

Council Corner

The Robbinsville Township
Governing Body Newsletter

ADDITIONAL ESTIMATED TAX INCREASE PER ASSESSED VALUE IF A \$.01 OPEN SPACE INCREASE WERE TO BE APPROVED VIA REFERENDUM

	2023 Tax Rate	2024 Tax Rate	Increase
	0.065	0.075	0.01

Assessed Value	2023 Taxes	2024 Taxes	Increase
\$100,000	\$65.00	\$75.00	\$10.00
\$200,000	\$130.00	\$150.00	\$20.00
\$300,000	\$195.00	\$225.00	\$30.00
\$400,000	\$260.00	\$300.00	\$40.00
\$500,000	\$325.00	\$375.00	\$50.00
\$600,000	\$390.00	\$450.00	\$60.00
\$700,000	\$455.00	\$525.00	\$70.00
\$800,000	\$520.00	\$600.00	\$80.00
\$900,000	\$585.00	\$675.00	\$90.00
\$1,000,000	\$650.00	\$750.00	\$100.00

November 7 Open Space Referendum

On July 27, 2023, the Council passed Resolution 2023-200 asking residents to vote on increasing our local Open Space tax levy by \$.01 per \$100 of assessed value of their property. With the cost of seemingly everything on the rise, this is not a request any of us take lightly. In 2022, the Township spent about \$1.8 million on Open Space. This tax includes maintaining and improving all our parks and open space, as well as the capital expenditure to run them. Now that plans to improve the Miry Run Recreation Area are ready to move forward, we have a chance to create several passive recreational opportunities for residents to enjoy. Funds from this tax increase would allow the construction of walking paths to begin, along with a safety fence on the airport side of the property. This is a multi-phased project that will occur over several years. In addition, funds from the proposed tax increase can also be put towards improving and upgrading our existing parks throughout the Township. Many of the facilities are becoming dated and/or are deteriorating to a point that replacements are warranted.

The increase would also help with the preservation of a farm on Tindall Road. These funds would secure any future development rights, thus leaving the property open and potentially farmed as it is today. Over 800 residents submitted a petition to try and preserve that land. A welcome benefit is Mercer County has pledged to cover 40 percent of that cost (approx. \$700,000), which would enable the Township to invest even more in our parks.

Please look for this Public Question on the November 7 ballot. While the interpretative statement that accompanies the question is very vague, per State guidelines, we hope to be able to apply the additional funds to the initiatives detailed above. These projects will benefit all residents of the Township. The chart above details the approximate cost of the increase. Robbinsville has not seen an Open Space Tax increase since 2016.

Robbinsville Township tasks enormous pride in the beauty of its town and the open space it has preserved, and we thank Mayor Dave Fried for his considerable efforts in this area with over 1,200 acres protected since taking office in 2005.

3rd Quarter Tax Bill Delays

Along with Mayor Dave Fried, the Council finds it stunning that Mercer County has yet to pass its 2023 fiscal year budget, thus delaying the delivery of 3rd quarter tax bills of every resident in Mercer County.

There is a Special Formal Meeting of the Board of Commissioners on that budget scheduled to take place on September 5 at 6 p.m. inside the Mercer County Administration Building, located at 640 South Broad Street. We encourage residents to attend.

This unprecedented delay is in no way a reflection of our outstanding employees in the Tax Office, led by Kelly Fort. The August 1 bills are expected to be mailed out by the middle of September. The grace period will be 25 days after that mailing. The Township very much appreciates your patience.

Title Scams On The Rise; Protect Yourself & Your Home

Municipal Clerk's throughout NJ are warning residents of increasing attempts to scam residents in the form of getting access to their home titles/deeds via identity theft.

To help ensure your property remains protected, sign up for the County Clerk's Property Alert Service at <https://records.mercercounty.org/PropertyAlert/>

Welcome Back, Patrolman Boyle!

RTPD officer Connor Boyle returned to the force last week after that harrowing hit-and-run accident in April and has been assigned as a School Resource Officer at Pond Road Middle School. Welcome back!



If you have questions or concerns, please email us, or attend a public meeting. The next two sessions are scheduled for September 14 and September 28 at 7 p.m.

Council encourages residents to reach out to us with their questions, concerns, or suggestions to: Council@robbinsville.net