

Summer 2010

Volume 1, Issue 1

# Little Ferry—Your News, Your Borough



*An update on happenings in your Borough provided by Mayor Raguseo & the Borough Council*

This newsletter will be the last paper version. We are going to be moving it online and you will find the upcoming issues in the **Forms, Docs & Press Release** section. Moving it online saves costs, can get information to you quicker than a normal mailing and is consistent with our “going green” efforts. We hope to provide a quarterly newsletter. Don’t have internet access at home? Visit the Little Ferry Public Library for free internet access (and check out some books, books on tape, seminar schedule, CDs or DVDs while you are

## Upcoming Events:

- \* Townhall meeting, Wednesday August 18 at 7 PM to discuss Meadowlands Efficient & Teterboro legislation (location to the right)
- \* Movie Under the Stars—Tooth Fairy—Thursday August 19 at 7:30 PM at Lakeview Park
- \* Family Fun Day, Saturday, September 25
- \* Pumpkin Pick, Saturday, October 16

## Townhall meeting on Meadowlands Efficiency & Teterboro

Please join Senator Gordon and Assemblywoman Wagner at a Townhall meeting on Wednesday, August 18 at 7 PM located at Bergen County Academies, 200 Hackensack Ave, Hackensack, NJ.

This meeting will provide details on proposed changes to the Meadowlands Tax Sharing Program and the Teterboro Consolidation.

We need your support to end the Meadowlands Tax Sharing Program. Due to this legislation, almost half-a-million of your tax dollars is sent to other Meadowlands municipalities. Almost \$500,000 of your taxes are sent outside of the Borough! Please attend this meeting and speak out in favor of keeping your taxes in the Borough, where they belong! Since the early 1970’s the Borough has been fighting the Tax Sharing Program—this is the closest we have ever come to ending it.

Your voices are needed at this meeting to help keep your taxes where they belong. Think the Tax Sharing Program doesn’t have an impact on you? This \$490,000 we are forced to pay into the Program equals approximately

\$100 on your tax bill. You are writing a \$100 check each year (and it goes up every year!) to another town.

Also to be discussed is the proposed consolidation of Teterboro. Come learn more about how the idea was proposed, the benefits towards government efficiency, how the proposed legislation will protect businesses and have your questions answered.

What does this legislation mean for Little Ferry? Taken separately, these efficiency and tax stabilization measures would positively affect the Borough. Combined, these two measures would provide tax stabilization upwards of 2 million dollars for the next few years. If this legislation passes, early projections show a ZERO tax increase in 2011 and 2012 on the municipal portion of your tax bill.

We implore you to come out and show your support to create more efficient governments and tax stabilization. If you have any questions, please contact the Borough Administrator at 201-641-9234 ext. 658.

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## The 2010 Municipal Budget

The official 2010 budget will be adopted in September. We were waiting for a vote on the Tax Sharing Legislation. If the legislation had passed, we were going to decrease taxes in the 3rd and 4th quarter. See how important that legislation is!

The approximate \$200 municipal tax increase is entirely due to outside sources. We cut salaries and operational expenses.

Governor Christie’s cut in Aid directly resulted in \$60 of that \$200. BCUA’s increase resulted in an approximate increase of \$30.

Almost half of your tax increase is due to those sources—sources that we have no control over!

PS. Don’t forget the Governor’s budget took \$880,000 from the school. We lost over 1 Million Dollars in tax relief in the Governor’s budget.

The more you recycle, the more money the Borough saves. We pay to dispose of trash by the ton. Recycling takes waste out of the trash stream - thereby reducing the disposal costs.

If you are interested in attending the Townhall meeting and are a senior citizen or resident without transportation, please call the Administrator at 201-641-9234. If there are enough people who are interested in attending, we can use one of the busses to transport you.

## Over-crowding & illegal multi-family dwellings

This month we upgraded our over-crowding and illegal multi-family law to increase the fine, protect the school against illegal students and further deter landlords from illegally renting/over-crowding units.

If a landlord is caught illegally renting or permitting over-crowding, under the new law the landlord will be responsible for relocating the tenants.

The fine has been increased to \$1,000.

If the illegal occupant has children in the district, they will be required to pay the district the true per-capita

cost of each student.

We have established an internal committee of staff members to handle this issue.

We have also given the Borough Administrator the job title of Property Maintenance/Code Enforcement inspector so we have more staff on-hand to investigate claims. There will be no additional compensation for these additional duties.

If you are interested in reporting a suspected over-crowding or illegal rental unit, please visit the Borough's

website at [www.littleferrynj.org](http://www.littleferrynj.org) and click the link to **Report A Problem**.

Here you can report any issue (potholes, street lights out, etc).

If you are reporting someone who is suspected of violating this new ordinance, you must leave your name. Your name is required to stem off general neighbor disputes or harassment. It is also required to demonstrate a "chain of information." It will be kept confidential unless you are notified by an internal committee member.

## Property Maintenance

Continuing our efforts to improve the appearance of the Borough, we have upgraded our existing property maintenance ordinance.

We have changed the notification time frame in order to compel owners who do not maintain their property.

The new time to bring the property into compliance is now 7 days.

After 7 days, the Department of Public Works will clean-up the property.

Additionally a lien will be placed on the property to recoup the costs associated with cleaning the property.

There are two ways to notify staff of an alleged property maintenance violation:

1. Visit the Borough website at

[www.littleferrynj.org](http://www.littleferrynj.org) and click the **Report A Problem link**.

2. Call the Building Department at 201-641-9234 and follow the prompts.

## Route 46 Circle Improvements

The Route 46 Circle elimination project is tentatively scheduled to begin this Oct. or Nov. Paid entirely by the State and Federal government, this project will eliminate the circle and create a "normal" intersection. The State has listened to our request for more pumps and there will be 5 self-cleaning pumps included in this project for flood control.

Completely the responsibility of the State, we have worked diligently to ensure the best possible design and construction for our Borough.

While the improvements will positively impact the Borough for years to come (reduced flooding, better traffic management, etc) this State owned and operated project will regretfully inconvenience many people. The State

legally controls when the construction will be conducted (at night) which we opposed.

Work has already commenced. If you saw utility vans by the gas station, they were upgrading their lines.

We know and understand that this project will burden some people and we have attempted to mitigate these concerns as best as possible.

## Stormwater Management

Each one of us, whether we know it or not, contribute to nonpoint pollution through our daily activities.

As a result, nonpoint source pollution is the biggest threat to our ponds, rivers, lakes and waterways.

In our everyday activities we can stop nonpoint source pollution and keep our environment clean. Simple changes in your lifestyle can make a difference in nonpoint source pollution. Here are just a few ways we can all reduce nonpoint source pollution:

**Litter:** Never throw litter out of your car, throw everything in trash receptacles; recycle as much as possible.

**Car washing:** Wash your car as infrequently as possible. Consider using a commercial car wash that recycles its wash water.

**Pet waste:** Animal waste contains bacteria and viruses. Pet waste seeps into shellfish once it runs off into the waterways.

**Household products:** Many common household products contain toxic

ingredients. It is important to properly discard of these items. Use natural and/or less toxic products whenever possible.

**Fertilizers:** Use on your lawn and plants sparingly. In abundance in waterways, too much fertilizer causes algae blooms. These blooms can cripple an ecosystem.

**Leaves & grass:** Do not place in the street where they can clog catch basins. Clogged catch basins can cause flooding in a rain event.

## Project and grant updates

- Paid for through grant funds, the new fencing at Bassano Field should be completed by the time you are reading this. The netting, to stop foul balls, is on back-order with the manufacturer and will be installed as soon as possible
- The Borough applied for a COPS grant in the approximate amount of \$230,000. If awarded, this

highly competitive grant will create a Community Policing Officer. For three years, the grant pays all expenses (salary, benefits, etc) of the position

- Seeking approximately \$230,000 from the State's Green Acres grant fund, we applied for improvements to Indian Lake Park including: extending the walking trail, new

fountains, upgraded drainage and solar powered lights along the trail

- We also applied for funding through the State's Municipal Aid Transportation program for repaving a portion of Indian Lake Road
- In Sept., we will be applying for Community Development & County Open Space funds

## Roadway Improvement Projects & other transportation news

The Borough is currently bidding its 2010 Road Improvement Program. This year a portion or the entire following streets are scheduled to be repaved:

- North Washington Ave
- Stika Lane
- Columbus Ave
- Christina Street
- Adams Street

Working with the school as a shared services, we designed a portion of the Washington School parking lot.

Every year the Borough reassess and ranks its roadways for repairs in the annual road program. If you feel your road should be on the list, please contact the Department of Public Works in the early part of spring when the list is being formulated.

The much needed traffic light at

Washington & Liberty Street is currently being designed. It is anticipated that this project will commence next spring. The County, as Liberty Street is a County road, is paying for the construction of the light. They have allocated upwards of \$600,000 for the new light. The light will also be signalized for improved traffic flow.

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Please curb your dog. We have received too many complaints of residents not cleaning up after their pets.

This is especially true by the Schools as animal lovers walk Main Street.

Please be courteous and curb your dog everywhere, especially on the school's grass.



## Borough of Little Ferry...116 years old on September 20

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Councilwoman Schuck  
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We have begun making much needed improvements to the Borough's website. Our current goal is to upload as much functionality as possible. Recent improvements include a dedicated section for **Forms, Docs & Press Releases**. Added to the homepage is a **Google Translate** tab to translate the site into numerous languages. Slowly we are building the **Social & Electronic Media** section. If you have any pictures or video you would like to share, please email them to the Mayor at [mayor@littleferrynj.org](mailto:mayor@littleferrynj.org). As you have read elsewhere in this newsletter we have created a **Report A Problem** page where you can report problems such as over-crowding and high grass.



Programming note:  
Make sure to watch *Cake Boss* on TLC to see Little Ferry's own Buddy "Cake Boss" Valastro receive the Key To The City.

It is episode 12 of Season 3.

Check local listings for dates and times.

## Items of note and interest

- You can obtain an overnight parking permit by visiting the Police Desk at Borough Hall
- Obtain Building Permits! They protect you as a consumer. There is a list of what requires a permit on the Borough's website (look under Departments and Building Department). When in doubt, call the Building Department, it is better to be safe than sorry.
- Contractors are permitted to work between 8 AM—8 PM.
- Need a 2010 Little Ferry Drug Alliance Calendar? Stop by Borough Hall. We have a few remaining.
- Garbage is picked up every Monday and Thursday
- For Thanksgiving, Thursday's garbage will be picked up on Friday
- Cardboard & Newspaper recycling will be picked up on: 8/18, 9/1, 9/15, 9/29, 10/13, 10/27, 11/10, 11/24, 12/8, 12/22
- Bottles & Cans recycling will be picked up on: 8/25, 9/8, 9/22, 10/6, 10/20, 11/3, 11/17, 12/1, 12/15, 12/29
- The street sweeper operates two or three times per month at night doing the entire Borough. Once a week, during the day, it cleans specific high-volume streets. At a minimum, each street is done twice a month. The DEP law requires once pass a month.
- Leaf bag pick-up begins October 13. The last day for collection is December 27.