



INFORMER

NEWS FOR RESIDENTS OF HATFIELD BOROUGH

www.hatfieldborough.com



Winter 2008



NO REAL ESTATE TAX INCREASE

The Borough Council, at its December meeting, approved the 2008 budget with the Real Estate Tax Rate being fixed at the present millage rate of 0.6985. This includes 0.5225 mills for general purposes and 0.1760 for fire related purposes. This will allow Hatfield Borough to maintain its current level of services.

In addition to the Borough real estate tax holding steady, property owners will see a reduction in their total March tax bill due to the lower millage rate set by Montgomery County. The County tax rate is being reduced from 2.84 mills to 2.695 mills, a 5.1% reduction. The average homeowner with a property assessed at \$166,000 will pay around \$24 less this spring.

Please Note:

County & Borough Real Estate Tax bills will be mailed March 1, 2008.

New mailing address: PO Box 190, Hatfield, PA 19440

2008 Fire & Safety Inspection Program To Begin Soon

The 2008 Fire & Safety Inspection Program will get underway in the next few weeks. All businesses, industries, and multi-family residential properties located in the Borough of Hatfield will be inspected. This does not include any single family homes that are currently being rented.

In tenant occupied residences, the inspectors will check for working smoke detectors that are properly located.

All businesses will be inspected for clear paths of egress and properly functioning sprinkler systems. The entire fire protection system will be inspected and all flammable materials on site will be checked for proper storage and handling. Notices will be sent to property owners.



BOROUGH COUNCIL

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Community Improvement Project Update

The following is a list of the latest community improvement projects in the Borough.

- **Lincoln Avenue Bridge Restoration Project :** Includes concrete work around the base of the bridge and repairs to the stone arches. Also involves constructing new parapet walls, sidewalks and railings.
- **Lincoln Ave. (Trolley Stop) Parking Lot Project:** Construction to begin in early 2008. Plans include added lighting and a freestanding sign.



Borough projects underway.

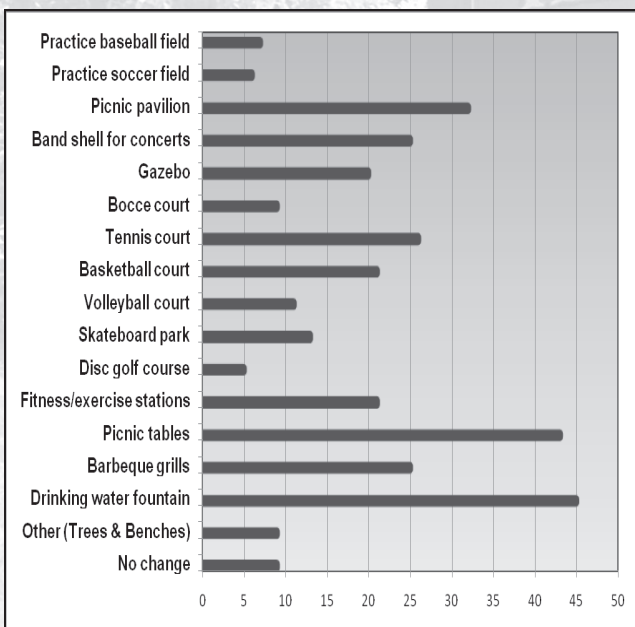
- **Liberty Bell Trail Extension and Plaza:** This work will occur as part of the Lincoln Ave. parking lot improvement project. County has approved grant funding for construction.
- **Sewer System Televising/Maintenance Project:** Work began on 12/10/07 and has been progressing.
- **Electric Plant Park:** Construction has started with the stone work completed and flag poles installed.
- **Joint Municipal Trails & Greenway Master Plan:** State funding has been secured for this project with the Borough and Township collaborating in the planning process.
- **Street Trees:** Two recently planted trees on N. Market St. were destroyed in accidents. They will be replaced in the spring.
- **Update of the Borough Revitalization Plan:** Will be applying to the county for funding assistance after a consultant has been selected. Will complete in 2008.

Heritage Park Improvements Survey

The Borough has the opportunity to apply to the Montgomery County Green Fields/Green Towns Program to help fund certain improvements to Heritage Park. Heritage Park is located on Towamencin Avenue and was dedicated to the Borough as part of the Heather Meadows Subdivision.

In an effort to get community feedback, a survey was sent to all residents to determine the type of improvements they would like to see in the park. Residents were asked to mark their choices or give their own suggestions for the park. Some of their suggestions included a dog park, increased lighting, better parking, and improved geese control. The Borough values all community input and will utilize the survey results in their effort to make Heritage Park a "true" community park.

Below is a chart of survey responses:



Mike Hill
(Maple Avenue)

"I like the natural look of the park with its open space and peaceful feel. If anything, I would like to see more trees and maybe a few benches. At tops, perhaps a bocce court."



Jennifer Edwards
(Heather Meadows)

"I would like to see picnic tables and a picnic pavilion, along with a water fountain and barbeque grills. I also think there should be lighting in the tot lot area. It's such a wonderful park for kids."

Hatfield Speaks Out



Caitlin Fishman
(Broad Street)

"I think there should be a picnic pavilion, a gazebo, and barbeque grills. But mostly, I wish there was a basketball court because there aren't any courts around here to play on."



Jaime Snyder
(S. Farview Avenue)

"My grandparents live across the street from the park and we would love to see a gazebo or a picnic pavilion put in somewhere. That would add to the family fun feel of the park."



BOROUGH TO INCREASE ELECTRIC RATES 19%

Borough Council took action last summer to assure reliable short-term and long-term power and electricity supply for the Borough's electric utility customers by signing three new power contracts.

In the first contract the Borough entered into an 18-year agreement for the purchase of hydro-electric power from the Niagara River Project. While this contract will supply only a small percentage of the Borough's electricity needs, the cost is relatively low and will remain stable throughout the term of the contract.

Borough Council also approved two additional power contracts with American Municipal Power - Ohio (AMP-Ohio). These two five-year contracts will provide the bulk of the electricity supplied to the Borough. The rates that the Borough will have to pay to purchase power are locked in over the five year period. However, this rate stability was not achieved

without cost increases.

What does all this mean for the electric customers of Hatfield Borough? While the new contracts do contain a rather large initial increase in costs for purchases beginning January, 2008, Borough Council has decided to place only about two-thirds of the cost increase in effect at this time. This means raising the retail rates charged to Borough customers 19%. Borough Council will be passing a new electric rate ordinance in the beginning of February that will make the increase effective beginning with usage that starts with the meter readings in the middle of February. Customers will see this rate increase in their bills that will come during the month of March.

Borough Council and the entire Borough staff will continue to do everything possible to provide our customers with reliable, dependable electric power at the most reasonable price.

Hatfield Borough Office
 401 S. Main St., Hatfield PA 19440
 Telephone.....215-855-0781
 Fax.....215-855-0275
 Web address....www.hatfieldborough.com
Office Hours:
 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday - Friday

Borough Meeting Schedules
Borough Council
 1st & 3rd Wednesdays of each month at the Borough Hall.....7:30 p.m.
Planning Commission
 Monday before 1st Council meeting of each month.....7 p.m.
HERC
 4th Thursday of each month.....8 a.m.



Energy Saving Tips



For Every Room in the House

- Bath:**
 - Take showers. A ten minute shower uses less water than taking a bath.
 - Use an Energy Star-rated vent fan to save \$\$ and fight mold and mildew.
- Basement:**
 - Use only full loads in washer on the cold water cycle, and don't over dry.
 - Set your water heater to 120 degrees or lower for normal use.
 - Replace your heating & cooling air filters every three months.
- Kitchen:**
 - Replace your old refrigerator. Energy Star models save you \$\$ each year.
 - Self-clean your oven right after cooking to reduce heat-up time.
 - Use properly sized pots and pans that fit a range's burner sizes.
 - Use a microwave or toaster oven when possible to reheat small portions as these devices require less energy to operate.
 - Skip the drying cycle of your dishwasher. This will cut energy use in half.
- General:**
 - Caulk and weather-strip around windows.
 - Invest in insulation, this saves heating and cooling costs.
 - Use compact fluorescent bulbs. They are inexpensive & can last 7 years.
 - Invest in a programmable thermostat.



Become a Volunteer

Get Involved

The Borough is currently looking for a few residents to donate their time and talents to the many projects and activities set for the new year. Volunteering is a fun and rewarding experience.

Stay Connected

Here is a small sampling of the many groups you can help.

- Trails Master Plan Group
- Revitalization Task Force
- HERC Committee
- Pool Advisory Board
- Founder's Day Committee

Sign Up Now!

If you are interested in joining our group of citizen volunteers, please call 215-855-0781 or stop by the Borough for information and sign-up forms.

Winter is Here!



Now that the winter season is here, it is important to remember that Borough Ordinances prohibit the shoveling of snow into roadways. The placement of snow in roads can cause icing and other hazardous driving conditions.

All residents and businesses must also clear snow and ice from walkways within 24 hours following a snowfall.

Watch HTV



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Hatfield Borough
P.O. Box 190
Hatfield, PA 19440

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