

VETERAN'S FIELD UPDATE by Mayor Delaney – The July 4th holiday is upon us, and I remain as frustrated as you that for the third year, we are without our beloved field and the fireworks show that we look forward to every summer. The council and I have been tirelessly working with our professionals to develop a plan and jump start this project that has been stalled for too long. The council and I have hired another environmental consultant who has been meticulously and methodically sampling and testing the soil that was determined to be contaminated with poly chlorinated biphenyls. We are hopeful that these test results will be completed in early July so that the new environmental consultant, First Environment, can prepare and submit two documents, a Remedial Action Workplan that gets submitted to the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection and a Self-Implementing Plan that gets submitted to the Environmental Protection Agency. These two documents outline the process that will be used to remediate and remove the contaminated fill at Veteran's Field. The NJDEP and EPA will review these documents to ensure that the remediation and removal is in accordance with their rules and regulations. These two documents will also be used in determining the near to exact quantity of material that will need to be excavated and removed in order to prepare a comprehensive bid specification so we can hire a new qualified contractor to perform the work. The quantity of material that has to be removed will also dictate the cost of this project. Due to ongoing litigation with the former contractor, Waterside Construction, and its bonding company (contractor's insurance), Liberty Mutual, the borough will initiate the clean-up utilizing municipal funds with the hopeful remuneration with our successful litigation with the contractor and its bonding company. The engineer's estimate for the removal and disposal of this material based on the laboratory testing of the soil will guide us in determining the budget needed for this project. What this all means in terms of time is that based on the information that is needed for the NJDEP and EPA, the legal constraints of public bidding this type of construction project, the legal constraints of amending the bond ordinance, if needed, that will provide the necessary funds to pay for the work, and of course considering there will be no interruptions or unexpected issues or delays, we are anticipating that these things can all be completed by late August, meaning a contractor on site and working to remove the unacceptable material. I hope this information is helpful to you as we begin the process of healing ourselves from this very devastating issue that has affected our community.