



## Borough of North Plainfield

263 Somerset Street  
North Plainfield, New Jersey 07060  
[www.northplainfield.org](http://www.northplainfield.org)

**Michael Giordano Jr.**  
Mayor

**(908) 769-2902**

October 2011

Dear Residents:

Enclosed, please find your final property tax bill for 2011. The municipal portion of the property tax bill represents an increase of \$145.75 per year (\$12.15 per month) on the average assessed house valued at \$265,000.

The 2011 municipal budget is the result of careful planning and policy decisions made by my administration and the Borough Council in the face of continuing economic difficulties, reductions in State Aid and escalating costs. Through our efforts we were able to reduce or hold the total budgetary appropriations flat in most of our discretionary line items this year. The budget also reflects the economy of staff reductions made last year.

However, continued increases in health insurance costs and increased pension costs were the two primary factors influencing the tax rate. In fact, those two items alone were responsible for half of the municipal tax increase. I expect that recently enacted pension and health care reforms by the Governor and Legislature will begin to have an impact on our 2012 budget.

Facing tight budgetary constraints we continue to aggressively pursue grant monies and have been successful obtaining grants from several sources. We have obtained \$300,000 in Federal funding to complete the streetscape at the northern end of Somerset Street thanks in part to the efforts of Congressman Lance. We expect this project to begin next year.

We are in the process of awarding a bid for the reconstruction of Malcolm Ave. (south of US 22) and Manning Ave. (between Watchung and Sandford Avenues) for which we received a \$275,000 grant from NJDOT. We also learned earlier in the year that we will receive \$200,000 toward the reconstruction of Harrison Ave. between US 22 and Greenbrook Rd. We most recently benefitted from \$200,000 in NJDOT funds for roadway improvements on Rockview Ave. which were constructed this summer.

I was pleased to attend a recent press conference with Congressman Lance and Fire Chief Eaton to announce that North Plainfield has received a \$229,528 Federal FEMA SAFER grant which will fully fund three additional firefighters for the next two years. This grant is in addition to a FEMA AFG grant in the amount of \$51,655 for turnout gear. These grants will ensure an effective and fully staffed Fire Department for the coming years. (over please...)

North Plainfield is participating in Somerset County's Renewable Energy Initiative which will install solar panels at the Memorial Library and will result in energy savings at that facility. We are currently participating in the New Jersey Direct Install Program which is providing the Borough with over \$135,000 in energy improvements at a cost to the Borough of \$48,000. This cost will be offset in less than two years by through an estimated annual energy savings of \$26,000.

Federally-funded Community Development Block Grants have been utilized to fund sanitary sewer improvements at Wells Rd. in the amount of \$51,261. Over \$122,000 has been received in the last two cycles and a project is being developed to use these funds.

Last month I was pleased to announce with Mayor Mobus of Watchung a shared services agreement for our municipal courts. Under this agreement, the first of its kind in Somerset County, North Plainfield will receive additional revenue in return for providing municipal court administrative services for Watchung. This is an important step forward, not only in our ongoing efforts to share services and increase revenue, but in working cooperatively with our neighboring towns.

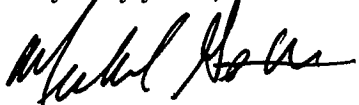
I would like to announce that in the coming year we will be preparing a new Master Plan for the Borough – the first new plan in forty years! Through the efforts of the Planning Board, the Borough Council and my administration we will be laying the groundwork for the future redevelopment of our town. We will incorporate new concepts such as "Green" initiatives which promote energy savings; and we will work to preserve our neighborhoods, while encouraging new commercial growth and redevelopment.

In this time of budgetary constraints we are fortunate to have many volunteers who continue to give countless hours to our community. They, along with our Borough staff of dedicated employees and professionals help make our town thrive, even in difficult economic times. This year we have added The Somerset Street Summer Car Cruise to our list of Borough-sponsored special events. We also held a special 10 year anniversary program in commemoration of the September 11 attacks.

The Borough Council has been working hard on behalf of our residents to stabilize taxes, improve our quality of life, and strengthen our community. I am pleased to partner with the Borough Council on many initiatives and issues of mutual importance to North Plainfield. Our collaborative relationship benefits all North Plainfield residents.

I look forward to continue working with all of you. If you have any questions, please contact me or any member of our Borough staff at any time. I look forward to hearing from you.

Very truly yours,



Michael Giordano, Jr.  
Mayor

P.S.: Please check our website often for the latest news about our town – [www.northplainfield.org](http://www.northplainfield.org).