

For Immediate Release



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North Arlington’s Annual Reorganization Meeting to Take Place on Friday, January 5

NORTH ARLINGTON, NJ - January 12, 2024 - Mayor Daniel H. Pronti spoke of long-anticipated upgrades along the Borough’s riverfront and other exciting initiatives throughout town, during his annual “State of the Borough” address at the municipal reorganization meeting.

Throughout 2024, the Borough will be unveiling plans to upgrade open spaces throughout the borough. Daniel Morris Park will feature a new hardscape design and a picturesque, outdoor water fountain. Other vacant land parcels along the riverfront will undergo environmental cleanup and ultimately serve as both parking and park land. Children’s Centennial Park on Schuyler Avenue will be rededicated and undergo several new improvements.

There will also be a continuation of the project to connect a walking path along the Passaic River that will eventually, and safely, take pedestrians and cyclists from the Belleville Turnpike to Riverside County Park.

Mayor Pronti gave a stunning statistic that the average municipal tax bill for a homeowner in North Arlington in 2024 is actually \$101 less than it was in 2016, the year before the Borough implemented the Rolling Reassessment, in which 25% of homes are inspected annually and all homes are then re-evaluated and taxed accurately.

“As our Borough continues our upward swing, we continue to see a vibrant main street, which is the key to a successful community,” said Mayor Pronti, noting the successful business community is a superb partner in the effort.

He discussed plans to acquire properties to solve long-term parking problems around Rip Collins Field and the South End Business District on Ridge Road.

The Borough is seeing an end to long-standing eyesores, according to the Mayor. The Hughes Auto Sales property has been purchased and the new owner has agreed not to open another car lot, but to create a continuation of the residential area along Canterbury Avenue. The design will be consistent with the existing homes on that street, complete with parking.

There will be more upgrades along the Belleville Pike and next to the newly-upgraded Shawn's Saloon. Two small, run-down buildings will be replaced with a new structure.

Mayor Pronti also recapped a successful 2023 with the creation of the Borough's first all-inclusive and sensory friendly playground at Fisher Field, a well-attended third-annual Celebrate North Arlington event and extra services provided by the Department of Public Works, including a litter patrol initiative.

"We have many exciting plans for this upcoming year with community trips, new signage, redevelopment projects and more parking, he said.

At the meeting, incumbent council members Donna Bocchino and Mario Karcic were sworn in for their newest terms by former state Assemblyman Jack Ciattarelli.

Following their re-elections in November, Bocchino and Karcic will both serve three-year terms. Karcic was nominated to, once again, serve as Council President and Allison Sheedy was nominated by her fellow councilmembers to serve as Council Vice President. Both were then sworn-in by the Mayor.

Fire Chief Matthew Piscal, 1st Deputy Fire Chief Mark Zidik and 2nd Deputy Fire Chief Robert Fellrath were also sworn-in at the meeting. Certificates of recognition were presented to the North Arlington 2022 Junior Little League team, who were named 14U All-Star District 5 Champions, and to the 2023 Little League team, 12U All-Star District 5 Champions.

Mayor Pronti and the Borough Council announced the appointments of volunteers to their respective municipal committees, and also announced the Borough's professionals for 2024.

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