

## Mayor's Message

**April 2008**

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Lincoln Park Ranked 5<sup>th</sup> Best Place to Live in New Jersey!

New Jersey Monthly magazine recently ranked every one of the 566 municipalities that make up the great state of New Jersey. Lincoln Park was given the 5<sup>th</sup> highest score in the state, letting everyone know what we here in town always have...that Lincoln Park is one of the best places to live...anywhere!

The ranking was based on several items including real estate values, amount of open space, tax rate, unemployment, crime rate, access to health care and standardized testing for schools. Although these items give a great way of objectively evaluating "where" we live, it does little to show "how" we live. I believe that if values were assigned to community, neighborhood and everyday life here in Lincoln Park, we would have scored even higher than our "5<sup>th</sup> Best" showing.

Taxes are obviously a concern here in Lincoln Park...as they are everywhere in New Jersey. Knowing that tax rates were used as part of NJ Monthly's evaluation and we were able to finish with a top 1% ranking helps show us that although taxes may not be low, we are doing better than many municipalities throughout the state. Further, we are able to do this without significant new ratables each year. I read recently that another Morris County town near us were able to keep taxes stable in 2008 as they have 50 Million in new ratables this year...\$50 million! Last year, due to tax appeals, we actually had a slight decrease in ratables.

Everyday life in Lincoln Park is what makes us, in my belief, even better than 5<sup>th</sup> best. This past year alone, we have added many new programs for the benefits of all of our residents. Additional Recreation programs for children and adults, new Health programs, participation in the NJ Mayor's Wellness Campaign, Adult and High School Citizen's Police Academies, holiday celebrations, improvements to our recycling yard and community lake, grants and plans to improve walkways throughout town are all ways that quality of life continues to improve in Lincoln Park.

The most noteworthy item that makes our town a great place to live can be found in our neighborhoods and the pride in our community. A vast amount of things from the great number of civic organizations, the quality of our volunteer services, the dedication of those who run our PAL and Senior programs, and those that support them are what truly makes us as good as we are. These are also the things that will continue to insure that we are only going to get better!

Congratulations to each and every one of you for achieving the recognition of being voted "5<sup>th</sup> Best Place to Live in NJ"!

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