

## October 2022 Mayor's Message

Wait, where did the summer go? Wasn't it just Memorial Day weekend last week? Summer went way too quick. Labor Day has also just come and gone. The kids are back in school. Please be careful when you see the kids waiting on the corner for the bus. We may encounter that person in a rush passing a bus picking up kids. Don't be that person. I personally like the fall. The leaves are turning, cooler weather, fall sports . . . football. However, don't get me started on pumpkin spice - what is that anyway? Pumpkins are cool, but a spiced latte, no way. I guess Home Depot will have the Christmas decorations up later this week. They start early for the pumpkin latte drinkers.

So, what is going on around town? There may be local bets going on as to the opening of the gym. As for any wagers on which would be done first: the Crazy Cow parking lot or the removal of the Getty, anyone who went with Getty was a winner. Glad to have that completed and it looks like the gym is almost ready to open. Also, the Crazy Cow parking lot is almost complete. Our Construction official has jumped through hoops working with the owners of the properties to move on these projects and we finally see the light at the end of the tunnel.

We have a major paving project on Otto Ave., complete with new street, curbs, and necessary tree removal. It's starting to shape up. The road was one of the worst in town. Woodlane Road will be paved very shortly as well. It is one of the most heavily traveled roads in the town. I can't wait. We are also repairing many storm drains. Our infrastructure repairs are never ending.

As a Member of the Township Committee, it's hard to determine what to spend money on. I look at things, probably like most of our residents, from a perspective of do we need it, or do we just want it? My example is "your roof is leaking but you want to go on a cruise." Given that scenario, I'll fix the roof. The same principle applies with Township. There are always things we want but right now we need things, and road work is one of the most important projects, as is a new police station. The good news is that the police station is coming. With creative ideas, such as shared service agreements with the County, we are saving money on paving work.

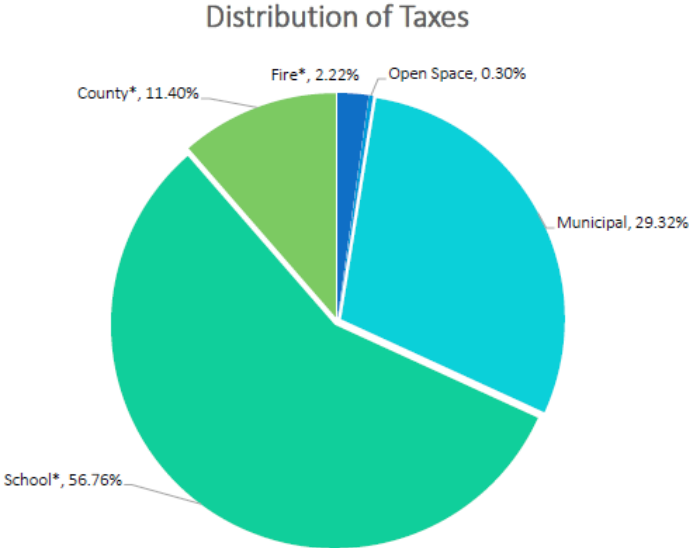
Because we, as residents, are rightly concerned about taxes, especially as well all feel the pull on our wallets lately, below you will see a pie chart showing how our property tax money is allocated. The largest portion goes to the schools, then the town. The rest is County, fire department and open space. As a reminder, the Township Committee only works with the municipal tax; we have no control over the portions charged by the school or county.

Of course, we always welcome citizen involvement and discussion, and I remind you that our Township Committee meets the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the month, at 7:00 PM.

Until next month, enjoy Autumn!

Mayor William Belgard, III

# Estimated 2022 Tax Bill Breakdown



\* = Estimate

■ Fire\* ■ Open Space ■ Municipal ■ School\* ■ County\*