

## *April 1, 2018 Borough Bulletin*

**Municipal Budget Hearing:** On Thursday, April 5, 2018 at 8 p.m. there will be a public hearing on the municipal budget. The municipal portion of your taxes amounts to 15% of the total, with the County 13%, the schools K-8 and regional 70% and the state mandated USR Library 2%. The Governing Body only has control over the municipal portion of the total tax bill.

Governor Murphy's proposed 2018 state budget freezes state aid to municipalities at the same rate as 2010. In addition, the 2% cap on the arbitration of police salaries has been allowed to expire. If the budget is passed, the Borough, as well as other municipalities in NJ, will be challenged to keep future budgets within the 2% mandated cap as inflation and salaries continue to rise.

Another challenge to the Borough's residents, and in retaining and attracting commercial retable's, is the fact that Upper Saddle River has the 3<sup>rd</sup> highest school taxes in the state with 70.1% going to the schools. The two towns with higher school taxes, Tenafly and Mountain Lakes, pay more in dollars but send less in percentages to their schools, 64.5% and 68.6% respectively. This is according to North Jersey.com. Read the article here:

<https://www.app.com/story/news/investigations/data/analysis/2018/03/19/nj-property-taxes-schools/432318002/>

As illustration, over the past ten years, from 2009 to 2018, the USR K-8 budget has grown from \$20,886,063.00 to \$25,795,752.00 (**an increase of 23.5% or \$4,909,689.00.00**). The total enrollment for the period 2011-12 was 1,341 to 1,189 in 2016-17. A decline of 11.5%.

Northern Highlands' budget has increased from \$24,474,885.00 to \$32,399,144.00 (**an increase of 24.4% or \$7,924,259.00**).

During the same ten year time period, the Borough of Upper Saddle River's municipal budget, **including the USR Library's portion**, has gone from \$11,123,368.00 to this year's \$12,346,052.00 (**an increase of 9.9% or \$1,222,684.00**).

**Storm Recovery:** The Northeast has been faced with unusual challenges brought about by severe weather these past few years. New Jersey has experienced extensive and prolonged power outages, downed trees blocking roadways and damaging homes, and snow and ice causing unsafe driving conditions. Last month's snowstorm left 2100 homes out of the Borough's 2600 without power as well as many roadways blocked with downed trees and power lines.

The Borough responded well via the Office of Emergency Management Plan. We extend special thanks to our OEM, DPW, Police Department, our volunteer emergency responders and our Construction Code Official, Jim Dougherty. Jim worked with the O&R crews tirelessly until power was restored to the very last home. His knowledge, experience and perseverance made a huge difference in getting everyone's power restored. The Department of Public Works continues to clear damage and debris. Thank you to Library Director, Kathleen McGrail, and the library staff for opening the library the day after the storm. Residents were able to watch movies, read or just warm up.

Simultaneously, the Borough has been taking a proactive approach to alleviate similar issues in the future. Please see important tree trimming information below in steps homeowners can take to help prevent power outages.

The North West Bergen Mayors' Association will be meeting with the NJ Board of Public Utilities, PSE&G and O&R to discuss the response to this storm and potential ways to improve these efforts in preparation for future events. We have also extended an invitation to Congressman Josh Gottheimer and Governor Phil Murphy, along with Senators Cardinale and Corrado, Assembly members Auth, Schepisi, DePhillips and Rooney of Districts 39 and 40— many were involved in helping with the restoration process in our twelve towns.

Residents are encouraged to register, and update as necessary, their contact information on SwiftReach911 on [www.usrtoday.org](http://www.usrtoday.org) and also follow Borough of Upper Saddle River on Facebook and Twitter at Upper Saddle River for important emergency information, community news, traffic alerts and a monthly newsletter.

Please note: any resident that relies on life support devices such as oxygen or dialysis can register their information with O&R. Please find information at <https://www.oru.com/en/accounts-billing/payment-assistance/life-support-equipment> or call Customer Assistance at 1-877-434-4100. In addition, the Borough has its own special needs registry. Residents that may require extra assistance during an emergency can register at <https://www.usrtoday.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/06/Senior-Special-Needs-Registration.pdf>. The information is kept completely confidential. Those that rely on life support equipment are encouraged to register for both.

**Steps Homeowners Can Take to Help Prevent Power Outages:** Borough Code Section 36-1 states that all homeowners must keep brush, plants and hedges 10 feet from the road on most lots and 25 feet on corner lots. It also states that plant life is not allowed to grow over the roadway. Ordinance Section 137-9 states that the homeowner must maintain all trees on their property and remove damaged or diseased trees as well as stumps, roots and dead trees. The DPW is currently assessing the town for our Zoning Officer who will then send notice to affected homeowners. This work must be done by June 1<sup>st</sup>.

Property owners and tenants are responsible for maintaining trees and vegetation along both county and municipal roadways. Keeping your property compliant with local codes will improve visibility for motorists, cyclists and pedestrians alike. As we know, trees often times take down power lines during storms. Tree contact with power lines is the single leading cause of outages. If a tree is within a 10 foot setback and interfering with power lines, the homeowner can report it to O&R. They will remove or trim it free of charge. Everyone is thanked in advance for their cooperation as this will be a tremendous help in reducing future outages as well as restoring the beauty of town for the community at large.

To report potential tree interference to O&R, call 877-434-4100 or visit the O&R website and look under Storm Information Center. There you will find Vegetation Management. Select the Report Tree Interference option and submit your tree interference problem.

**View & Pay Your Property Taxes Online:** Residents have 24/7 access to property tax information online, as well as the ability to pay their taxes electronically. To visit Upper Saddle River's Property Tax Information page, [click here](#).

For more information, please contact the Finance Office at 201-934-3965.

**DPW Brush Pickup:** Branch pickup has begun and will continue weekly. This annual curbside pickup begins April 1 and runs through the end of October. In order to allow for these frequent pickups, the **branches must be tied and placed in neat manageable piles curbside with branches no longer than 5' length and 4" diameter. Stumps, logs and large trees cannot be picked up by the DPW. Disposal of larger items is the responsibility of the homeowner.** Any questions can be emailed to [dpwf@usrtoday.org](mailto:dpwf@usrtoday.org).

**Generators:** Due to the numerous storms we have experienced over the past few years, many homeowners have installed generators or will consider doing so. For more information, please visit <https://www.usrtoday.org/building-dept/>. For safety reasons, the Building Department advises any resident that decides to install a generator to have the work done by a professional. If you have questions about generators, please call the Building Official at 201-934-3966.

#### **Spring Cleanup:**

**Curbside White Goods:** April Thursday, April 5. Call 201-327-2196 x221 to schedule appointment for this pickup at least 3 days beforehand.

**Household Hazardous Waste Household Hazardous Waste Collection:** Sunday, April 15<sup>th</sup> at Bergen Community College, 400 Paramus Road, Paramus, NJ. The collection hours are 9 a.m.-3 p.m. rain or shine. Free of charge for Bergen County residents, ID required. Visit [www.bcua.org](http://www.bcua.org) for additional information.

**Extra Bulky Trash Pickup Added on Friday, April 27<sup>th</sup>:** An additional curbside bulky trash pickup has been added as a result of the storm on March 7, 2018. The pickup is scheduled for Friday, April 27<sup>th</sup>. The next regularly scheduled bulky trash will take place on Friday, June 15<sup>th</sup>. **Do not put electronics (TV's, computers) out with bulky trash – these items cannot be picked up due to a change in state law.** Electronics can be brought to the Recycling Depot on Saturday mornings.

**Recycling Depot:** Every Saturday the Recycling Depot is open from 8 a.m. to noon. An attendant is on duty. The Recycling Depot accepts electronics (TV's, keyboards, computers, radios, fax machines), textiles (old clothing, sheets, blankets, towels) and metals as well as plastics, glass, cardboard and aluminum. The State of NJ no longer allows electronics to be picked up with bulky trash and also doesn't allow recycled items to be disposed of in black plastic bags. If you bring textiles to the depot, please avoid black plastic bags.

**Potholes:** The DPW has been filling potholes and will continue to do so now that the winter is coming to an end. To report a pothole, please email [DPWF@usrtoday.org](mailto:DPWF@usrtoday.org).

**Distracted Driving Enforcement & Education Campaign UDrive. UText. UPay:** Law enforcement officers from the Upper Saddle River Police Department will be cracking down on distracted drivers during April as part of New Jersey's UDrive. UText. UPay. enforcement campaign.

Beginning April 1 and running through April 21, the high visibility law enforcement initiative will target motorists who engage in dangerous distracted driving behaviors such as talking on hand-held cell phones and sending text messages while driving.

"Distracted driving is possibly the most serious safety issue on our roadways today," said Gary Poedubicky, Acting Director of the New Jersey Division of Highway Traffic Safety. "The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration reports that in 2015 alone, 3,477 people were killed in distracted driving crashes and an estimated 391,000 people were injured in motor vehicle crashes involving a distracted driver."

In New Jersey, driver inattention was listed as a contributing circumstance in 52 percent of the state's crashes in 2015. Driver inattention was in fact listed as a contributing factor in crashes at a rate nine times higher than that of the next highest contributing factor (speed). The campaign is being carried out during the month of April, which the National Safety Council has designated as Distracted Driving Awareness Month. The New Jersey campaign is modeled after similar successful high visibility enforcement programs such as Click It or Ticket and Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over.

It should be noted that the Upper Saddle River Police Department was one of a select group of agencies from throughout the State of New Jersey that received funding for education and enforcement operations this year. Previous enforcement operations have been a valuable tool in helping to provide motorists information on the dangers of distracted driving.

For more information regarding distracting driving, please visit the following websites:

<https://www.nhtsa.gov/risky-driving/distracted-driving>

[http://www.nj.gov/oag/hts/phone\\_down\\_overview.html](http://www.nj.gov/oag/hts/phone_down_overview.html)

If you should have any questions related to distracted driving or any other traffic safety programs offered by our Agency, please contact Upper Saddle River Police Traffic Safety Officer Kenneth Osborne at 201-327-2700.

**USR Tennis Permits Available for 2018:** Tennis permits for the use of the USR tennis courts, located on West Saddle River Road in front of Reynolds School, will be available beginning Monday, April 2, 2018 at Borough Hall or at the Tennis Courts from Tennis Pro Sharron Mattiace. A family membership is \$40.00 and an individual membership is priced at \$25.00. All residents must have a permit and display permit on the new sign up board located at the entrance of the courts. For more information please call the USR Recreation Department at 201-327-3634 or USRRrecreation@aol.com. Visit the Boro website at [www.USRtoday.org](http://www.USRtoday.org) for information about all Recreation programs.

**Walk-In Health Clinic:** Thursday, April 26 from noon - 1:00pm at Borough Hall. Services include a Health History Evaluation, Blood Pressure Measurement, Height and Weight, Individualized Counseling and Education, Referral and Follow-up and a Confidential Consultation with a Public Health Nurse. This is free of charge to adult USR residents on the 4th Thursday of each month through the Borough's contract with the County of Bergen Health Department. For more information, please call [201-327-2196](tel:201-327-2196).

**Upper Saddle River Recreation Spring Tennis Clinics Announced:** Registration for the Upper Saddle River Recreation spring tennis clinics is now being accepted. There will a 5 – week session at the Wickersham Tennis Court on Mondays or Wednesdays starting the week of April 30th. An adult group will take place

at 7 pm. The cost for the entire 5 week session is \$95. Visit our website to download an application at [www.usrtoday.org](http://www.usrtoday.org). For more information please call the USR Recreation Commission at 201-327-3634 or email [USRRecreation@aol.com](mailto:USRRecreation@aol.com).

**The USRA Coalition Presents a Physician's Perspective on Prescription Drugs and Opioids:** Wednesday, April 25<sup>th</sup> 7:00 p.m. at Northern Highlands Regional High School. Sponsored by the USRA Coalition, Hackensack University Medical Center, and the Upper Saddle River and Allendale Boards of Health. Panelists include Michael Kelly, M.D., Chairman of Orthopedic Surgery at Hackensack University Medical Center; Jerry Joseph, M.D., Psychiatrist and Substance Abuse Specialist at Hackensack University Medical Center; Lauren Wright, Family Advocate, Gail Cole and Lani Bonifacie, LCSW, of Hope and Healing After an Addiction Death. Save the date for this important discussion. Open to all. The USRA Coalition was formed in 2017 in recognition of the rise of prescription and non prescription drug and substance abuse in Bergen County, the state of New Jersey and throughout the nation.

**The mission of the USRA Coalition is as follows:**

*"To educate and create awareness in our communities to prevent and reduce substance abuse and other related health issues."*

Learn more about the USRA Coalition at [www.usracoalition.org](http://www.usracoalition.org), and follow us on Facebook and Twitter at USRA Coalition.

**USR Library Concert: "A Tribute to Carole King"** on Friday, April 27<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. Join us for an evening performance with the One Fine Tapestry Band as they salute the legendary singer/songwriter Carole King. Sponsored by the Friends of the Library. Registration is required.

**Fitness Classes at the Library are now FREE to USR cardholders** – Registration is required. Strength & Tone • Monday at 9:30-10:30 a.m. Non-impact weight training using light weights and your own body weight for a total conditioning class. 3/5–5/7

Gentle Yoga Stretch • Tuesday at 10 a.m.–11 a.m. Learn movements that will improve flexibility, range of motion and balance with the goal to keep participants healthy and active. 3/6–5/8

**The Woman's Club of Upper Saddle River:** A Mother's Day Plant Sale of unique plants will be held in May (ordering information available in mid April on [www.usrwomensclub.org](http://www.usrwomensclub.org)). Birthday bags are planned for children at a Shelter. Upcoming events for members include a trip to a Broadway Show, an evening at Board and Brush in Ramsey, Health and Wellness events, a guided tour of MOMA . A Meet and Greet for prospective new members will be held on April 3rd at 7:00 pm at the Bishop House.

**Hopper-Goetschius House Museum** – Saturday, April 28, 10-4 "How Immigration and the Railroad Shaped Our Towns" — is the broad theme of the 2018 NW Bergen History Day. Did you know that the farmers in the 1880s were desperate to get a railroad to come through town? Did you know that our population dropped between 1890 and 1920, and would have dropped more if immigrants didn't buy some of the farms? Each of the NW Bergen Museums will have their own story to tell. Buy one ticket to visit all 10 museums and discover some fascinating history. At the Hopper-Goetschius House there will be displays and photos. In the schoolhouse, there will be a map of the world where people can put dots on the countries their families came from — they should cover the globe. You're invited to share your family

stories ahead of time to be part of the displays. Tickets to visit the 10 museums, which include three train station museums, are \$10 in advance for adults, \$15 at the door. Children 16 & under are free. Advance tickets are available at The Hermitage in HoHoKus, the Mahwah Museum, and the Ridgewood Schoolhouse Museum. Photos and stories for display or ticket orders can be sent to [kayyeomans@optonline.net](mailto:kayyeomans@optonline.net).

Please register for SwiftReach 911 on [www.usrtoday.org](http://www.usrtoday.org), follow us on Facebook (Borough of Upper Saddle River) and Twitter at Upper Saddle River.

Joanne L. Minichetti, Mayor – [jminichetti@usrtoday.org](mailto:jminichetti@usrtoday.org)

Roger DeBerardine, Council President – [rdeberardine@usrtoday.org](mailto:rdeberardine@usrtoday.org)

Steven DiMartino – [sdimartino@usrtoday.org](mailto:sdimartino@usrtoday.org)

Jon Ditkoff – [jditekoff@usrtoday.org](mailto:jditekoff@usrtoday.org)

Vincent Durante – [vdurante@usrtoday.org](mailto:vdurante@usrtoday.org)

Joanne Florio – [jflorio@usrtoday.org](mailto:jflorio@usrtoday.org) and

Thomas Hafner – [thafner@usrtoday.org](mailto:thafner@usrtoday.org)