



Volume 22, Issue 1

www.gibbsborotownhall.org

Our Twenty-Third Year!

February 2009

Edward G. Campbell, III
Mayor

Jerry Bonsall, Council President
Mitch Brown
Jack Croghan
Mike MacFerren
Anita Mancini
Margie Schieber



ANNUAL FREE RABIES CLINIC

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28
1 – 3 p.m.

**FIRE HALL
HILLIARDS ROAD**

NOTE: For 2009 ALL DOGS AND CATS must be licensed, including indoor-only pets. A \$25 late fee is payable for licenses issued after February 28.

LICENSES MAY BE PURCHASED AT THE CLINIC.

Council Finds Savings in Courtesy Busing

Courtesy busing is the transportation of students to schools that do not qualify for state transportation subsidies. Since the state does not subsidize this transportation, Board's of Education (BOE) usually do not fund it as part of their budgets. For nearly two decades, the Gibbsboro municipal tax has funded the courtesy busing of 146 Gibbsboro students to Eastern Regional High School. For 2009, that cost will exceed \$45,000 for Gibbsboro property taxpayers.

Mayor and Council have been reviewing all expenditures to find budget reductions that minimize the impact to services. As part of that review, Gibbsboro requested that the Eastern Regional BOE conduct a survey to determine how many seats were actually occupied on courtesy buses paid for through our local municipal tax (not the school budget). The surveyed showed, on average, that just 38% of the seats were filled. During the survey period the highest percentage of seats filled was 41%. Gibbsboro pays for 100% of the seats, even if they are not used. Based upon this data the number of buses will be reduced from three to two, still providing margin.

We believe that seniors and many juniors drive to school. They often transport younger family members and friends too. Some parents drive children to school and a few still like to walk. All of these scenarios result in unused seats on our buses.

The change may begin as soon as this spring and will be coordinated with parents and children by Eastern's staff. We expect to save about \$4,000 this year and about \$15,000 per year in future years.



Come have buffet breakfast with the Easter Bunny at the Gibbsboro Fire Hall on Sunday, April 5 from 8-11 a.m. Don't forget your cameras!

Night at the Races

Date: April 25
 Time: 8 p.m.-midnight
 Place: Gibbsboro Fire Hall
 131 Hilliards Road

Admission Price: \$10.00*

Horse Racing and Raffle Baskets

For tickets and more information please see any Gibbsboro Ladies Auxiliary member or call 856-261-6571. Tickets can be purchased at the door at no extra cost.

*price includes beer, food, set-ups, and chances for door prizes.

Night At The Races

Hosted by Gibbsboro Fire Company and Ladies Auxiliary



Calendar of Events

Tuesday	2/24	Zoning Board	8:00 p.m.	Borough Hall
Wednesday	2/25	Council	8:00 p.m.	Borough Hall
Thursday	2/26	Historic Preservation Commission	8:00 p.m.	Borough Hall
Monday	3/9	Environmental Commission	8:00 p.m.	Borough Hall
Tuesday	3/10	Planning Board	8:00 p.m.	Borough Hall
	3/10	Gibbsboro Board of Education	8:00 p.m.	Gibbsboro School
Wednesday	3/11	Council	8:00 p.m.	Borough Hall
Tuesday	3/24	Zoning Board	8:00 p.m.	Borough Hall
Wednesday	3/25	Council	8:00 p.m.	Borough Hall
Thursday	3/26	Historic Preservation Commission	8:00 p.m.	Borough Hall

MUNICIPAL SERVICES

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- **HOW ARE MY TAXES CALCULATED?**

Your tax bill is based on the assessed value of your property divided by 100 (you pay taxes for every \$100.00 in assessed value) and multiplied by the current year's tax rate. For example, for a home with a 2008 assessed value of \$200,000.00 the annual property taxes would be $\$4.099 \times \$2,000$ or \$8,198.00 in annual property taxes.

- **WHAT MAKES UP MY PROPERTY TAX RATE?**

The property tax rate is computed from the budgets of the local municipality, county, county library, county and local open space taxes, local school and regional high school. The Mayor and Council only have control over the municipal budget and do not have any control over the other components of the tax rate. The Borough collects all the property taxes and distributes them to the appropriate agencies that set the rates.

- **HOW MUCH OF MY TAXES ARE FOR MUNICIPAL PURPOSES?**

For 2008 the municipal tax represented just 19.4% of the total property tax bill. Schools were responsible for 55.8% of Gibbsboro's property tax rate.

- **WHAT DOES MY MUNICIPAL TAX SUPPORT?**

Municipal taxes pay for courtesy busing of high school students to Eastern Regional High School, street lights, fire hydrants, local roads, police, primary equipment and support for our fire company, public works, construction permits and inspections, trash and recyclable collection, and many more services and functions.

- **DOES THE BOROUGH OF GIBBSBORO ACCEPT PAYMENTS BY CREDIT CARD OR PAY BY PHONE?**

Unfortunately, at this time the Borough of Gibbsboro does not have the capability to accept electronic payments. We accept cash or checks. Checks can be mailed to:

Office of the Tax Collector
49 Kirkwood Road
Gibbsboro, New Jersey 08026

- **HOW WAS MY ASSESSMENT DETERMINED?**

Tax assessments are based on the market value of your property. Direct sales comparison, cost, and income approaches are used to determine market value.

- **WHAT IF I DISAGREE WITH MY ASSESSMENT?**

Assessment appeals must be filed with the Camden County Tax Board, the Tax Assessor and the Borough Clerk by April 1 of the tax year. Forms and instructions are available from the Camden County Tax Board or the Tax Assessor's Office.

- **WHAT ARE GIBBSBORO'S CURRENT TAX RATE AND SALES RATIO?**

Year	Tax Rate	Sales Ratio
2008	\$4.099/\$100	63.0%

For 2009 the sales ratio will be 64.23%, reflecting current economic conditions and declines in property values. The ratio is determined by the state using actual sales between July 1 and June 30 of the previous year.

- **I'M BUYING A NEW HOUSE. HOW MUCH WILL MY TAXES BE?**

You can estimate your taxes by multiplying your purchase price by the sales ratio. Multiply this figure by the current year's tax rate for an ESTIMATE of taxes.

Example: You bought a house in the year 2008 for \$250,000. $\$250,000 \times 63\% = \$157,500$. This is the assessed value that will be put on the books. $\$157,500 \times \$4.099/\$100(2008 \text{ tax rate}) = \$ 6,455.93$ (ESTIMATED TAXES FOR 2008). Through this process all properties reflect valuations consistent with the year of the last revaluation.

- **HOW CAN I APPLY FOR A VETERANS, SENIOR CITIZEN OR DISABLED PERSONS DEDUCTION?**

The forms and instructions for applying for deductions are available from the Tax Assessor or Tax Collector.

- **CAN I GET OWNERSHIP, BLOCK & LOT, SALE PRICE, DEED BOOK AND PAGE, OR ASSESSMENT INFORMATION?**

Yes. To get this information you may come into the Assessor's Office, call the office, or make a request in writing. Include a self addressed stamped envelope for the reply. We will not return information by facsimile unless you provide a toll free number. You can also find this information at the website njactb.org. Click on record search. Scroll to Camden County and Gibbsboro Borough. Enter the name, property location or block and lot to find the information desired.

- **HOW DO I APPLY FOR A 200-FEET ADJACENT PROPERTY OWNERS LIST? WHEN WILL IT BE READY?**

Send your request to the attention of the Borough Clerk. A fee is due for each separately owned parcel that you are requesting a list for. A check made payable to the "Borough of Gibbsboro" must accompany the application. Cash will be accepted if you hand deliver your application. We have seven business days to complete the list. The list will be mailed to you unless you make prior arrangements to pick up the list. The information will not be transmitted via facsimile.

- **WHAT DO I DO IF I HAVE A SEWER BACKUP?**

If the blockage is in the main (street) the borough is responsible to clear the blockage. (Water flowing from a manhole in the street indicates a main blockage.) Call Bommer Plumbing at (856) 783-6721 Bommer will respond 24 hours a day to clear main blockages.

If the backup is in the lateral (the lateral runs from the house to a cleanout near the curb) the homeowner is responsible to clear the blockage. Your plumber can usually easily clear this easily. The Borough will not clear blockages in private laterals and the Borough will not pay private plumbers for clearing main blockages.

- **HOW DO I REPORT A STREET LIGHT THAT IS OUT?**

Look on the pole for a metal tag that contains numbers and letters. Record the information and report the pole number to the Borough Clerk at (856) 783-6655 extension 105 or email the information to annelevy@gibbsborotownhall.com. It takes about two weeks to have the problem repaired.

- **I JUST MOVED INTO TOWN AND NEED A RECYCLING BUCKET. HOW DO I GET ONE?**

Call the Borough Clerk at (856) 783-6655 extension 105 or email your request to: annelevy@gibbsborotownhall.com.

- **WHEN ARE TRASH AND RECYCLABLES COLLECTED?**

Trash and recyclables are collected every Wednesday. There is a second collection on Saturdays during July, August, and September.

OFFICE HOURS

BOROUGH HALL		CONSTRUCTION/ASSESSOR OFFICES	
		The Assessor is available by appointment.	
Monday through Thursday	9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.	Tuesday	Noon - 8:00 p.m.
Tuesday Evening	5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.	Thursday	9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Friday	9:00 a.m. - Noon	Friday	9:00 a.m. - Noon
TAX COLLECTOR/SEWER CLERK		LOCAL ASSISTANCE DIRECTOR	
		Call for an appointment.	
Tuesday	10: a.m. - 8:00 p.m.	Monday through Thursday	9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Wednesday	9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.	Tuesday Evening	5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
		Friday	9:00 a.m. - Noon

Phone Numbers

Borough Hall	783-6655
Tax Assessor	Extension 101
Tax Collector	Extension 103
Municipal Court	Extension 104
Borough Clerk	Extension 105
Construction Office	Extension 107
Local Assistance (Welfare)	Extension 150
Mayor Campbell	Extension 160
Public Works	784-2111
Gibbsboro Library	435-3656
Sewer Emergencies (Bommer Plumbing)	783-6721 *** 24 HOUR SERVICE ***
New Jersey One Call (Utility Mark Out)	1-800-272-1000
Gas Leaks	1-800-582-7060 *** ALSO CALL 911 ***
Police/Fire	911

Pet Waste Pollutes Our Waters

What You Can Do To Help Protect Our Water

Clean and plentiful water is important to our families, our environment, our economy and our quality of life.

Did you know that animal waste from pets can pollute our waters? When left on the ground, pet waste is washed by rain and melting snow and ice into storm drains that carry it to our rivers, lakes, the ocean and drinking water.

Animal waste contains a high concentration of nutrients as well as bacteria and disease-causing microorganisms that can cause problems.

What you can do

Pet owners or anyone who takes your pet for walks must properly dispose of the waste by picking it up, wrapping it and either placing it in the trash or flushing it unwrapped down the toilet.

Your municipality is required to adopt and enforce local pet-waste laws. At a minimum, your community must require that pet owners or their keepers **immediately** and **properly** dispose of their pet's solid waste deposited on **any public or private property not owned or possessed by that person**. People with assistance animals such as Seeing Eye dogs are exempt.

Make sure you know what your municipality requires – and follow it.

Thank you for doing your part to keep New Jersey's waters clean.

For more information, please contact the following:

New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection
Division of Water Quality
Bureau of Nonpoint Pollution Control
Municipal Stormwater Regulation Program
(609) 633-7021

Visit www.njstormwater.org or www.nonpointsource.org

Additional information is also available at U. S.
Environmental Protection Agency Web sites
www.epa.gov/npdcs/stormwater or www.epa.gov/nps



Jon S. Corzine, Governor
Lisa P. Jackson, Commissioner



**Around Town
Annual Reorganization Meeting
January 3, 2009**



**Borough of Gibbsboro
49 Kirkwood Road
Gibbsboro, NJ 08026**

**Bulk Rate
Gibbsboro, NJ
Permit #30**

**Local Postal Patron
Gibbsboro, NJ 08026**