



BEST PLACE TO LIVE IN PA! *The New Franklin Park Borough Manager, Rege Ebner, plans to build on his predecessor's success.*

BY JENNIFER BROZAK

Managing a borough that's already been named a "best community to live in" certainly comes with its own set of pressures, but new Franklin Park Borough Manager Rege Ebner is primed for the task.

Ebner, a Shaler native, officially took over the position at the beginning of 2019, following the retirement of former Manager Ambrose Rocca. Ebner previously served as the assistant town manager, finance director and tax collector in neighboring McCandless for more than 19 years.

"I saw the opening for the Borough Manager position with the Borough of Franklin Park as an opportunity to further utilize my knowledge and abilities and be more involved in the borough's decision-making process and in directly serving its residents," says Ebner, who has an undergraduate degree from Duquesne University and an MBA from the University of Pittsburgh. "I am fortunate that the borough council and mayor have given me this opportunity."

Around the same time that Ebner began his new role, USA Today and 24/7 Wall Street published a list of the best cities to live in for each state. In Pennsylvania, Franklin Park topped the list, thanks to its high median household income, high percentage of adults who have at least a bachelor's degree, and low rate of violent crime. Ebner is not surprised by the honor.

"Beyond the raw numbers in the survey, you need only drive through the borough or talk to some residents to truly understand what makes it such a unique and great community," he says. "Franklin Park is a combination of old and new; housing

plans, farmland and green space; a thriving business community; a well-maintained and diverse park system; recreation programs for all ages; and schools and places of worship."

Moreover, borough oversight and decision-making is done by "residents serving in elected, appointed and volunteer positions who are deeply involved in the community," he adds. "Their recommendations and decisions are carried out by employees who are dedicated to their jobs and in providing the highest level of service to borough residents."

The desire to help local residents thrive is what inspired Ebner, 58, to pursue a career in community management, he explains, stating that local government is "where things happen."

"Residents often turn to us first when they have a question or a problem," he says. "I enjoy the opportunity to meet residents and talk about their wants, needs and perspectives. It is truly gratifying when I am able to help a resident with an issue they have or provide them with information that is of benefit to them."

As the borough's new manager, he simply wants to improve on the successes Rocca championed during his tenure.

"I greatly appreciate the training and insight passed on to me by my predecessor before he retired. My goal is simply to provide support for borough residents, elected officials, volunteers and staff in the most effective and efficient manner possible, and to provide that support with honesty, integrity and compassion," he says. "I believe that if I can do that, the talents and abilities of those individuals will continue to shine and guide Franklin Park into the future." ■