



**BOROUGH OF CHATHAM
BOROUGH HALL
54 FAIRMOUNT AVENUE
CHATHAM, NEW JERSEY 07928
973-635-0674
www.chathamborough.org**

Dear Chatham Borough Residents and Taxpayers,

August 2019

This newsletter accompanies your 2019 tax bill and includes an overview of the municipal budget and other information that we feel will be of interest.

In April we held our first municipal open house as a part of New Jersey Local Government Week. Residents toured Borough Hall, explored public safety and public works vehicles, met Borough officials and even visited the jail cells. Thousands of residents and visitors enjoyed the festivities at the annual Fishawack Festival on June 8th and enjoyed the warm and sunny weather that greeted the 65th Fourth of July Parade, led by Firefighter Don Kidd as Grand Marshal, and the spectacular fireworks display, courtesy of the Chatham Fire Department Association. Thanks go to the many volunteers who made these events possible!

On Saturday, September 14th, the Mayors' Wellness Committee and the Environmental Commission will conduct a Sustainability Fair at the Farmers' Market.

At Fishawack we recognized the following volunteers for their commitment to the Borough: Douglas Allan (Chatham Fire Department), John Crouthamel (Tri-Town 55 Plus), Brian George (Mayors' Wellness Committee of the Chathams), Lucy Malatesta (Bridges Outreach) and Minati O'Connell (Cultural Committee of the Chathams.) We also recognized the Friends of the Library, whose dedicated members have done a wonderful job of raising money for and volunteering at the Library of the Chathams. These individuals and organizations, along with the scores of other volunteers in the Borough, deserve our thanks for devoting hundreds of hours of their "spare" time to serve our community.

We are moving forward with our redevelopment projects. In June, after having approved a redevelopment plan for the River Road redevelopment area, the Council designated Chatham River Road Partners LLC as the redeveloper for this project, to be located on the site of National Manufacturing, Burling Instruments and Crown Oil on River Rd. The redeveloper is already working with the utilities to determine the feasibility of burying the cables along that portion of River Rd., and will be hosting a community meeting to get input on design concepts. On July 8th the Council designated SV PO JV LLC, an affiliate of The KRE Group, Vertical Realty Capital and Stolar Capital, as the redeveloper for Post Office Plaza. The redevelopment plan was approved by the Council in April. There will be community meetings to get input on specific design concepts in the fall.

This is my final annual letter. It has been a great honor to serve our community. I want to thank the other Borough elected officials, the dozens of Borough volunteers and Borough employees for their dedication to ensuring that our Borough remains the wonderful community that it is.

We encourage you to share your questions, concerns and ideas with us by sending them to mayor@chathamborough.org, council@chathamborough.org, or to the Mayor or Council by regular mail to Borough Hall, 54 Fairmount Avenue, Chatham, NJ 07928. Or you can call me at 973-635-0674 x213. And you will find a wealth of information on the Borough website.

Sincerely,

Bruce A. Harris
Mayor



2019 BUDGET

The total municipal budget for 2019 is \$14.82 million - \$305,210 more than the budget for 2018. General revenues are expected to increase slightly from \$5.77 million in 2018 to \$5.87 million in 2019. Net valuations of real property increased from \$2.084 billion to \$2.097 billion. We were able to limit the municipal tax increase to 1.31%. The total tax rate for 2019 will be \$2.10 per \$100 assessed value. The Borough's portion is \$0.39, or 19% of your tax dollar. The tax increase is within the 2% cap established by the State Legislature. We continue to enjoy savings from the numerous shared services arrangements we have entered into. We are proud to have maintained the Borough's AAA bond rating. Please visit the Borough website for more information.

How will your 2019 tax dollar be spent?

	Municipal	Library
	Tax	Tax
School	(Open	County
63%	Space)	Tax
	19%	16%
		2%



MAIN STREET AND ROUTE 24 TRAFFIC

This spring we had several meetings with the New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT) to address traffic congestion problems on Main Street and Route 24. Aided by our consultant, Topology Inc., who analyzed GPS traffic data and determined, among other things, that over 70% of the traffic in the Borough is pass-through traffic (i.e. traffic that neither originates in or is destined for the Borough), we made a strong case to NJDOT. NJDOT is now investigating a number of approaches to address these issues, including the possibility of installing a more sophisticated system to manage the timing on the traffic signals on Main Street.

SUSTAINABILITY

In 2018 we recertified as a Sustainable Jersey community at the Silver Level. We qualified for Bronze in 2009, were Silver certified in 2012 and 2015 and, in 2012, 2015 and 2018, we also received the Champion Award by having the most awarded points for a mid-sized municipality. Our Green Team is working on the new "Gold Star" program, which involves advanced actions in the areas of Reducing Solid Waste and Increasing Energy Efficiency. Please join the Green Team if you would like to work to keep Chatham Borough as a sustainable community.

The Borough and Township were jointly designated as a Healthy Town by the New Jersey Health Care Quality Institute.

RECYCLING

Chatham leads Morris County in our recycling rate. Unfortunately, this accomplishment is undermined - and costs taxpayers money - when items that are not recyclable are placed in the recycling bins. In particular, plastic bags damage sorting equipment and may cause entire recycling loads to be taken to landfills rather than recycled. Please review the enclosed flyer and place the enclosed sticker on your bin to remind everyone in your household about what is and what is not permitted.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

To help promote revitalization of the local economy, we are partnering with the Morris County Economic Development Corporation in its Startup/Moveup Morris campaign, an effort to encourage the growth of technology and innovation firms across the county. Aptly named "Startup/Moveup Chatham", our local initiative includes branding the Borough as a hub for innovation and technology. The plan is to attract a mixture of companies to the Borough, which should provide a boost to the local economy.

We welcomed the opening of The Station, the Borough's first privately-owned coworking space, which will serve as a collaborative destination for entrepreneurs and startup firms seeking an affordable place to set up shop. This fall we plan to establish an Economic Development Advisory Committee that will advise on ways to establish and promote a flourishing commercial sector in the Borough.

BOARD OF HEALTH

The Board of Health (BOH) provides services that focus on health promotion and disease prevention such as restaurant inspections, vaccination services, health education, public health nursing and the investigation of environmental complaints.

Services include flu vaccinations for the homebound and for the uninsured, free child health clinics for physical exams and immunizations, and adult vaccination services to residents who are under-insured or uninsured. The annual rabies clinic will be held at the Chatham Borough Firehouse on November 2, 2019 from 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m., and a pet wellness clinic will be held in January 2020. For more information please visit www.chathamborough.org, www.westfieldnj.gov/health or call 908-789-4070.

SENIOR SERVICES OF THE CHATHAMS, INC.

Senior Services of the Chathams continues to support the independence of our senior community by providing an enrichment center, transportation, and referral services. It operates a center at the Chatham Township Municipal Building at 58 Meyersville Road. For more information call 973-635-4565 or visit www.chathamseiorcenter.org.

ALERTCHATHAMBOROUGH

This is our primary vehicle for distributing emergency and non-emergency information. Please register and provide as much information as possible so that emergency service providers will have the information at their fingertips when you dial 911. This will permit them to respond more efficiently and communicate with you more effectively when emergency alerts need to be sent. Visit the website or call 973-635-0674 x 200 for information on how to sign up. **If we can't reach you, we can't alert you!**

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

The Borough is working with the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) to ensure our waterways remain unpolluted and viable through effective storm water management. To ensure the success of this effort, we ask that residents help in implementing the initiatives undertaken by the Borough to better manage storm water.

The Borough's storm water management program mandates that every resident and business properly dispose of pet waste. It also prohibits feeding wildlife on public property and prohibits dumping of any kind into storm sewers and disposing of wastewater into a storm sewer. Please visit www.chathamborough.org or www.cleanwaternj.org for more information on how to keep our streams and rivers clean. If you have any questions about storm water management, please contact Vincent DeNave, Borough Engineer, at 973-635-0674 x270.

VOLUNTEER / INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Volunteers perform key roles in our community. Volunteers staff our fire department and emergency squad, our recreation programs, our Farmers' Market and our boards, commissions and committees.

To volunteer to serve on the Chatham Borough Fire Department, either as an adult or junior member, contact Fire Chief Jeffrey Fricke at 973-635-9090. To volunteer to serve on the Chatham Emergency Squad, contact the VP of Personnel at personnel@chathamemergencysquad.org (or visit www.chathamemergencysquad.org).

To serve on a municipal board, commission or committee, simply complete the "Application for Boards, Commissions and Committees" (available on the website under "Forms & Applications" and also at the Borough Clerk's office) and indicate your interest. A complete list of the volunteer opportunities is on the Borough website.

We continue to provide internships for high school and college students. Please contact Janice Piccolo at 973-635-0674 x200.

Friendly Reminders. Borough ordinances restrict lawn watering and using power equipment outdoors to certain hours. Pet owners are reminded to clean up after their pets. In addition, engine idling for more than three minutes is against New Jersey law.

Please do not flush baby and adult personal hygiene products such as wipes and cleaning towelettes down your toilet. These items can cause blockages in the sewer lines and damage the pump stations. Put these items in the trash!

Please see the Borough calendar and the website for more information.

Remember: Texting and driving don't mix.