

# Mayor Frank Gatti: Goal is to Keep Tax Rate Flat



Frank Gatti, pictured second from left, is sworn in as Readington Township Mayor on Jan. 3 by Congressman Leonard Lance. Also pictured are the mayor's wife, Terri, and daughter Kristin, holding the Bible.

The Readington Township Committee held its reorganization meeting on Jan. 3, and Frank Gatti took the oath of office as Readington's mayor for 2011. Mayor Gatti is in his fourth term on the Township Committee and is currently serving as a member of the township's Planning Board. He is committee liaison to the township's Police Department, Historic Commission, Museum Committee and Finance Office. Tom Auriemma was sworn in as Deputy Mayor and Donna Simon as a new committee member, joining Julia Allen and Beatrice Muir on the Township Committee.

Mayor Gatti provided *The Readington News* with the fol-

lowing comments regarding the coming year:

"Our township, the largest in Hunterdon County, has a proud tradition of good governance and we enjoy an excellent quality of life as a result of this. The work of governing our township, however, as with many throughout the state, has never been more challenging than it is in these difficult economic times. The Readington Township Committee's goal, and its challenge, is to provide the highest level of service for our residents in the most cost-effective manner possible. To date Readington has met this challenge head on by making tough choices. The committee has reduced the municipal budget by 5.3% over the last two years, from \$18.2 million in 2008 to \$17.2 million in 2010, which is less than it was in 2007. Staffing in various municipal departments has been reduced, expenditures for professional services have been reduced and operating budgets have been held to 90% of the 2008 levels.

Significant reductions in state aid and revenues, however, blunted the positive effect of these budget reductions.

Essential services supplied by the municipality include the maintenance of over 150 miles of roadways, police protection, support for fire and rescue services, support of the recreation program, park maintenance, and the administration of the Planning, Zoning, Health, Social Services, and Code Enforcement departments. Tax revenues to fund these services come from the municipal portion of your property tax bill. Municipal taxes make up 17% of your total tax bill, as shown in the accompanying chart.

As we enter the 2011 budget season, the Readington Township Committee is reaffirming its determination to finding and implementing additional cost-saving measures as this challenge continues. It is the goal of the Readington Township

Committee to do whatever is necessary to keep the municipal portion of your tax rate flat in 2011. You have my pledge that we will do our best to achieve this goal, and as a result, help provide property tax relief for homeowners in these very difficult times.

I am interested in your comments and your thoughts on this process. Let us know what you think of our level of service. We would appreciate your suggestions as we begin to prepare the municipal budget for 2011. Please email your thoughts and suggestions to me at [mayor@township.readington.nj.us](mailto:mayor@township.readington.nj.us)."

## READINGTON TOWNSHIP 2010 BREAKDOWN OF PROPERTY TAXES

