

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Pumpkin Pick: Saturday, October 16 at Willow Lake Park. Event from 10 AM—1 PM
- Election Day—Tuesday, November 2
- Veterans Day Ceremony, Thursday, Nov. 11 at 11 AM in front of schools—honor our Veterans!
- Holiday Tree Lighting—December 3

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Little Ferry—Your News, Your Borough

TAX BILL INFORMATION

Enclosed with this newsletter is the 4th quarter tax bill.

It reflects a decrease from the estimated bills that you previously received.

We worked tirelessly to bring the tax rate down but the forces that were outside of our control (pension, health care, utilities, Meadowlands Tax Sharing, BCUA, loss of State Aid, etc.) were just too much to overcome.

While operational costs increased, we reviewed every line item and made appropriate cuts.

Operational increases include trash tipping fees, utility expenses, etc.

MORE INFORMATION DELIVERED MORE EFFICIENTLY

Thank you for all the positive reaction to the first newsletter.

The reaction was so strong, we felt a second one was needed.

So instead of including the typical annual tax letter, we felt we could consolidate

After reviewing each line item, we had a 0% increase in operational expenses.

We cut the number of employees. Two employees were laid-off and vacant positions were not filled. All told, we are 5 less employees than this time last year.

We reduced personal days.

The stipends of the Mayor and Council were slashed.

Employees received a 0% salary increase while paying more into their health insurance.

We wrote a quarter of a million dollars in grant

everything into one document. The annual tax letter appears above with more information on Borough happenings included on the following pages.

It costs the same to mail the tax bill & letter as it would to mail this newsletter.

applications in efforts to offset spending tax dollars on capital expenditures.

The Borough lost approximately \$1.3 million in State Aid.

State statute required us to increase the Reserve For Uncollected Taxes line item by 15%.

BCUA costs, which we have no control over, increased 12%. We are working with legislators to exempt us from paying a sewer bill as we are a host community.

Where your 2010 taxes go:

School: 56.6%

Municipal: 34.6%

County: 8.8%

Starting mid-March, please check the Borough website for the Spring newsletter. It will be found in the Forms & Documents section.

LITTLE FERRY RECEIVES BOND RATINGS UPGRADES

Moody's and Standard and Poor (S&P) have upgraded the Borough's debt ratings.

Why is this important? It reduces the Borough's interest rate if or when we need to borrow money to complete projects.

S&P rated that Borough at AA- (pronounced 'Double A minus') and Moody's rated the Borough

at Aa3 (pronounced 'Double A three'). Both ratings are the fourth highest of each agency and are commonly classified as stable, long-term, high grade investments.

In September, the Borough refinanced approximately \$6.2 million dollars and received an interest rate of 2.7. This rate is approximately 0.5 better than

what other similar municipalities are receiving. This upgrade will save thousands of dollars.

With an aggressive debt-management record, debt ratios found far below the State recommendations and long-term financial planning by the governing body and administration, the Borough is saving tax dollars with sound-fiscal planning.

UPDATE—MEADOWLANDS/TETERBORO EFFICIENCY LEGISLATION

In August, there was a town-hall style meeting held by Senator Gordon and Assemblywoman Wagner on the proposed Meadowlands Efficiency Legislation.

We must thank all the residents who turned out to hear our elected officials give more detailed information than what is being reported in the newspapers.

We also would like to thank all the residents who spoke in favor of the legislation.

We have been told that the legislation is still being discussed and worked on in Trenton.

We do not expect anything to happen until after the November election. Once we hear any new information concerning the

appropriate bill's status, we will post something to the front page of the Borough website:

www.littleferrynj.org

We urge you to call Governor Christie (609-292-6000), Senator Gordon (201-703-9779) and Assemblywoman Wagner (201-576-9199) to support this legislation.

COAH FUNDING AVAILABLE

As part of the Borough's effort to comply with our COAH (Council on Affordable Housing) requirements, please be advised that funds are available to Borough property owners for rehabilitating their primary residence.

Household income restrictions may apply.

For additional information, contact the office of Bergen County Community Development.

Please note: It is State law that the Borough makes this funding available.

WEBSITE IMPROVEMENTS

- Follow us on Twitter: @LittleFerryNJ
- Last three years of budgets are posted
- Citizen Action Form now posted
- Zoning Map now posted
- Updated Borough Ordinances provided by Coded Systems—coming by November
- Meeting minutes now posted
- Google Translate now available
- Building Department forms and checklist now posted

BOROUGH ANNOUNCES \$50,000 IN GRANTS

The Borough has been awarded \$50,000 in grants to increase our energy efficiency.

The \$50,000 breaks down into two grants: \$30,000 from the NJ Clean Energy Program and \$20,000 from the Energy Efficiency Block Grant.

The money will be used to upgrade lighting and a HVAC unit throughout Borough owned

buildings.

Approximately \$30,000 will be spent in Borough Hall to upgrade light fixtures and one HVAC unit.

The Library will receive approximately \$14,000 worth of lighting upgrades.

The Senior Center/Public Safety Building and Boy’s Club Facility will receive the remainder of the

funds.

Due to the Borough’s fast response in obtaining these funds, we will be eligible for additional money next year.

With no local tax dollars spent, these improvements are expected to save \$5,000 - \$10,000 annually (depending on usage). This free grant funded project pays for itself in one day! The project should be completed by late November.

APPLICATIONS SUBMITTED FOR WILLOW LAKE PARK IMPROVEMENTS

The Borough has submitted two applications for improvements at Willow Lake Park.

The first application (Phase I) requests approximately \$70,000 in County Open Space money to remove the existing playground and re-grade the entire Park.

Phase II requests approximately \$120,000 in County Community Development money to install new playground equipment. New equipment that will replace the equipment removed in Phase I.

Both applications have recently been submitted and we anticipate being notified if we receive

funding sometime next year.

Combining these applications with the \$260,000 DEP Green Acres application, 2010 saw the Borough apply for more dollars in open space and recreation grants than ever before.

STATE OF NEW JERSEY BEST PRACTICES GUIDELINES

In August, the State issued “Best Practices Guidelines.”

These Guidelines had two components:

1. To take State Aid money away from municipalities that did not comply with Best Practices

2. To identify Best Practices in municipal government

We can proudly report that the Borough should not be losing any State Aid. The Borough scored 79 out of the 88 Best Practices!

The items we did not receive full

credit for were not applicable to us. For example, the State identified a Best Practice is a 5 year capital plan for a local utility authority.

We don’t have a local utility authority so we lost a point! How unfair!

Most importantly, we do not lose any State Aid.

PROPERTY MAINTENANCE VIOLATIONS

With the help of the community through Report A Problem on the website, we have issued approximately 50 property maintenance violations in the first month the section on the website was active.

Working together, we can quickly respond to eyesores and public health issues before they negatively impact our quality of life.

Please continue to report problems as

you can complement our proactive property maintenance inspection program.

2010 FAMILY FUN DAY A HUGE SUCCESS

Held on Saturday, September 25th, the 13th annual event drew approximately 3,000 people. This would be a new record!

With more rides, attractions and a costume contest, the event keeps evolving.

Most importantly, no tax dollars are spent on Family Fun Day. Paid for entirely by donations of local and area businesses, this event is truly a community event. Over \$30,000 in donations

(another record!) was raised.

Without them, there is no Family Fun Day. Please continue your support of our business community who donate their time, materials and money to make Family Fun Day as successful as it is.

When shopping at any one of these businesses, please say thank you for their continued support for our community.

And thank you volunteers! Your work is invaluable.

Platinum
Dassault Falcon Jet Corp.
William Rudolph / US Auto
Time Warner Cable
PNC Bank
Bergen County Utilities Authority
Value Fair
Inserra/ShopRite Supermarkets

Gold
Suburban Disposal, Inc.
Joseph G. Monaghan, Esq.
March Health Food Inc.
Tracey's Nine Mile House
TD Bank, N.A.

Silver
Liberty Bell Village
Eugene Varsalona, CPA
Williamstowne Manor, LLC
Lerch, Vinci & Higgins
Monobaik, Inc.
Heights Flower Shoppe
Brian Giblin
Stanley Turitz

Bronze
LOC Pump & Equipment
A Self Storage of Little Ferry
Stallion Auto Service
Vinny's Liquor & Bar
Job & Job Consulting Engineers
AT Tile Co.
Access Management Co.
DM Fragrances & Cosmetics
Jae Dental Studio
NewCal Aviation, Inc.
Boswell Engineering, Inc.
Little Ferry Wine & Liquors, Inc.
GJEM-Otterstedt Insurance
Tilcon New York Inc.
LJ Mettler Corp.
CM Fuel (Remado Corp.)
Minado Co. Inc.
Dongsan Alliance Church
American Legion Post 310
Party Rental, LTD
Maco Office Supplies
Doka USA, Ltd.
46 Quick Mart
Valley National Bank

Honorable Mention
CNP Fit Testing of NJ
Hudson United Glass & Window
White Castle
Molba Construction
Tanglewood Corp.
Teterboro Chrysler Jeep
AJM Contractors Inc.
Cates Electric Corp.
Nassor Electrical Supply Co.
Colonnelli Bros.
Major Products Co., Inc.
Washington Arms Apts.
Forsa Construction
Castillo Distributor
Louis C L'Heureux Real Estate
Robin's Quality Landscaping
Altona Blower & Sheet Metal Works
Globe Photo Engraving
TRC Engineers, Inc.
R. K. Fragrances Inc.
Quench Irrigation
Horizon Plastics, Inc.
USA Security Services, Inc.
Evangel Christian Church
VPW Post 809
Coded Systems, LLC
Paramus Building Supply
MGL Printing Solutions
Joel Tanis & Sons, Inc.

Honorable Mention continued
Ben Shaffer & Associates, Inc.
Dio Moda USA, Inc.
Steve's Auto Sales
M&J Auto Sales, Inc.
C. Winters Supply
R.S. Trading Corp.
Renaissance Equity, LLC
Kenny's Auto
Arcari+Iovino Architects, P.C.
Segovia Steakhouse
All That Glitters
Quick Mart/Subway
Ace Industrial Supply Corp.
BMJ Construction Co., Inc.
Stan's Sport Center, Inc.
Fejagee, Inc./Dunkin Donuts/Bergen Tpke
Bassil Book Binding, Inc.
Metro Fire & Safety Equip. Co., Inc.
Little Ferry Wine Country Inc.
Four Star Auto Glass
Delgado Interpreting Service
You and I World, Corp.
Royalty Auto Sales, Inc.
Costco Wholesale #231