



Township Administrator Tom Pullion swears in Mayor Lauren Kremper-DiFilippo, as her daughters Emma and Madison hold the Bible.

Hello to February 2021!!

Let me introduce myself... my name is Lauren Kremper-DiFilippo, and my fellow Committee Members have elected me Mayor of Edgewater Park for 2021.

A little about me... I have been employed by the Department of Labor since 2002 and have lived in Edgewater Park since 2005. I have two daughters, Emma and Madison Kremper, who both attend Ridgway Middle School. My husband, Gene, retired as the Edgewater Park Police Chief in 2019. I am actively involved in the Edgewater Park PTO and have been since my oldest daughter was in Pre-K! My first term as Committeewoman was in 2015, and I served as Deputy Mayor in 2016 & 2020 and Mayor in 2017 and now.

The Township had its Reorganization Meeting on Tuesday January 5, 2021 via Zoom. Besides my own swearing-in, Mr. William Belgard III was sworn-in as the Deputy Mayor and Ms. Juanita Scott was sworn-in for her first term on Township Committee. Sadly, we said goodbye to former Mayor Azunnah Amutah. He did not run for a second term because he is off on a new professional venture. While he will be sorely missed, we all wish him the very best of luck,.

2020 was a difficult year for us all! Even if not made difficult by the virus itself, each one of us has developed a completely different way of living. This change is being carried into this year and for how long, no one knows. We can only hope that any brightness we see is the light at the end of the tunnel... to at least some sort of normalcy. I believe what people will consider as

normalcy is different for everyone, but we all need to head there. In the meantime, we all need to be patient and continue following whatever orders are upon us.

It was noted that in Edgewater Park Township - whether business or residential - we had ZERO Executive Order violations. And that is remarkable and appreciated! Thank you for all your compliance, and please continue to do so. Not only does this keep our town safe, it also allows the Police Department to conduct their regular work. So please continue to wear your mask, keep gatherings to the minimum (if that), follow the guidelines regarding business operations, wash your hands often and thoroughly, and keep socially distanced. I must take this opportunity to express my condolences to anyone who lost a loved one to the virus and Godspeed to anyone suffering now.

On a different note, the Township Committee is excited for 2021. Please know, despite a slowdown, we all never stopped working. Through Zoom, we worked diligently last year coming up with some new plans for construction, revitalization and building plans, and we are excited to see those plans come to fruition. We hope you are, too. All our appointed professionals worked hard for us despite the challenges, with no lapse in service; and our township staff dealt with the task of crossing over into a work from home/hybrid situation. Amid the chaos, there was also no lapse in service there either. I understand the frustration people feel when they can't come to an office and have a matter dealt with directly, but hopefully you did get the assistance you needed, albeit at a slower pace sometimes. I would be remiss if I didn't publicly thank every single township employee for their dedication and professionalism.

Of important note, if you do need an appointment with a particular department, please email: appointments@edgewaterpark-nj.com.

Our February Township Committee meetings will be held on the 2nd and 16th via Zoom. The log on information will be found on the website along with the agenda. Please consider logging in. Even if our meeting is just on in the background while you are doing something else, community support is paramount. Be in the know about what is happening or being discussed. Give your input when the meeting is open to the public and ask your questions... or just listen to the other questions.

In closing... in the spirit of February and the celebration of Black History Month, I will close with a quote by Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., "Life's most persistent and urgent question is 'what are you doing for others'?" And with this sentiment, I want to reiterate my excitement for the year ahead working with the rest of the Committee. We are a cohesive group... not just a committee of elected officials, but friends. I again welcome Ms. Scott, whom we will all support along the way because we are a team all working to serve our community.

With that, please reach out with questions, comments, issues, or something you would like to see addressed... the proverbial door is always open because- we work for you!

Be safe,
Mayor DiFilippo
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