John's service as Councilman and Mayor are:

- a member of the congregation of Holy Cross Church.
- the redevelopment of Sandy Hook; and has been a longtime
  Member of the Sandy Hook REUSE Committee working on
  Shrewsbury and Navesink Rivers areas; and he was also a
  Mayors from eleven (11) surrounding communities in the
  Borough of Rumson and Red Bank; and was a member of the Two Rivers Council
  was also a Board Member of the Community YMCA of
- is completed on or about June 1st;  until recently, John
  to be on the Advisory Board after his term on the “Basie”
  Count Basie Theater in Red Bank and was asked recently
  Rumson, John is also a valued Board Member of the
  Advisor of the local branch of Merrill Lynch in neighboring
- industry as a First Vice President and Senior Financial
- settled in Rumson in 1957 where he attended Holy
  Cross School and was a member of the first graduating
  class of Christian Brothers Academy in Lincroft in 1963.  After attending Villanova University, John graduated from
  Belknap College in New Hampshire in 1968.  John and his wife Mary Lynne “Lolly” raised their two sons John and
  Daniel in Rumson where they attended Rumson schools.
- Daniel in Rumson where they attended Rumson schools.
- After attending Villanova University, John graduated from
- Belknap College in New Hampshire in 1968.  John and his wife Mary Lynne “Lolly” raised their two sons John and
- Daniel in Rumson where they attended Rumson schools.
- is now currently completing his career in the financial
  industry as a First Vice President and Senior Financial
  Advisor of the local branch of Merrill Lynch in neighboring

In addition to the time he spends volunteering in Rumson, John is also a valued Board Member of the Count Basie Theater in Red Bank and was asked recently to be on the Advisory Board after his term on the “Basie” is completed on or about June 1st; until recently, John was also a Board Member of the Community YMCA of Red Bank; and was a member of the Two Rivers Council of Mayors, which includes the Borough of Rumson and Mayors from eleven (11) surrounding communities in the Shrewsbury and Navesink Rivers areas; and he was also a Member of the Sandy Hook REUSE Committee working on the redevelopment of Sandy Hook; and has been a longtime member of the congregation of Holy Cross Church.

A few noteworthy accomplishments in Rumson during John’s service as Councilman and Mayor are:

- The redesign of Victory Park for families to enjoy
  time together on the picturesque Navesink River,
  thru the generosity of a Rumson family;
- Various Park and Recreation Improvements including, but not limited to, the reconstruction of
  Riverside Park and the acquisition of what has come to be known as “the crew site”, adjacent to
  Victory Park;
- The complete rebuilding and restoration of
  Rumson’s Bingham Hall Community Center enjoyed by residents for many different events
  throughout the year, as well as, the annual January
  1st Reorganization Meeting of the Borough Council;
- The very successful Rumson Endowment Fund
  was formed and John has been an active Chairman
  and proponent of the Fund for the betterment of
  Rumson, to ease the burden on taxpayers, while
  investing in the future of the Borough;
- Major road paving and drainage improvements which
  resulted in the paving of over 23 miles of roadway,
  curb and sidewalk installation and pedestrian safety
  improvements;
- The Borough’s Recycling Program continues to
  be one of the best in the State, with a riverfront
  Recycling Center that has now become a social
  meeting place;
- The concept development, design and construction of
  the Borough of Rumson Municipal Complex
  including the construction of the new Rumson
  Borough Hall, the renovation of the Courthouse, and
  the renovation and expansion of the Department of
  Public Works Building;
- Directing operations during and recovery after
  major “named” storm events, including both snow
  and hurricane events such as the well-known Super
  Storm Sandy which caused in excess of $8 million
  worth of storm cleanup and damage to Borough
  Infrastructure;
- The complete upgrade of the two largest Borough
  wastewater pumping stations followed by the
  rebuilding of nine out of eleven pump stations that
  were damaged by Super Storm Sandy;
- The application, award and completion of Community
  Resiliency Planning Grants, totaling over $400,000,
  which allowed the Borough to successfully upgrade
  its Hazardous Mitigation Plan, Capital Improvement
  Plan, re-examined and published the Borough’s
  Master Plan, the addition of a GIS Database, and
  digitizing Borough Tax Maps, to name just a few;
- The privatization of garbage and recycling collection
  throughout the Borough;
- The acquisition of more than 16 Department of Public
  Works vehicles to allow the Borough to continue to
  offer a high level of services to our residents;
- The purchase of three fire trucks and two
  ambulances;
- Rumson has achieved and maintained an Aaa

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On May 22, 2018, the Borough of Rumson adopted a Resolution of Appreciation for retired Mayor John E. Ekdahl, who served our wonderful community with honor, pride and dignity for 14 years as Mayor and 9 years as Councilman.

John was appointed to the Rumson Borough Council on December 7, 1995, a position he held until elected to his first term as Mayor on January 1, 2004. In total, John began his service to the Borough of Rumson in 1975 when he was first appointed to the Zoning Board of Adjustment. For more than four decades, John has served the community of Rumson, including most recently the Emergency Services Committee and Building Committee while Mayor.
Stable Bond Rating from Moody’s Investors Service for its sound financial condition due to prudent financial management and Rumson was noted to be a leader in municipal financial management by the firm;

- Established a partnership with Monmouth University for an Environmental Field Station on the Navesink River.

John E. Ekdahl has received numerous awards over the years, including being inducted into the New Jersey League of Municipalities Elected Officials Hall of Fame for his service to our wonderful community; and his record of public service speaks for itself. He is one of the most dedicated, extraordinary, volunteer public servants in the history of this Borough. John’s dedication and love for Rumson and its residents are unequalled; his integrity, courageous leadership, intelligence, compassion and sense of humor have earned him the great respect and affection of his colleagues, the Borough employees, and the residents of Rumson.

The Borough Council of the Borough of Rumson acknowledges by Resolution the forty three (43) years of dedicated, volunteer public service of John E. Ekdahl as Volunteer, Councilman and Mayor of Rumson, and we hereby extend our utmost appreciation for his able leadership and courage that he has steadfastly demonstrated during his tenure as Rumson’s Mayor.

On behalf of the members of the Borough Council and the residents of Rumson with our utmost respect, affection, appreciation and best wishes to John and his wife, Lolly, a happy, healthy and well-deserved retirement from Public Service.

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Important Rumson-Sea Bright Bridge Information

The Rumson-Sea Bright Bridge over the Shrewsbury River will operate on an alternative marine traffic schedule, opening on the hour on Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays and holidays from May 25th through September 3rd as part of a trial test period this summer.

The Monmouth County Department of Public Works and Engineering requested that the U.S. Coast Guard consider an alternative schedule in attempt to balance the seasonally high volume of roadway traffic during peak hours with the needs of marine traffic.

Previously, the bridge opened on the hour and half hour from May 15th through September 30th. The Coast Guard will make a final decision on the future bridge marine opening schedule based on data collected during the test period, as well as public comments.

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Rumson Borough Council is pleased to announce that Council President Joseph K. Hemphill was sworn in on May 22nd as Mayor to serve the remaining term of John E. Ekdahl. Joe is a lifelong resident of Rumson. He and Robin, his wife, also a lifelong resident have raised their two children in Rumson where they attended the Rumson Public Schools. Joe has been a member of the Borough Council for the twelve years and Borough Council Present for the past four years. During his terms, Joe has chaired the Building Committee which under his direction, was responsible for the construction of the new Borough Hall and its campus including the Dept. of Public Works and the Recycling Center. Joe was instrumental in rebuilding the Borough’s infrastructure after Super Storm Sandy. We are fortunate to have a man of his experience serving the residents of Rumson.

Joe is excited for the challenge ahead. “It is a great honor to become Mayor of the town you grew up in and love. I will work my hardest to keep our town as beautiful and financially sound as my predecessor.”