

## **Come to a Q&A about the Bloomfield animal shelter**

Mayor Michael J. Venezia will host a Town Hall Meeting about the North Jersey Humane Society Rescue Center on Feb. 4 at 7 p.m. in council chambers (#1 Municipal Plaza). All residents are invited. The meeting will be a Q&A session with Vince Ascolese, animal services director at NJHS.

The shelter at 61 Bukowski Place in Bloomfield was taken over last September by NJHS (which also operates in Bergen County), and reopened on Nov. 15 as a no-kill facility. Seven paid staff members currently run the shelter. Extensive building renovation is ongoing and ultimately will include a dog agility park and a feral cat village.

Ascolese reports the following recent accomplishments in shelter management:

- Adoptions have tripled since Nov. 15.
  - Dr. Nelson Diaz, DVM, owner of Dr4pets in Old Bridge has become the in-house veterinarian.
  - Mimi Michalski is the new social media and community outreach coordinator.
  - The volunteer training library on the second floor was completed in January.
  - A fundraiser is planned to create a surgery center, which will allow the shelter to offer low-cost spay/neuter clinics and vaccine programs.
  - A just-acquired ambulance will be outfitted as an Animal Response Team vehicle for use during natural disasters and for community outreach programs.
  - Every dog at the shelter now has a Kuranda bed, an orthopedic, chew-proof, easy-to-clean bed.
  - The "Home Again" micro-chipping program has been adopted.
- For information about the Feb. 4 Town Hall Meeting, call (973) 680-4077.