MAYOR'S PROCLAMATION
PARKINSON'S AWARENESS MONTH
APRIL 2026

WHEREAS, Parkinson's disease is a chronic, progressive, neurological disease, and is the second most common neurodegenerative disease in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Parkinson's disease is estimated to affect approximately one million people in the United States and the prevalence will rise to 1.2 million by 2030; and

WHEREAS, Parkinson's disease is the fastest growing neurodegenerative disease with 90,000 new people diagnosed each year in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the symptoms of Parkinson's disease vary from person to person and can include tremors; slowness of movement and rigidity; difficulty with balance, swallowing, chewing, and speaking; cognitive impairment and dementia; mood disorders; and a variety of other non-motor symptoms; and

WHEREAS, the fastest growing subset of Parkinson's disease diagnosis is in people under the age of 50, known as young- or early-onset Parkingson's disease; and

WHEREAS, there is no objective test or biomarker for Parkinson's disease, and there is no cure or drug to slow or halt the progression of the disease; and

WHEREAS, volunteers, researchers, care partners, and medical professionals are working to improve the quality of life of persons living with Parkinson's disease and their families; and

WHEREAS, increased research, education, and community support services such as those provided by the Parkinson's Foundation and other organizations are needed to find more effective treatments, provide access to quality care to those living with the disease today, and advance efforts toward a cure.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, I, Michael Viola, Mayor of Colts Neck Township, along with the entire Township Committee, do hereby proclaim April 2026 as Parkinson's Awareness Month in Colts Neck Township.

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Michael Viola
Mayor

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Kathleen Capristo
Municipal Clerk

April 29, 2026

MAYOR'S PROCLAMATION
AUTISM AWARENESS AND ACCEPTANCE MONTH APRIL 2026

WHEREAS, Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) is a complex, lifelong developmental condition that affects how individuals communicate and interact with the world, with roughly 1 in 31 U.S. children identified with ASD and in New Jersey 1 in 29 children are diagnosed with ASD making it the most rapidly growing developmental disability in the United States; and

WHEREAS, autism is a spectrum, meaning every autistic individual has a unique set of strengths, talents, and perspectives that enhance our community, and these individuals deserve opportunities to live, learn, work, and participate fully in society; and

WHEREAS, the month of April is recognized annually to educate the public, promote early diagnosis and intervention, advocate for continued research, and celebrate the accomplishments of people with autism; and

WHEREAS, it is imperative to move beyond mere awareness and foster true acceptance, promoting inclusion and breaking down barriers that limit access to services, employment, and community life; and

WHEREAS, we honor the family members, caregivers, healthcare providers, and educators who provide support and dedication, helping those with autism live more fulfilling lives; and

WHEREAS, the neurodiversity movement teaches us that brain differences, such as autism, are natural variations that make our community stronger, vibrant, and more beautiful.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, I, Michael Viola, Mayor of Colts Neck Township, along with the entire Township Committee of Colts Neck Township, do hereby proclaim April, 2026 as Autism Awareness and Acceptance Month in Colts Neck, New Jersey, and I encourage all residents to join in this recognition by educating themselves, embracing neurodiversity, and working to build a more supportive and inclusive community where everyone feels valued and accepted.

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Michael Viola
Mayor

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Kathleen Capristo
Municipal Clerk

April 29, 2026