JANUARY 2025 | @BOROUGH HALL |





### **MESSAGE FROM MAYOR & COUNCIL**

Happy New Year and welcome to 2025! I hope you and your loved ones had a joyful holiday season and are excited for the opportunities and challenges this new year will bring. As we begin this year, I want to take a moment to thank everyone in our community for your continued support and commitment to making Bergenfield such a wonderful place to live.

At our recent Borough Reorganization Meeting, we were pleased to swear in Councilmen Thomas Lodato and Hernando Rivera for new terms. Their dedication and service to Bergenfield will continue to make a positive impact as they work alongside our team to serve the needs of all residents.

As we move into January, we honor the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. His vision of equality, justice, and community continues to inspire us all. Please note that Borough Hall will be closed on January 20th in observance of this important holiday.

In February, we celebrate Presidents Day, a time to reflect on the leadership and vision that has shaped our great nation. Borough Hall will also be closed on February 19th in recognition of this holiday.

March brings the return of the Bergen County Irish Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade down Washington Avenue. This wonderful event is a highlight of the season, and I encourage everyone to come out and enjoy the festivities with friends and neighbors.

Winter sports are in full swing, and I want to wish all of our athletes the best of luck as they compete. We're incredibly proud of our teams and their hard work! Spring sports will be kicking off soon, and I extend my support to all of our young athletes as they begin their practices and preparations for the season ahead.

I'm also excited to share that we are making great progress on the next phase of the Borough Hall Project. We're on track to complete the upgrades, including full parking and improved amenities, in the spring. We greatly appreciate your patience and understanding as we continue to make these necessary improvements to better serve our community.

Thank you for being a part of the vibrant and caring community that makes Bergenfield special. I look forward to all the accomplishments and memories that 2025 will bring.

Wishing you all a wonderful year ahead!

In this edition:
Department Reports
Winter Activities
Borough Hall Updates

Boards, Committees and much more!

### Mayor

Arvin Amatorio

### Council

- Hernando Rivera
- Thomas Lodato
- Ora KornbluthMarc Pascual
- Buddy Deauna
- Domingo Almonte



# R

### Volunteers Needed

Our Community Groups, Boards, Firefighters and Recreation are all looking for people to get involved please visit our Community Involvement Page (FORM)











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# 2024 FALL/WINTER WRAP UP



HAUNTED COOPERS

TRUNK OR TREAT

COSTUME PARADE

TRUNK OR TREAT

TRUNK OR TREAT



**VETERANS** DAY



VETERANS DAY



MAYORS WALLNESS



LEAGUE OF MUNICIPALITIES MUNICIPALITIES



LEAGUE OF











# League of Municipalities





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# **Health Department News**



In New Jersey, it's mandatory that dog & cat owners have their pets licensed. A license tag helps police, animal control and shelters quickly identify your dog or cat and get them back to you safely. Licensing your pet is important to control the spread of Rabies, it also ensures when a dog bite occurs and person is bitten, the town can quickly identify and immediately determine whether the animal is up to date on its Rabies vaccine. Fees from pet licensing are distributed to the statewide Animal population control program.



All Dogs/Cats MUST be licensed by January 31, 2025. Please scan QR code on the left to access the online application. Please mail application with a copy of updated rabies vaccine & payment. Rabies vaccine MUST be valid through the entire licensing period.



MEETING

Board of Health Meetings held via zoom on the 2nd Tuesday of the month.

Please refer to the calender on the back of this bulletin for dates.

\*\* January 2025 Licensing\*\*

Reminders

Dog & Cat Licensing

Cosmatoloy Licensing

Daycare Licensing

All Daycares MUST be Licensed by January 31, 2025. Please mail application along with the fee and license for all employees at the daycare.

CHC & SAC immunization program for uninsured children every 2nd & 3rd Tuesday of the month. Contact the Health Dept, if you have any questions regarding any of the programs listed.







All Nail/ Hair Salons MUST be licensed by January 31, 2025.

Please mail application, fee and licenses for all employees in the shop.

# Senior Bus Services HANDICAPPED & ELDERLY TRANSPORATION PROGRAM

- Providing residents with transportation to Doctors, Hospitals or Clinics in this area.
- Also provides a shopping route every Wednesday.
- · Operation Days: Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri
- Operation Hours: 9AM-1PM

Contact: DPW Dispatcher at 201-387-4055 x4088





Scan here for a report an outage, gas leak, or to see outage map.

### 

### NO WIPES DOWN THE PIPES

Even if a product says its "flushable"
unless it is toilet paper,
it should not be flushed! Please avoid
flushing wipes down the toilet to prevent
backups into homes and businesses. These
incidents are entirely avoidable, yet backups
are occurring more frequently.

### **Know your rights:**

### **Rent Leveling Board**

The Rent Leveling Board hears and mediates landlord/tenant complaints primarily with respect to rent increases and makes recommendations to the Mayor and Council. This board also refers code violations to the appropriate Borough Office.



Scan here for Borough Code Rights of Landlords & Renters

### **Meetings**

The Public meetings of the Rent Leveling Board of the Borough of Bergenfield, State of New Jersey will be held on the 1st Wednesday of every month at Borough Hall, Municipal Building, 198 N Washington, second (2nd) floor Conference Room, Bergenfield, NJ at 7:00 P.M. at which formal action may be taken.

For more information please contact Jaime Luppino (201) 387-4055 x4088



Scan here for Downloadable forms and more information



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### **Building Department**

How do to deal with basement water issues?

A common technique to remedy water moisture in a basement, is to remove the perimeter of the basement slab and install a perforated pipe embedded in crushed stone directed to a sump to facilitate the collection of groundwater.

This is often referred to as a "French Drain,".

A "French drain" or "channel drain" is a pathway used to assist with water drainage which is installed in basements.

This pathway consists of a gap (typically, one-half to one and one-half inch in width) between the basement block wall and the concrete floor slab around the entire inside perimeter of the basement.

Unlike exterior perimeter drains, there are no code requirements for the installation of a perimeter drain that is installed inside of the basement wall. This does not mean that it is prohibited as a construction technique in an existing building.

However, because there are no code requirements for the installation of a perimeter drain on the inside of the foundation wall, this work does not require any inspections during the progress of work, therefore no building permit is required.

Lastly, the installation of a sump-pump and discharge piping where there previously was none will always require a permit and is required to be installed by either a master plumber or the homeowner. The discharge water must drain onto your property, and not onto the street. Replacement pumps would not require a permit.





### CODE ENFORCEMENT







# IMPORTANT NOTICE FOR PROPERTY OWNERS WITH HOMES BUILT DURING OR BEFORE 1978

As of January 1, 2025, as mandated by the State of New Jersey. Bergenfield will begin Visual Lead Inspections for rental properties built before 1978. The best time to schedule is during your annual rental inspection.

Inspection fees:

Borough Certified: \$100 (single unit), \$50 (additional units)

NJ Division of Community Affairs: \$20 per unit

For details and to schedule, visit the Bergenfield Borough website or contact the Building Department.











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# DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS





Keep grease out of the drains – Collect Fat, Oil
and Grease and put it in
GREASE RECYCLING BINGS

REMINDER TO ALL RESIDENTS:

Scrape grease and food from plates and cookware into the garbage before you wash them.



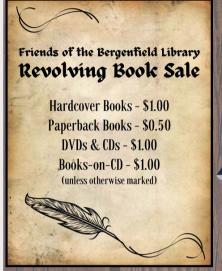






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### **Community Updates:**







Designed to prepare students to be safe when they're home alone, watching younger siblings, or babysitting. The Instructor-led class is filled with fun games and role-playing exercises. students even get to use manneguins to practice rescue skills like choking rescue!

### **EVERY THIRD SATURDAY**

9AM-2PM

**BOROUGH HALL 2ND FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM** 198 N WASHINGTON AVE, BERGENFIELD NJ 07621

### REGISTRATION INFORMATION



CONTACT: BERGENFIELD HEALTH DEPARTMENT REPSTEIN@BERGENFIELDNJ.GOV (201) 387-4055





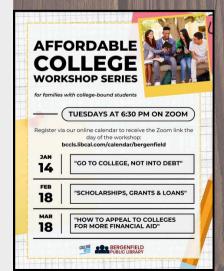
YFW Post 6467 & VFW AUXILARY COMMITTEE BORO HALL CHRISTMAS TREE DONATION

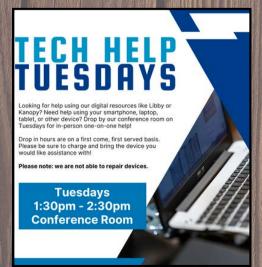


Alternate school students helping out at the Community Garden



Bergenfield School District Bear's Den fishing event at Cooper's Pond







sunday appointments now available

The Bergenfield Public Library is designated to accept and execute passport applications on behalf of the Department of State. We verify the information of applicants using Form DS-11, which includes all first-time applicants and minors. We then send these verified applications for processing and issuance of passports.

### YOU NEED TO BRING THE FOLLOWING:

- DS-11 ApplicationProof of citizenship

- Proof of identity
  One 2" by 2" color passport photo
- · Two checks or money orders

we also do passport photos! (photo-only appointments also available)

Set up an appointment today!

https://calendly.com/bergenfieldllbrary/passports 🔫

more information, go to our website at bergenfieldlibrary.org/passport





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The Bergenfield PAL fields have recently undergone significant improvements thanks to the proactive efforts of the Borough, with substantial upgrades that enhance the experience for athletes, families, and the community at large.

One of the most notable upgrades is the installation of new lighting, made possible by the Green Acres Grants sourced by the Borough. These grants are vital in making improvements to local recreational spaces without placing a financial burden on taxpayers. The upgraded lighting not only improves visibility for evening games and practices but also enhances safety, making the fields more accessible and enjoyable for everyone.

In addition to the lighting improvements, the fields have also seen a major cleanup effort aimed at revitalizing the facility. This includes the repair and refurbishment of dilapidated dugouts, the replacement of old fencing, and the clearing of overgrown vegetation that had become a safety hazard and eyesore. Volunteers from Roy Brown Middle School have played a crucial role in this initiative, dedicating their time to paint the dugouts and clubhouse, providing a fresh look to the facility.

These upgrades are a testament to the power of community collaboration and the Borough's commitment to providing quality recreational spaces without burdening local taxpayers. The improvements will help ensure that Bergenfield PAL fields remain a vibrant hub for sports, family activities, and community events for years to come.

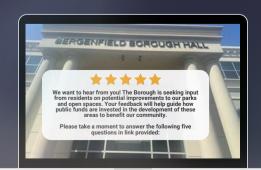








BOROUGH OF BERGENFIELD PARKS & OPEN SPACE IMPROVEMENTS SURVEY





RESIDENT FEED BACK

YOUR INPUT IS INVALUABLE AS WE WORK TOGETHER TO MAKE BERGENFIELD'S PARKS A BETTER PLACE FOR ALL RESIDENTS.
THANK YOU FOR TAKING THE TIME TO SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS!







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**Police Safety** www.bergenfieldpd.org

### mergency Services **Winter Safety Tips**

Captain: Nick Garofano Fire Official: Kevin Cook

Chief: Steven Naylis 1st Deputy Chief: Norman Hoyt, Jr 2nd Deputy Chief: Rvan Zadrozna Captain: Kevin Schade Cantain: Edward Kneisler III Lieutenant: Israel Infield Lieutenant: JF Cote Lieutenant: Emily Sandman Lieutenant: David Byrne



### Bergenfield Police Department Safety Tips for Winter 2024

As we welcome the cold months of January, February, and March, the Bergenfield Police Department would like to remind all residents to stay safe and vigilant. The winter season brings its own set of safety concerns, from street parking restrictions to the risk of phone and online scams, as well as keeping your property secure during longer nights. Here are a few important safety tips for the upcoming months:

### No Street Parking During Snowstorms

Winter storms are a common occurrence in Bergenfield, and the safety of our roads depends on keeping them clear for snow removal and emergency vehicles. No street parking is allowed during snowstorms as this can hinder plows and emergency responders from doing their jobs efficiently. If you park on the street, be sure to move your vehicle to a driveway or designated parking area when snow is expected. The Bergenfield Police Department will be monitoring street parking during snow events, and vehicles parked illegally may be ticketed or towed to ensure snowplows can do their work. Please stay tuned to local weather forecasts and parking alerts to avoid fines and to keep our streets safe for everyone.

### **Enhance Your Outdoor Lighting**

As daylight hours decrease in the winter, the risk of property crimes like burglaries increases. A well-lit property is one of the best deterrents to criminal activity. \*\*Outdoor lighting\*\* can help keep your home secure and reduce the risk of theft or vandalism.

- Motion-activated lights are particularly effective, as they surprise potential intruders and alert you to activity around your home. Consider installing lights near entrances, walkways, driveways,
- Timers for indoor lights can give the appearance that someone is home, even when you're not. A few well-placed lights inside your home can make a big difference in deterring burglars.
- Keep your exterior well-lit even during the night. Lighting helps neighbors keep an eye on your property as well, which can make a significant difference in preventing criminal activity.

www.bergenfieldFD.org

Blockages in your dryer are caused by built-up lint, clothes themselves, animal homes, and many more flammable items. These objects can hold the heat and compress it, causing a fire. Luckily you can prevent devastating dryer fires caused by clogged vents

**DRYER FIRES** 

### **Dryer Fire Prevention Tips**

Keep the following tips in mind when using dryer machines to help prevent fires.

- Clothes that no longer feel dry to the touch after a normal dry cycle are a telltale sign that something's wrong. Before doing the next load, check for a plugged vent and clean out any lint
- No matter where your laundry room is located, place a smoke detector on the ceiling above the dryer. I have a 10-year-rated smoke detector above my dryer, and if it sounds, all the smoke detectors in the house also sound
- Never leave your dryer running when you leave the house. Many serious fires occur, and many pets die because of dryer fires.
- Never leave your dryer running when you go to bed. An average of over a dozen deaths and hundreds injured from dryer fires every year.
- Clean the entire duct system two or more times a
- Clean the lint filter after every load
- Do not overload the dryer









Stay informed! **Phone Alerts** To register for ROBOCALLS from the Borough of Bergenfield with urgent messages for residents.







**PLEASE VISIT** NW.BERGENFIELDAMBULANCE.ORG FOR MORE INFORMATION

### Bergenfield Municipal Court

Bergenfield Municipal Court is conducting court appearances virtually via Zoom video conferencing instead of having participants physically attend the

Individuals will receive notices through the mail and/or by email with instructions on how to participate. If you have a matter that is scheduled with this court and if you have not already done so, please contact Bergenfield Municipal Court via e-mail. Provide your name, summons number, email address and, telephone number.

- nadia.cavli@njcourts.gov
- 201-387-4055 ext 2

- You may pay your traffic ticket/complaint through one of the following methods:
- In-person at the Violations Bureau Window 9:00AM- 4:00PM
- · You may pay with cash, check, money order or by credit-
- · By mail with either check or money order. Please remember to provide either the ticket or complaint number with your payment method.







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Since October, the final destruction of the Old Borough Hall has taken place. While it is with a sense of sympathy that we bid farewell to a building that served our community for many years, we understand that it had outlived its structural life and could no longer be feasibly renovated. The site of the former Borough Hall will be transformed into additional parking and greenspace, which will enhance the area in front of the new Borough Hall.

In addition, our Veterans Monuments have been relocated to the south side of the municipal complex, where they will be displayed in a more prominent and dignified setting, complete with pavers, larger gathering spaces, and upgraded audio components. We are excited to see the continued progress of the municipal complex and look forward to completing the next phase by the end of March, weather permitting.









# Tax Department



- 2025 First Quarter installment is due FEBRUARY 1ST with a grace period date to February 7th, delinquent notices are mailed out through out after the end of grace period.
- Delinquent notices are mailed out through out after the end of grace period.
- PD5's (Annual Post-Tax Year Annual Statement) Must be mailed out by February 1st and returned by March 1st
- Qualified veterans, senior citizen, disabled or surviving spouse, Civil union/Domestic Partner of a senior citizen or disabled person qualified for a \$250.00 deduction on their yearly property taxes.
- Senior freeze property tax reimbursement applications are mailed on the month of February for qualified applicants. These 2024 verification forms are called (PTR-1A and PTR-2A), you may apply by calling 1-800-882-6597
- You may apply for the Affordable New Jersey Communities for Homeowners and Renters (ANCHOR) Program
- For your convenience the DROP BOX is available 24/7 7 days a week.
- Property taxes can be paid online for free plus (where you can register for automatic alert.)



(ANCHOR) Program

### Bergenfield Museum

Happy New Year, Bergenfield! If you've never been to the Bergenfield Museum at Cooper's Pond (the yellow house next to the red mill), it's time to try something new. Stop by the Museum, and learn some interesting and fun facts about Bergenfield. See displays of vintage maps, clothing, tools, toys and Cooper chairs made right at the Mill over 150 years ago.

There are seven rooms to explore, it's close to home, and it's all FREE.

THE MUSEUM IS OPEN TUESDAYS AND SATURDAYS, 1:30 TO 3:30.( NOTE MUSEUM WILL BE CLOSED DURING FEBRUARY)

For more information contact: bergenfieldmuseumsocietynj@gmail.com.



Bergenfield Museum Society donating a check to the Bergenfield Food Pantry



2025	@BOROUGH HALL
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Borough Hall will be Closed

January 20th

in Honor of Martin Luther King Jr. Day







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# February Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday







7 TAXES DUE

2

Zoning Board Meeting 8:00PM

3

Mayor & Council Meeting 8:00PM Work Session Meeting (tentative) V AUX Meetii

5

VFW AUX Meeting 7:00PM VFW POST 6

7

8

9

10

 VFW AUX Meeting 7:00PM VFW POST

77

 Board of Health Meeting 7:00PM via Zoom 12

Lincoln's Birthday Borough Offices Closed 13

14

• Safe Sitter Class 9:00AM Borough Hall

15

VFW Advisory 10:30M Library

16

Presidents Day Borough Offices Closed

17

18

Mayor & Council Meeting 8:00PM Regular Meeting (tentative) 19

20

27

22

23

24

Planning Board Meeting 8PM 25

26

27

28







BOROUGH HALL
CLOSED
FEBRUARY 17TH



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			March					
Surday	Monday	Tuesday	Wedresday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday		
	S	PR		Ġ		<b>1</b> • Museum Open 1:30PM-3:00PM		
2	3 Zoning Board Meeting 8:00PM	• VFW Members Meeting 7:00pm VFW POST • Mayor & Council Meeting 8:00PM Work Session Meeting (tentative)	• VFW AUX Meeting 7:00PM VFW POST	6	7	<ul><li>&amp;</li><li>Museum Open</li><li>1:30PM-3:00PM</li></ul>		
9	10	• VFW Members Meeting 7:00pm VFW POST • Board of Health Meeting @ 7pm	• VFW AUX Meeting 7:00PM VFW POST	13	74	• Safe Sitter Class 9AM Conlon Hall • VFW Advisory 10:30M Library • Museum Open 1:30PM-3:00PM		
<b>76</b> St. Patrick's Day Parade	<b>17</b> Planning Board Meeting 8:00PM	18 Mayor & Council Meeting 8:00PM Regular Meeting (tentative)	19	20	21	<b>22</b> Museum Open 1:30PM-3:00PM		
23	24	25	26	27	28	29		
30	31	A3RD ANNUAL  ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE						
	SUNDAY MARCH 16TH							