



Mayor's Summer 2016 Newsletter

By Mark Korin

You may find this hard to believe but relaxing is very hard for me. My wife planned a girl's weekend, yes without me! She, her sister and daughter went up on the North Shore hiking and relaxing at a tiny cabin on Lake Superior for three days. This of course allowed me over the weekend to get caught up on the honeydew list, (lots of yard work) and spend quality time with our three dogs. After a long hot day of working on projects, I took the dogs outside to simply decompress, enjoy the fresh breeze and to let them play. It gave me an opportunity to do something most of us typically never

do, just sit down, listen, breathe and observe all the sounds from my front yard. As I sat in the grass watching the dogs chase chipmunks and squirrels across the yard, I actually had a chance to focus and just listen. I noticed how as the breeze blew through the trees, the sounds changed depending on which trees were being rustled. Off in the distance I hear cars and trucks, a train's whistle and boaters on Lake George, someone cutting the grass, a chain saw, kids' playful yells, turkey's, crows, the geese slapping their wings on the water and the frogs croaking in the pond. So many more sounds I've never really listened to or took the time to slow down observe and listen. It got me thinking, a lot of these sounds are unique to living in our city, yes they happen in other locations, but not like this. We're living in a great city and a country where for the most part we have the opportunity to listen to good, comforting sounds (and sometimes irritating sounds), but that's part of what makes up our city's country feel. As I write this, the 4th of July, (Independence Day weekend) is coming up. I wonder what those people were listening to so many years ago? Sounds of battles with cannon fire, bullets ricocheting through the trees, screams of terror, sadness, pain and the struggles the founding fathers endured for the freedom of our people building the foundation of this nation. We seldom take the time to think how lucky we are that those battles and the sounds that come with those horrible conflicts are no longer in this country. Do we take the time to think about the brave men that signed the constitution who risked everything, some losing their homes, tortured and lost their lives but never faltered in their efforts to separate from England, standing up against tyranny to build the foundation of freedoms we enjoy to this day? Sometimes the quiet silence screams loudly but we're too busy to appreciate the very fabric of life and everyone around us that make up our homes. They say the simple things in life are what make it worth living. I sincerely pray that everyone that reads this takes time and listen to what's really important in each of your lives and hope that you took time to enjoy this very special American holiday with good friends and family. "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness." Preamble from the Declaration of Independence. **TO BE CONTINUED.....**