



BOROUGH OF HAWTHORNE

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Mayor

Richard S. Goldberg

July 7, 2017

Dear Resident,

Once again, my administration has worked closely with the Borough Council to produce a fiscally-responsible budget with a modest tax increase. I am pleased to announce that the 2017 tax increase of 1.48% for municipal services, including the Library, is the lowest in 20 years. For the average homeowner, it amounts to \$34 more as compared to last year.

The municipal portion of the tax bill, including the amount for the Library, represents the smallest share of the total, just 21.5%. Passaic County accounts for 24.7% of the total, and the local schools, 53.9%.

Included in this year's budget is money for solar-powered electronic speed signs for deployment on local streets, as well as funding for a second Special Police Officer. The Borough has also applied for a Federal COPS grant to fund an additional police officer, as we seek to address speeding and other quality of life issues.

This past year, the Borough received a \$50,000 grant for the Passaic County Open Space Fund for the construction of restrooms adjacent to the new Boro Bandshell, which will be constructed later this year. This summer another great series of concerts and movies is planned for this venue.

On September 23rd, the Borough will host its 9th Annual Hawthorne Day event at the Municipal Pool and Boro Bandshell Complex.

Phase I of the Federally-funded Downtown Revitalization Streetscape Project is being completed, bringing a new traffic signal, decorative street lighting and stamped-concrete sidewalks to improve the appearance of Hawthorne's central business district.

By the time you receive this letter, you will see a new electronic message board sign in front of the Municipal Building, which will be used to provide information about events in town. Money for this project came from the Passaic County Corridor Enhancement Trust.

I continue to work on commercial projects to improve our community and enhance our tax base. I have worked with the owner of the old Decker Dodge property on Lincoln Avenue to scrap his plans for a carwash, to be replaced with a neighborhood commercial center, which now has an application pending before the Planning Board. A major expansion for Macaluso's has been approved, with construction scheduled to begin early next year. I am in discussion with developers for projects at a number of other properties; expect some announcements later this year.

My staff and I are committed to improved service and communication and look forward to serving our residents. My door is always open.

Sincerely,

Richard S. Goldberg
Mayor