

MAYOR BRUCE A. HARRIS' ANNUAL MESSAGE

Mayor Bruce A. Harris opened his Annual Message by reporting that the Borough accomplished much last year. He re-iterated how proud he is of the Borough Council, the volunteers and Borough employees and all that they accomplished together in 2014. He commented that the year 2015 will present many of the same challenges, including keeping the budget under control, maintaining roads and sidewalks, continuing to make improvements that will increase traffic and pedestrian safety, finding ways to make municipal government more accessible and open, and celebrating the community.

Mayor Harris stated the Borough will also face some new and exciting challenges in the coming year as well. He said the rezoning of the industrial districts coupled with the improving economy seemed to have spurred developers' interest in Chatham and initiated a number of informal inquiries. Mayor Harris stated he fully expects to talk about new developments within the Borough in 2015 and the exciting challenge will be to make sure these developments are not simply a chase for ratables, but help make Chatham an even better place to live.

Another challenge Mayor Harris mentioned the Borough may face in 2015 is the proposed Pilgrim Pipeline, whose plans remain unclear. Mayor Harris expressed his confidence in having Mr. Len Resto, a former Council Member, at the helm of the Pilgrim Pipeline advisory committee and reported that Chatham Borough remains the only municipality that has established an advisory committee on this matter. Mayor Harris further commented that Mr. Resto's dedication and organizing capability appear to be attracting others towards Chatham Borough for leadership on this issue.

Other challenges Mayor Harris said the Borough will face in 2015 concerns the ending of the solid waste contract, which will necessitate the issuing of Request for Proposals, and the negotiation of new police and public work union contracts.

In closing his Annual Message, Mayor Harris reaffirmed that he and the Borough Council are constantly looking for ways to improve on what they do and further reaffirmed that they all enjoy what they do. Mayor Harris expressed his confidence that the Borough is well-equipped to meet the challenges before it in 2015 and advised that by working together the Borough can continue to achieve great successes.