

Good Evening Monmouth County Sheriff Shaun Golden, Clerk Christine Hanlon, County Commissioner and former Shrewsbury Mayor Erik Anderson, and in absentia Commissioner Director Tom Arnone who called me today sending his regrets for being unable to attend.

Assemblywoman Luanne Peterpaul and Assemblywoman Margie Donlon

Mayor burden Shrewsbury Borough Council Members, Borough Staff, Police, Fire & First Aid, Scouts, Family & Friends.

I'm two for two for inclement weather on the evening of our Borough Reorg Meeting last year, torrential rain and high winds, this year a bit of snow but in light of this seeing so many faces here this evening makes me very happy so thank you for braving the elements to be here.

I am honored to have been officially elected as the Shrewsbury Boro Mayor by the residents this past November. Having served as your mayor for 2024 has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my life.

As you're all aware, I am a proud lifelong resident of this beautiful town and being the Mayor has exceeded my expectations. I am happy to report that the borough has, for the 6th year in a row, decreased the Tax Rate.

Our 10 year road paving plan is winding down this year. Our 2024 Road Program resulted in 3 roads plus our municipal complex parking lot being repaved. We also received a \$240,000 grant to pave and improve two additional roads this year.

We received a \$350,000 LEAP Grant to complete the emergency communication shared service with Monmouth County which has resulted in continued stellar emergency services with no changes in services provided by moving to from borough dispatch to County Dispatch. Remember to call 9-1-1 for emergencies and 732-741-2500 for non-emergencies. Dispatch is just one example of shared services the borough uses in order to save the taxpayers money.

We purchased a new Front-End Wheel Loader to help with the brush and leaf pick-up allowing our DPW to be more efficient and by the way it's always wonderful to hear and read of the many compliments given to our DPW and all of our borough employees.

Our Boro Logo was rebranded along with our website and bi-annual Newsletter the first one which was mailed in October 2024. Boro Resident Corinne Karl is the Graphic Designer who spearheaded this project for us. Keep an eye out for new logo gear to be made available to residents and fans of Shrewsbury Borough later this year.

We hosted a mobile DMV Van two times with more to come this year. These items are just a few examples of programs that help make the lives of our residents a bit easier.

On a more fun note, we kicked off our First Annual Summer Concert Series the brainchild of Former Councilman Brendan Gilmartin and we are working to expand this program this summer. Stay tuned for details!

We also were lucky to host our First Annual Arts & Artists event in September in our Borough Hall Courtyard and we have over 20 in-town artists exhibit...with more to participate in our Second Annual Event this coming Sept.

As Mayor, I hosted two events with local authors Alisyn Camerota and Jay Cespedes, each of whom wrote their memoirs we are preparing to host another author event this spring with Don Yates. Regarding his time with the peace corps

Superintendent MacConnell and I organized several Bike or Walk to school days and I happily read to First Graders, Met with 4th Graders and attended many school based events.

My continued focus is to build up our Boro Pride and Enthusiasm and am happy to report that I love when our students see me and say hey, that's the Mayor I know her!

I happily met with various residents at Thornbrooke & Enclave and we will continue to host two separate council meetings during the year within each of those communities.

On social media I spotlighted our active military and hope to spotlight our borough-based veterans and also form a Business Alliance.

Our borough Centennial is being held on Saturday May 16, 2026â€“ along with our Country's 250th Anniversary events which last throughout 2026. County Commissioner Director Arnone and County Clerk Hanlon provided us with an overview of Count celebrations at a recent Council Meeting.

We were happy to celebrate the retirement of Chief Turner and Sergeant Rumola and are looking forward to our new hires who will start in the near future.

We are indebted to our Volunteer First Aid and Fire Company members who continually give up their own time with family and friends to help all of us as well as our neighboring towns. We welcome new members so don't be shy!

And to finish my comments, I welcome each and every member of this community to contact me directly with any issues or comments and suggestions. Let's work together to make our town as wonderful as it can be and don't ever forget to be "Shrewsbury proud".

Thank you