

Raritan Borough Re-Organization Meeting - January 4, 2015
By Stefanie Gara

My warm greetings to you all and a very Happy New Year. I would like to welcome and thank our residents and distinguished guests for joining us today. Congratulations to Councilwoman Denise Carra for her re-election and congratulations and to our newest Councilman Jim Foohey. Welcome back Jim, I look forward to working with you this year. My sincere congratulations to newly elected Council President Greg Lobell. I would also like to wish Council President Lobell a very Happy Birthday (today's the day ☺). I look forward to working with Mayor Liptak and the entire Council in this upcoming year.

I am encouraged and excited for Raritan as we move forward. We must ensure that 2015 is a year of productivity. We as a Council must strive towards our goals for Raritan for that is precisely why we have been elected. Keeping a better future in mind must but coupled with prudent spending. As Albert Einstein said "Strive not to be a success, but rather to be of value". The seven of us sitting here must be of value to our entire community. This year we must strive towards our goals such as the Riverfront Corridor, implementation of the way finding plan which was funding by Regional Center and approved by Council in 2013. The way finding plan will provide a viable connection between the train station, Somerset Street and the Riverfront Corridor. The enhancement of the Canal Street Park, as well as the final phase of Orlando Drive. We must all stay positive and focused on those things that mean so much to our Borough.

We must maintain our wonderful relationship with the Somerset County Freeholders, the Somerset County Parks Commission, the Duke Farms Foundation, Dr. Judy Shaw with the Bloustein School, The Central Jersey Stream Team, and many other wonderful groups that work closely with us supporting this community.

This year my responsibilities include Police along with Councilman Foohey and Public Works along with Council President Lobell. I will also be liaison to Office of Emergency Management, Raritan Senior Citizens and Municipal Land Use Board. I will

also be maintaining my seat on the Somerset County Solid Waste Advisory Council. I plan to give again all of my best efforts to my assignments.

Many thanks to all the employees of Raritan for the outstanding work you continually provide. A special thank you to our Police Department, Fire Department, Rescue Squad and Office of Emergency Management. I can sincerely say we have incredible first responders looking out for our wellbeing and I thank them for all their hard work and dedication to Raritan. We are a strong community thanks to these men and women.

To all of our residents who so generously volunteer their time and efforts to our community, I sincerely thank you. You are in essence the unsung heroes of our Borough. I readily welcome more unsung heroes and am available to meet with anyone at any time. Thank you so very much for allowing me the opportunity to continue to serve our Borough in this upcoming year. Have a safe and wonderful New Year. Thank You.