

BOROUGH OF WOODLAND PARK

ESTABLISHED 1914

TRACY KALLERT
MAYOR



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
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Mother Nature has finally given us a much-needed break from all the rain we have seen over the last few months. The Council and I hope you are enjoying your Summer and spending quality time with family and friends.

Due to severe weather, we had to postpone our Woodland Park Day Celebration. We are looking forward to our new date, Saturday, September 27th and hope you will be able to join us. This year thanks to the overwhelming support of our generous sponsors our event promises to be our best one yet. We look forward to seeing you and your families.

Over the past months we have stressed the Borough's financial difficulties and our budgetary concerns.

Please know your local officials are doing everything we can to protect your hard-earned tax dollars. The Mayor and Council collaborated 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.

While continuing to enforce strict spending plans our efforts have begun to show sound results. This year's municipal tax increase is \$152.29 on the average residential assessment. Comparatively, this is \$3.95 less than last year's municipal increase of 156.24 and \$47.00 less than the 199.29 seen in 2023. While some may view this as a marginal decrease, we believe it speaks volumes to our commitment to finding ways to control costs while not eliminating any services to the homeowners. Passaic Valley High School presented the Borough with a \$109.78 tax decrease while our local schools saw an increase of \$163.18. The total tax increase on the average residential assessment will be available in your August tax bill once the County tax portion has been finalized.

This Spring we congratulated Lieutenant Erik Luker on his retirement from the Woodland Park Police Department. We thank him for his decades of service and wish him and his family the very best.

I had the honor of welcoming our new Police Officer to our Department, Patrolman Anthony Martinez. Anthony, while new to the Department, is certainly not new to Woodland Park. He grew up here, attended the local schools and is now raising his family here. We could not be prouder to have him protecting our community and our residents.

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Our Fire Department anxiously awaits the delivery of their new 2025 Pierce Fire Pumper. This new apparatus will replace an old pumper that has been serving the Borough since 2001. Fire Company #3 on Rifle Camp Road will house this new addition that can pump 2000 gallons of water a minute.

We expect delivery this Summer. These investments in infrastructure and public safety are vital to our community.

Exciting progress is underway on our library renovation and expansion! The foundations are poured, and steel columns and roof structures are being installed. With each step, we are getting closer to the modern, welcoming space our community deserves.

If the Summer finds you looking for summer adventures that will not break the bank, use your library card to check out free museum passes! From local art museums to botanical gardens, your next day trip is just a library visit away. Explore, learn, and make memories all summer long.

The Summer is when I get the chance to immerse myself in my favorite past time, reading.

I find great enjoyment in losing myself in the adventures, locations, and characters presented within a book for an hour or two.

For those of you who share my passion check out the Library's Adult Summer Reading Program. Enjoy wonderful books, enriching programs, and the chance to win delightful prizes. Whether you love historical fiction, memoirs, mysteries, or great programs, there is something for you at the library.

I enjoy the chance to share Woodland Park's highlights and invite you to meet with myself, the Council, or the staff, should you need anything or just for a coffee and conversation.

Have a wonderful Summer!