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Masser, Michelle

From: Lashway, Lisa
Sent: Wednesday, July 07, 2010 3:04 PM
To: Sohl, Bill; Masser, Michelle
Subject: FW: GovConnect Update: July 7, 2010

Lisa Lashway
Township Clerk
Township of Mount Olive
P.O. Box 450
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973-691-0900 Ext. 7290

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

From: egg@dca.state.nj.us [mailto:egg@dca.state.nj.us]
Sent: Wednesday, July 07, 2010 3:05 PM
To: Lashway, Lisa
Subject: GovConnect Update: July 7, 2010

Dear GovConnect Colleague:

There's a lot going on so keep up-to-date with each issue of GovConnect News. For all the details login to GovConnect now at: <http://Portal.NJ.Gov>.

New Items:

1. Local Finance Notice 2010-14 (www.nj.gov/dca/lgs/lfns/10lfns/2010-14.doc) describes the CY 2010/SFY 2011 Transitional Aid Program. This new program combines three previous discretionary aid programs into a single property tax relief program for the state's most fiscally challenged municipalities. The program Application is available at www.nj.gov/dca/lgs/lfns/10lfns/taapp.doc. Please carefully review the Local Finance Notice to ensure the municipality meets the application criteria and files the Notice of Intent to Apply.

2. Tax Collectors are advised that the New Jersey State Tax Court will no longer be sending Tax Collectors paper copies of judgments rendered for municipalities. Beginning June 2010, the State Tax Court website (www.judiciary.state.nj.us/taxcourt/monthlyjdgmnts.pdf) will be updated each month for municipalities to retrieve their information and make the appropriate adjustments to properties that have been heard by the Court. Tax Collectors will be

notified through GovConnect when monthly updates are made to the Division's Tax Collector webpage and an "NJ Tax Court Report" link has been added to the GovConnect Links channel.

3. FTC Red Flag Update: The Federal Trade Commission Red Flag requirements for organizations that extend credit to their customers to establish privacy procedures in the handling of their information was to take effect on June 1, 2010. However, the FTC has extended the implementation date to December 31, 2010. Organizations with Red Flag responsibilities are encouraged to implement Red Flag requirements in their internal control systems sooner than that. The FTC has created new web sites to provide compliance information (www.ftc.gov/redflagrule) with an emphasis on organizations with low risks (www.ftc.gov/bcp/edu/microsites/redflagrule/diy-template.shtml).

4. The State has released its 5-year adjustment of bid threshold under the Local Public Contracts Law, the Public School Contracts Law, and related statutes. Local Finance Notice 2010-13 (www.nj.gov/dca/lgs/lfns/10lfns/2010-13.doc) explains the change and important matters about how to apply the increased threshold. The new threshold went into effect July 1, 2010.

5. The Division of Taxation has extended the deadline for filing 2009 Property Tax Reimbursement (PTR) applications from June 1, 2010 to August 2, 2010. An EXCLUSIVE phone number 609-633-8433 and e-mail address nj.propertytaxrelief@treas.state.nj.us are available for Tax Collector inquiries. PUBLIC INQUIRIES should be referred to 800-882-6597 or e-mail nj.taxation@treas.state.nj.us.

6. "OPRA Alert" Newsletter: The Appellate Division recently rendered a decision that greatly impacts how custodians charge for paper copies pursuant to an Open Public Records Act (OPRA) request. The Government Records Council (GRC) has included a discussion of this recent decision and instructions on how to calculate actual cost in its June 2010 "OPRA Alert Volume 2 Issue 3" (www.nj.gov/grc/news/alerts/). If you have any questions regarding OPRA issues, please contact the GRC for guidance at your convenience at 866-850-0511 or grc@dca.state.nj.us.

7. Local Finance Notice 2010-12 (www.nj.gov/dca/lgs/lfns/10lfns/2010-12.doc) provides guidance regarding "The Impact of Chapter 2, P.L. 2010 on Local Unit Health Benefits Programs." The Notice provides important guidance to all local employers, those who are members of the State Health Benefits Program and those who are not.

8. 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 July 7, 2010. This issue can be viewed online at: www.nj.gov/dep/bulletin/bu2010_0707.pdf.

Conferences:

1. The New Jersey State League of Municipalities will be hosting Open Public Records Act (OPRA) Seminars from 8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. on the following dates and locations: Tuesday, October 5, 2010 at The Enterprise Center (BCC), 3331 Route 38, Mount Laurel, NJ and Wednesday, October 13, 2010 at The PNC Arts Center (Robert Meyner Reception Center), GSP Exit 116, Holmdel, NJ.

This seminar will assist the public, local government employees, governing bodies, departments, boards and commissions to better understand the mandatory requirements of the Open Public Records Act, as well as recent rulings by the Government

Records Council and NJ Superior Court that affect the disclosure of government records. CEU's have been approved. Information is available at www.njslom.org/cal100510_101310.html or contact Suzanne Delany at 609-695-3481 ext.111.

Reminders:

1. A letter from the NJ Department of Labor and Workforce Development (<http://lwd.dol.state.nj.us/labor/lsse/employee/Fireworks.html>) was recently sent to store owners regarding New Jersey's Fireworks Laws. If you have any questions or comments about the Fireworks Laws, feel free to contact the Office of Public Safety Compliance at 609-292-2096.
2. The State Division of Taxation has sent a letter to all Municipal Clerks advising that the incorrect date of 2009 appears on this year's 2010 Tax Clearance Certificates and that Clerk's should Date Stamp their certificates when received. For questions regarding the notification please contact Lori Rosati: State Alcoholic Beverage Control at 609-292-0322.
3. 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 should keep the site handy and if appropriate, promote its use in their publications. The site: <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
4. 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.

PLEASE REMEMBER: If your e-mail address changes please make the change to your GovConnect User Profile. If you change employers please send us the details by replying to this e-mail. Helpdesk 609.943.4724