



BOROUGH OF HAWTHORNE

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Mayor

Richard S. Goldberg

July 11, 2016

Dear Resident,

Once again, my administration has worked closely with the Borough Council to produce a fiscally-responsible budget with a modest tax increase. The 2016 tax increase for municipal services, including the Library, is just 1.9%, which will cost the average residential taxpayer \$42 more than last year.

The municipal portion of the tax bill, including the amount for the library, represents the smallest share of the total, just 21.4%. Passaic County accounts for 25% of the total, and the local schools, 53.6%. I strongly support Governor Christie's recent proposal to reform school financing which would substantially lower local taxes required for the Hawthorne schools.

The Borough's prudent fiscal practices continue to be recognized by the financial sector. Last year's upgrade in Hawthorne's bond rating by Standard and Poor's from AA to AA+ will save the Borough money when we sell bonds for capital projects later this year.

This summer the Borough celebrates the opening of the Hawthorne Band Shell next to the Municipal Swimming Pool with a series of six concerts and two movies. The construction of the band shell was funded in part by the Passaic County Open Space Trust Fund. From 2011 through 2015, the Borough has received Open Space grants amounting to \$264,375 of the \$1,221,520 that Hawthorne taxpayers paid into the Trust Fund during that same period. Of this total, \$189,375 was for the band shell project, while the remaining \$75,000 was for lights at the Wag 4 ballfield.

Congratulations to the Hawthorne Fire Department. 2016 marks their 100th anniversary. The Borough salutes the Department and its dedicated volunteers.

On September 24th, the Borough will host its annual Hawthorne Day event at the Pool complex.

On a more solemn note, the Borough will commemorate the 15th anniversary of 9/11 this coming September with our annual local ceremony. This year the Assembly Minority Leader Jon Bramnick will be our keynote speaker.

I'm also excited to announce that through funds from the Corridor Enhancement Trust we will be constructing an electronic sign at Borough Hall.

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

Sincerely,

Richard S. Goldberg
Mayor