Ballot is different than the Vote-by-Mail ballot you received in the mail. The difference is that this ballot is used when the voter’s right to vote is in question. So not only will you fill out the paper ballot at your polling location, you will also fill out your information on an affidavit and record your ID. The Board of Elections will then investigate to make sure you are entitled to vote and that you didn’t already vote. These ballots are counted 1-2 weeks later and then added to Election Day results. Please note a provisional ballot is not counted on election day.

7. I’m visually impaired and cannot vote independently on paper. What are my options?
For visually impaired voters, your polling location will have a voting machine equipped with an audio ballot. Let the poll workers know that you require that ballot.

8. Will my political party be visible on the outside envelope?
No, this is a General Election. Voters belonging to every political party will receive the same ballot and your political party is not identified on the envelope.

9. Who should I contact with other questions?
Any questions regarding mail-in ballots should be directed to the County Clerk’s office at 973-579-0900 x 1507. Questions regarding voter registration or the returning of your ballots should be directed to the Board of Elections – 973-579-0950. You can also email to egriffiths@sussex.nj.us.
## Hopatcong Borough School Calendar 2020-2021

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>September 1 &amp; 2nd</td>
<td>School Closed</td>
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<td>September 3rd</td>
<td>First Day for Students</td>
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<td>September 7th</td>
<td>District Closed</td>
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<td>September 11th</td>
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<td>November 5th—6th</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 25th</td>
<td>Early Dismissal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 26th—27th</td>
<td>District Closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 23rd—31st</td>
<td>District Closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 1st 2021</td>
<td>District Closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 18th</td>
<td>School Closed (MLK Jr Day)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Teacher in-Service</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 15th</td>
<td>Presidents Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 2nd</td>
<td>District Closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 5th—9th</td>
<td>Schools Closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 31st</td>
<td>District Closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 16th –17th</td>
<td>Early Dismissal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 18th</td>
<td>Early Dismissal</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Notes

- **180 student days required, 184 student days included in the calendar, including 4 snow days.**

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**Teacher In Service**

**Labor Day**

**Thanksgiving Recess**

**NJEA Convention**

**Holiday Recess**

**Spring Recess**

**Memorial Day**

**Presidents Day**

**Last Day for Students**