

**Ask the Mayor**  
**March 2008**  
[mayor@cityofbridgeton.com](mailto:mayor@cityofbridgeton.com)

I want to mark the passing of a man who never minced words about anything. Philip A. Borgese. In the few years that I've had the honor of knowing Mr. Borgese I have come to admire and respect him. Our city was always first and foremost in his heart and we extend our deepest condolences to his family and friends. He will be greatly missed.

**“First Annual Bridgeton Calendar Contest for 2009”**

Well, it's official! The deadline has passed, all suggestions are in!!!! Out of the millions of entries from all over the city, county, state and yes the country, we have a theme. Not just any theme, but a theme that was debated over by several focus groups from **five** fortune 50 marketing & advertising firms out of Chicago and New York. But that was not enough for this Mayor, so we asked our friend Congressman Frank LoBiondo to see if he could feed the results into a top secret “super computer” in Washington DC. He did and the results are in... let me tell you it was worth every penny we spent. I want to thank everyone for sending their suggestions in and all those who helped me make the best choice for our first 2009 city wide calendar. The calendar will be available this year no later than September 2008 and advance orders will be taken by my “boss” Irene @ 856-451-3230 ext. 200. All retailers who will carry the limited edition calendar will be announced soon so keep reading this column.....

The governor has introduced his budget and it will affect all municipalities throughout state. **I support the governor in his decision to cut spending.** As all Bridgeton residents know, over the past 18 months every department, purchase and employee has been evaluated, assessed, judged, measured and appraised for their contribution to making the city a better place to live. All of this hard work and dedication has made the city better prepared now and in the future when we will need to rely on ourselves rather than the state for our finances. While it was a tough decision it was a necessary one and needs everyone's support and understanding in order to make it work.

Well, I'm sure if you have been reading this far you must be wondering what the theme for the 2009 calendar will be? Well...the envelope please....”Special Events”. Each month our calendar will feature a “Special Event” unique to Bridgeton. For example, Bridgeton Invitational, Bridgeton King Pig BBQ, Bridgeton Christmas House Tour, Bridgeton Boo @ the Zoo to name a few. Now we need to start collecting pictures to sort through and select only 13 to make the calendar for 2009. Entries need to be in no later than June 30<sup>th</sup> and emailed to my email address [mayor@cityofbridgeton.com](mailto:mayor@cityofbridgeton.com). Please note in your email the name of the event you have captured in your photograph and the date it was taken. The calendar will be sharing the energy and excitement of Bridgeton today, so we ask that all photos be less than 5 years old and that they are submitted as jpeg files. The excitement and enthusiasm shared by so many over our calendar has been wonderful. Thank you to all who submitted your themes for consideration. Good luck to all of the entrants and let's keep our fingers crossed that spring is just a few weeks away!