

Council Candidates Livesey and Russell Pledge to Continue Progress

This November, Councilman Brian Livesey is seeking a second term along with newcomer Steven Russell as part of the Restore Matawan Team. According to Council President Brian Livesey, the election will be decided by what the voters think about one question: Is Matawan better off now than it was five years ago? Livesey and Russell say the answer is yes.

Five years ago, Mayor Joe Altomonte and the Democrats gained the majority on the Matawan Council and immediately began improving Matawan's parks, community services, and the downtown business district.

Councilman Livesey explained, "People love the improvements we made to the downtown and our local parks. Parents appreciate the expanded Summer Camp Program. New activities like Senior Chair Yoga and Family Night Under the Stars are a big hit. And this year's Matawan Day was bigger and better than ever."

Five years ago, Matawan's parks were badly neglected. Now, the park system has been revitalized. Gravelly Brook Park is completely renovated, and parks



**Councilman
Brian Livesey**



Steven Russell

throughout town have either been improved or plans for their improvement are in the works.

Many of Matawan's long neglected roadways have been repaired, and more are on the schedule. Main Street, Broad Street and nearly 40 other roads have already been repaved. After over 100 years of flooding, Aberdeen Road will be raised. This county funded project will eliminate the serious flooding problem at no cost to Matawan taxpayers.

The Matawan Train Station area was neglected for decades. This spring, the long awaited Matawan Train Station redevelopment project will break ground. Abandoned buildings and the currently

vacant lot will be replaced with a vibrant mixed-use development with shops, bars, and restaurants.

Democratic Candidate for Council Steven Russell commented, "Matawan is such a great town and it's only getting better. If you like the changes we made, then support me and my running mate Brian Livesey. Let's continue the progress."

Election day is Tuesday, November 8th, and polls are open from 6am to 8pm. ■



**Over 4,000 people attended this year's
Matawan Day**

Downtown Matawan Is Back

For many years, downtown Matawan had suffered the fate of many small town downtowns. Municipal neglect combined with closing businesses created an area uninviting to shoppers and businesses alike. But change has come to Matawan, and residents like it.

Longtime Matawan resident Tina LoBosco commented, "It's so nice to have a downtown that we can be proud of again. The new sidewalks and landscaping and the new businesses are great. I can invite a friend out for dinner or a cup of coffee, and enjoy our downtown."

Empty storefronts and vacant buildings have been replaced with new businesses. Eyesore properties, like the old Gulf Station, have been demolished. The abandoned CTown Supermarket has now been replaced with the Matawan Town Center, with retail on the street level and



**Matawan Town Center replaced the
abandoned CTown Supermarket**

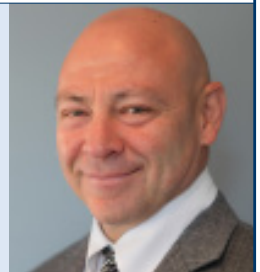
high-end apartments above. According to Matawan Mayor Joseph Altomonte, this is just the beginning.

"A vibrant downtown is the heart and soul of a small town like Matawan. Shopping, dining, and community events like Matawan Day, the Memorial Day Parade, and Blues

and Cruise Night all bring people to our downtown, and they like what they see," commented Mayor Altomonte.

Renovations to the downtown infrastructure began in 2017. To date, Main Street has been paved and new sidewalks have been installed, paid largely by county and state funding. New street lighting, crosswalks and handicapped ramps have made the area more inviting to pedestrians. Altomonte commented, "We knew we had to make these important improvements before new businesses would start moving in."

Recent businesses to open their doors on Main Street include the Brew Coffee Bar, the Geekery Comic Shop, A Salute Italian Restaurant and Bar, Sparkle Boutique and Main Street Donuts. ■



Mayor Joe Altomonte

Aberdeen Road to Be Raised

After 100 Years of Flooding, Finally A Fix

Motorists and residents who regularly travel Aberdeen Road are finally due for some relief from the chronic flooding that afflicts the area. The work to raise the road, which will provide a permanent fix to the flooding, will go out to bid this December, and work is scheduled to start in July of 2023.

Mayor Altomonte and his team negotiated with the county to include the raising of Aberdeen Road as part of the



Lake Lefferts Dam project. After Superstorm Irene damaged the dam in 2011, a portion of Ravine Drive had to be closed. Then Mayor Paul Buccalatto negotiated a deal with

Monmouth County that required the borough to pay \$3.9 million toward fixing the dam.

Mayor Altomonte renegotiated the deal, both reducing the cost to Matawan, and extending

the project. The cost to Matawan was reduced by \$1.8 million, and the County agreed to fix the Aberdeen Road flooding problem at no additional cost.

"This is good news for drivers who use Aberdeen Road, and even better news for Matawan taxpayers," explained Matawan Council President Brian Livesey. "Altogether, the new arrangement with the County will save us close to \$4 million and fix a road that has been flooding for over 100 years." ■

16th Annual Turkey Trot 5K on Main Street

On the Saturday after Thanksgiving, Matawan is hosting its 16th annual 5K Turkey Trot. The event is a staple community event, welcoming about 600 participants every year. Participants can choose to run or walk, and for the children there is a separate "Kiddie Dash."

The race will begin at 8:30am on Matawan's Main

Street, and the post-race party will be held at Terhune Park with a medal ceremony.

Registration is \$30 and proceeds go toward the Matawan parks. Those who register in advance will receive a free Turkey Trot T-shirt. To reserve your spot, visit www.runsignup.com and click "Find Race" then search "Matawan" to sign up.

Matawan's 5 k Turkey Trot!
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 2022

Register on-line at www.runsignup.com
Matawan Borough 5 k Turkey Trot

Free Exercise Programs for Matawan Seniors

Borough of Matawan
CHAIR YOGA & SENIOR STRENGTH
All classes held at 201 Broad Street

Chair Yoga	Senior Strength
Wednesdays 10AM-11AM	Fridays 11AM-11:45AM
Sept- 7, 14, 21, 28	Sept- 16, 23, 30
Oct. - 5, 12, 19, 26	Oct. - 7, 21, 28
Nov. - 2, 9, 16, 23	Nov. - 4, 18
Dec. - 7, 14, 21	Dec. - 2, 9, 16, 23

For more information about Senior Recreation Programs, call the Matawan Recreation Dept at 732.566.3898 ext.130

Chair Yoga is here! The Borough of Matawan is continuing its Chair Yoga and Senior Strength program into the fall and winter of 2022. First started by Mayor Altomonte and his administration, the program has become a favorite amongst seniors in the town, with a regular turnout of 25 to 30 attendees per session.

Chair Yoga is a form of yoga that is easily accessible and beneficial to seniors, as they remain seated while attaining similar benefits to those who practice traditional yoga. The health benefits of the exercise include stretching and loosening of aching muscles, reduced anxiety, lower blood pressure, and improved flexibility and balance, to name a few.

"The increased emphasis on health and wellness often neglects our seniors. My administration is very proud of the Chair Yoga and Senior Strength programs," said Mayor Altomonte.

This season's Chair Yoga and Senior Strength program is being held at the Matawan Municipal Building at 201 Broad Street in Matawan and is taught by yoga instructor Danielle Meany. Chair Yoga classes are \$30 for non-residents and are held on Wednesdays between 10-11AM, and Senior Strength classes are \$25 for non-residents and are held Fridays from 11-11:45AM. Classes are free for Matawan residents. The program runs weekly until December 23, 2022.

Biggest Matawan Day Ever in 2022

“This is the biggest and best Matawan Day ever,” exclaimed a proud Mayor Joseph Altomonte.

Last Saturday, a record breaking 4,000 people and 200 vendors crowded the newly renovated Main Street for Matawan’s annual and much-anticipated street fair. The day kicked off with a welcome from the Mayor, followed by performances by local youth groups, music by multiple bands, and of course, food trucks. Parents watched as kids enjoyed the free activities, including inflatables and pumpkin painting. Then from 12-5, the streets were filled with thousands of people enjoying themselves on Main Street in Matawan.

Matawan Day, a joint effort between the Matawan Aberdeen Chamber of Commerce and the



Maloney’s Pub Slider Eating Contest—Mayor Joe Altomonte with Matawan Day MC Anthony Caltabilota, owner of Calta Tax and Financial on Main St.

Economic Business Development Commission, was broadcasted live by Gotham Trinity Productions and sponsored by many local businesses.

In addition to a beer garden, Matawan Day included an annual pasta eating contest sponsored by DiBari’s Main Street Pizza and a slider eating contest hosted by Maloney’s Pub.

Mayor Altomonte participated in the slider contest, but ultimately did not receive the trophy.

According to event organizers, the day was successful due to the hard work of many volunteers and the DPW, police department, fire and Bayshore EMS, and CERT team, who worked to

ensure everyone enjoyed the day safely.

Commented Mayor Altomonte, “We appreciate the vendors, local businesses, sponsors, and residents that came out for a fun day in the community. It was a great day on Main Street!” ■



Over 200 vendors lined Downtown Matawan

Matawan’s Haunted History Tour

The annual Haunted History Walking Tour is returning this year as part of Matawan Spooktacular Day.

On October 29th, the Haunted History tour will start at Burrowes Mansion Museum, located at 94 Main Street. Participants will walk through town and stop at different locations to learn about Matawan’s unique history of paranormal activities and events.

There are four 90 minute time slots to choose from. The tour, organized by the Matawan

Historical Society, costs \$20 per ticket. The proceeds will benefit the Historical Society, which uses the funds to preserve historical documents, organize events, and help with restoration. You can purchase tickets at [MatawanHauntedHistoryTour.eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com).

The Haunted History Tour begins at the Historic Burrowes Mansion Museum.



Early Voting Begins Saturday, Oct 29th

Registered voters can now cast their ballot in person, using a voting machine, during a nine day period prior to the November 2022 General Election. You can now choose to vote, in person, when it’s most convenient for your schedule.

For 2022, early voting will be Saturday, October 29 through Sunday, November 6. Hours will be Monday-Saturday, 10:00 am to 8:00 pm and Sunday, 10:00 am to 6:00 pm. There is no early voting on November 7th, the Monday before the election.



You can cast your vote at any of the Monmouth County in-person early voting locations, regardless of which municipality you reside.

EARLY VOTING LOCATIONS CLOSEST TO MATAWAN ARE:

- **JAMES J. CULLEN COMMUNITY CENTER**, 1776 Union Avenue, Hazlet, NJ
- **COLTS NECK PUBLIC LIBRARY**, 1 Winthrop Drive, Colts Neck, NJ
- **MONMOUTH COUNTY LIBRARY HQ**, 125 Symmes Drive, Manalapan, NJ



Train Station Project breaks ground this spring

Will bring in \$12.6 million in new revenue to Matawan

The Matawan Train Station redevelopment is moving forward and is expected to break ground in late spring. According to the redevelopment agreement signed in 2021, the project will generate \$12.6 million for Matawan Borough, while providing stores, bars and restaurants in a now dilapidated area. According to Mayor Joe Altomonte, Matawan taxpayers will be the beneficiaries.

“The area is being revitalized and Matawan will get \$12.6 million in new revenue. This will reduce taxes on homeowners. It’s a win-win for Matawan taxpayers.”

Mayor Altomonte reiterated his reasons for supporting the project. “The corner of Main Street and Aberdeen Road has been virtually

unused for decades. The area is being revitalized and Matawan will get \$12.6 million in new revenue. This will reduce taxes on homeowners. It’s a win-win for Matawan taxpayers.”

The latest milestone in the train station redevelopment was reached on October 3rd. The Matawan Planning and Zoning Board approved the site plan for the Matawan Junction Project. The developers also had a successful follow up meeting with the representatives from Monmouth County and the Matawan Junction redevelopment is ready to begin.

The approved plan includes over 10,000 square feet of retail space for restaurants, bars and shops. Market rate apartments will



Matawan Junction Rendering, Corner of Main Street and Aberdeen Road

occupy the space above the ground level retail and will be a combination of studios, one-bedroom and two-bedroom, so there will be little or no impact on the school budget. ■

Additional Funding, Upgrades for Matawan Police

Mayor Altomonte and his team have made the full funding and support of the local police department a priority for his administration. “We need to make sure the police have the resources they need to do their job,” explained the Mayor.

The Mayor and Council have prioritized making sure Matawan police officers have the proper equipment to do their jobs. New police vehicles are added to the fleet annually to ensure a proper rotation and that all cars are in good condition. This year our police force was supplied with both tablets and body-worn cameras.



The new equipment was partially funded by a state grant.

In February of this year, the Matawan Police Department moved to a newly renovated headquarters in Borough Hall at almost no cost to taxpayers. The old location needed extensive

repairs after storm and water damage, and would have required costly renovations. The new police headquarters will house the department in an appropriate setting for years to come.

With multiple retirements happening this year, the police are looking to hire a number of new officers to maintain the police force. The first of the new hires will be a local resident who grew up in Matawan. He will be sworn in at the Matawan Council Meeting on November 1st and residents are welcome to come to the meeting to show their support.



The Restore Matawan Team has been committed to supporting the mission of the Matawan Police Department by ensuring they are properly staffed and have the equipment to keep us safe. In 2021, Matawan was named one of the “Top 10 Safest Small Towns in America” by SafeWise, a leading online resource for all things safety and security. ■