

# Mayor's Message

## February 2008

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The New Jersey State League of Municipalities and I have an excellent scholarship opportunity for the High School Juniors and Seniors from Lincoln Park.

We have teamed up to offer three \$1000.00 scholarships through the Louis Bay 2<sup>nd</sup> Future Municipal Leaders Scholarship Competition. This statewide scholarship competition centers on the theme "What My Mayor and Governing Body Do Best" and seeks to advance the virtues of elected and volunteer members of municipal government.

Many of the elected officials and appointed board members in the borough serve Lincoln Park with little or no compensation. It is their altruistic desire to serve their community which compels them to public service. These officials, along with a cadre of dedicated professionals, are guardians of our hometown comforts and security. They give of their time and talents to help plan our community and preserve our way of life.

They serve us year-round, every day, and yet are hardly noticed. This scholarship competition will help rectify that, while encouraging our future municipal leaders.

Full details of the application process and contest can be obtained by contacting my office at (973) 270-2020 or visiting the Administration Office on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the Municipal Building.

I hope to see many of our young adults representing Lincoln Park in the Future Municipal Leaders Scholarship Competition.

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For your information, here are some points regarding the 2008 Municipal Budget as Administration and Council head into this year's budget process.

The municipal share of the 2007 overall tax bill was 33% of your taxes.

The school share of the 2007 overall tax bill was 56% of your taxes.

The county share of the 2007 overall tax bill was 11% of your taxes.

A tax point in Lincoln Park is \$ 75,000.00. This means that every time we need to raise \$75,000.00 not covered by revenue we need to increase the tax rate by 1 penny.

The present 2007 tax rate for Lincoln Park is \$3.84 per thousand of *assessed* property value.

The average home in Lincoln Park has an assessed value of approximately \$175,000. The 2007 taxes on the average home was \$6,720.00 which is broken down as follows:

Municipal	\$2,199.75
School	3,601.50
County	918.75

Each tax point increase will add an additional \$19.25 to the tax bill of the average home in Lincoln Park.

There are several major increases which the borough must budget for in 2008 including increases to insurance premiums, increases to pension and social security contributions, an increase in the sewer rate from the Two Bridges Sewer Authority, appropriations to pay for damage caused by the flooding in April and increased mandated contribution to our public library.

Budget Hearings are open public meetings. Contact the Municipal Clerks Office for times and dates.