



Upper Saddle River Borough Bulletin

www.usrtoday.org

May / June 2022

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Mayor and Council Message

The Municipal Budget: A public hearing regarding the 2022 Municipal budget will take place on Thursday, May 5, 2022 at 8 p.m. at the Regular Mayor and Council meeting. The proposed budget is available for review on the Borough's website, www.usrtoday.org. At such time the Borough's Chief Financial Officer, Jim Mangin, will offer a detailed presentation of the budget.

Over the past ten years the Borough has successfully maintained low operating costs resulting in minimal impact to the municipal tax rate, with an average increase of just 1.5%. The municipal portion of each tax payment is approximately 18% of the overall tax assessment. The remainder is neither spent by nor is under the control of the Governing Body. Of taxes paid, (68%) goes to the schools K-8 and Northern Highlands, (12%) goes to the County of Bergen and (2%) goes to the USR Library.

This year's budget has been structured with an eye toward long-term tax stabilization while maintaining the reserves needed to handle unforeseen emergencies. The proposed budget is an increase over last year of 1.46%, amounting to \$45.34 to the average home assessed at \$743,586. This increase is necessary to allow for needed infrastructure improvements and safety upgrades. It is also necessary to provide the reserves necessary to keep future tax increases to a minimum. The Governing Body is dedicated to continuing to offer residents excellent services as well.

NJ Bans Plastic Bags: Starting May 4, 2022, New Jersey retail stores, grocery stores and food service businesses may not provide or sell single-use plastic carryout bags and polystyrene foam food service products. Single-use paper carryout bags are allowed to be provided or sold, except by grocery stores equal to or larger than 2500 square feet, which may only provide or sell reusable carryout bags. After November 4, 2021, plastic straws were not provided except upon a customer's request.

EarthCam Wins Bergen County's Historic Preservation Award: Congratulations to EarthCam and Brian Cury, EarthCam's Founder and CEO. EarthCam is a global leader providing the latest in webcam technology. The County will honor EarthCam on May 5, 2022 for the restoration of the expansive landscape located on its property at 650 E. Crescent Avenue in Upper Saddle River. Originally designed by James C. Rose, a well-known pioneer of modern landscape architecture and published author, the grounds have been restored and enhanced.

Upon purchasing the vacant office building set on ten acres, the building was re-designed to serve as the company's headquarters and the goal of restoring the landscape was announced. Designed by David Brody Bond, known for the designs such as the National September 11 Memorial Museum and Hudson Yards in Manhattan, the building welcomes visitors with a unique façade of translucent molten aluminum. Once stepping through a video portal entrance, guests encounter a 25-foot LED video wall which streams live video content from around the world. The expansive grounds now provide the perfect setting with meditation areas, water features, sculptures, an arboretum and over 50 species of flora from around the world.

Memorial Day Parade and Ceremony: The annual Memorial Day parade and ceremony will take place this year on Monday, May 30th. Parade participants should line up on Ripplewood Drive at 11:00 a.m. The parade will conclude in front of Borough Hall where there will be a tribute honoring our armed forces. All USR veterans and those currently serving in the military are encouraged to march. Participating veterans who would like a ride along the parade route will be accommodated. The keynote speaker will be James Goetschius, active military and a direct descendant of Rev. Stephen Goetschius. After the ceremony everyone is invited to a special dedication of the original gristmill stone from Grist Mill Lane that has been placed at Borough Hall in memory of Town Historian William Yeoman. Afterwards, please stop by the USR Firehouse for hotdogs and cold drinks.

Each year at the Memorial Day ceremony, floral tributes honoring those who serve or have served our country, are presented by organization representatives. Please contact Borough Clerk Joy Convertini at jconvertini@usrtoday.org or 201-934-3975 to let us know if your organization will be making a presentation at this event or if you are a veteran or currently serving and would like to either march in the parade or be driven.

Joanne L. Minichetti, Mayor - jminichetti@usrtoday.org

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This is an important Community Crime Alert from the Upper Saddle River Police Department:

Bergen County, including Upper Saddle River, is seeing a dramatic increase in car thefts from previous years.

All of the vehicles stolen from our community had key fobs left inside of them and the cars that were burglarized were left unlocked. Residents are urged to make sure they remove key fobs, personal items, and ensure their vehicles are locked when left parked outside their homes. The Borough and the USR Police Department will be reminding residents nightly to remove fobs and valuables and lock vehicles.

A video posted recently on the police department Facebook page depicting car thieves attempting to make entry into two vehicles which were locked and parked in a driveway in Upper Saddle River shows that these crimes will not happen if residents locked their car doors.

To assist residents, the Police Department would like to offer the following tips to help reduce your chances of becoming a victim of this type of crime and to help keep yourself and your family safe:

Many of the local car thefts had been occurring during the late evening/early morning hours. Unfortunately, this pattern has changed over the past year. We are now seeing these crimes being committed more frequently in broad daylight. Many of the cases reported throughout Bergen County occurring during the daytime hours involved victims leaving their vehicles running while stopped at a store or parked in their driveway warming up prior to leaving their home. The thefts occurring during the day in Upper Saddle River involved residents that had left their keys inside the vehicle while parked in their driveway.

If you have a garage, use it. Please note that criminals have used garage door openers found inside unlocked vehicles to open garage doors. Once inside the garage the criminals will burglarize the vehicle if it is unlocked or steal it if the keys are inside. Even more disturbing, there have been reports in other areas of the State of car thieves entering a victim's home through the garage while they are home. Once inside the home the thieves will look for vehicle keys and other valuables.

Park your vehicle in a well-lit area.

Keys of any type should never be left inside your vehicle. If criminals have access to your keys, they can, potentially, access your home.

Remember that thieves are opportunistic. If your vehicle is unlocked with the keys inside, it will likely be stolen or, at the very least, burglarized. Stolen vehicles have been involved in other serious violent crime, which place police officers and others in danger.

What To Do If You See a Car Break-in in Progress:

Immediately call 9-1-1 or the Upper Saddle River Police Department directly, at (201) 327-2700, to report the incident.

When talking to the Dispatcher, try to give as much information as possible, specifically:

LOCATION OF THE INCIDENT
DESCRIPTION OF THE SUSPECT(S)
DIRECTION OF TRAVEL

DO NOT TRY TO CONFRONT THESE INDIVIDUALS.

Law Enforcement in the State has investigated incidents of victims being injured after they were dragged by fleeing car thieves.

Please do your part in helping to stop these thefts from occurring. Over the years, observant residents have helped the Police Department solve many different types of crimes. This coordinated effort between the police department and community, undoubtedly, will help to make our community safer.

2nd Quarter Taxes Due May 1, 2022

The Tax Office wishes to remind residents that the second quarter 2022 taxes are due on or before May 1, 2022. Upper Saddle River offers a ten-day grace period. If taxes are not paid by May 10, 2022, State law requires that interest is then due from May 1st to the date they are paid. Can be Check or money orders only, no cash will be accepted. **NO POST DATED CHECKS WILL BE ACCEPTED.**

Taxes can also be paid online at www.usrtday.org

A Message from the Upper Saddle River Police Department

Job vacancies are available on popular online job boards and websites, in newspapers and ads, or sent directly via email, social media, or SMS text messaging. However, scammers may pose as legitimate employers by spoofing company websites and posting fraudulent job vacancies. Job seekers are targeted with employment scams to deliver malware, steal funds, participate in illegal activities such as money laundering, or collect personally identifiable information (PII) that can be used to commit further malicious activity and fraud. Tactics and techniques used in these employment scams include urgent requests to respond; an offer that is "too good to be true;" and the impersonation of human resources recruiters, talent acquisition personnel, and department managers. Emails may contain specific job vacancies to convince the target to respond with personal or financial information, click links to fraudulent employment websites, or open attachments claiming to be resumes or other employment information. The NJCCIC observed multiple employment scams intending to reach New Jersey State employees. Other examples of employment scams include positions for a nanny, caregiver, virtual personal assistant, mystery shopper, job placement personnel, and government and postal worker. Please take the time to educate yourself on these continuing threats and tactics to reduce your chances of becoming a victim. Avoid clicking links and opening attachments from unknown senders and exercise caution with emails from known senders. If an email's legitimacy is unknown, contact the sender via a separate means of communication – such as by phone – before taking any action. Navigate to websites directly by manually typing the URL into a browser, instead of clicking on links delivered in emails, to ensure you are visiting the legitimate website. In addition, job seekers are advised to research potential employers and businesses before responding or providing sensitive information.

Operation Take Back New Jersey

On Saturday, April 30th between the hours of 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. the Upper Saddle River Police will be collecting unused medication. No needles will be accepted. Please remove any identifying information prior to disposal.

Collection Site:

Upper Saddle River Police Department
368 W. Saddle River Road, Upper Saddle River - 201-327-2700

USR Fishing Derby

The Upper Saddle Recreation Commission will again host this year's Annual Fishing Derby scheduled this year for Saturday, May 14th at Liberty Park. The event will get underway at 9:00 a.m. until noon. All Upper Saddle River residents, ages 5 and over are invited to bring your poles and bait and enjoy a great time. Masks are required.

Bucky Rehair will be hand to offer assistance to children during the derby. Bucky will walk around the pond and provide answers to many questions about various fish and wildlife issues.

If you should have any questions, please contact Bucky Rehair at 201-825-3767 or Recreation Director, Ed Gartner at 201-327-3634 or USRRecreation@aol.com Visit our website at www.USRToday.org

USR Clean Up Day – May 7th

On Saturday, May 7th, from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m., the Upper Saddle River Recreation Commission will once again sponsor Town Wide Clean Up Day. Individuals, families, and organizations are encouraged to join in helping to keep Upper Saddle River beautiful. Check in at Lions Park anytime between 8 a.m. and 12 p.m. You will be assigned (or you can choose) an area in town to clean up. Areas include: Lions Park, Hess Park, and school grounds. Spend as much time as you are able. Gloves and trash bags will be provided.

Help make this year's Clean Up Day the best ever! Scouts, sports teams, and other youth groups are welcome. Please note that children must be supervised by an adult.

Please contact Jon Silverman @ 201-236-0442 or e-mail jsilverman@optonline.net with any questions.

USR Library News

Library Survey: Your Feedback Matters

Please help the Library move into the future by completing the Strategic Plan Survey which can be found on our website: www.upper-saddleriverlibrary.org after May 1st. Your feedback is important to us. Whether you have a library card or not, you are encouraged to fill out the survey.

USR Cares - Join us on May 11, 2022

- Oktoberfest 2022 Kick Off
- Ambassador Meet & Greet

Our mission is to assist fellow Upper Saddle River community members when they face a temporary crisis.

We are hosting a Meet and Greet at 7:00 p.m. on May 11th to introduce prospective Ambassadors and anyone interested in volunteering for Oktoberfest 2022 to our organization. This will also serve as a kick-off event for Oktoberfest 2022 scheduled for Saturday, October 8th.

We are seeking volunteers for our event, and specifically the tents. In the past we hosted a Senior Tent and welcomed dozens of seniors serving lunch, with crafts and entertainment. We also host a Raffle Tent and Family Fun tent. We are looking for volunteers and those interested in joining the organization. Oktoberfest is USR Cares annual fundraising event, and also a wonderful community day underwritten by the Borough of Upper Saddle River.

Those who are interested in attending the May 11th event should send an email to: usrcares@gmail.com. We will reply to provide location details.

The Woman's Club

Woman's Club members are busy keeping fit with walking groups and exploring with local day trips. Our monthly Book Group is thriving. Members will host an appetizer/dessert reception and Baby Shower to benefit Baby Basics at Children's Aid and Family Services and The Lighthouse Pregnancy Resource Center on June 7th at Anona Lake Pavilion.

Coming September 17th—our 6th annual Town-Wide Garage Sale! Start saving those treasures for the sale as you organize this summer! New members are always welcome to join.

Contact nona.maher@gmail.com for information.

BCUA Document Shredding, Electronics & Tire Recycling Event Dates

The Bergen County Utility Authority will sponsor this event on Sat., June 4, 2022 at Bergen County Campgaw Mountain Reservation, 200 Campgaw Road, Mahwah, NJ. Collection hours are 9 a.m. - 2 p.m., rain or shine. This event is for Bergen County residents, ID required.

Bergen Highlands United Methodist Church

318 W. SADDLE RIVER RD., invites you to its annual

BEST STUFF SALE, SATURDAY, MAY 21st, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The church is accepting donations beginning Monday, May 9th. We will be collecting only clean items in good condition. (ex., toys, home goods, games, sports equipment and small pieces of furniture such as chairs, small tables, etc.). We will NOT be accepting clothes, books, TVS, or VHS tapes.

If you have any questions, please call: 201-327-3960, email: bergenhighlandsumc@gmail.com or checkout our website www.bergenhighlandsumc.org.

64th Annual Strawberry Festival

SATURDAY, JUNE 18TH, FROM 12 noon-5 p.m., rain or shine

Hand-picked local New Jersey strawberries and strawberry short-cakes will be served. Enjoy a wide selection of vendors, a Silent Auction, games, and crafts for the kids. For more information call 201-327-3960, email: bergenhighlandsumc@gmail.com or check out our website: [bergenhighlandsumc.org](http://www.bergenhighlandsumc.org). The proceeds of the festival will aid us in our commitment to various missions including youth, outreach to Spring Valley Homeless ministry, and our local communities.

Friends of The Library

The Friends of the Library thank all who have supported our monthly Book Sales so far this year. We are grateful for your support so we can provide the extra programs and offerings you have come to enjoy at the library. Please mark your calendars for our upcoming sales on Saturdays May 14th and June 11th from 10 a.m -1:00 p.m. We have thousands of books to tempt every reader at incredibly low prices. Stop by and buy!

Saddle River Valley Junior Woman's Club

The Saddle River Valley Junior Woman's Club is very excited to once again have a busy and fun schedule while continuing to give back to our community and local families in need. After welcoming 10 new members in February, we held a new interest meet and greet at Hess Park in April. We also enjoyed celebrating Mother's Day with a Luncheon and Spring Fashion Show at Capital Grille. For the month of May, our social chairs have organized a night out for our members at Board and Brush and our Homelife chairs will be making spring crafts with the kids. Our Cycle For Survival team is looking forward to representing the club at Hudson Yards on May 15th. We invite anyone interested in learning more about the SRVJWC to our May Business Meeting on May 3rd at 8pm at the USR Fire Department. Join us to celebrate Cinco De Mayo and to learn more about our upcoming events including Designer Bag Bingo being held in person on June 8th! Please contact Leslie Lahoud at leslieagcook@hotmail.com with any questions about the SRVJWC.

Brush Pickup

Bundled brush pickup run through October 31, 2022. Bundles must be tied and able to be lifted overhead into a truck. No larger than 4' in diameter or greater than 5' in length.

Household Hazardous Waste

There will be a Household Hazardous Waste Collection on Saturday, May 14, 2022 at Bergen County Campgaw Mountain Reservation, 200 Campgaw Road, Mahwah, NJ and Sunday, June 12, 2022 at Bergen Community College, 400 Paramus Road, Paramus NJ. The collection hours are 9 a.m.-3.p.m., rain or shine. This drop off is free of charge for Bergen County Residents, ID required. Visit www.bcu.org for additional information.

USR WASTE COLLECTIONS - May / June 2022

Garbage:

May Every Monday & Thursday
June Every Monday & Thursday

NOTE: Must call by 10 a.m. the **NEXT DAY** to report missed Trash/Recycles.

Recycling:

May	West Side Tuesdays, May 10, 24	East Side Tuesdays, May 3, 17, 31
June	West Side Tuesdays, June 7, 21	East Side Tuesdays, June 14, 28

NOTE: Must call by 10 a.m. the **NEXT DAY** to report missed Trash/Recycles.

Curbside White Goods:

May	Thursday, May 5	Call 201-327-2196 x221 to schedule appointment for the appliance at LEAST three days prior to the pickup date.
June	Thursday, June 2	

Curbside Bulky Trash: Friday, June 17, 2022

Coming up in May / June 2022

BOROUGH BOARDS

***MAYOR AND COUNCIL**

Thursday, May 5
Thursday, June 2
6:30 p.m. Executive Meeting
8:00 p.m. Regular Meeting

***PLANNING BOARD**

Wednesday, May 11 and Thursday, May 26 at 7 p.m.
Wednesday, June 8 and Thursday, June 23 at 7 p.m.

SHADE TREE

TBD

LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Wednesday, May 18 at 6:30 p.m. at the Library
Wednesday, June 15 at 6:00 p.m. (note time change)

BOARD OF HEALTH

Monday, May 16 at 7:30 p.m.
Meetings, which are normally held the 3rd Monday every other month, will now be held via Zoom until Borough Hall is officially open for attended meetings.

ADULT WALK-IN CLINIC

Cancelled until further notice.

***ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**

Third Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom.

Municipal Court in Session, Borough Hall at 5:00 p.m.

Tuesday, May 10 and May 24

Tuesday, June 14 and Tuesday, June 28

SERVICE GROUPS

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Meetings: Thursdays, May 5 and June 2
Drills: at 7:30 p.m.

AMBULANCE CORP

Meetings: First Wednesday each month at 7:30 p.m.
Drills: Fourth Wednesday each month at 7:30 p.m.

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

Monday, May 2nd at 10:00am downstairs at the Library–
New members always welcome.

Contact nona.maher@gmail.com for information

Monday, June 6th End of year Meeting, Location TBD

BERGEN HIGHLANDS ROTARY

Mondays, at 12:15 to 1:30 p.m. at Houlihans in Ramsey.
No meeting on Federal Holidays and last Monday of the month is a Breakfast Meeting that starts at 7:45 a.m.

***SADDLE RIVER VALLEY LIONS CLUB**

TBD

WOMAN'S CLUB

Tuesday May 3rd at 7:00 p.m. downstairs at the Library
Tuesday, June 7th at 7:00 at Anona Lake Pavilion

***Meetings held via teleconference.**

Due to COVID 19, meetings could be cancelled or rescheduled.

Adult Walk-In Health Clinic

Cancelled till further notice.

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Mayor and Council

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