

FROM THE MAYOR'S DESK



By Mayor John Labrosse

As summer comes to a close and the kids are back in school, I hope you are enjoying reading this special newsletter about all of the exciting new recreation facilities and programs that are happening all over our great city!

All in all, our new city administration has committed about \$20 million in projects both small and large to give our kids places to play and supervised activities. From the new indoor SportsDome to doubling the size of our "M&M" Recreation Center on Holt Street to park improvements all over the city, our goal is to give our kids a better future by providing them with something to do that's fun and safe for all.

Everyone knows (and official statistics prove) that kids who are busy and involved in activities are less likely to get in trouble. As your Mayor and City Council members, it's our job to provide the leadership and financial resources necessary to build these facilities. Many dedicated employees and volunteers all work together to give our kids a chance for a better future.

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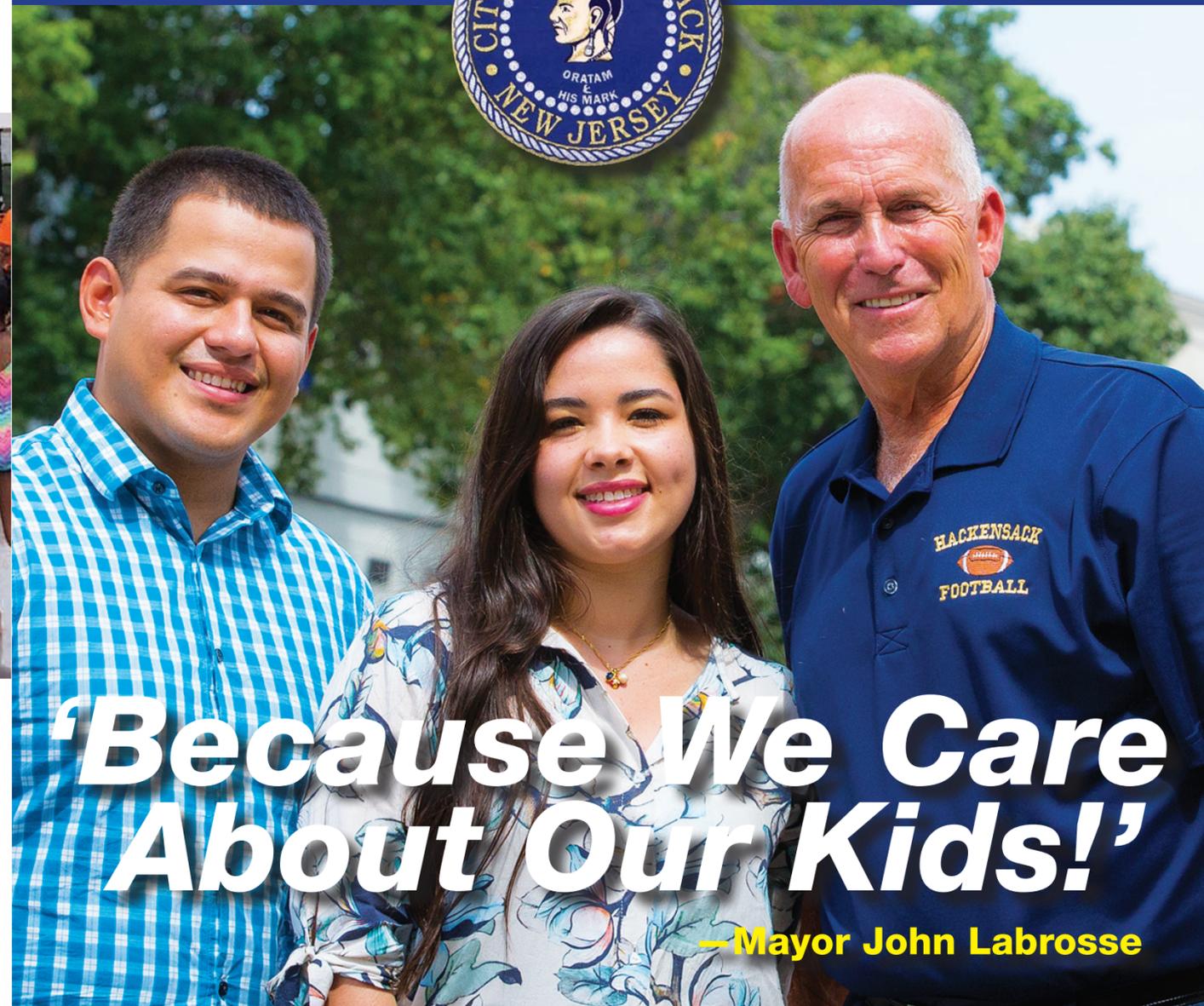


Carver Park's new Splashpad opened last month with a Ribbon Cutting attended by Mayor Labrosse, Council Members and other city officials. Councilman David Sims and local kids are pictured enjoying the park.

If you're about ten years old, you probably got a big kick out of brand new "Splash Parks" that hundreds of local kids enjoyed this summer to get wet and beat the heat. Upgrades to Columbus Park and Pulaski Park and the new Foschini Park playground are also important aspects of the city's commitment to improving recreation for all.

"Our new administration is focusing on improving our city's quality of life, stabilizing and reducing property taxes and redeveloping Main Street and surrounding areas to build a better future for all of our residents. These exciting new recreation facilities and programs are an important part of our city's revitalization and our determination to make Hackensack New Jersey's best small city."

—Mayor John Labrosse



"Because We Care About Our Kids!"

—Mayor John Labrosse

Major New Recreation Facilities in Hackensack

"These outstanding new facilities will give our kids and adults of all ages great places to play and enjoy. This is a tremendous investment in our city and our children's future."



City of Hackensack
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Mayor John Labrosse
Deputy Mayor Kathleen Canestrino
Councilman David Sims
Councilman Leonardo Battaglia
Councilwoman Deborah Keeling-Geddis
City Manager David Troast
Chief Financial Officer James Mangin

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The new Johnson Park SportsDome will include multi-use fields in a climate controlled environment that will be enjoyed all year.

Mayor John Labrosse and the City Council know Hackensack deserves first-class recreation facilities and programs and that's exactly what they are working hard to deliver. From building major new facilities to upgrading our parks. City officials are investing over \$20 million, all with little or no impact on local property taxpayers.

The projects include building a new indoor SportsDome at Johnson Park, doubling the size of the recreation center on Holt Street, a beautiful new park at Atlantic Street, a new Performing Arts Center, new "Splash" parks for summer fun and upgrades to many city parks and recreation facilities.

The brand new Johnson Park SportsDome is an exciting \$7 million, 80,000 square foot indoor facility that will feature soccer, flag football, cheerleading,

Great New Recreation Facilities Coming To Hackensack!

volleyball, junior golf and batting cages. Built primarily to serve children's recreation programs, the facility could also accommodate co-ed volleyball and kickball leagues, as well as other activities.

Another major project is an \$8 million overhaul of the city's current Recreation Center on Holt Street that will literally double the size of the facility and serve all city residents. The new center will feature two full-size indoor basketball courts, senior citizen meeting rooms and a large activity area to support afterschool programs for city children.



Scheduled to open next year, the new Performing Arts Center will be a cultural landmark for our community and a place for families to come together and enjoy music, theater, dance and much more



Renovations to the M&M Recreation Center will double its size and open it up to the community for recreation games, community activities and more.

"Hackensack has always excelled in sports and by expanding our facilities and building new ones we are making sure that our children will continue to have the opportunity to be great." said Councilman David Sims, who serves as the Council Liaison to the Hackensack Recreation Committee. "All of our city's recreation sports programs are growing and these projects will allow us to keep up with demand and give our children the opportunity to stay active and play sports all year round."

A beautiful new city park has been created at Atlantic and State Streets, replacing a run-down parking lot. The park serves many area residents with small concerts and comfortable passive recreation areas and is next door to a spectacular new Performing Arts Center that is now under construction. The Main Street Alliance—a local business organization that works closely with the new city administration—helped raise \$380,000 in private donations to support the new arts center.



Atlantic Street Park opened last year and now hosts community events like Shakespeare in the Park and movie nights. Mayor Labrosse and Councilman Leo Battaglia are pictured enjoying the park with a young resident.



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These new facilities will also serve our senior citizens and adults too. There's literally something for everyone to enjoy. Many local businesspeople believe that our new Performing Arts Center will be a cornerstone for the revitalization of the Main Street area. It will certainly be a wonderful addition to our city.

I want our taxpayers to know that all of this is being funded with very little impact on local property taxes, thanks to a number of grants and other funding mechanisms. This year, the budget adopted by the City Council resulted in the first reduction in the city tax rate in over ten years! As our redevelopment plans continue to bring in new development and tax ratables, we are confident that we will be able to continue reducing taxes in the future.

All of this progress is even more remarkable considering the fact that three years ago our new administration inherited a \$30 million deficit due to unfunded tax appeals ordered by the courts. By applying professional fiscal management practices, we have cleaned up almost all of those old bills and still reduced the tax rate at the same time.

We are all very proud of the progress our great City is making—and we hope you are too!

To learn more about what's going on in Hackensack, visit our website hackensack.org or check our new Facebook Page facebook.com/cityofhackensacknj.

— Mayor John Labrosse