

Mayor's Message



Mayor Brian C. Wahler was privileged to speak at an Eagle Scout Court of Honor ceremony in June where five boy scouts were recognized for achieving the Boy Scouts of America's highest rank. Shown with Mayor Wahler and listed with their dates of accomplishment are from Troop 20 Nikhil Kundu (April 2020), Shaan Patel (April 2020) & Austin Fash (May 2020) and from Troop 660 Viren Asrani (September 2021) & Omar Elshaikh (September 2022).

We have all seen the price of homes in Piscataway skyrocket in value. How does that affect your property tax bill? It can be a bit confusing.

What is important to understand is that your property taxes are determined by the assessed value of your home multiplied by the total tax rate.

So what is the total tax rate? Well, there are multiple taxing jurisdictions in the Township and each of them come up with their own tax rate.

Middlesex County (and County open space), the School District, municipal

government, Library system and the four fire districts each have their own officials – most elected but in the case of the Library, an appointed board – and each determine their own tax rate.

Piscataway Township as a municipal government collects all of the property taxes for each of these jurisdictions and then provides each with their portion for their use.

In fact, of all of the property taxes collected by Piscataway Township, only just over a quarter of these funds are for municipal government use. Nearly three-quarters of the funds are sent to these other entities.

So let's just focus on the municipal tax rate set by the Township Council. In 2018, we lowered the municipal tax rate by 12.8 percent from the 2017 rate. In 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022, we lowered it slightly each year. Now in 2023, we lowered the municipal tax rate by 8.11 percent.

But remember, each government entity has its own tax rate. And again, once the total tax rate is determined, it is then multiplied by the value of your home.

So how much have housing values increased in our Township? Let's look at the same time frame of 2017-2023. In 2017, the average assessed value of a Piscataway home was \$277,012.59. In 2023, it is \$413,009.00. That's an assessed home value increase of 38.36 percent!

This dramatic increase in home value is great for the investment you have in your property but that is why the Township lowered our municipal tax rate each year so we could responsibly do

our part for your property taxes to remain affordable.

Our municipal budget has gone slightly up to account for inflationary conditions and to maintain all of our great services: police, robust street improvements, free recreation programs, etc.

We're grateful that the State of New Jersey is bringing back for a second year its new Anchor property tax relief program. These are direct payments made to both homeowners and renters based on your income. Please make sure to watch for alerts in our Township weekly e-mail newsletter and on Township social media about when and how you can get another round of property tax relief from the State.

We will continue to watch home values carefully and adjust our municipal tax rate and budget so your homes and our community remain fiscally strong.

As always, please call my office at (732) 562-2301 if I may ever be of assistance to you.

Homeowners & renters!

Many of you qualify for property tax relief from the State. Some of you already received a letter or packet from the NJ Department of the Treasury's Anchor program. If you didn't get a letter or packet but qualify for the Anchor Program, you have to apply to the State. Use the QR code or call (877) 658-2972.



Weekly e-mail newsletter

Want to keep up to date on what is happening in Piscataway? Sign up for our weekly e-mail newsletter using this QR code.



2023 General Election Tuesday, November 7th Polls are open from 6 a.m.-8 p.m.

October 17th – Voter registration deadline
October 31st – Last day County Clerk may receive mail-in ballot request by mail
November 6th at 3 p.m. – Deadline at County Clerk's office to apply for an in-person, mail-in ballot

For more info, please call the Township Clerk's office at (732) 562-2310.

Township Calendar

October

3 – Township Council at 7:30 p.m.
11 – Planning Board regular meeting at 7:30 p.m.
12 – Zoning Board at 7:30 p.m.
23 – EMS Advisory Council at 6 p.m.
25 – Planning Board site plan/subdivision meeting at 2:30 p.m.
26 – Zoning Board at 7:30 p.m.

November

8 – Planning Board regular meeting at 7:30 p.m.
9 – Township Council at 7:30 p.m.
9 – Zoning Board at 7:30 p.m.
21 – Township Council at 7:30 p.m.
22 – Planning Board site plan/subdivision meeting at 2:30 p.m.
28 – Township Council at 7:30 p.m.

December

5 – Township Council at 7:30 p.m.
12 – Township Council at 7:30 p.m.
13 – Planning Board regular meeting at 7:30 p.m.
14 – Zoning Board at 7:30 p.m.
19 – Township Council at 7:30 p.m.
20 – Planning Board site plan/subdivision meeting at 2:30 p.m.



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Facebook:

[piscataway.township](https://www.facebook.com/piscataway.township)

Twitter: @PWAYNJ



Additional Property Tax Relief

In addition to the Anchor property tax relief program for which income-qualified homeowners and renters should apply to the State, the Piscataway Township Tax Assessor's office can process additional relief for some homeowners such as a full exemption for 100 percent disabled war veterans and their unmarried surviving spouses and a \$250 deduction for certain veterans, seniors, disabled people and their unmarried surviving spouses. For more information and the applications, please use the QR code or call (732) 562-2328.



Your Elected Officials

Brian C. Wahler
Mayor
916 East Lincoln Avenue
(H) 732-699-9225

Gabrielle Cahill
(At Large)
1003 River Road
(H) 732-235-1920

Kapil K. Shah
(At Large)
423 Netherwood Avenue
(H) 732-463-3659

Linwood D. Rouse
(At Large)
149 Fisher Avenue
(H) 732-463-9349

Frank Uhrin
(Ward 1)
32 Desna Street
(H) 732-968-6088

Dennis Espinosa
(Ward 2)
1 High Point Way
(H) 732-354-4290

Sharon Carmichael
(Ward 3)
15 Zirkel Avenue
(C) 848-262-1742

Michele Lombardi
(Ward 4)
76 Carlton Avenue
(H) 732-968-2460

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Piscataway Senior Center

(732) 562-1133

Presentations at the Senior Center

Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital will have a stroke prevention presentation on Thursday, September 14th at 10 a.m.

Charles Clarkson from the Medicare Patrol will have a presentation about fraud on Tuesday, September 19th at 10 a.m.

PAASC and Friends present "Sounds of Motown" on Tuesday, September 19th at 1 p.m.

Rutgers Lifelong Learning (OLLI-RU) will have a presentation on Thursday, September 21st at 10 a.m. about its non-credit, recreational programming for adults ages 50 and older. There are no tests and no grades; just learning for the joy of learning! If you have ever been curious about history, painting, English, yoga, mathematics and more, OLLI-RU is for you. Courses are available year-round both online via Zoom and in-person in New Brunswick and Freehold.

Parker Homes will be hosting Memory Jeopardy on Wednesday, October 4th at 10 a.m.

Middlesex County Art Contest Winners – Congratulations to our award recipients from Piscataway!

1st place for Professional Print – Man Zeng for "The Call of the Wild"

1st place for Non-Professional Oil – Daniel Meyer for "Colorful Serenity"

2nd place for Professional Photography – Jay Shin for "Joy of May"

Middlesex County Walk: Mark your calendars for Wednesday, September 20th for this annual event at Roosevelt Park in Edison.

Flu shots: Open to residents six months of age and older, the Middlesex County Health Dept. will be providing free flu shots at the Piscataway Senior Center on Wednesday, October 11th from 9-11 a.m. Walk-in only; no appointments needed. Specifically, the quadrivalent flu shot will be offered. The Prevnar 13 flu shot, "Senior" flu vaccine and Pneumovax vaccine will not be available. Parents must provide online permission for each child at www.DispenseAssist.net/flu.html.

Passport Days: Do you need a passport book and/or passport card? A renewal? The U.S. Postal Service will be hosting Passport Days at the Senior Center on Wednesdays, September 20th and October 11th from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. All ages are welcome. Make your appointment by calling the Senior Center at (732) 562-1133 as soon as possible as time slots fill up quickly.



Pick up an application & fee schedule at the front desk of the Piscataway Senior Center or use the QR code to get the forms you need. Photos will be taken on site.

Please bring two blank checks for passport & postal fees. Please bring a third check for photos if you need them taken that day. No cash will be accepted.

Please also bring a long form birth certificate or naturalization certificate and a driver's license or other photo ID.

AARP Smart Drivers Class: You must attend both classes held from 9 a.m.-Noon at The YMCA at the Piscataway Community Center (YPCC). Please call the Senior Center at (732) 562-1133 to register in advance. Cost is \$20.00 for AARP members and \$25.00 for non-AARP members.

Tuesday, September 5th & Thursday, September 7th
Monday, October 16th & Wednesday, October 18th
Monday, November 13th & Wednesday, November 15th

Surrogate's Office: The Office of Middlesex County Surrogate Claribel Cortes will meet with individuals at the Piscataway Senior Center on Thursdays, September 14th & 28th and October 12th & 26th. Please call the County Surrogate's office at (732) 745-3055 to make an appointment.

Recreation

(732) 562-2382 • Recreation@PiscatawayNJ.org
All Township Recreation youth programs are free.

Competitive Wrestling – For children in 1st-8th grades to compete with surrounding communities from November to March. Please register in mid-October to early November on the Township Recreation Department's webpage.

Middle School Boys/Girls Basketball League – From December to March for 5th-8th grades. 5th & 6th grades will play separately from 7th & 8th grades. Register in October to November on the Township Recreation Department's webpage. Players must attend a skills assessment session in advance of participation.

Grammar School Instructional Basketball – On Saturdays from January to March for boys in 1st-4th grades and girls in 1st-8th grades. Emphasis is on learning fundamentals. No registration is required.

Children's Arts & Crafts – On Saturdays from January to March for children in kindergarten through 6th grade. Register in advance on the Township Recreation Department's webpage. Please come dressed ready to use paint and glue. There is no charge for any of the projects.

Gym Hockey – For youth in kindergarten-12th grade and adults playing separately on Saturdays from January to March. The game is similar to ice hockey but played with sneakers and a plastic puck. No registration is required.

To inquire about park or field permits, please email Recreation@PiscatawayNJ.org.

Metlar-Bodine House Museum

1281 River Road, Piscataway – 732-463-8363 • metlarbodine@gmail.com

Website: MetlarBodineHouseMuseum.org • Facebook: www.Facebook.com/MetlarBodineHouseMuseum

Volunteers needed!

Garden volunteer – Enjoy gardening? Work with our horticulturalists planting and maintaining our new Native American, Colonial, Victorian and WWII Victory gardens being implemented in phases.

Docent – Are you outgoing and enthusiastic about history? Get trained to conduct tours for visitors to reveal Piscataway's pivotal role in our nation's history!

Dutch Door Gift Shop Volunteer – Interact with visitors, create seasonal displays of merchandise, handle cash register transactions, organize inventory and assist current shop member volunteers.

Visiting: The Museum & Dutch Door Gift Shop are open on Thursdays from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. as well as on some Saturdays. (Please check our website or call in advance for our schedule.) Closed on federal holidays. One-hour guided tours are available with the last tour starting at 3 p.m. Group tours must register in advance and are limited to ten people. Admission is \$5 for adults and children ages five and older.

Directions to entrance & parking: From River Road, turn onto Hillcrest Drive. At the top of Hillcrest Drive, turn left onto Logan Lane. Proceed straight to the upper parking area (a cul-de-sac). Limited handicap parking (call ahead) and museum entrance are at the bottom of the hill.



Interviewees Needed

The Metlar-Bodine House Museum presents
America: Our Immigrant Voices,
a multigenerational view into the
lives of Piscataway residents.

Do you enjoy sharing family stories? Want to become a part of
Piscataway's oral history?
The Metlar-Bodine House Museum seeks to interview locals who
have immigrated to the United States or identify as first-
generation Americans about their cultural background and
experiences in the U.S.

CONTACT US:
732-463-8363, METLARBODINE@GMAIL.COM

Pway Fire 5K



Sign up now using the QR code for this year's Pway Fire 5K at The YMCA at the Piscataway Community Center (YPCC) on Saturday, October 28th. Registration includes an event t-shirt and a slice of pizza at the end. Afterward, Piscataway's fire companies will have exciting displays of the duties of a firefighter.



YMCA at the Piscataway Community Center (YPCC)

Registration for swim lessons, martial arts and other programs

Members: Starts Wednesday, October 18th at 9 a.m.

Non-members: Starts Wednesday, October 25th

Blood Drive:

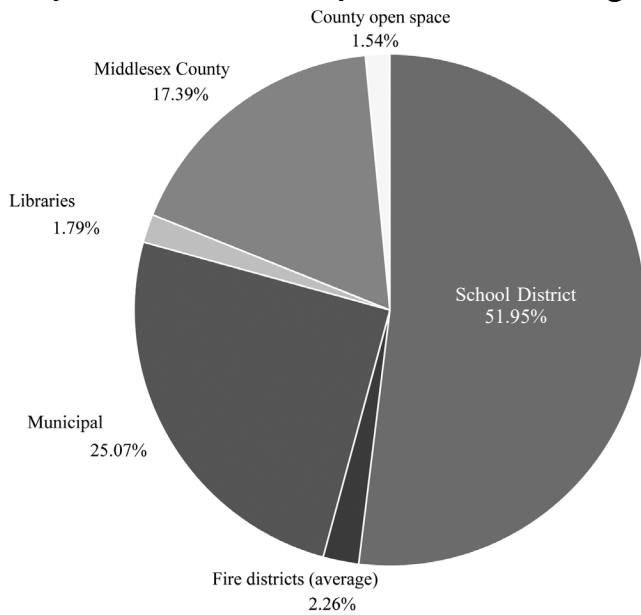
Monday, November 6th, Noon-6 p.m.
Scan the QR code to sign up!



Health Fair

Hosted by Hackensack Meridian Health
Thursday, November 9th, 11 a.m.-2 p.m.
Walk-ins accepted. No pre-registration needed!

Do you know where your local taxes go?



Compared to 2017-2022, it's largely unchanged. As shown in this pie chart, you can see how in 2023 after being collected by the Township, nearly three-quarters of the funds are then sent to the County, four fire districts (each with their own tax rate), library system and School District.



Attention parents! The Piscataway Township Police Department is pleased to present Walk Your Kids to School Day with Piscataway Schools on Wednesday, October 4th with the main event at Eisenhower Intermediate School. Look for more information from your children's schools.

Department of Public Works – 505 Sidney Road – (732) 562-2390

Recycling Center hours to December 31, 2023

Tuesdays & Thursdays, 2-8 p.m. (Gates close at 7:45 p.m.)

Saturdays, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. (Gates close at 4:15 p.m.)

Sundays, Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays & holidays – Closed

Additional closings: Tuesday, November 7th; Thursday, November 23rd; Saturday, December 23rd, and; Saturday, December 30th

Residents entering the Recycling Center must have their vehicle properly insured, inspected and registered. You will also need to bring your Piscataway Service Card to be used as your ID.

Your Service Card is used for accessing all the services at the Piscataway DPW. It is similar to a credit card that features a bar code directly linked to your postal address and tax record. All service credits are electronically entered. As services are used, they will be debited from the card with scanners operated by DPW personnel when you come to our facility in person or through office computers when scheduling curbside pickups by phone.

Homeowners and landlords should please e-mail their phone number and an image of their driver's license to ServiceCards@PiscatawayNJ.org and a Service Card will be mailed to you. You may call DPW at (732) 562-2390 if you need further assistance.

Bagged grass: Friday, September 29th is the final day that residents may bring bagged grass to the Recycling Center. Each disposal of grass clippings using your own 30 gallon bag can be purchased for credit into your Piscataway Service Card. Each 30 gallon grass disposal shall be at a cost of \$1.00 per bag. A minimum of two credits that are entered into the Piscataway Service Card must be purchased and valid only within the year of purchase.

Additional leaf bags and grass disposal credits may be purchased at the DPW office and entered onto your Service Card that will be debited when picking up the purchased leaf bags or grass disposal credits. Debit cards, credit cards and checks are the only forms of payment accepted.

Curbside/bulk pick-up: Friday, October 13th is the final day for scheduled curbside/bulk pick up for appointments made no later than Friday, September 15th. This program will then resume on Monday, January 8th when scheduling will commence.

Leaf bags: Biodegradable leaf bags will be available Tuesday, October 10th – Friday, December 15th at the DPW Yard Door #11, Mondays-Fridays from 7 a.m. - 6 p.m. Credit for two free bundles of 20 leaf bags each will be included in each Service Card and the bags can be acquired by presenting your Service Card. Additional leaf bags may be purchased for \$10 per bundle at the DPW office and credit will be recorded on your Service Card. Leaf bag curbside pick-up will commence on Monday, October 16th and will continue until Friday, December 29th. Leaf bags are for leaves only.

Christmas trees: Christmas trees will not be picked up curbside. You may bring them devoid of decorations to your nearest firehouse or to the Recycling Center during regular hours until Thursday, February 1st.



The Piscataway Civil Rights Advisory Commission and Piscataway African-American Seniors Club held a Juneteenth flag raising at The YMCA at the Piscataway Community Center (YPCC) joined by Mayor Brian C. Wahler, Township councilmembers and other residents. To learn more about our Civil Rights Commission, use the QR code.





Library Notes



www.piscatawaylibrary.org

Learn about **Estate Planning and Probate** from Kenneth Vercammen, Esq., on Thursday, October 5th at 6 p.m. at Kennedy Library or virtually.

Celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month on Saturday, October 7th at 11 a.m. at Kennedy Library. Share your story!

How do you ... cross-stitch your initials? ...practice mindfulness? ...build an emergency kit? Learn all that and more at our **How-To Festival** on Saturday, October 14th from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Kennedy Library.

Enjoy board games, card games, video games and tabletop role-playing games from around the world at **International Games Day** on Saturday, November 11th from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Kennedy Library. Share your favorite games or try something new. All ages are welcome; no experience is necessary. Can't make it? Stop by our regular **Game Night** at Westergard Library on Thursdays October 12th, November 2nd, and December 7th from 6-8:30 p.m.

Celebrate Diwali, the Festival of Lights, with your Library and Enjoy Explore India. Join us on Saturday, November 18th at 2 p.m. at Kennedy Library for a story time and an interactive exhibit covering customs and traditions. Enjoy crafts, dances and more. Appropriate for children of all ages and their families.

Get crafty with us at Kennedy Library during **Family Winter Craft Day** on Saturday, December 2nd from 1-3 p.m.

Save the date for **Winter Reading** fun! Loved summer reading? Here's a chance to do it all again! Stop by Kennedy or Westergard libraries after December 15th for details.

Full event details and registration are available on the Library's online calendar at PiscatawayLibrary.org or by calling (732) 463-1633, Ext. 4126. Registration is required for most events.

Local Heroes



Shown from left to right are Councilmember Linwood D. Rouse (At-Large), Councilmember Kapil K. Shah (At-Large), Councilmember Lombardi, Mr. Gilbert, Patrol Officer Lebrew, Patrol Officer Snyder and Council President Frank Uhrin (Ward 1).

Councilmember Michele Lombardi (Ward 4) was honored to present a proclamation on behalf of Mayor Brian C. Wahler and the Township Council in recognition of Piscataway Township Police Department (PTPD) Patrol Officers Lance LeBrew, Michael J. Medvecky & Kyle Snyder and Lake Nelson resident Dennis Gilbert who dove into Ambrose Brook and tried to save a 30-year-old New Brunswick resident whom was driving north on Metlars Lane, crashed through a guard rail and went into the water near Lake Nelson. Unfortunately the driver was later pronounced dead at the hospital.

East Jersey Old Town Village

The Thing at Raritan Landing: An Immersive Theatrical Haunt presented by Raconteur Ventures
October 19th-22nd & 26th-29th at 7 p.m. & 8:30 p.m.

Centuries before a cylindrical spacecraft famously crashed on a farm in Grovers Mill, something horrific hurtled to a field in central New Netherland. In a journal entry dated October 30th, 1688, exactly 250 years before the war at West Windsor, the mayor of a small river town, later named Raritan "Landing" in recognition of this dramatic occurrence, gives a detailed account of the strange events that set the province of New Netherland abuzz. From a giant smoking saucer in the village square to a test of humanity in the town church, The X Files has nothing on this 17th century tale of alien invasion. But these Men In Black wear capotains and doublets not business suits. Join the villagers as they track this outer space invader with the ability to change shape at will who has infiltrated their quiet settlement before it kills again! It could be any one of them. It might be the cobbler, the gunsmith, the wheelwright. It might be you! Whose blood will crawl away from the hot needle so to speak? Find out, my friends! Find out!

Seasonal Traditions Holiday Program – Annual holiday program featuring wagon rides, music, carols, storytelling, children's crafts and refreshments.
Saturday, December 2nd, 11 a.m.-4 p.m.



Holiday Spirits: Haunting Ghost Stories from America's Past presented by Thinkery & Verse – A wintery holiday show highlighting stories, music and poetry by famous authors such as Maya Angelou, Charles Dickens, Robert Frost and Mark Twain.

Wednesday, December 6th at 7 p.m.
Thursday, December 7th at 7 p.m.
Friday, December 8th at 7 p.m.
Saturday, December 9th at 1 p.m., 4 p.m. & 7 p.m.
Sunday, December 10th at 1 p.m., 4 p.m. & 7 p.m.

Piscataway News

Mayor's Office
455 Hoes Lane
Piscataway, New Jersey 08854

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