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Allendale



BUDGET NEWSLETTER 2013

From the Mayor's Desk

ZERO TAX INCREASE 3 YEARS IN A ROW!



The Council will be approving a budget with a ZERO municipal tax increase for the Third year in a row! I think it is safe to say that no town in Bergen County, if not the state, can boast of such an accomplishment. After several years of putting together a fiscal model, our financial team has established criteria to keep our municipal taxes in check. Many thanks go out to the Finance Committee chairs, Councilwomen Susan LaMonica and Liz White as well as our CFO Lissa Mayer.

This process has not been easy. When sworn in on January 4, 2007, I was greeted with a downgrade by S&P; 7.43% and 11.21% municipal tax increases the prior 2 years and \$1 million annual capital deficit spending. If we continued on this path our municipal taxes would have doubled in 8 years and our debt would have risen from \$15 million to \$22 million in the same time frame. Immediate steps were necessary. Tax increases were pared down to 4.37% and deficit capital spending was a thing of the past. We inaugurated a long range plan for fiscal responsibility. Initially our efforts were rewarded when S&P not only restored our AA rating but Allendale improved to AAA! We were reevaluated by S&P last year and again awarded AAA because of our fiscal oversight. More importantly, the financial model the Council has put in place has finally brought under control property taxes that seemed to spiraling out of control. To the right is a list of tax increases since 2005.

- 2005 - 7.43% increase**
- 2006 - 11.21% increase**
- 2007 - 4.37% increase**
- 2008 - 4.83% increase**
- 2009 - 2.45% increase**
- 2010 - 2.84% increase**
- 2011 - ZERO increase**
- 2012 - ZERO increase**
- 2013 - ZERO increase**

How did we do it? First we restructured Boro functions. Efficiency and doing more with less became our mantra. If positions were superfluous, they were phased out or eliminated. Raises were brought under control. Our debt had doubled in the past 5 years (2002-2006). We were spending annually \$1.7 million on capital of which \$1 million a year was being added to debt. The decision was made: no more deficit spending. We reduced our annual capital expenditures by \$1 million. We prioritized our capital expenditures. No more spending on expansive new buildings and tearing out perfectly good curbing at the expense of repaving our streets.

“Efficiency and doing more with less became our mantra”.

Since 2007, we will have repaved approximately 70 streets of the Boro's total of 144 streets. In the 6 years prior to 2007 only 13 streets were repaved. Still, we were able to purchase a new fire truck and other vehicles and equipment; support our sports fields and recreation facilities and maintain our infrastructure in every respect. Many towns used accounting gimmicks to keep taxes low. Our Council refused to be part of the charade. The state offered that towns could defer pension contributions for a year or two to help balance their budgets. We refused. Others drained their surplus funds in an attempt to appear to keep increases low. Our Council refused and in fact our surplus has grown. This will now enable us to draw on surplus when needed. Also, we restructured part of our debt which saved us additional debt service expenses each year. Further, grants were aggressively sought. Over the past 6 years the Boro has received more than \$11 million in funding from federal, state and county sources. This is far in excess than such funding received in the past 25 plus years. As a

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ZERO TAX INCREASE - 3 YEARS IN A ROW!

(Continued from front page)

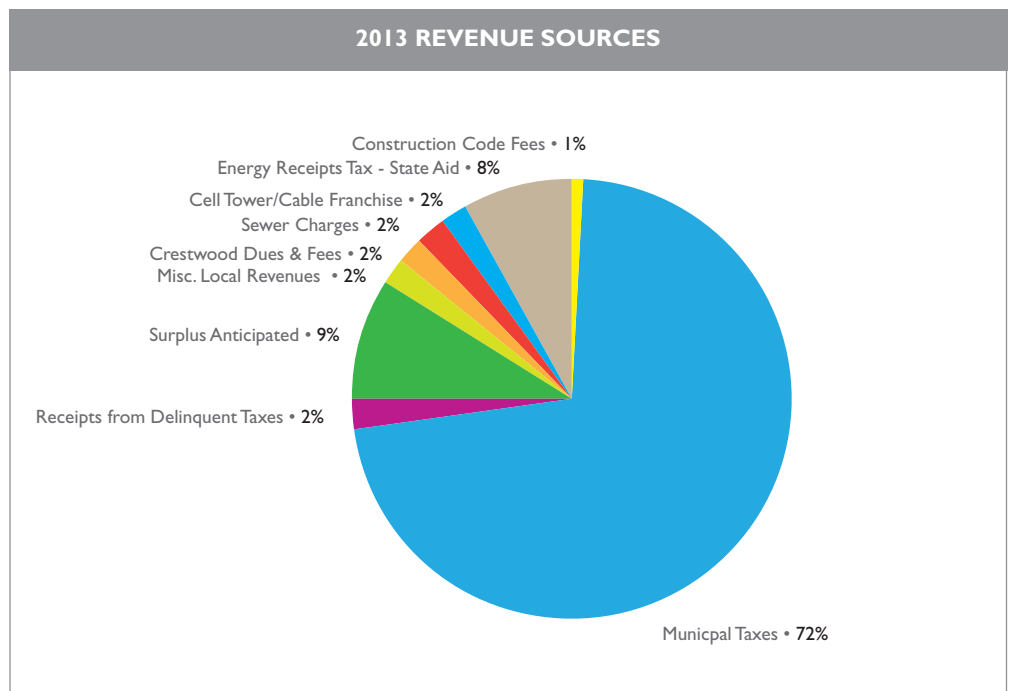
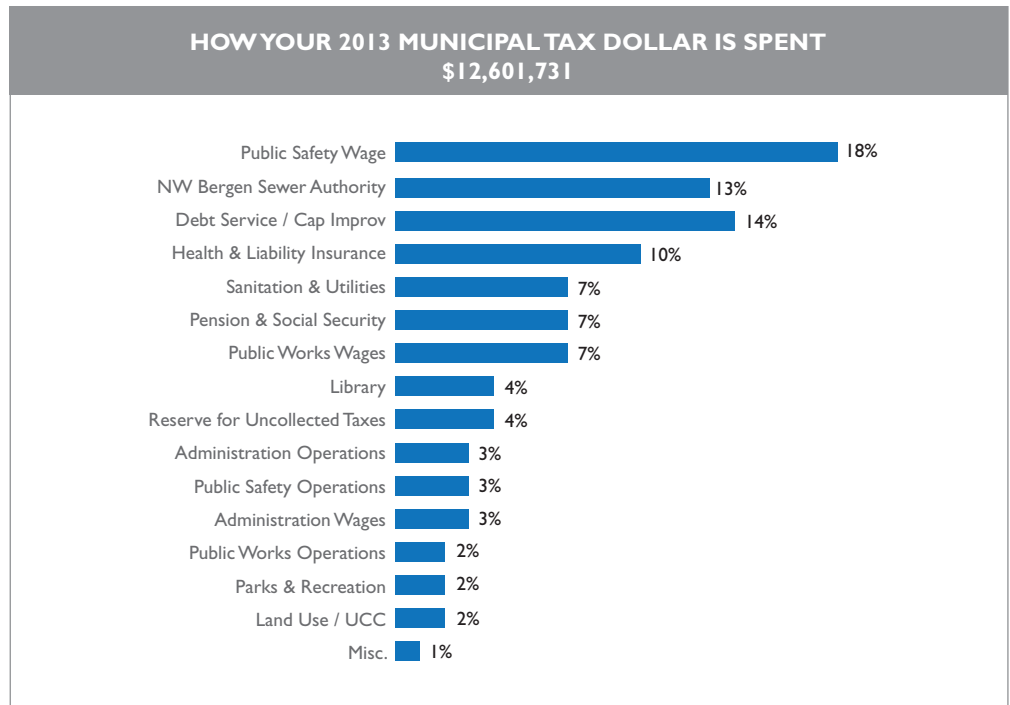
consequence, this year we were again able to keep the overall expense portion of the budget flat.

We could not have done it alone. The Governor and the State Legislature passed laws that require municipal employees to contribute to their health insurance. It will be phased in over a 4 year period when most employees will be contributing 35% toward health insurance. Further, all employees will be required to contribute more into the pension system. Some measures need to come from the top down and others from the bottom up. We have succeeded in doing both.

As I say each budget session, going forward the challenges will continue. Next year will be equally difficult, but both I and our residents are privileged to have a Council that is so dedicated and hard working. Each year one or more Council members come up with a new and innovative idea to keep taxes in check but at the same time keep Allendale-Allendale. There are several proposed new ideas that hopefully will come to fruition this year which will help us reach the goal we always aspire to attain, ZERO tax increase yet again next year.



Vince Barra



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

On Thursday, March 28th at 8pm in Borough Hall there will a public hearing by the Mayor and Council with respect to a contract with United Water to assume the operation and maintenance of the Allendale Water Department.

CLUBS & ORGANIZATIONS

ALLENDALE WOMAN'S CLUB

The Allendale Woman's Club Annual Geranium/Impatiens Sale will run from Wednesday, March 13 through Saturday April 20, 2013.

- **GERANIUMS COLORS:** Red, White, Light Pink, Dark Pink, & Splash.
- **IMPATIENS COLORS:** Red, White, & Light Pink
- \$38 per dozen, \$24 per half dozen (minimum order required per each flower).

To order contact Liz Simendinger at 201-236-3135 or email easimendinger@verizon.net

Pick up date Saturday, May 4, 2013, 9:00am - 12:00 noon at the Red Barn at Crestwood Lake.

More info on allendalewomansclub.org.

ALLENDALE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

The Allendale Chamber will celebrate it's 80th anniversary in 2015 with a **GALA DINNER DANCE**, watch for more details to follow!



The New **ALLENDALE FARMER'S MARKET** will make it's debut in May of this year! We

are looking for vendors - if you know anyone with an artisan product or farm product please let us know. The Market will be held on the east side of the train station in the commuter lot.

The **ALLENDALE FESTIVAL DAY & CAR SHOW 2013** will be held on Saturday October 5.

ROTARY NEWS

SCHOLARSHIPS FOR HS SENIORS:

The Allendale/Saddle River Rotary Foundation is awarding 2 scholarships @ \$1500 each for seniors attending a 4-year accredited college. Applications due MARCH 31ST. Contact: june.stahl@gmail.com

SCHOLARSHIP DINNER & WINE PAIRING

May 23, 2013 at 6:30pm

3rd Annual Allendale/Saddle River Rotary Foundation Scholarship Dinner & Wine Pairing at Indian Trail Club (Franklin Lakes, NJ). Cost \$85/p Contact: Daniel.Kahn@sothebyrealty.com

UPCOMING EVENTS AT HISTORIC JOHN FELL HOUSE

• Open House at The John Fell House, April 22, 7:30pm - 10:00pm

Join us for a tour as we celebrate the third year anniversary of the purchase of the house (through grants and fundraising), and commemorate the 236th anniversary of the arrest and imprisonment of John Fell. Refreshments will be served; the event is free and open to all.

• Mother Daughter Spring Afternoon Tea, April 27, 12 noon to 2:30pm

Come celebrate spring while enjoying a special luncheon in a historic setting. To RSVP and receive additional information please email Linda Schropp at lschropp@optonline.net. Cost is \$45 per person. Additional Tea Dates: June 6, September 10, October 5, December 6.

• Northwest Bergen History Coalition Day, May 18

The John Fell House will participate in the Northwest Bergen History Coalition, along with seven other historic homes in Northwest Bergen County including the Hermitage Museum in Ho-Ho-Kus, and the Hopper-Goetschius House in Upper Saddle River. Purchase one ticket to gain access to all eight properties, and learn about the rich and vast history of Northwest Bergen County!

• Scotch Tasting Event, May 18

The John Fell House will host a Scotch Tasting event featuring Spike McClure, Master of Whiskey for Johnny Walker. Sip six specially selected rare scotches, nibble hearty and delicious appetizers and enjoy a visit from an authentic bagpipe and drum corps! Kilts are encouraged. RSVP by May 10, donation of \$125 per person and limited seating is available.

For more information about any of these events, or anything related to the John Fell House and the Concerned Citizens of Allendale please email thefellhouse@gmail.com.

The John Fell House is owned, operated and maintained by the Concerned Citizens of Allendale (CCA), a 501c3 non-profit dedicated to the preservation of the John Fell House as a self-sustaining community center through grants, fundraisers and private donations.

HEALTH NEWS

West Bergen Mental Healthcare

This year as in many years past, the Borough of Allendale has contracted with West Bergen Mental Healthcare to offer treatment and support services its employees and the community. Residents should be aware that no Allendale resident will be denied service due to an inability to pay.

Issues that may be addressed at West Bergen Mental Healthcare include:

- Depression and Mood Disorders
- Substance Abuse
- Autism/Asperger's Syndrome
- Anger Management
- Phobias
- Problems with Aging
- Family Conflict
- Anxiety
- Divorce and Separation
- Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder
- School Conflicts
- Managing an Elderly Parent
- Economic Hardship and Stress

West Bergen Mental Healthcare has four locations, all of which are within close range of the Borough of Allendale with the main facility located at 120 Chestnut Street in Ridgewood. For more information, please call 201-444-3550.

MUNICIPAL NEWS

RECYCLING TIDBITS!

Are you recycling everything you can? Examine your household garbage and you will be amazed at how little should be placed at the curb for trash collection. For every ton of material recycled, revenue is being put back into the recycling program in your community.

Recycling one aluminum can will save enough energy to power a TV for up to 3 hours. Recycled aluminum is used to make automobile parts, appliances, containers, doors and other products. One glass bottle can save enough energy to light a 100 watt light bulb for 4 hours. Glass can be recycled into jars, jewelry, bottles, dishes, drinking glasses, coffee mugs and many other items. PET plastics (#1-7) can be recycled into clothing, fiberfill for sleeping bags, toys, stuffed animals, rulers and more. It takes 25 two liter soda bottles to make one adult-size fleece jacket! Junk mail and magazines add weight (\$\$\$) to your solid waste collection. Collect these items in a box and bring it to the container at the recycling center. Don't put money in the trash. So challenge your household. What's your carbon foot print?

Allendale Borough Hall
500 West Crescent Avenue
Allendale, NJ 07401

MAYOR

VINCE BARRA

BOROUGH COUNCIL

Ari Bernstein

Susan LaMonica

Jackie McSwiggan

Jim Strauch

Liz White

Amy Wilczynski

NEWSLETTER DESIGN

Heidi Gross

Some water payments are still being sent to PO Box 11. Please note that this PO Box has been closed. All water payments should be sent to: 500 W. Crescent Ave., Allendale, NJ 07401

If you make your payments through a bank service, please inform the bank of the new address.

GARBAGE REMINDER!!

Friendly reminder that all garbage must be placed at the curb by 7:00am. Thank you!

THE ALLENDALE FIRE DEPARTMENT WISHES TO REMIND YOU...

- ✓ Shovel the fire hydrant in front of your house to expedite fire operations in the event of a fire in your (or your neighbor's) home.
- ✓ Yield to flashing blue lights by pulling over to side of road and stopping until the first responder passes. It is the state law.
- ✓ Do not overload extension cords, and do not use old and worn out extension cords.
- ✓ Change your batteries in your smoke alarms and carbon monoxide alarms at least twice per year, usually when you turn your clocks forward and back.
- ✓ Use 9-1-1 for emergencies, or else dial 201-825-1900 (Allendale Police) for your emergency needs; do NOT call the Allendale Fire Department number for any emergent notifications.

Any resident who is interested in joining the Allendale Fire Department are encouraged to stop by any Thursday evening at 7pm to talk to the fire chief and pick up an application. Thank you for continued loyal support of your volunteer fire department during the fund drive.

Bulk Rate
U.S. Postage
PAID
Allendale, NJ
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