

BOROUGH HALL REPORT

This newsletter is the first of a series that we hope to publish every few months. Its purpose is to inform you of what actions your Borough Council and other municipal boards are taking on major issues. Good government requires communication between you and your Council, so we welcome your suggestions and comments--in writing or in person--on the second and fourth Thursdays of each month, 8:30 PM.

GARBAGE

From all newspaper accounts, we have been fortunate this winter. Service has been without interruption and has been performed satisfactorily. We still have "back door" service at reasonable cost. Please cooperate by following the regulations (copies available at Borough Clerk's office) and, particularly, by having a "safe" path to your container. Cleanup week for March will be from the 23rd to the 28th. If you have a problem, call Jerry Faber, at 797-3290 or the Borough Clerk.

TRAFFIC

Bergen County officials have recently advised us that the final approvals have been given to the traffic light at Crescent Ave. and Franklin Turnpike. We expect the contract papers any day. Then we can begin engineering and land acquisition. At the same time, the corner will be rebuilt to make it safer. We have budgeted \$12,500 as our share of the costs for this year and look forward to completion in 1970. We expect to be reimbursed for all but \$2,500.

The county also plans to rebuild the corner of Allendale Ave. and Franklin Turnpike as part of an improvement program for the latter thoroughfare. This is not expected before 1971, however.

The re-shaping of Dunn's Corner, on Allendale Ave., has been postponed indefinitely by the county pending the outcome of the college site location.

STATE COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY

The selection of a site for this new college is not yet resolved. The area west of Rte. 17, adjacent to Allendale's eastern border, is still one of the favored locations. After the December public hearing, the Allendale Council and Planning Board voted to oppose the Rte. 17 site, not only on the basis of the negative effect on our public facilities (traffic, etc.) but also because a more urban site would be more desirable. We believe the college should be located near its students and that it can have a beneficial impact in an urban environment. We also believe that the lower cost of the Saddle River site will soon be over-shadowed by its disadvantages.

Other sites now under consideration include Hackensack, Englewood and the meadows. We are working closely with Waldwick, Ridgewood, Saddle River and Upper Saddle River on this problem. More information is available at Borough Hall. Everyone is urged to write to Mr. Ralph A. Dungan, Chancellor of Higher Education, 225 West State St., Trenton, N.J. 08625, expressing ideas and opinions.

BUDGET TIME

The operating budget for the Borough is about complete. It will be up by approximately 18% over last year. The major reasons are: a salary increase that averages 8% for borough employees, inclusion of a full year's garbage collection expense vs. one half year's in the previous budget, and the inclusion of a portion of the sewer costs. This year we plan to spend \$607,126 as against \$511,106 in '69. Income from all sources is estimated to be \$277,201, up from \$248,650 last year. The resulting balance to be paid from taxation is \$329,925 as against \$265,756 last year. While all the budgets that go into the makeup of our tax roll are only preliminary at this time, our calculations lead us to believe the tax rate will go to \$3.79 from \$3.26, an increase of 53%.

This analysis points up very vividly our need for reviewing the overall land use situation (see PROPOSED SUBDIVISIONS herein). In our next "Report" we will attempt to summarize the entire budgetary situation, including the requirements of the school districts and the county. By then, these will have been finalized.

SEWER SYSTEM

So far, the weather has not cooperated, so we plan to extend the 90-day hookup requirement. However, we will expect that everyone to be connected have an agreement with a contractor (or approval of the plumbing inspector for do-it-yourself work) by the end of March. Operation of the sewer system will be the responsibility of the Board of Public Works.

We are now faced with the decision of whether to sewer any or all of the balance of Allendale. In this regard, we have asked our sewer engineers to update their cost and operating estimates. Our tentative schedule calls for a public hearing in April. Meanwhile, this is the time for petitions, letters, etc. for or against additional sewers. Frank Rouault, our Borough Clerk, will gladly assist in the preparation of petitions.

NEW LIBRARY

The Library Board has been working very hard to finalize a site for a new library. The present structure is generally considered to be inadequate in many ways. Under consideration are: the area adjacent to the A & P supermarket, the Crestwood Lake area and part of the Guardian Angel Church property. Hopefully, a decision will be forthcoming soon so that plans may be made for necessary architectural work and a public referendum. The present library contains 2,000 sq. ft., whereas the new one would have about 8,000.

PROCESSED SUBDIVISIONS

Preliminary plans have been submitted to the Planning Board within the past few months for approximately 200 homes in four areas. These include the Crestwood Lake area (80), Powell Rd. area (53), New St. area (33) and Wilton Dr. area (32). These are in addition to two smaller subdivisions (totaling 28 homes) that are already being processed. We further understand that some 70 homes are projected for an area near the Riding Academy (on Boroline Rd.). In contrast, 38 homes were built during the past two years.

In January, the Borough Council and Planning Board held a joint meeting to discuss various ramifications of these developments. All agreed that taxes would be seriously affected; they are already high and it appears they will go higher as new homes are built. With this in mind, the Planning Board will review all undeveloped areas with the intention of trying to gain some additional industrial ratables without changing the character of Allendale.

Also, we are now investigating the possibility of purchasing a portion of the Crestwood Lake area for recreation purposes. Anyone having suggestions is urged to contact us.

NARCOTICS

Drug sale and use is on the rise in Allendale and surrounding communities. In order to combat this problem, the Police Dept. has sent personnel to a school for special training. In January an adult forum was held and at that time Chief Parenti announced that a drug abuse advisory committee had been formed, composed of a number of professional people in Allendale and including Rev. Kenneth A. Polglase. The purpose of the committee is to offer assistance to first-time experimenters. Another forum, this one for late-teenagers, is planned for March.

MISCELLANY

We have asked the N.J. State Dept. of Community Affairs to review our administrative set-up with the intention of improving efficiency.

The county has prepared a Public Transportation Guide that shows bus and rail services. Available, free, if you send a large, self-addressed envelope with 12¢ postage on it to the Board of Transportation, 29 Linden St., Hackensack.

We recognize that rail-side parking is getting very tight and will try to alleviate the situation when better weather comes. Meanwhile, please cooperate by parking in legal locations.

IN CASUALTY

We know that all Allendale residents join with us in expressing our sympathy to Mr. and Mrs. Savario De Mercurio on the death of their son, Rocco, as a result of wounds he received in Vietnam.

Sincerely,

- Albert J. Merz, Jr.
- Mayor
- Norman S. Lane
- G. Fred Brackett
- Frederick W. Dankering
- Robert E. Schenk
- Anthony J. Ward
- John T. Winship
- Councilmen

MUNICIPAL BUILDING
290 FRANKLIN TURNPIKE
ALLENDALE, N. J. 07401



WALTER WARDELL
78 EDGEWOOD RD
ALLENDALE N J
07401