



# Haddon Press

VOLUME 3, ISSUE 2

THE NEWSLETTER FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF HADDON – WHERE COMMUNITY THRIVES

SUMMER 2010

## YOUR TAX DOLLARS AT WORK

### **Message from Mayor Randall W. Teague, Commissioner Paul Dougherty & Commissioner John Foley**

Welcome to the latest edition of the *Haddon Press*, our official guide to keeping our residents up to date on important Township information. Since our last newsletter there has been much to report on as your elected officials.

### **The 2010 Municipal Budget**

With a particular awareness of the uncertain recovery from the economic downturn, we worked with staff and exercised responsible financial planning measures to ensure a zero tax increase for our residents. By reducing costs, finding efficiencies and increasing revenue potential where possible, we were able to develop the 2010 Municipal Budget that will deliver the same high level of service with a **decrease in spending from the 2009 budget.**

Throughout our term in office, we have effectively cut spending; even while state aid has been reduced over \$550,000 and pension costs have escalated in excess of \$91,000. We have restructured all municipal departments and reduced staff, put all professional contracts out to bid each year in order to receive the most desirable rates, instituted a “no contract” policy for non-union workers, outsourced custodial maintenance, and limited vacation time carryover for employees. By putting contracts out to bid, we successfully saved the town \$20,000 in auditing fees, \$6,000 a year in website maintenance fees, a more favorable interest rate on investments through banking services, and an anticipated savings of approximately \$200,000 by taking advantage of current market conditions and refinancing our debt service over the life of the bonds. We successfully negotiated an inter-local agreement

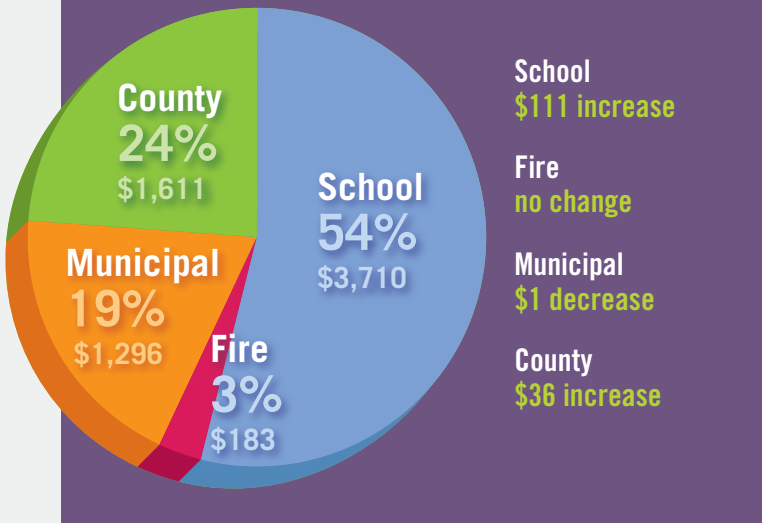


with the Borough of Audubon Park in excess of \$380,000 in revenue for police and municipal court services, over \$300,000 in grants for improvements to streets and roadways and over \$2.6 million in grants for the remediation of the Dy-Dee redevelopment project. Because of these measures, **we are proud for the second year in a row, to present an operating budget that has lowered taxes.**

There were many other factors affecting this year’s decrease in spending, including the move to an Accelerated Tax Sale for delinquent taxes, a further reduction in Township personnel, as well as taking advantage of more outsourcing opportunities. The change to an Accelerated Tax Sale enables the Township to collect 100% of its outstanding taxes and water/sewer rents. (Typically, Haddon Township collects nearly 97.5% of its outstanding taxes which means the Township must budget each year for uncollected taxes.) Moving to an Accelerated Tax Sale enabled the governing body to reduce the allocation by \$482,000. In addition to the Accelerated Tax Sale, the Department of Public Works was combined with the Water and Sewer Department.

## 2010 PROJECTED TAX RATE

Figures based on home assessed at \$120,000



By placing both operations under the management of one individual, the Municipality was able to save the salary and benefit expenses of one full time employee. A decision was made to outsource the operation of the concession stand at the Crystal Lake Pool Complex, which ran a deficit in 2009 of \$10,000. We awarded the bid to F & J Joint Ventures, the owners of Weber's Root Beer in Brooklawn, to run the concession stand for the summer season, generating an additional \$3,500 in revenue. The Police Department has implemented a new records management program, which along with greater budget controls, provided an additional savings of \$40,000 for 2010.

As your elected officials, we are always exploring new opportunities for cost savings while maintaining high quality services. Recently the Township negotiated with a wholesale energy consultant, Archer Energy, to see how we could save money on the Township's electricity expenses. After reviewing our monthly electric bills, we were able to save the Township as much as \$70,000 over the next 2 years by purchasing our electricity wholesale through a third party provider. The resolution to authorize this transaction was passed at our April meeting. Similar cost saving measures will be pursued for gas utility expenses when our current contract expires in 2011. Likewise, the Township has accepted a bid to lease space for communications equipment on the Briarwood standpipe, generating \$500 per month in revenue.

### Township Infrastructure

A major priority of our administration has been upgrading our aging infrastructure. Numerous water and sewer main breaks throughout our town are clear indications that our infrastructure has deteriorated and is in need of desperate repair.

### Storm Sewer Main at Edison Woods

A contract has been awarded to replace the Storm Sewer Main at Edison Woods. Testing has been completed and construction will begin at the close of Thomas Edison Elementary School for summer recess.



### Improvements to Ivywood Avenue

The Public Works Department has completed test pits on Ivywood Avenue between Patton Avenue and Memorial Avenue. We are currently incorporating the data into plans and specifications. With the significant rainfall this spring, it appears that the existing storm pipe on Memorial Avenue, in front of the high school, has collapsed and will require replacement. Key Engineers have completed the field work and are currently adding the necessary storm drainage improvements to the construction plans for the Ivywood Avenue project. We anticipate bids to be received this month. This project will improve storm water drainage and reduce icing conditions in the winter months.

### Battlewood Sewer Rehabilitation Project

All of the sanitary sewer main and service laterals have been replaced as part of the Battlewood Sewer Rehabilitation Project. Work in the easement areas behind the commercial establishments on the White Horse Pike has begun and is expected to be completed by mid June. A preconstruction meeting has been held with the Gas Division Office of PSE&G. Gas main replacement work on Johnson Avenue has been started. Underground Utilities Corporation is in the process of removing the concrete roadway on East Ormond Avenue and East Oakland Avenue. Both the gas mains and water mains on these two streets will be replaced by mid June. After the new mains have been installed and tested, work will begin on East Greenwood Avenue and East Collingswood Avenue. New curbing, driveway aprons and handicap ramps will then be installed and, weather permitting, a base coat should be down by midsummer. We would like to thank the area residents for their patience and cooperation during this time. Please look for upcoming notices and information on road closures on the Township website at [www.haddontwp.com](http://www.haddontwp.com).

## Pump Station Improvements

The Water and Sewer Department was recently able to replace the existing pumps at the Calvert Avenue subsurface pump station at a considerable cost savings to the Township. Also, the staff is gearing up to prepare to rehabilitate the South Park Drive pump station by installing state of the art pumps and controls as well as installing a new stand alone emergency by-pass pump to service the station during power outages. It is also important to note that there has been a reduction in the amount of hydrogen sulfide gas in the sewer system that is a continuous maintenance problem for both the Cuthbert Road and Albertson Avenue pump stations. The reduction is attributed to the removal of storm-water inflow as a result of the Bettewood Sewer Project.

## Streets and Roads Projects

The Township submitted an application for Municipal Aid for streets and roads to the NJDOT. We have successfully been awarded \$150,000 for Phase 3 of the Restoration of Emerald Avenue. This project will begin early this summer.

A pre-construction meeting was conducted for our 2010 Road Maintenance Improvement Program as we continue to repair Township streets and intersections. Areas slated to be paved:

- Reeve Ave. & Virginia Ave.
- Cambridge Ave. & Melrose Ave.
- Akron Ave. & Alton Ave.
- Akron Ave. & Cooper St.
- Norwood Ave. & Norwood Terrace
- Evergreen Ave. & Estaugh Ave.
- Graisbury Ave. & Forman Ave.
- Belmont Alley
- Marshall Ave.



## Recreation

In an effort to improve all of our recreational facilities and increase opportunities for youth athletics, our administration has authorized the following upgrades:

### Recchino Fields

New fencing around baseball fields and batting cages, installation of foul poles and new scoreboard, and the paving of the adjacent parking lot have been completed. The Department of Public Works has been clearing land purchased from PSE&G, formerly known as the Westfield Cut for much needed additional parking.



### Crystal Lake Pool Complex

The Pavilion has undergone a complete renovation for the opening of the 2010 season. New footings have been poured; Timber Tech decking has been installed for safety, along with 6 new ceiling fans. The entire structure has been stained and painted for this year's hot summer season.

The Splash Pool has also received a much need face lift. The pool bottom has been restored with a new quartz plaster surface. Custom coping, new glazed tile, and new concrete decking are just a few of the completed upgrades required due to the ongoing deterioration of the Splash Pool.



### West Collingswood Heights Field

The Township maintains this field as the primary recreational location for girls softball and youth flag football. This spring repairs to the bathroom facilities were completed by our Department of Public Works.

### The West Collingswood Extension

The Township met and worked in cooperation with the West Collingswood Extension Civic Association on their annual Easter Egg Hunt and Earth Day celebration. We supplied plants and flowers for their beautification project along Collings Ave.

These are just some of the many steps we have taken to ensure that Haddon Township is moving forward as a safe, thriving, and prosperous community for generations to come. We hope you have a very safe and relaxing summer. As always, we welcome your questions or comments. Please contact us at **MayorTeague@Haddontwp.com**, **PDougherty@Haddontwp.com** or at **JFoley@Haddontwp.com**.

### The Revaluation



In 2007, the Township of Haddon was ordered by the Camden County Board of Taxation to conduct a revaluation of all properties with the State monitor-

ing the process. Since the Township must comply with the order, the 2010 revaluation process is under way. A letter was sent to every property owner in Haddon Township which included information from Professional Property Appraisers (PPA) in order to better communicate the revaluation process to our residents. Many of the pictures of businesses and homes have already been taken, and in some cases, home inspections have already begun. As we've mentioned in the past, please keep in mind the following important guidelines as we make our way through this process:

- Always ask to see identification from individuals who claim to be at your home as part of the revaluation process. Do not admit anyone to your home if they do not provide the proper identification!
- Cooperate fully with the home inspectors once they've properly identified themselves. Remember, denying access to your property will not benefit you. When entry is refused an estimate will be made with a presumption of upgrades. The law provides that a property shall be assessed at the highest reasonable value if the field inspector is denied entry.
- If you have any questions or concerns about the revaluation process, please contact the Haddon Township Tax Assessor, Martin Blaskey at **856-854-1176 ext. 4124** or by e-mail at **mblaskey@haddontwp.com**.

### 2010 Census - Open Your Door



Congratulations to Haddon Township residents for an 83% mail back rate to the 2010 census! Our town was 11 percentage points above the 72% percent response rate for the State of New Jersey. However, in order to achieve a complete and accurate Census, the Census Bureau will now go door to door to count all the remaining households. Please open

your door to the census taker (with proper identification) and help Haddon Township receive the appropriate funding for our population. To learn more about the Census taker's visit, please visit our website at **www.haddontwp.com** and click on Demographics/Census.



### Summer Movie Nights

Back by popular demand, Mayor Randall W. Teague, Commissioner Paul Dougherty and Commissioner John C. Foley are proud to present Haddon Township's Summer Movie Night Series.

- **Saturday, June 19** *Sandlot (NO RAIN DATE)*
- **Wednesday, July 14** *Up*
- **Wednesday, July 28** *Residents Choice*  
*Vote at haddontwp.com*
- **Wednesday, August 18** *Princess and the Frog*

(Rain Dates for July and August Movie Nights are on the following Thursday evenings.)

Join with your neighbors and friends on the turf at Recchino Field, located on Crystal Lake Avenue, and watch the movie outdoors on the big screen!

The gates open at 7:00 PM and admission is free! Children can play on the turf field while waiting for the movie presentation to begin at dusk. Remember to bring your blankets and lawn chairs. Refreshments will be sold. For more information contact Kate Burns at **854-1176, ext. 4194** or at **kburns@haddontwp.com**

# Summer Celebrations Save these Dates:

Saturday, June 19

Saturday, July 3

Wednesday, July 14

Wednesday, July 28

Wednesday, August 18

Wednesday, August 25

Friday, September 10

Saturday, September 25

Turf Movie Night

Independence Parade, Pool Party, Fireworks

Turf Movie Night

Turf Movie Night

Turf Movie Night

Tony and Friends Run

1st Annual Township Luau at Crystal Lake Pool

Township Block Party

For more information on these events, visit our website at [www.haddontwp.com](http://www.haddontwp.com)



## Celebrate the 4th of July in Haddon Township!



Kick off the Independence Day weekend on July 3rd with our annual Township parade! Parade registration begins at 10:30 am

at the Municipal Building located at 135 Haddon Avenue. Entries include bands, floats, fire trucks, pets and patriotic bikes with top prizes awarded in each category. The parade begins at 11:30 am and winds its way down Haddon Avenue on to Crystal Lake Avenue ending at the Crystal Lake Pool Complex. No pre-registration is required. **There is no rain date for the parade.**

After the parade, bring the whole family to the pool, which is free to the public and open until 6:00 PM. Water races, games, crafts, food and entertainment will be featured throughout the day. Free hotdogs and sodas for the first 750 people! **The rain date for the pool festivities is Sunday, July 4th at 12:00 noon.**

The night skies will come alive with a dramatic firework display sponsored by Mayor Randall W. Teague, Commissioner Paul Dougherty, Commissioner John C. Foley and 1st Colonial National Bank. The festivities begin at 7:00 PM at the Haddon Township High School Football Stadium with a performance by *High Fidelity*, playing rock and roll classics from the sixties to today. Admission is free and refreshments will be sold. **The rain date for the fireworks display is Sunday, July 4th.** For more information contact Kate Burns at **856-854-1176, ext 4194** or at [kburns@haddontwp.com](mailto:kburns@haddontwp.com).

## Tony and Friends Run



Walk, Wheel or Run—but come! The 18th Annual “Tony and Friends Run”, presented by Mayor Randall W. Teague, Commissioner Paul Dougherty, Commissioner John C. Foley and Friends of Haddon Township, will be held on Wednesday, August 25th at the Tap Room and Grill, located at 427 Crystal Lake Avenue. The 1 mile fun walk/run begins at 6:15 pm and the 5K race starts at 7:00 pm. Registration begins at 5:00 pm on the day of the race. Early registrants can sign up on line at [www.lin-mark.com](http://www.lin-mark.com) or in person at the Crystal Lake Pool Complex on Tuesday, August 24th from 5:00 – 8:00 PM.

We hope that once again the local running community will show support for this most worthy event. Events proceeds aid Haddon Township families and individuals in need with financial assistance. For more information contact Kate Burns at **856-854-1176 ext. 4194** or [kburns@haddontwp.com](mailto:kburns@haddontwp.com).

Food!  
Amusements!

HADDON TOWNSHIP ANNUAL

Car Show!  
Music!

# BLOCK PARTY

Saturday, September 25, 2010 ■ Crystal Lake Avenue and West Park Boulevard

Celebrate the end of the summer at the 21st Annual Block Party on Saturday, September 25, 2010 from 12:00-6:00 PM. A rain date is scheduled for Sunday, September 26th. For more information on sponsorship opportunities, vendor booth registration and ride bracelets, please visit the special events section of [www.haddontwp.com](http://www.haddontwp.com).



## Crystal Lake Pool

The Pool Complex features a 25 meter pool, a wading pool for babies, a splash pool for children, playground areas, picnic tables, extensive lawns, a clubhouse with lockers and showers, and a patio with food services.

- **Summer Season Hours** Saturday, June 19th – Monday, September 6th (Labor Day)
- **Weekdays:** Noon to 8 pm
- **Weekends:** 10 am to 8 pm
- **Learn to Swim Program:** Monday, June 21st thru Thursday, July 1st at 10:00 am
- **Senior Swim** – All residents 60 years of age or older are invited to attend the free Senior Swim held each weekday from 11:00 am to noon. A membership or fee is not required for seniors to enjoy the pool during this hour.

Group events and children's parties can be scheduled at the pool, at least two weeks in advance of the event. Mike Thomson, the Pool Manager, schedules the use of the pavilion for parties and organizational events. Many programs and events have already been scheduled at the pool for this summer.

Pool Membership application forms are located at the Municipal Building and can also be found on the township website, [www.haddontwp.com](http://www.haddontwp.com). Pool rates, along with the registration process, are listed on this form. In order to receive your pool tags, please complete the application and bring it with your cash or check (made payable to the Township of Haddon) along with proof of residency to the Tax office at 135 Haddon Avenue. The hours of operation for the municipal building are Monday through Friday, 8:30 am to 4:30 pm.

If you have any questions about the pool, contact Pool Manager, Mike Thomson at **856-854-9229**.



# BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

## Westmont Farmers Market Open Every Wednesday!



Looking for something fresh? The Westmont Farmers Market is open every Wednesday, now through October 2010! This seasonal mid-week market will be offering fresh, locally-grown produce, meats, cheeses, bedding plants, fresh cut flowers and prepared foods direct to Haddon Township residents and the surrounding community. The market is open from 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm and is located at the corner of Haddon and Stratford Ave. in downtown Haddon Township.

Thanks to the generous support of our gold level sponsors: Law Offices of Kenneth W. Landis, TD Bank, blue, Dentistry on Haddon, Jackson Funeral Home and the Westmont Business District.

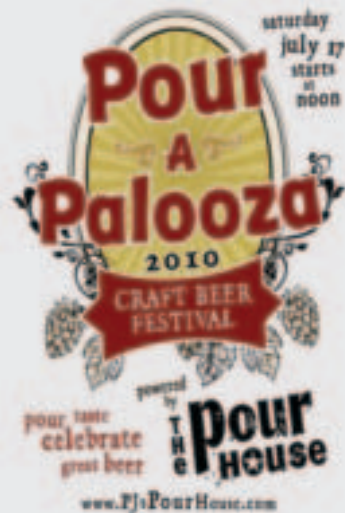
Dine in our outdoor café or pick up something quick for dinner! Why wait for the weekend for Jersey Fresh?

For more information about the market, contact Doug Kelly at [bluecuts@verizon.net](mailto:bluecuts@verizon.net), or visit [www.westmontfarmersmarket.com](http://www.westmontfarmersmarket.com).

## Pour House's 2nd Annual Pour-A-Palooza!

### Pour, Taste, Celebrate Great Beer!

Don't miss the second annual Pour-A-Palooza Craft Beer Festival taking place at The Pour House on Saturday July 17th. Pour-A-Palooza runs from 12pm – 4pm, rain or pour, and features great craft beer from over 20 local and regional breweries. Tickets include an all-access pass to every tap, indoors and out. Plus there will be food from a smokin' grill, a dunk tank, t-shirts and music from Three Lanes to Philly. The Pour House is located at 124 Haddon Avenue in downtown Westmont, NJ. Tickets are \$30 in advance and \$35 at the door. Pour-A-Palooza tickets are on sale at The Pour House, or anytime online at [www.PJsPourHouse.com](http://www.PJsPourHouse.com). For more information, call 856-869-4600 or visit [www.pjspourhouse.com](http://www.pjspourhouse.com).



## My Studio, LLC

My Studio, LLC is raising the curtain on a figure drawing extravaganza unlike anything you've seen before! Model Madness is what happens when cabaret meets art school. At classes held on the third Thursday of each month, where people can draw from a figure in a relaxed atmosphere. Each month a different model will be posing in artistically themed costumes. Fee is \$15.00 at the door (model fee included) and the doors open at 6:00 pm. Grab your sketch pads and pencils! All artistic skill levels are welcome! My Studio, LLC is conveniently located at 605 White Horse Pike, Haddon Township, NJ 08107. For more information contact: Jocelynn Tice at 856-869-8310 or check out the website at [www.mystudiollc.com](http://www.mystudiollc.com).



- June 17th—Model Madness Goes Hawaiian
- July 15th—Model Madness Goes Hippy/Happy

## Senior News

**Town Car**—A full Haddon Towncar schedule for shopping and recreational transportation can be found online at [www.haddontwp.com](http://www.haddontwp.com). This service is provided by the Haddon Township Commissioners and the Camden County Community Development grant. If you have any questions or need details for scheduled trips, please feel free to call Betty Band at **856-854-1176, ext. 4125**. Trip suggestions are always welcome.

**Senior Picnic**— All Haddon Township seniors are personally invited to attend the Annual Senior Citizens Picnic on Wednesday, August 18th from noon until 3:00 pm at the Crystal Lake Pool. All residents 60 years of age or older or certified handicapped are welcome to attend this festive picnic that will include transportation, a full barbecue, entertainment, swimming and more. The picnic is sponsored and coordinated by the Haddon Township Commissioners along with the Camden County Community Development Block Grant monies. Please call Betty Band with any questions regarding the picnic, to make a reservation, or to arrange for your transportation at **856-54-1176, ext. 4125**.

## Senior Citizens Association of Haddon Township Celebrates its 45th Anniversary!



The Senior Citizens Association of Haddon Township celebrated its 45th anniversary on June 8th with a luncheon at Giumarello's. The organization is for senior citizens 60 years of age and older and meets the second Tuesday of each month from September through June. In the months of December and June, the group hosts a luncheon for members at a local area restaurant. Their regular monthly meetings are held at the Grace Baptist Church on Reeve Avenue from 1:00-3:00 pm and refreshments are served. The next meeting is scheduled for September 14th. For more information contact Dee Bailey at **856-858-5859**.

## New Hours For Grace Baptist Food Pantry



The mission of Grace Baptist Food Pantry is to distribute food to those in need and to do so in a kind and compassionate way without judgment or bias towards those who receive food. Food will be distributed to individuals and families in proportion to their needs with minimal rules and paperwork. The focus of the Pantry is on the needs of the resident of Haddon Township, however, no one will be sent away hungry. They carry out their mission by asking local individuals, schools, professionals and nonprofit organizations for donations of food, personal care items, and money for supplemental food purposes. For further information, please call the church at **856-854-5573**. Checks can be made payable to:

### Grace Baptist Church Pantry Fund

25 Reeve Avenue, Westmont, NJ 08108

### New Hours of Operation:

Every 1st and 3rd Thursday from 6:00 pm until 8pm

Every 2nd and 4th Thursday from 10:00 am until noon

## Clean Kids

Congratulations to the winners of Haddon Township's 2nd Annual "Go Green" Video Contest! The Township sponsored event is held annually for Haddon Township High School students and is part of an on-going campaign to engage our residents about environmental issues. The students were recognized for their participation on May 25, 2010 at the Township's Board of Commissioners' Meeting. The first place team of Kevin Irwin and Karen Israel was awarded one hundred dollars each. The second place team of Sam and Zach Law was awarded seventy-five dollars each. The third place team of Grace Jarger, Brian Kasilowski, and Angelica Diodato was awarded fifty dollars each. Awards were funded through a grant from the New Jersey Clean Communities Council. Additionally, all participating students were invited to attend the "Slam Dunk the Junk" and Kids-Teens Awards Program in Atlantic City on May 26, 2010.