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Masser, Michelle

From: Lashway, Lisa
Sent: Tuesday, February 07, 2012 9:33 AM
To: Canning, Sean; Masser, Michelle
Subject: FW: GovConnect Update: February 7, 2012

Lisa Lashway
Township Clerk
Township of Mount Olive
P.O. Box 450
Budd Lake, NJ 07828
973-691-0900 Ext. 7290

-----Original Message-----

From: egg@dca.state.nj.us [mailto:egg@dca.state.nj.us]
Sent: Tuesday, February 07, 2012 9:25 AM
To: Lashway, Lisa
Subject: GovConnect Update: February 7, 2012

Dear GovConnect Colleague:

Stay "connected" to recent developments in New Jersey state government and login into GovConnect at <http://Portal.NJ.Gov> where you can now check our Continuing Education Course Calendar online at: www.nj.gov/dca/lgs/certunit/certmenu.shtml.

New Items:

1. The Division has posted individual CY 2012 / SFY2013 Municipal Information Sheets on the Fiscal Reports website at www.nj.gov/dca/lgs/fiscal/fiscalrptmenu.shtml. In addition, the 2011 Statewide Abstract of Ratables and Municipal Tax Information is now posted at www.nj.gov/dca/lgs/muniaid/aidmenu.shtml
2. 2012 Fire District Election Reporting Form: The 2012 Elections Results Form is now available in the Fire District document Library. The completed form and a copy of the fire district ballot must be returned to the Division by Thursday, February 23. The form may be completed using Microsoft Word or by hand. Returning it promptly will ensure proper recording of your tax levy.
3. Local Finance Notice 2012-4 (www.nj.gov/dca/lgs/lfns/12lfns/2012-4.pdf) provides "Guidance on Preparing for Tax Appeals and Paying for their Impact; Including a Discussion of the Newly Enacted P.L. 2011, c. 224." This Notice discusses issues

in financing repayment of tax refunds under several fiscal circumstances. It also reviews the new capability for financing current year appeals that result in a cash deficit due to tax appeals.

4. 2012 Mayor Contact Information: Municipal Clerks are reminded that the Mayor information provided through your MCL is critical for use by many State agencies, including DCA and the SAGE grant system (System for Administering Grants Electronically). EVEN IF YOUR MAYOR INFORMATION DID NOT CHANGE from 2011, you must still CONFIRM THE INFORMATION LISTED IN YOUR MCL for 2012. A tutorial is available in the Clerk document library. If you need assistance with your GovConnect login or updating the MCL form, please e-mail the GovConnect Helpdesk at EGG@dca.state.nj.us. Thank you for your immediate attention.

5. Applications for the Per Capita State Aid (PCSA) grant program for library aid are due by March 15, 2012. The program cover letter, instructions and application are available at http://ldb.njstatelib.org/State_Aid. If you have any questions regarding the application, please contact Bob Keith at rkeith@njstatelib.org.

6. The DCA Office of Regulatory Affairs has sent a courtesy reminder to Calendar Year CFO's that NJ Uniform Construction Code Regulations - NJAC 5:23-4.17 (b) requires municipalities to file a report that accurately portrays the receipts and expenses of the local enforcing agency for code enforcement purposes. The UCC Annual Report fulfills this requirement, and serves as a basis of changes (if any) in the UCC fee ordinance and staffing needs for the next year. The form is available online at http://fs2.formsite.com/njdca/uccrpt/form_login.html and must be submitted no later than February 10, 2012. For QUESTIONS or ASSISTANCE, please e-mail the Office of Regulatory Affairs at ora@dca.state.nj.us.

7. Local Finance Notice 2012-1 (www.nj.gov/dca/lgs/lfns/12lfns/2012-1.pdf) provides an update regarding the annual cost of living increase for municipalities and fire districts that have Length of Service Award Plans (LOSAP) and provide a COLA increase each year. The Notice describes the separate increase calculations for both municipal and fire district LOSAP plans that provide for COLA increases.

8. The Department of Community Affairs recently announced that the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) is now accepting applications for the upcoming heating season which runs from November 1, 2011 to April 30, 2012. The DCA administers this federal program which provides low-income households with money to help pay their heating bills. Information about the program is available online at www.state.nj.us/dca/divisions/dhcr/offices/hea.html or call 1-800-510-3102.

9. The DEP Bulletin contains a list of construction permit applications recently filed or acted upon by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection. The latest issue was released January 25, 2012. This issue can be viewed online at: www.nj.gov/dep/bulletin/bu2012_0125.pdf.

10. The New Jersey Housing Mortgage Finance Agency has announced the "New Jersey HomeKeeper Program" funded thru a grant from United States Treasury's Hardest Hit Fund. The program offers financial help to homeowners who are in danger of losing their home as a direct result of unemployment or underemployment. It provides assistance in the form of a second mortgage loan whereby the proceeds may be used to cover arrearages and/or an approved amount of the homeowner's monthly mortgage payment, including property taxes, property insurance, and mortgage insurance. Program details are available online at www.njhomekeeper.gov or the toll-free HomeKeeper call center at (855)-NJ-KEEP-1.

Conferences / Training:

1. CY 2012 Budget/Update Seminars: The Division of Local Government Services will be delivering a series of seminars in February that will cover recent Local Finance Notices, policies, regulations, and new laws; an update on CY 2012 budget and levy cap requirements, and current issues affecting municipal finance. The seminars are being held in several locations throughout the State and CEU credits have been approved for CFO, CPWM, RMC and QPA.

February 10 - Vineland Ramada Inn, exit 32 A off of route 55 in Vineland. Hosted by Advance Learning (<http://advancelearningnj.com/>)

February 15 - Conference Center at Mercer (County College), 1200 Old Trenton Rd, West Windsor. Hosted by NJ State League of Municipalities (www.njslom.org/seminar-documents/2012-feb-3-15-budget-upates.html).

2. 14th Annual NJEPA Conference: The NJ Emergency Preparedness Association is pleased to announce that their 14th Annual Conference will be held on April 30 - May 4, 2012 at the Tropicana Casino Resort in Atlantic City. Details are available online at www.njepa.org. For questions, please call the NJEPA at 609-548-8357 or info@njepa.org

3. Occupational health and safety achievements will be recognized and celebrated by the 84th Annual Governor's Occupational Safety and Health Awards Program. The program is sponsored by the NJ State Industrial Safety Committee in partnership with the NJ State Safety Council and the NJ Department of Labor and Workforce Development. Again this year, the Committee has agreed to sponsor the \$50 registration fee for any public employer who wishes to participate. Event dates and information are available at http://lwd.dol.state.nj.us/labor/forms_pdfs/lsse/OSH-201.pdf or contact Theresa Kramarz at (609) 984- 4738 (email: tkramarz@dol.state.nj.us).

Reminders:

1. The New Jersey State Library has created a web site that assists New Jersey residents and businesses to help them through tough economic times. The site has a wide range of useful links that may be of assistance to local officials that are trying to assist their residents address their concerns. Local officials <http://gethelp.njlibraries.org/> has links and references in the following areas:

- New Jersey Work Tools
- New Jersey Financial Tools
- New Jersey Housing Tools
- New Jersey Health Tools
- New Jersey Parental Tools
- Tools for Seniors

2. The following information concerns actions local officials can take to help homeowners that are facing foreclosure or other housing related problems facing residents:

- Foreclosure Fast Facts: A 2-page listing of assistance, numbers to call, and general assistance, including counseling agencies experienced in foreclosure: http://www.nj.gov/dca/hmfa/foreclosureprevention_resources.pdf
- The Mayor's Combat Kit: Materials and sources of information on buying a home, mortgage assistance and foreclosure, designed especially for Mayors: <http://www.state.nj.us/dobi/njhope/mayorkit.html>
- The NJ HOPE (Home Ownership Preservation Effort) website provides information about resources that are available for homeowners who are delinquent in their mortgage payments, need counseling or have questions: <http://www.state.nj.us/dobi/njhope/>

THIS E-MAIL HAS BEEN SENT TO THE FOLLOWING OFFICIALS: MUNICIPAL CLERK, Chief Financial Officer, Tax Collector / County Freeholder Board Clerk, Chief Financial Officer / Authority Officials / Fire District Officials / Procurement Officials

IF YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS CHANGES: Login to the GovConnect homepage, click the Profile link and update your address to ensure receipt of future email broadcasts. Assistance is available by email to EGG@dca.state.nj.us or call 609-943-4724.