



Tracy Kallert
Mayor

Borough of Woodland Park

Office of the Mayor

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Dear Woodland Park Property Owners,

I hope this message finds you and your family well. Your 2024-2025 tax bills have been mailed and will be arriving shortly.

In these challenging times plagued with inflation, increased interest rates and economic uncertainty, your local officials are doing everything we can to protect your hard-earned tax dollars. The Mayor and Council worked closely with the school districts and the county administration to continue our commitment to fiscal responsibility without eliminating any essential services. As always, continuing to invest in public safety and infrastructure improvement is a top priority of this administration.

The local budget process was not without its challenges. Rising healthcare premiums, annual pension obligations, and much needed infrastructure maintenance were some of the more expensive items that required funding in this year's budget.

In the last 12 months the Borough implemented strict spending plans and eliminated redundancy with regard to staffing. Due to these efforts this year's municipal tax increase is \$156.24 on the average residential assessment. Comparatively, this is \$43.05 less than last year's municipal increase of \$199.29. This year Woodland Park saw a reduction in taxes from Passaic County and Passaic Valley High School, while our local schools saw an increase of \$111.10. The total tax increase on the average residential assessment will be \$222.21.

The Borough receives 29% of the total taxes collected, while the schools, County, and the Library and Open Space receive the remaining 71% of your tax bill. The Borough operates on twenty-nine cents on every dollar received.

To offset some of the tax burden, the Borough was awarded \$1,017,682.00 in grant funds in 2023. The Passaic County Board of Commissioners awarded Woodland Park \$208,468.00 in Open Space grants for Zaccaria Park and \$200,000.00 for Diane Grimes Park. They also awarded a Community Block Grant in the amount of \$147,678.00 for the Maple Avenue and Taft Ave sewer rehabilitation project and \$1,000.00 for our Stigma Free initiative.

To date, the Borough has received over \$1,285,000.00 dollars in grant funds for 2024, with additional applications pending in excess of \$3,500,000.00.

I write this letter in the interest of transparency and open communication. If you have any questions or would like further clarification, please do not hesitate to reach out to my office on this or any other matter you feel we may be of assistance.

Rest assured, keeping Woodland Park affordable is a top priority of this Mayor and Council.

Best Regards,

Tracy Kallert
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