

# Proclamation

## TAKE PRIDE IN CHATHAM TOWNSHIP DAY

**WHEREAS**, In 1806, the Township of Chatham was incorporated. It was named Chatham in honor of Sir William Pitt, the elder Earl of Chatham, who had spoken in the British Parliament in favor of freedom fighting American colonists,

**WHEREAS**, Since Chatham Township's incorporation more than 200 years ago it has grown to become a popular community that is now home to nearly 11,000 residents spanning a variety of ethnic backgrounds, ages, religious denominations, sexual orientations and political affiliations,

**WHEREAS**, Chatham Township has a number of attributes that have made it such a welcoming and desirable place to live, raise a family and retire,

**WHEREAS**, Among them is public safety, where Chatham Township has been consistently recognized as one of the safest communities to live in the United States, and its Police Department has been praised as "one of the best departments in the nation",

**WHEREAS**, Chatham Township also continues to have one of the lowest municipal tax rates in the State of New Jersey as the Chatham Township Committee remains committed to fiscal prudence and to ensuring that Chatham Township resident tax dollars are spent wisely,

**WHEREAS**, Chatham Township is fortunate to have a school system that is continually ranked among the best in New Jersey and the nation, and is supported by a group of parent volunteers and elected officials who are committed to ensuring our children receive the best education possible,

**WHEREAS**, Chatham Township is also blessed to have hundreds of volunteers, who contribute thousands of hours each year, whether it's serving as first responders, coaching youth sports, raising funds and awareness for our athletic programs, education and schools, or supporting our seniors, the environment, or serving our local Board of Education or Township Committee,

**WHEREAS**, Chatham Township also provides its residents access to one of the top summer recreation pool facilities in the county at The Colony Pool Club. What was originally a communal living experiment founded by Russian and Eastern European immigrants is today the envy of many municipalities when it comes to summertime family fun,

**WHEREAS**, Chatham Township is also home to the hundreds of acres of open space including the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge and Giralda Farms Preserve that offer miles of hiking, biking and walking trails,

**WHEREAS**, Chatham Township has seen property values rise in recent years due in large part to these attributes and the efforts and hard work of its volunteers, Township employees and elected officials alike,

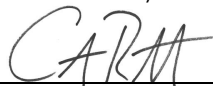
**WHEREAS**, In addition to these many attributes and accomplishments, what truly sets Chatham Township apart from other communities and make it such a desirable and welcoming community are its residents: Individuals who go the extra mile to help their neighbor, who show pride in their community through volunteerism and the support of local organizations and community groups, who remain open to other points of views, and are always willing to offer a friendly hand when it's needed,

**WHEREAS**, It goes without saying that Chatham Township has always been, is currently today, and always will be a community that welcomes and supports its neighbors, fellow residents and others regardless of their of ethnic background, age, religious denomination, sexual orientation or political affiliation,

**NOW THEREFORE**, I, Curt Ritter, Mayor of the Township of Chatham do hereby proclaim and declare that today, March 9<sup>th</sup>, and everyday thereafter as,

### "Take Pride in Chatham Township Day"

in the Township of Chatham in the state of New Jersey and urge my fellow citizens to take pride in their community for all that it has to offer its residents and to remind them of the importance to be respectful of other viewpoints and remember that it is those qualities of respectfulness and understanding that have made Chatham Township such a desirable and welcoming place to live, raise a family and retire.



Curt Ritter, Mayor