



Spring 2024

Mayor James M. Davy

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2024 Budget Summary

The Budget for 2024 is up about \$41,000 which is less than 1% of the total budget from 2023. The Municipal Tax rate is going up by .01 cent. For the average house assessed at \$488,000, this means a municipal tax increase of \$49 per year. In the next newsletter we will provide information on the total tax rate including school and county taxes. The Borough Finance Committee, Mayor and Council worked diligently to hold the municipal tax rate increase to .01 cent. The budget for the Borough is available on the Borough Website.

Upcoming Road Projects

- Rockwell Green Drive, Chadwell Court and Scudder Court road resurfacing improvements are scheduled for Spring 2024 using \$545,000 of State funds.
- Baldwin Street and Baldwin Court design and bid requests for road improvements are planned for 2024, with construction in 2025. \$517,730 was received from the NJ DOT Municipal Aid Program for this project. Additionally, \$478,710 was received from the DOT to fund design for Abey Drive, Mallard Place, and Queens Lane in 2025 with construction in 2026.
- Lastly, the Borough has also requested Mercer County mill and overlay Fitzcharles Drive and Walking Purchase.

Lead Line Replacement Inventory

The Borough’s galvanized / lead line inventory was finalized this past January. Letters were mailed out by the Borough to those who have been identified as having galvanized and/or lead water service connections or lines. A complete inventory list is available on the Public Works page of the Borough’s website. The Borough Council has appropriated funds in the Water/Sewer to begin service line replacements and is exploring State funding options for the remainder of the work. Please direct questions to the Public Works department: rsmith@penningtonboro.org or call (609) 737-9440.

Storm Water Management Ordinance / Tree Removal

In recognition of the importance of trees in the mitigation of storm water runoff issues, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection is requiring municipalities to enforce community-wide ordinances to regulate the removal and

replacement of trees on all properties within their jurisdiction. To comply, Pennington Borough has adopted **Ordinance 2024-5: An Ordinance Regulating Removal of Trees on Private Property**. This ordinance amends the Pennington Borough Code to require that the removal of any tree with a diameter of 6 inches or more at breast height (4 ½ feet from the ground) be registered with the Borough. Depending on the diameter of the removed tree and the size of the property, and in most instances the number of such trees removed over the previous five years, the removed tree must be replaced with one or more trees in accordance with the tree replacement table contained in the Ordinance. The required replacement tree or trees must have a diameter of at least 1.5 inches. For details on tree replacements as well as exemptions from these requirements, please refer to the Ordinance which can be found on the Borough Website. Violations may result in fines.

Pennington Master Plan 2025 Update

The Planning Board is presently working on an update of the Borough's Master Plan. This two-year project is expected to be completed in 2025. The members of the Master Plan team are Andy Jackson, Kate O’Neill, Amy Kassler-Taub and Nadine Stern. In addition, a Citizen's Action Committee (CAC) of community volunteers is assisting with the Master Plan update. Working with Borough Planner Jim Kyle, the CAC provides essential expertise and is a vital link to the Pennington community.

Residents are encouraged to learn more about the Plan and become involved in its development. Please visit us at Borough Hall **April 10**, during Local Government Week starting at 2 pm. Posters on the 12 elements of the Plan will be displayed in their various stages of development. Members of the Planning Board and CAC will be on hand to answer questions and take suggestions. Residents will soon be able to follow and contribute to Master Plan 2025 on the Borough website, www.penningtonboro.org. If you have questions or suggestions, please email Land Use Administrator Kaitlyn Macellaro at planning@penningtonboro.org.

Landfill / Area in need of redevelopment

The Pennington Landfill, located between Broemel Place and West Delaware Avenue to the west of the railroad, has long been a topic of discussion in the Borough. As the Borough continues to address appropriate remediation with the NJ Department of Environmental Protection through its Licensed Site Remediation Professional, the time has come to consider appropriate future uses for the property.

One legislative tool the Borough Council has chosen to use for this process is New Jersey's Local Redevelopment and Housing Law (LRHL), which allows for a self-contained planning process specific to the property. It also provides the potential for short and long-term incentives to encourage its redevelopment.

To date, the Borough Planning Board has completed its preliminary investigation and held a public hearing. At the Planning Board's recommendation, the Council adopted a resolution to designate the property as an "area in need of redevelopment". In the coming months, the Borough Planner and Administrator will develop a Community Engagement plan designed to gain input from the community. A request for proposals will then be issued to solicit development proposals for the site. Once a viable proposal is identified, the Borough Planning Board will write a redevelopment plan to improve this long-blighted site. The Council has determined that community engagement should be included at each step of the process to maximize community input for the eventual redevelopment.

NJ Local Government Week April 7-13, 2024

Join us Wednesday, **April 10, 5:00-7:00 pm** at Borough Hall to celebrate NJ Local Government week. This is a great opportunity to meet Borough staff, Mayor and Council members, representatives from all Borough committees and commissions, staff from the Administrative, Public Works and Police Departments. Learn about our services and get to know the people who make Pennington a special place to live. **Please check the Borough website for any changes and additions regarding the event.**

Volunteers Needed

Mayor Davy is actively pursuing volunteers to fill positions on various Boards, Commissions, and Committees for which terms are set to expire on 12/31/2024, as well as current vacancies on the Shade Tree Commission, Planning Board and Parks and Recreation Commission. If you are interested, please complete the Citizen Volunteer Form found in the link below and email it to Borough Clerk Betty Sterling at bsterling@penningtonboro.org.
<https://www.penningtonboro.org/sites/g/files/vyhlf5426/f/uploads/citizen-leadership-form.pdf>

Library

Thanks to a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts and Arts Midwest, the Pennington Public Library will be presenting a wide variety of programs centered on one book, *Circe*, by Madeline Miller. Free copies of the book are available at the library. Events for the NEA Big Read will take place through **April 14, 2024**. The captivating novel traces the journey of one of Greek mythology's minor goddesses with its themes of self-actualization, societal marginalization, art and

antiquities, family relationships, and female empowerment. The library will partner with local organizations to present programs such as foraging wild edibles, a hands-on weaving demonstration, stargazing, and cultivating herbs. For complete and updated information about the 2024 Big Read, go to PenningtonLibrary.org/2024BigRead

- **April 2** at 7:00 pm – Virtual talk with Madeline Miller author of *Circe* in conjunction with the Miami Book Fair and Hopewell Valley Regional School District

Pennington's E-Alert & Emergency Alert System

- To stay informed of Borough news and events please visit the Borough website and subscribe to *News and Announcements*.
- For emergencies affecting the Hopewell Valley visit:



<https://member.everbridge.net/311440963534972/new> or scan the QR code to create an account. To receive alerts to your cell phone, text Pennington's Zip Code 08534 to 888777 from your cell phone to Opt-in.

Yard Sale

SAVE THE DATE & START CLEANING OUT YOUR CLOSETS! The Pennington Community Yard Sale will be held on Saturday, May 4, 2024, 9am -2pm RAIN OR SHINE. The Community Yard Sale is presented by the Pennington Borough Economic Development Commission. Watch for more information on how to register and get on the official map.

From the Environmental Commission - Spring Cleanup

Spring has sprung and garden cleanup is in the air! To make your spring cleanup more environmentally friendly; put off the work until the end of April to protect insects that are still hibernating in the dead leaves. Instead pick up the sticks and plan new native plantings see <https://extension.psu.edu/delay-garden->
Note the Borough does not vacuum leaves in the spring. Please place yard waste in cans or paper bags for pick up or consider turning your yard and vegetable waste into rich compost. Visit: <https://www.epa.gov/recycle/composting-home#ingred>
To address a muddy area in your yard, consider a well-placed rain barrel to help avoid mud patches and put the water to better use. Visit our booth at Pennington Day on **May 18th**.

For Park & Recreation Events check the Borough website for a list of planned events www.penningtonboro.org

New Borough Administrator

Finally after a long search the Borough has hired a Borough Administrator to lead the staff in providing the best quality services to the residents and businesses in the community. We welcome Gian-Paolo Caminiti (GP) and his wealth of knowledge working in municipal government. Before becoming our Borough Administrator, GP served in the same role in Manville for several years and prior to that he was a member of Council in Peapack-Gladstone for many years. Mayor and Council along with the Borough Staff welcome GP to his new position and we invite each of you to stop in and say hello. GP can be reached via e-mail, administrator@penningtonboro.org or by phone during business hours.