

## MAYOR'S COLUMN

Tuckahoe Mayor John Fitzpatrick wrote a column last week discussing the time honored rivalry between the sports teams in our two villages particularly the football match-up. Based on its wit and comedic flair, I think the Mayor may have missed his true calling!

Prior to this season's contest, Mayor Fitzpatrick and I discussed how we could interject a little less rivalry and a little more fun and friendly competition to future match-ups. The idea of a wager immediately surfaced but we were both stymied by our lack of a signature product like a Philly cheese steak or Buffalo wings to offer as an enticement. In the interest of full disclosure, I do have a signature product, but pink parking tickets are neither desired nor edible, though abundant.

As a sidebar, I did take personal exception to the Mayor's assumption that I would not enjoy a cut and chat at Mario's Barber Shop. Assuming Richie was skilled at highlighting and grey cover-up, I would be game. After polling my family about their Tuckahoe favorites, the oatmeal at Main Street Café, the Penne Virginia at Angelina's and the steak tacos at Burrito Poblano (we miss you!) took gold, silver and bronze.

Beneath all the fun and friendly banter between the Mayor and I lies a serious core to the conversation. Together we are seeking to find ways to foster increasing friendships between our two villages. As governments, we have made great strides in sharing municipal services, entering into joint purchasing agreements

and sharing equipment and expertise, saving both our Villages time and money. We thought it a natural progression that the same kind of cooperative initiatives could carry over to citizen interaction.

We are neighbors. We share street addresses and frequent the same businesses, stores, and recreation facilities. It is perhaps time to make an effort to know each other better.

Focusing on our youth sports seemed natural since so many of our children having already met through Eastchester Youth Soccer, TYA and the Eastchester Baseball League. Hence, our friendly wager. I will accept the Mayor's challenge to wear the Tuckahoe Tiger hat at the Trustees' meeting following next year's game if my Broncos should lose. Orange is a good color for me and I am assuming black is slimming even on the head. Should the Tigers go down to defeat, I offer the Mayor the opportunity to wear one of my headbands, an oft ridiculed accessory by friends and family alike for their lack of fashion forwardness. It would be in Bronco Blue, of course. I can see Channel 12 there now!

I wish good luck and success to all our children and look forward to constantly renewing our valued friendship.