



The Edison Illuminator

A PUBLICATION FROM THE TOWNSHIP OF EDISON GOVERNMENT

Paterniti Park



Oak Tree Tennis Park



“We’re Getting Things Done *All Over Edison!*”

MAYOR SAM JOSHI



Toth Center Renovation



Edison Boys Baseball



“Every single day we are getting things done to provide our families with a better future in Edison.”

A MESSAGE FROM MAYOR SAM JOSHI

Dear Edison Residents,

With rising gas prices and inflation, more Edison families are looking to stay close to home for their leisure. I’m pleased that my administration is pushing forward with several capital projects that will facilitate just that. You’ve read in our previous editions of the Illuminator about our massive parks projects, senior center addition, improvements to local recreational and youth sports facilities, and beautification efforts that touch every neighborhood across Edison. Every single day we are getting things done to provide our families with a better future in Edison. This involves fixing problems that existed well before I took office while also proactively improving neighborhoods. Below are just a few of many highlights of today:

- Parks all across Edison are getting improvements! (You can check out the upgrades on pages 6 & 7)
- More and more roads are getting resurfaced every day
- Town Hall building improvements are ongoing, making for a welcoming atmosphere for residents and increased comfort and morale for our dedicated staff
- We held a resource fair and clothing drive for residents impacted by the fire at the Waterford complex, and my administration continues to provide information, resources, and communicate with every affected family to provide them with the support they need to begin to move forward
- Work for our turf fields at Jets field has begun!

These are initiatives we are focusing on this quarter, and there are many more projects to come. Change doesn’t happen instantly, but we’re making progress every day.

My administration also continues to develop and support initiatives that celebrate the diversity that exists across this amazing town. Over the last few months, we welcomed the Lunar New Year with a parade and celebration, held a St. Patrick’s Day Block Party, hosted an Easter Eggstravaganza indoor egg hunt, participated in the burning of Chametz with local residents, and observed Eid at Town Hall with our Muslim neighbors.

As one of the most diverse municipalities in the state, Edison Township takes pride in its many different cultures, identities, religions, and backgrounds. This being said, my administration remains acutely aware that discrimination still takes place, especially for the Township’s most vulnerable populations. If you would like to discuss a question, comment, or concern that you or your community share, please do not hesitate to contact my office to schedule a meeting where they may be addressed in a safe space. We are always here as a resource. Email mayorjoshi@edisonnj.gov or call 732-248-7298 to schedule a meeting.

Your Mayor,

 **Mayor Sam Joshi**



Mayor Joshi Delivers State of the Township Address



On February 28, Mayor Joshi recounted successes from the past year and laid out his administration’s vision for 2023 during his State of the Township address at the Pines Manor.

Mayor Joshi announced the resurrection of Edison Light Transit – a once-popular service that was discontinued in 2010. The Mayor explained that the program will not only be revived, but also expanded with additional shuttles to accommodate a greater number of residents. *“This means fewer cars on the roads and therefore less traffic. It’s environmentally friendly and reduces our collective carbon footprint, and it’s economical for the residents who use it.*

It’s truly a win for everyone,” Mayor Joshi said in his address.

In an effort to address long-standing resident discontent with internet service, Mayor Joshi also announced plans to make good on his promise to end Optimum’s monopoly as the only internet service provider in Edison Township, telling the audience, *“I promised to end Optimum’s monopoly, and tonight I’m proud to announce Optimum’s monopoly in Edison will end this year. Comcast is coming to town.”*

Additionally, the Mayor announced renovation and expansion plans for the Dr. William Toth Health Center, the development of a second community garden at Bernard Dwyer Park, and the completion of construction projects including a children’s splash park and youth sports recreation center.



Edison Police Department Celebrates Promotions

Earlier this year, Mayor Sam Joshi and Police Chief Thomas Bryan announced the promotion of three Captains, 12 Lieutenants, and 25 Sergeants within the Edison Police Department. During his time in office, Mayor Joshi has hired 13 new police officers, directed the installation of more than 60 license plate readers on EPD vehicles, launched "Prepared Live" for 9-1-1 dispatch to facilitate a real-time view of emergency calls, and added a departmental K9 Unit with two police canines.



Edison Swears in New Fire Chief Andrew Toth

After serving as Acting Chief for several months and 21 years with the department, Andrew Toth Jr. was sworn in as the Township's new Fire Chief in March.

"My commitment as Chief is to listen, learn and work hard every day to achieve our mutual goal. It's about working together toward a common goal of protecting and safeguarding those of us here today and those whose future depends upon the actions we take today," said Toth.

Celebrating the 100 Year Anniversary of the EPD

The Edison Police Department celebrated 100 years of service to the community and held a small ceremony on March 9 at Town Hall to mark the occasion.



During the ceremony, Police Chief Thomas Bryan shared stories of heroic actions from past and current Police Officers, saying, *"The Edison Police Department is proud and honored to serve this great and diverse community, then, now, and forever."*



Lunar New Year

Edison Township welcomed the Lunar New Year on January 21 with a parade followed by a celebration at Papaiani Park. *"We haven't had a Lunar New Year in Edison Township for a very, very long time,"* Mayor Joshi said to the crowd. *"And when we were planning the events out, we thought it was absolutely necessary to do so because of our population. And when you look around, Edison is one of the most diverse communities in the entire United States of America and that is something that each and every one of us should be very proud of."*



Easter Eggstravaganza

Mayor Sam Joshi and the Edison Township Recreation Department hosted their annual Easter Eggstravaganza event on April 1 at Thomas Jefferson Middle School.



St. Patrick's Day

Fun was had by all at Edison's St. Patrick's Day Block Party on March 11, which included bagpipes, Irish dancing performed by local dance schools, a beer garden, Irish food, and a memorable performance by "The Celtic Rebels."



Earth Day Green Fair

The Edison Health and Recreation Departments hosted a day of environmental awareness and fun at Lake Papaiani on April 22. The day kicked off with a park clean-up, followed by a Green Fair celebrating all things Earth Day with activities, music and fun.



Midtown Softball Field

Families who play at Midtown Softball knew a facelift was long overdue. We installed prime pitching and batting cages, and resurfaced the parking lot just in time for the new season!



Swales Park

Beautifying neighborhoods for our families to make good memories has been a goal since day one, and every day we're getting things done. Nowhere is this more apparent than our recent work in Swales park. Upgrades include:

- **Community Garden**
- **Sand Volleyball court**
- **New backstop and redone field for pick up games**
- **Walking path with trees**

None of this would have been possible without the full support of our Council members.



Toth Senior Center

The Toth Senior Center provides critical public health services and resources in Middlesex County. Mayor Joshi worked with Congressman Pallone to secure \$3M in federal funding that is being used to renovate and expand the Center by nearly 3,000 square feet to better meet the health needs of the community, especially seniors. The new space will include a large meeting space for events and activities, reading room, full kitchen, and

a common lounge. The expansion will also enable Edison to greatly expand its vaccinations, health screenings, and other essential services to older residents. *"We are grateful for Congressman Pallone's partnership with our office and the residents of Edison,"* Mayor Sam Joshi said. *"This \$3 million federal appropriation will help us expand the footprint of our Township's Senior Center. The added space will greatly benefit our older residents, allowing them to spend time doing recreational activities and receive health care all in one place."*

Paterniti Park

The updates at Paterniti Park include a completely redone court, fencing, and cleaned up walking path. Prior to these renovations, the court and the walking path were both unusable and unsafe. Our families deserve safe, well maintained, outdoor spaces. We're getting things done in every neighborhood while fairly balancing our time and tax dollars across all areas of Edison.



Edison Boys Baseball

Improvements to Edison Boys Baseball League (EBBL) are underway beginning with repaving of the parking area. The Township also recently provided the EBBL with an AED (automated external defibrillator) to ensure the safety of our young athletes.

Lupo farm at Oak Tree, N.J.



COURTESY OF THE EDISON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Historical Society: *Farms of Edison*

It may be hard to imagine that where you live now in Edison was once farmland. For hundreds of years farmers cultivated the rich piedmont soils of Edison, growing corn, wheat, oats, fruits and vegetables for the city markets. Along the Raritan meadows, farmers harvested salt hay for their animals. Cows grazed on the rolling pastures of Woodbrook and Maplehurst farms. In spring, the apple orchards in the Old Post Roa area burst into bloom and by fall the apples would be turned into cider and brandy at Forman Martin's cider mill. Francis End's farm on Talmadge Road grew cherries, grapes and asparagus, as well as grains. There were horse farms, stables, and a few racetracks for those who

liked to ride. During the Great Depression, small farms kept many families fed, with the extra crops sold to neighbors. Large chicken farms were built on Oak Tree Road, which produced thousands of eggs daily. By the 1950's, the farms began to disappear. The Menlo Park Mall replaced the 250 year old Thornall farm, and thousands of new homes were built all over Edison. Those newcomers to "the country" could still hear the moo of a cow, and roosters crowing at dawn. In the 21st century farms are a historical memory of life in Edison, with a few streets named after the farms, and a few old farmhouses remaining.



Mr. Fix-It is Here to Help!

The Fix-It program helps residents over 65 and those with disabilities who may need help with tasks around the house such as changing a lightbulb, installing smoke alarms or assembling furniture. **E-mail mrfix-it@edisonnj.gov or call (732) 570-8412 to request service.**

Edison Offers Addiction Services

Addiction services are available to those in recovery or with a family member dealing with a substance use disorder. Meetings are held every Tuesday at the Edison Main Library at 12PM and every Thursday at the North Edison Library at 11AM. If you have any questions or would like additional information about this program, please contact Reverend Holly Onorato at (732) 248-7295 (office), (732) 427-7246 (cell), or honorato@edisonnj.gov

We're Hiring!

Edison Township is hiring in several departments. As one of the largest municipalities in New Jersey, Edison prides itself in providing the highest standard of public service.

The Township is committed to supporting the community and improving the lives of residents. Full-time employees receive competitive



benefits, including healthcare, sick leave and a pension. As part of the Edison Township team, you'll enjoy unique opportunities to make a difference both professionally and personally. We strive to employ individuals who share our core value of providing good government. If you're that kind of person, we invite you to explore career opportunities with us! Visit bit.ly/edisonjobs to see our current openings.

MAYOR SAM JOSHI'S

Open Door Hours

Is there a local issue you would like to discuss with Mayor Joshi? **Let him know!** Mayor Joshi's office will hold Open Door Hours on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month from 1-2:30PM for those who register. Sign up for your 15 minute slot by emailing mayorjoshi@edisonnj.gov



Recreation Department

To register for any event or trip, go to register.capturepoint.com/Edison unless specified otherwise | For more information, call **732-248-7310**

June

Women's Self Defense Course

Mondays in June

Adult women can join the Edison Police Department for this free self-defense course at the Minnie B. Veal Community Center at 1070 Grove Avenue.

Pre-register by calling (732) 248-6462 or emailing cop@edisonpd.org

Juneteenth Celebration

June 10

Join the Edison Recreation Department from 1:00 pm through 9:00 pm at Lake Papaiani for live music, food and drinks, and fun to celebrate and learn about the holiday. Local African-American business owners, artists, musicians and food vendors who wish to join should contact Joyce Fircha at JFircha@edisonnj.gov.

Questions? Call 732-248-7310

Sharks Youth Football Camp Begins

June 21

The Edison Recreation Department is offering its Sharks Youth Football Camp for children ages 6-18 starting June 21st at the JP Stevens High School Football Field at 855 Grove Ave from 9am-2pm. \$25.00 per child, includes a camp t-shirt and lunch.

To register or for questions, call 732-248-7310

July

Summer Playground Program Begins

July 3

This 6-week summer program for children ages 5 through 12 is hosted at parks around Edison. Parents may sign up at the park of their choice and pay a \$100 fee per child. The program is hosted daily from 9 am to noon, Monday through Friday, July 3 to August 11th. During the program children will have a variety of activities including but not limited to arts & crafts, games, trips, and special events.

Questions? Call 732-248-7310

4th of July Celebration

July 4

Edison's 4th of July Celebration will be held at Papaiani Park on Tuesday, July 4th. Music begins at 3pm with fireworks at 9:15pm. This free event will include music, food, children's rides, and a beer/wine garden.

Teen Summer Recreation Classes

Begin July 5

Teen summer recreation classes will start on July 5th at the Minnie B. Veal Community Center at 1070 Grove Avenue. The cost is \$10 for residents

and \$20 for nonresidents, good until the end of the year. To view the class schedule, please visit the Township of Edison website under the recreation tab.

Adult Summer Recreation Classes

Begin July 5

Adult summer recreation classes will begin July 5th at the Minnie B. Veal Community Center at 1070 Grove Avenue. The cost is \$30 for residents, \$60 for nonresidents, and free for Edison seniors 65+, good until the end of the year.

To view the class schedule, please visit the Township of Edison website under the Recreation tab

Eid-al-Adha-Festival

July 15

Edison's Eid-al-Adha-Festival will be held on Saturday, July 15th at Papaiani Park from 3:00pm – 7:00pm. This free event will include music, performances, children's activities, and more.

August

Fashion First Workshops

August 14-18

Fashion First Workshops is offering a Summer Fashion workshop at the Minnie B. Veal Community Center at 1070 Grove Avenue. The workshop will be held Aug 14-18 from 9AM–12PM for ages 8-16. The price is \$325.00. *To register or for more information, visit fashionfirstworkshops.com/edison-fashion-camp-2023*

Rising Future SAT Prep Camp

August 14-18

Rising Future is offering a 1 week, 25 hour SAT Test Prep Camp from August 14 to August 18 at the Minnie B. Veal Community Center at 1070 Grove Avenue from 1:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. for students in grades 9-11. The price is \$449.00. *To register or for more information, visit tiny.cc/rfsatbootcamp*

House Music Festival

August 26

Edison's House Music in the Park Festival will be held at Papaiani Park on Saturday, August 26th from 12pm-10pm. This free event will include music, food trucks, vendors, a kid zone, and a beer/wine garden. This popular music event will once again feature DJ Beloved. Also appearing are Eric Wigfall, David Harness, Salah Ananse, Funke, and Dawud Johnson.

Recreation Trips

New York Yankees vs. Kansas City Royals at Yankee Stadium (Bronx, NY)

July 21

Ticket price includes a bus ride and stadium ticket. *To learn more or register for this event, visit register.capturepoint.com/Edison*

Trip to Dorney Park (PA)

August 2

To learn more or register for this event, visit register.capturepoint.com/Edison

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