

## **Borough Recreation Department Creates Paint the Borough Red, White, and Blue Contest as Cancellation of Memorial Day Parade Announced**

When the reality that the annual Matawan Memorial Day Parade had to be canceled this year due to COVID-19 restrictions, Daria Dieterle, Director of Recreation, began thinking of something different to do to engage residents. She also wanted to find a way to show our appreciation for Veterans, First Responders, and Essential Workers during this rather unusual time. It occurred to her that since everyone was encouraged to stay home, why not have residents decorate their homes in red, white, and blue from Memorial Day to Independence Day. The result was the introduction of Paint the Borough Red, White, and Blue Contest.

The contest began on May 4<sup>th</sup> and is now in its 5<sup>th</sup> week with over 25 residents registered. Residents are encouraged to decorate their homes in red, white, and blue and then register by emailing their address to the Recreation email. Residents are able to register anytime during the 10 weeks of the contest and one winner will be announced each week as houses are added to the roster. The weekly winner will receive a \$50 gift card.

The Matawan Historical Society has been asked to help the Recreation Commission judge the entries each week. The homes will be judged based on the elements used and their placement to create the patriotic decor. Unless chosen as one of the winners, the homes will remain in contention each remaining week of the contest. The hope is that by the end of the contest, the majority of the Borough will be decked out in red, white, and blue splendor in time for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July.

If you are interested in registering your home for the contest, please email Daria your address and send it to [Recreation@MatawanBorough.com](mailto:Recreation@MatawanBorough.com).