

## Mayor's Update

I appreciate the confidence that the Township Committee members showed by electing me Mayor and Dart Sageser, Deputy Mayor, I look forward to fulfilling my responsibilities as your Mayor. This is the beginning of my 4<sup>th</sup> year on the Township Committee, having been first appointed to fulfill the unexpired term of the prior Committee member, Pat Cregar. I want to acknowledge and thank the over 100 residents who have volunteered their time and talents to our committees and boards, resulting in lower taxes for all residents. I welcome the two new members of the Township Committee, Rick Wolfe and Kevin Ostrander, and look forward to working with the governing body on non-partisan decisions for all residents.

The New Jersey Division of Local Government Services sent a letter to the township concerning a complaint that had been made regarding the discrepancy between the 1998 referendum authoring the imposition of the Open Space Tax and the 1999 ordinance that implemented the tax. They acknowledged that they had the duty to investigate the claims that were made concerning the expenditure of money from this fund. They also acknowledged that an effort was made by municipal officials to quantify the expenditures and that the Township had moved to correct this situation through a referendum this past November that was approved by 73% of voters. They concluded by stating they would not require the current fund to re-instate any of the expenditures as this would create budget challenges that would negatively impact the taxpayers of East Amwell. The Township Committee considers this a closed case and thanks the voters for their support of the referendum reaffirming the Preservation Trust Fund.

Through the efforts of Terri Stahl, the Township's Municipal Clerk, we now offer complete audio recordings of all future Township Committee meetings beginning with our January 12 budget meeting and our regular January 12 meeting at <http://www.eastamwelltownship.com/TC-agendas-minutes.html> This process will give all residents the opportunity to hear all discussions and deliberations taken on your behalf by the Township Committee. Thanks, Terri, for a job well done!

At our January 12 meeting, I announced the appointment of an Ad-Hoc Library Committee chaired by Dart Sageser, with members Rick Wolfe, Don Reilly, Dick Ginman and Candice Wiggum. The committee is charged with exploring options for bringing the South County library back to East

Amwell. Stayed tuned, as the committee will be reaching out to you our residents for your assistance in building community support for this endeavor.

The above items are just a sample of the many issues coming before your township committee, staff and volunteers as we work on farm and recreational land preservation, traffic enforcement, environmental issues, road maintenance and improvements, grant applications, Clawson House preservation, affordable housing; code enforcement, storm water management, clean water, parks and recreational facilities and many other issues that on brought before our committees and boards. Thanks to our dedicated staff and volunteers we are dealing with these issues and many more while maintaining one of the lowest municipal tax rates in Hunterdon County.

Please contact me with your questions and/or suggestions:  
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