

## HOPEWELL TOWNSHIP OPEN SPACE TAX LEVERAGES \$2,973,597 IN GRANTS

The enactment of the Township open space tax has made the preservation of 1,931 acres possible and it has also qualified the Township for matching funds from state, county and non-profit programs.

The Township recently received planning incentive grants that will provide \$2,350,000 from the 2003 New Jersey Green Acres program. These grants were available because the Hopewell Township voters supported the enactment of a municipal open space tax.

The State Agricultural Development Committee provided \$181,305 towards the Faille farm development easement purchase this spring. To date, the Mercer County Open Space Committee has approved grants of \$442,292 for five of the Township's preservation projects.

The Township has spent \$8,369,651 that will be offset by \$2,973,597 in matching grants. This means that the Township's average cost per acre will be reduced from \$4,335 to \$2,794 thanks to this grant funding, leveraged by the Township's open space tax.

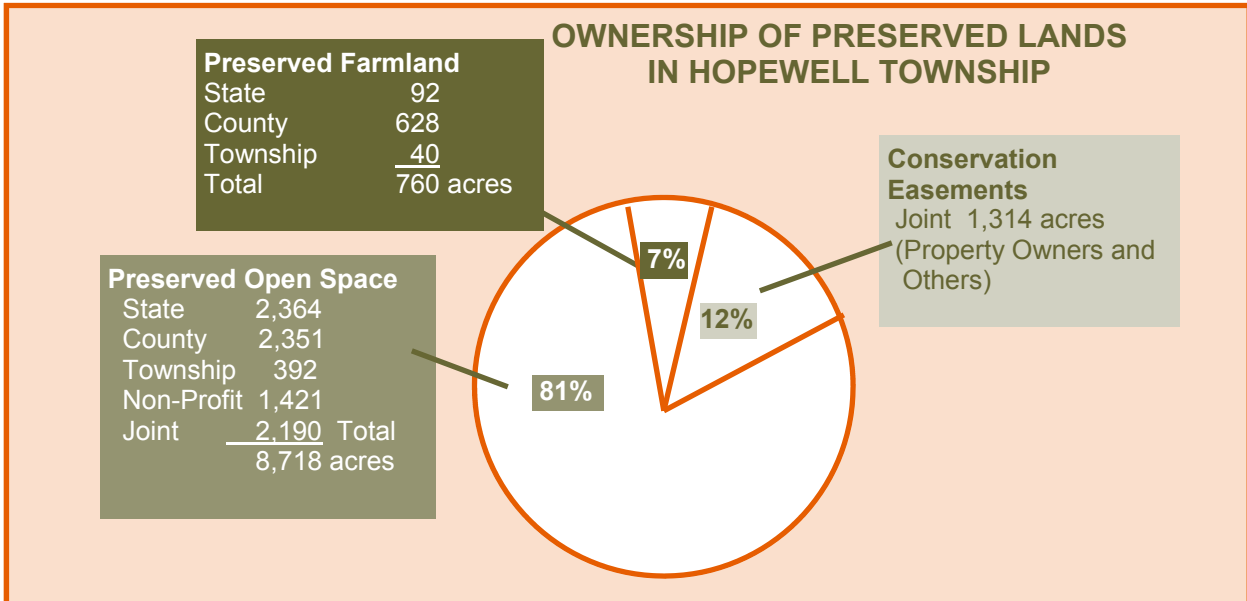
## THE TOWNSHIP OPEN SPACE TAX IS ON THE NOVEMBER BALLOT

The November 4, 2003 General Election Ballot will have a question asking Township voters to indicate whether or not the Hopewell Township ("municipal") open space tax should be increased from the current three cents (\$.03) to a total of four cents (\$.04). If approved, the owner of a property valued at \$200,000 will pay \$20 more in open space tax each year starting in 2004. This owner's annual municipal open space tax bill will increase from \$60.00 to \$80.00 in 2004. This additional cent, given the current Township's assessed value, would raise an additional \$225,000 in tax revenue annually.

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The pie chart below gives a picture of the public-private cooperation which helped to preserve 10,792 acres to date in the Township. Included are the acres preserved by joint ventures of local governments, private owners and non-profit organizations.



### HOPEWELL TOWNSHIP PRESERVED LAND PROJECTS

Parcel	Year	OpenSpace or Farm	Twp Contribution	Total Cost *	Number of Acres	Twp % of Total Cost *	Twp Cost/Acre
Alliger	1998	OS	\$735,000	\$1,200,000	167.3	61%	\$4,393
Bald Pate Mtn	1998	OS	\$1,000,000	\$11,400,000	1,097.0	9%	\$912
Genovesi	2000	OS	\$4,550	\$65,000	3.0	7%	\$1,517
Hart	2000	OS	\$15,000	\$129,780	7.2	12%	\$2,083
The Elks	2000	OS	\$63,600	\$424,000	44.6	15%	\$1,425
Franz	2000	OS	\$34,975	\$349,750	18.5	10%	\$1,891
Hillman	2000	OS	\$103,000	\$1,031,000	73.0	10%	\$1,411
Driver	2001	OS	\$19,500	\$195,000	11.1	10%	\$1,752
Van Marke	2001	OS	\$0	\$0	5.7	0%	\$0
Hollinger	2001	Farm	\$469,752	\$575,000	32.0	82%	\$14,680
Vogler	2001	Farm	\$325,000	\$325,000	10.3	100%	\$31,553
Thompson	2001	OS	\$193,730	\$968,650	57.0	20%	\$3,399
Vales, Joseph	2002	OS	\$299,784	\$332,000	6.0	90%	\$49,964
Kuser	2002	Farm	\$10,000	\$990,000	129.0	1%	\$78
Albahary	2002	OS	\$18,200	\$175,000	6.0	10%	\$3,033
Lawrence	2002	OS	\$15,700	\$157,000	14.0	10%	\$1,121
Rappaport	2002	OS	\$561,574	\$748,000	43.0	75%	\$13,060
Gomez	2002	Farm	\$960,000	\$1,250,000	58.0	77%	\$16,552
Bellando	2002	OS	\$632,531	\$825,000	42.9	77%	\$14,744
Else	2003	Farm	\$2,525,000	\$2,525,000	65.0	100%	\$68,243
Faille	2003	Farm	\$382,755	\$382,755	40.3	51%	\$9,500
<b>Total</b>			<b>\$8,369,651</b>	<b>\$24,047,935</b>	<b>1,930.9</b>	<b>35%</b>	<b>\$4,335</b>

as of March 2003

\*These costs do not include the contributions from the property owners who accepted a price less than the fair market value. This means that the 10%-25% difference between the amount paid to the owner and the fair market value has not been included in the "Total Cost".

# Map of Preserved Lands in Hopewell Township

Date: September 2002

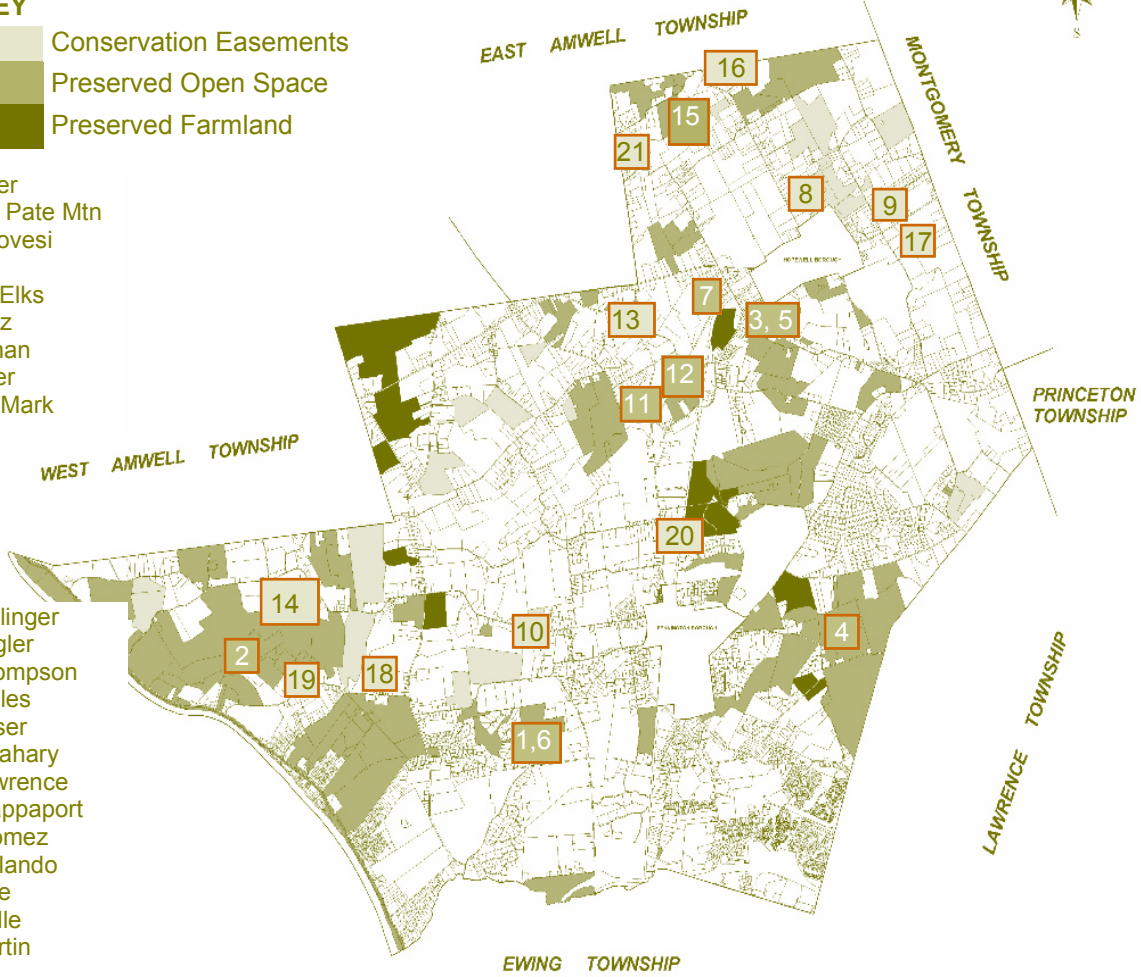


## KEY

- Conservation Easements
- Preserved Open Space
- Preserved Farmland

1. Alliger
2. Bald Pate Mtn
3. Genovesi
4. Hart
5. The Elks
6. Franz
7. Hillman
8. Driver
9. Van Mark

10. Hollinger
11. Vogler
12. Thompson
13. Vales
14. Kuser
15. Albahary
16. Lawrence
17. Rappaport
18. Gomez
19. Bellando
20. Else
21. Faille
22. Martin



(continued from page 1)

This question also authorizes the Township Committee to spend all of the funds raised by the Hopewell Township Open Space Tax for any of the following purposes: acquisition, development and maintenance of lands for public recreation and conservation purposes; acquisition and preservation of farmland and historic properties, structures, facilities, sites, areas or objects. Debt service payments may be made from the fund for all of these purposes except maintenance expenses associated with public recreation lands and conservation lands. The new uses of the Hopewell Township Open Space Tax, if the question is approved, will allow for development and maintenance of recreation facilities, such as trails, bike paths, and fields.

The Township open space tax has been in existence since 1999. Since that time the Township has leveraged the preservation of 1,909 acres with the municipal open space tax. In round numbers, the township has spent \$8,370,000 for land purchases totaling \$24,048,000. After applying the grants of \$2,973,000, the Township will be paying about \$400,000 annually in debt service on \$5,400,000. With the financing of an additional \$5,125,000 for the 251 acre Martin property acquisition, the debt service will increase to the \$675,000 raised by the municipal open space tax of three cents. At this point, the Township will have totally used the three cent open space tax for its intended purpose: preserving land — 2,160 acres of it.

Though more grants and other revenues are anticipated in the future, there will not be any funds available from the township open space tax trust fund for any expenses aside from debt service for several years. There will be no funds to pay for additional preservation projects **unless** Hopewell Township voters decide at the upcoming general election, that the tax should be increased by one cent. If the question passes, more open space, agricultural and historic preservation as well as recreational land acquisitions can occur.

**REMEMBER TO VOTE ON THE HOPEWELL TOWNSHIP  
OPEN SPACE TAX QUESTION  
ON THE NOVEMBER 4, 2003 BALLOT!**



**VOTER REGISTRATION CHANGES BY OCTOBER 6th  
ABSENTEE BALLOT APPLICATIONS BY OCTOBER 28th**

- If you have recently moved to Hopewell Township you need to reregister to vote. Mail-in registration forms are available through the Municipal Clerk's office.
- The deadline for registering or changing your address so that you can vote in this year's General Election is October 6, 2003.
- The last day to make application for Absentee Ballots is October 28, 2003.
- General Election Day is November 4, 2003 and polls will be open from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m.
- If you have questions about your registration, polling place, or need directions, contact the Municipal Clerk's office at: 737-0605 or email your questions to: [mail@HopewellTwp.org](mailto:mail@HopewellTwp.org).

## From the Neighborhood: Mt. Rose

It looks like just another simple crossroads, a few houses hugging a dangerous intersection, its single stoplight one more potential delay in the commute to work. Yet Mount Rose, in the township's eastern end, was a destination, not a byway, of the surrounding countryside in the 19<sup>th</sup> century when it was a thriving center of rural commerce and agricultural industry.

Richard Stout opened the village's first store here around 1822, near the intersection of Pennington-Rocky Hill Road and Hopewell-Princeton Road, and by 1830 Josiah Cook and

*Mount Rose, supposedly named for the impressive skills of a local gardener, was given its own post office.*

Reuben Savidge had opened the community's second general store. By mid-century, a number of other merchants had hung out their shingles. By 1880, two shoemakers had opened shops, as did

a dressmaker, a couple of wheelwrights and a blacksmith. A harness shop operated here, as well as an agricultural implements warehouse and a small steam sawmill. About 20 dwellings completed the village.

Fruit growers from a wide area knew well the roads to Mount Rose where Nathaniel Drake had opened an applejack distillery on the western end of the village shortly after mid-century. Hundreds of barrels of peach brandy, apple cider and apple whiskey were churned out of Drake's distillery every season. Today, the only remaining structure from that once-busy complex, known as the Whiskey House, is listed on the National, New Jersey and Hopewell Township registers of Historic Places.

Mount Rose's first schoolhouse, established here about 1820, was a stone building located just east of the general store operated by Cook and Savidge. It was eventually replaced by a new frame building on the village's southern end sometime during the Civil War. Serving Hopewell's School District No. 7, it closed its doors in 1935 and was converted into a residence that still survives.

Mount Rose peaked in 1880, its growth blunted by the development of the village of Hopewell to its north. Today, few original buildings survive, the village's identity barely discernible, as steadily increasing commuter traffic through the crossroads threatens to destroy what little remains of its historic integrity.



The Old Savidge

## **2004 HISTORIC LANDMARKS, BUILDINGS AND VISTAS OF THE HOPEWELL VALLEY PHOTO CONTEST DEADLINE IS OCTOBER 31!**

The Hopewell Township Committee invites Hopewell Valley residents to submit their favorite photographs of the Valley's historic landmarks, buildings, and vistas as entries for the 2004 photo contest. Applications are available on the Township web site: [HopewellTwp.org](http://HopewellTwp.org), at the Hopewell Valley libraries, municipal buildings and the regional high school and by calling the Hopewell Township Administrator's office at 737-0605.

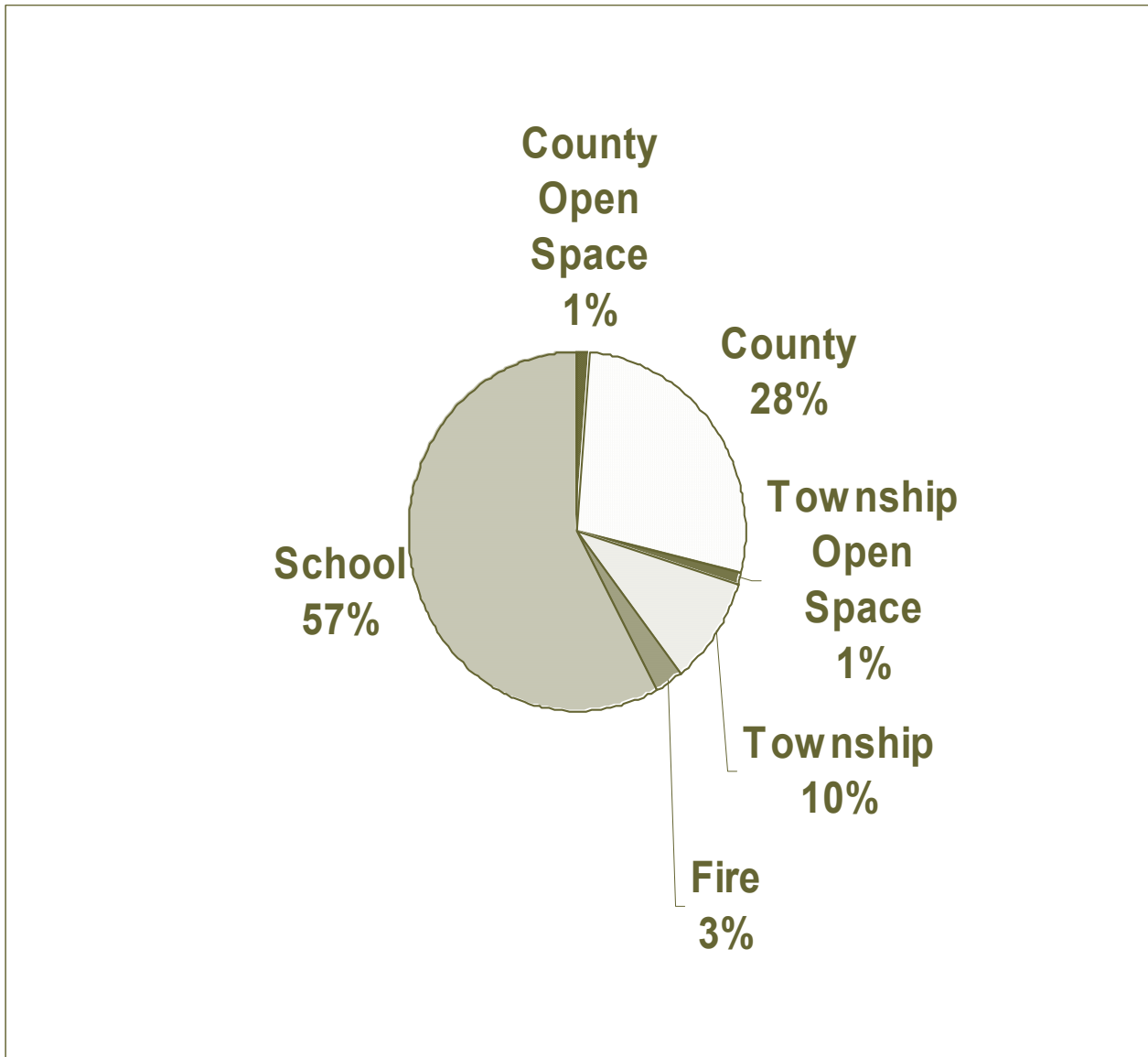
There will be first, second and third place prizes for adult and junior entries in both color and black and white photographs. The photos will be judged in November and the winners will be announced shortly thereafter. In addition to the prizes, the winning photographs will be published in the 2004 Hopewell Township Calendar and displayed on the Township Website and elsewhere in the Hopewell Valley. These photos may also be incorporated into Township publications, such as those of the planning, historic preservation, agricultural and open space boards as well as the [Hopewell Report](#), the Township's newsletter.

## **HOPEWELL: A HISTORICAL GEOGRAPHY**

The 1990 award-winning book by archeologist Richard W. Hunter and historian Richard L. Porter is in its third printing and is available for sale to the public. *Hopewell: A Historical Geography* is the most authoritative book ever published on the Hopewell Valley, featuring nearly 200 vintage photographs, historic maps and detailed charts of survey data collected and analyzed by the authors over a two-year period. An exhaustive examination of the valley's social, economic and physical evolution, the 274-page hard cover volume, edited by New Jersey State Archivist Karl Niederer, is a penetrating look at a community in transition and its efforts to preserve itself in the face of mounting development pressures.

The 2003 edition features a new preface from the authors who review changes in the physical and political landscape since the book's original publication and examine the challenges still facing the cause of preserving the valley's heritage. Anyone interested in the future of Hopewell will want a copy of this updated version. Copies are available in the Municipal Building lobby or in the Administration Office. The price is \$35.

## COMPOSITION OF THE 2003 TAX BILL



**Taxes\* for these local government service providers are in the  
2003 HOPEWELL TOWNSHIP PROPERTY TAX BILL**

Mercer County	\$ .84
Mercer County Open Space	.03
Hopewell Township	.30
Hopewell Township Open Space	.03
Hopewell Fire District	.08
Hopewell Valley School District	<u>1.76</u>
<b>Total Tax Bill</b>	<b>\$3.04</b>

\*Per \$100 of assessed value

## FALL HEALTH PROGRAMS

### HOPEWELL TOWNSHIP DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

#### FREE INFLUENZA IMMUNIZATIONS

for

#### HOPEWELL VALLEY SENIOR RESIDENTS

#### OLDER ADULTS 65 YEARS OF AGE

MONDAY, October 27, 2003

1:00 - 3:30 PM

CALL 737-0120 TO REGISTER FOR APPOINTMENT  
after October 1

High risk individuals under age 65, must pay a fee of \$10.00 and must present current physician's written order for 2003 influenza season.

### FREE HOPEWELL VALLEY DOGS AND CATS RABIES CLINIC

Saturday, November 1, 2003, 10:00 a.m. to Noon

Hopewell Township Public Works Facility

203 Washington Crossing-Pennington Road

For more information, or the location of other free clinics in the  
Greater Mercer Area, call the Hopewell Township  
Animal Control Department at 737-0120 X678.

Hopewell Township dog licenses may be purchased at this clinic, checks only. All pets 3 months of age or those with no previous vaccination history will be given a 1 year vaccination certificate. All pets with proof of a previous vaccination that are 1 year of age or older will be given a 3 year vaccination certificate. All pets should be revaccinated every two years.

### YOU ARE INVITED TO THE 6th ANNUAL HOPEWELL VALLEY MAYORS BREAKFAST

*Celebrating*

*Healthy Communities Healthy Youth  
& Honoring*

*Patrick L. Ryan*

*Chairman, Mercer County Advisory Committee on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse*

*Saturday, October 4, 2003 8:30 a.m.—10:30 a.m.*

*Hopewell Valley Golf Club, 114 Pennington-Hopewell Road, Hopewell*

*SPONSORED BY THE HOPEWELL VALLEY MUNICIPAL ALLIANCE*

*RSVP to 737-0605 x642*

## PUBLIC WORKS FALL SERVICES

### NEW BULKY WASTE PICKUP PROGRAM IS UNDERWAY

For Bulky Waste collection, you must call the Public Works department at 737-0799 x650 or x668 prior to the scheduled pickup noted below and provide your name and address. If you had a bulky waste pick up in September, then you will need to submit a \$10 payment, the Thursday before your next pick up. **If you haven't had a pick up yet this fall, your first pick up is free!** When leaving a message on voice mail make sure to include your phone number so that the department can call you back to confirm the pickup and provide you with any other necessary information.

No phone calls are needed for brush collection. Place the brush near the curb (not in the street) by 7:00 a.m. the Monday of your scheduled week and it will be removed during that week.

### PICK UP SCHEDULE FOR BULKY WASTE AND BRUSH

<b>Zone 1</b>	<b>October 6, 2003</b>	<b>November 3, 2003</b>	<b>December 1, 2003</b>
<b>Zone 2</b>	<b>October 14, 2003</b>	<b>November 10, 2003</b>	<b>December 8, 2003</b>
<b>Zone 3</b>	<b>October 20, 2003</b>	<b>November 17, 2003</b>	<b>December 15, 2003</b>

### FALL TIRE PICKUP

Fall tire pickup will be provided on Friday, November 7, 2003. Anyone interested in this service should call 737-0799 x650 or x668 and give your name, address, and phone number. Payments for the pickup are \$2.00 per 16" tire and smaller, and \$8.00 per tire 16" and larger, up to 19". Payment must be mailed or brought into the Public Works department by Wednesday, November 5, 2003. The service is not available for tires larger than 19" in diameter and for tires coming from commercial operations.

**FOR BULKY WASTE PICK UP, YOU MUST CALL FIRST!**

## TOWNSHIP HOLIDAYS

The Township offices will be closed on these upcoming holidays:

**Oct. 13 Columbus Day**  
**Nov. 11 Veterans' Day**  
**Nov. 27 Thanksgiving Day**  
**Nov. 28 Day after Thanksgiving**  
**Dec. 25 Christmas Day**  
**Dec. 26 Day after Christmas**

**Hopewell Township Report** is a newsletter issued by Hopewell Township, 201 Washington Crossing-Pennington Road, Titusville, NJ 08650.

**Hopewell Township Report Contributors:** Our thanks goes out to the following individuals who contributed the articles or information: Annette Bielawski, Gary Guarino, Richard Hunter, JoAnn Meyer, Victor Silvestrov, Toni Sost, Rose Tkacs, Christine Smeltzer, Sheryl Stone and Ted Stiles

**Fall Issue Featured Photographer:** Lesa Aldridge

**Editor:** Christine Smeltzer, Township Administrator

**Township Committee Liaison:** Vanessa Sandom

**Comments, corrections, questions, stories or reports?**

Volunteer **Reporters** are most welcome. Contact Chris Smeltzer at 737-0605 or by mail: 201 Washington Crossing - Pennington Road, Titusville, NJ 08560 or by email: [mail@HopewellTwp.org](mailto:mail@HopewellTwp.org)



201 Washington Crossing - Pennington Road  
Titusville, NJ 08560

**2003 Township Committee**

Fran Bartlett, Mayor

Marylou Ferrara, Deputy Mayor

Jon Edwards, Committee Member

Arlene Kemp, Committee Member

Vanessa Sandom, Committee Member