

MANAGER'S MONTHLY MEMO NOVEMBER 2025



NORTH END FIRE HOUSE GRAND OPENING

- On Saturday, November 8, Mayor Mega and the Township Council, along with Township professionals, Senator Corrado, Assemblyman Barlas, and members of the North End Fire Company and Cedar Grove Fire Department joined to officially open the North End Fire House!
- This project involved demolishing the old building and reconstructing, in its place, a brand new, two-story, two-bay state of the art fire house for our dedicated volunteers.
- This project would not have occurred but for the professional work of Project Oversight Manager and CGFD President Joseph Lipari, Project Architect Joseph Haines and Vikki Edmunson, Township Engineer Alexandra Handel, DPW Superintendents Peter DiGeronimo and Michael Grasso, and special counsel Greg Trif, Esq. and Anthony Fradella, Esq.
- After the ribbon cutting, the Township Council dedicated the building to Joseph Lipari!



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DEVONSHIRE ROAD MILLING AND PAVING

- The Township has completed its final paving project of 2025 with Devonshire Road and Devonshire Road South!
- This project was awarded on September 8, 2025, for the complete reconstruction of Devonshire Road and Devonshire Road South in an amount not to exceed \$264,502.70. In under two (2) months from the start of construction, the Township was able to complete the project which included significant concrete repairs to aprons, sidewalks, and curbing, as well as the required installation of an ADA compliant crosswalk, and a complete 2-inch milling and overlay.
- This project was funded by a \$350,000 NJDOT grant



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LIBRARY RENOVATION GRAND REOPENING

- On Saturday, November 1, Mayor Mega and the Township Council, along with the Cedar Grove Public Library's Board of Trustees, the Friends of the Cedar Grove Public Library, Senator Corrado, Assemblymen DePhillips and Barlas, and members of the community held a grand opening and ribbon cutting at our freshly renovated Library!
- The renovations involved the abatement of asbestos floor tiles, a brand-new floor installed with new furniture, shelving, desks, and chairs as well as new lighting and painting!
- Members from the CGHS Choir sang and there were guest readers throughout the day-including Mayor Mega!



NOVEMBER COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

- **Ord. 25-954:** introduced to amend Chapter 72 of the Code of the Township of Cedar Grove entitled Verona Cedar Grove Flood Control Advisory Board **to expand membership to the Township of Little Falls and Borough of Woodland Park**
- **Ord. 25-957:** introduced to amend Chapter 228 of the Code of the Township of Cedar Grove entitled Stormwater Control to **increase the requirements for minor and major developments to contain runoff on their property**
- **Ord. 25-958:** introduced to amend Chapter 244 of the Code of the Township of Cedar Grove entitled Towing to permit the issuance of **between two (2) and four (4) licenses for tow operators for up to a three-year period**
- **Ord. 25-959:** introduced to amend Chapter 251 of the Code of the Township of Cedar Grove entitled Vehicles and Traffic to **formally codify stop and yield signs throughout the Township, switch the side of parking on Birch Road, install an all way stop at Bruce and Bowden, make Bortic Road a one-way from Pompton Avenue to sixty-five (65) feet east thereof, and reduce the speed on Ridge from 40 MPH to 35 MPH**
- **Ord. 25-960:** introduced to amend Chapter 268 of the Code of the Township of Cedar Grove entitled Zoning to **remove ambiguity and vagueness from various definitions** and to **impose new, stricter requirements for the development of areas considered "Steep Slopes"**
- **Use and Operating Agreement:** resolution authorizing the North End Fire Company to use the North End Fire House
- **Speed Reduction:** resolution lowering speed limits on Ridge Road (35 MPH) and Grove Avenue (30 MPH)
- The whole Council Meeting can be viewed here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8G9rAAmbHfk>



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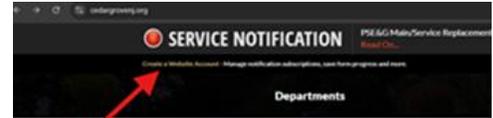
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NEW WEBSITE AND RECREATION REGISTRATION SYSTEM!

- We are excited to announce that the Township will be transitioning to a new and improved online registration site in the coming months that has expanded registration capabilities and will allow for credit card processing for pool memberships starting in 2026!
- As part of this upgrade, we will be transitioning the email blasts previously sent out through Community Pass to a notification system hosted by the Township through our brand-new website! Through this new and improved website, you will be able to create an account and select the areas you would like to receive updates and notifications for. Please go to www.cedargrovenj.org and select “Create a Website Account” to proceed.



CURBSIDE LEAF PICKUP

- The Township has begun **curbside leaf removal** on October 20, 2025, and will continue until mid-December.
- Our leaf tags and loader with a claw operate on a **rotating schedule** that tries to hit every street on an intermittent basis.
- Please remove any basketball hoops from the roadway to assist our DPW crews with maneuvering the truck and trailer!
- For residents who live on County roadways, their leaf pickup schedule can be found here: <https://essexcountynj.org/event/2025-essex-county-leaf-collection-schedule/>



THIRD LETTER FROM PPA

- Back in May, the Township, through a contract awarded to Professional Property Appraisers (“PPA”) began revaluating the Township of Cedar Grove after being ordered to do so by the County of Essex. PPA has been ambitiously going throughout our neighborhoods to complete this task.
- Some residents may be receiving a **third letter** from PPA advising them of their second attempt to complete an interior inspection of their property, which should only take around 10 to 15 minutes. Please follow the instructions to schedule an appointment so that PPA may accurately assess your property’s fair market value.
- More information from PPA can be found at: <https://www.ppareval.com/>



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Real Panthers Wear Pink Walk

- The Township has raised over \$15,000 for Minette's Angels from this year's 11th Annual Real Panthers Wear Pink Breast Cancer Awareness Walk!



59th Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony, COMING SOON!

THE 59th ANNUAL TREE LIGHTING CEREMONY

WHEN: Friday, December 5th, 2025
PLACE: Community Park
TIME: 6:00pm

<p><u>Fun & entertainment for all!</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">*Live DJ & Photo Booth Fun**Balloon Artist**Holiday Trackless Train Rides**Gingerbread Bounce House & Slide**Soldier & Elf Stilt Walkers **Double Snow, Foam Axe Throw Game**Light-up Winter/Christmas themed giveaways**Holiday Themed Songs performed by children	<p><u>Enjoy refreshments!</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">*UNICO will supply & serve Hot Chocolate*UNICO will also be collecting non-perishable food items for the Human Needs Food Pantry in Montclair*Hot Dogs, Zeppole, Cotton Candy & Popcorn from Carnival Concessions!
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AND OF COURSE, A GRAND ENTRANCE FROM SANTA!

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CG HISTORY OF THE MONTH

CHAPTER 14

THE FIRE DEPARTMENT

EARNEST DE BAUN & WILLIAM WOODS

Very soon after the separation of Cedar Grove from Verona it was found necessary to establish a Fire Department. One of the active centers for discussion of town affairs was Sam Brower's barber shop and pool parlor located on the corner of Bradford and Pompton Avenues. On May 18, 1908 a meeting was held at Sam's place, officers elected and a constitution adopted to form a Volunteer Fire Brigade. The minutes of the meeting state that 30 men attended. This was the beginning of

Center Fire Company No. 1. The following officers were elected: President, George W. Wettyen; Vice-President, Marvin W. Penner; Secretary, J. William Bradshaw; Treasurer, Jacob Grissing; Foreman, Louis A. Captain, Sr.; Ass't. Foreman, John C. Young; Trustees; Louis A. Captain, Jr., J. Alexander Cowie and Fred L. Temple.

The Board of Education gave permission to hold meetings and store fire equipment in the basement of the school building. The first fire alarm system was the use of a steam whistle at Overbrook. Later the Trustees of the Union Congregational Church arranged to have a special rope attached so that the church bell could be rung from the outside of the building and used as an alarm system.

The first fire vehicle was built in November 1908 by Andrew Orr, who operated a blacksmith shop on the corner of Ridge Road and Bradford Avenue. It was hand pulled, had two wheels and carried only ladders and buckets. The firemen, in 1911, moved the equipment to the basement of the newly constructed Public Hall. Also in 1911, a new four-wheeled hand-pulled and hand-operated pumper was built by Andy Orr and this is still owned and displayed by Fire Company No. 1. (see photo) It has a double action pump operated by eight men. It was equipped with 300 feet of hose and at its demonstration, could throw a stream of water over the red brick school building on Pompton Avenue. After the acceptance demonstration on January 1912, it is recorded that the committee moved to fireman Charles Falk's place for refreshments.

At this time the Fire Company found it necessary to raise funds for the purchase of fire equipment and uniforms and a large picnic was held at the Public Hall. The affair was so popular that it was continued for several years. In 1914, a Thomas passenger car was donated by Mr.

John R. McArthur. This was mechanically overhauled and a new body built by the members to carry hose, ladders and a hand pump. A note is made that nine gallons of gasoline for the new truck cost \$1.35. This was the first piece of motorized fire apparatus in the town and was a great improvement over the hand drawn apparatus. However, frequent repairs were needed to keep it operating properly, so in 1919 it was decided to buy a new Howe-Ford fire truck for \$3,075.00 which had a power operated water pump. In 1922, the Exempt Fireman's Association was organized with J. Alexander Cowie as President.

As the town grew and fire equipment improved, additional trucks and fire fighting apparatus was purchased such as a Reo hose truck in 1924, a new Pierce Arrow hose and ladder truck in 1929; a new Mack pumper of 750 gallons per minute capacity in 1938; a used American La France hose and ladder unit from Glen Ridge, and a used Mack hose and ladder truck from Lynbrook, Long Island. Another new Mack pumper was purchased in 1954 and also a diesel engine American La France, 1,000 gallons per minute pumper in 1974. These new pumper trucks are in use at the present time.

In 1928, a new volunteer fire company was organized, known as the North End Fire Company No. 2, and its first meeting was held in a room over Dittig's store at the corner of Stevens Avenue and East Lindsley Road. The president was William W. Myers, Jr. and there were eleven charter members. The first fire truck was a used Locomobile car with a modified body to enable it to carry fire hose. After the new brick firehouse was completed in 1931, a Lincoln sedan was converted to a hose cart replacing the older Locomobile. One of the new Mack pumps is now used by the North End Company.

To properly locate fire equipment, it was found necessary to have a third fire company in the south end of the town. In August 1929, a meeting was held in the real estate office of Joseph Hughes and the Cedar Knoll Fire Company No. 3 was organized with Francis Barry, President; William Spahn, Vice President; Frank Corbett, Treasurer; George Irving Jacobus, Secretary; and James Cavanaugh, John H. Vance Smith and Percy Chestnut as Trustees. There were sixteen additional charter members.

At this time the Township passed an ordinance to establish, regulate, govern and control all three of the volunteer fire companies and to adopt rules and regulations for their government.

In 1930, the Cedar Knoll Co. purchased a used Pierce Arrow fire truck which was used until 1939, when a new Mack pumper was supplied by the town. After purchasing property at 152 Pompton Avenue, opposite Ridge Road, the Company built their own fire house during the summer of 1949, doing an excellent job.

All of the citizens of our Town owe a debt of gratitude to the fire companies, the Rescue Squad and the Ambulance Unit, whose personnel are always ready to respond to any emergency.

Oldest and newest equipment



- Interestingly enough, in 1919 a new Howe Ford Fire Truck was purchased for \$3,075.00 (\$57,585.33 in 2025 dollars)
- This year, the Township executed a purchase order for \$1,665,000 for a new Pierce Fire Truck for Center Company, with a five-year lead time!
- The contributor to this piece, Ernest DeBaun, took copious, handwritten notes about the early days of Cedar Grove, all of which has now been converted to type face and total 85 pages!

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