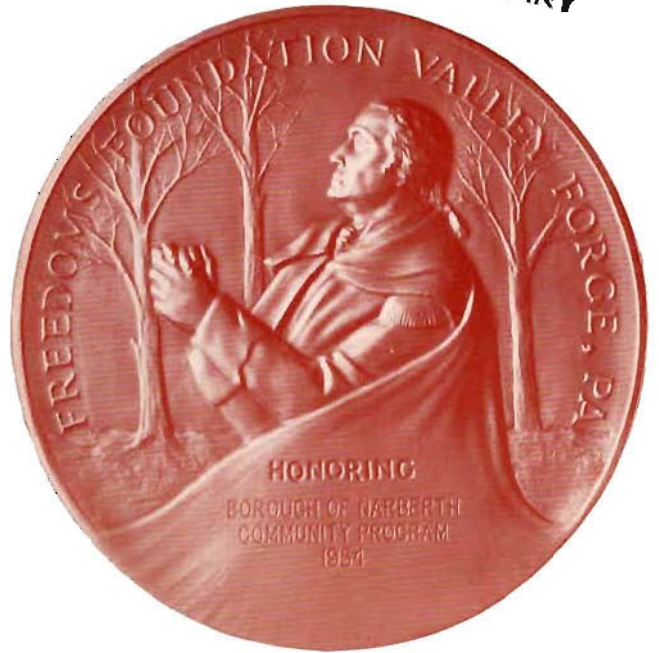


NARBERTH
COMMUNITY LIBRARY



1954
REPORT
TO
NARBERTH
CITIZENS

GREETINGS

THE members of Council share with the citizens a sense of pride in the fact that this Borough was awarded the George Washington Honor Medal by the Freedoms Foundation last year in recognition of Community Programming and Good Government at the local level.

Such measure of success as the Borough has achieved in this field has been due to the intelligence of the citizenry, their awareness of the purpose of regulation and their willingness to help shape the course desirable for the good of the whole. Over the years, the citizens of the Borough have shown a creditable forbearance in submerging their personal likes and dislikes when such differed with the wishes of the majority.

The citizens are cordially invited to attend the Council meetings, and many avail themselves of the opportunity. Through these processes, ordinances and policies adopted by Council reflect the public's desires for community welfare.

During the year 1954, Council was able to hold down the tax rate, despite capital improvements in the nature of a motorized street cleaner, a modern and expensive trash collection vehicle, and a new fire engine. Council has determined to maintain for 1955 the same tax rate prevailing in 1954, which it feels can be done without impairment of essential services.

NARBERTH BOROUGH COUNCIL
Jos. F. Tripician, *President*

WHERE THE MONEY CAME FROM

| | | |
|---|-------------|---------------------|
| Tax on real estate (Borough's share, 19 mills) | \$99,869.00 | |
| Per capita tax | 13,843.00 | |
| Real estate transfer tax | 5,526.00 | |
| Miscellaneous revenue | | |
| Parking meters | \$8,489.00 | |
| Parking tickets | 527.00 | |
| Permits: building, oil burner, high-way opening | 3,143.00 | |
| Liquor licenses | 1,150.00 | |
| Miscellaneous | 2,676.00 | 15,985.00 |
| | | <u>\$135,223.00</u> |

WHERE YOUR TAX MONEY WENT

| | |
|--|---------------------|
| To maintain a borough office | \$17,934.00 |
| Public safety | |
| For police protection | 28,331.00 |
| For fire protection | 16,057.00 |
| Collection of ashes and trash, maintenance of streets and sewers | 35,088.00 |
| Street lighting | 10,000.00 |
| Public health and garbage collection | 5,215.00 |
| Library | 4,800.00 |
| Recreation | 9,530.00 |
| Interest and refunding of public debt | 4,572.00 |
| | <u>\$131,527.00</u> |

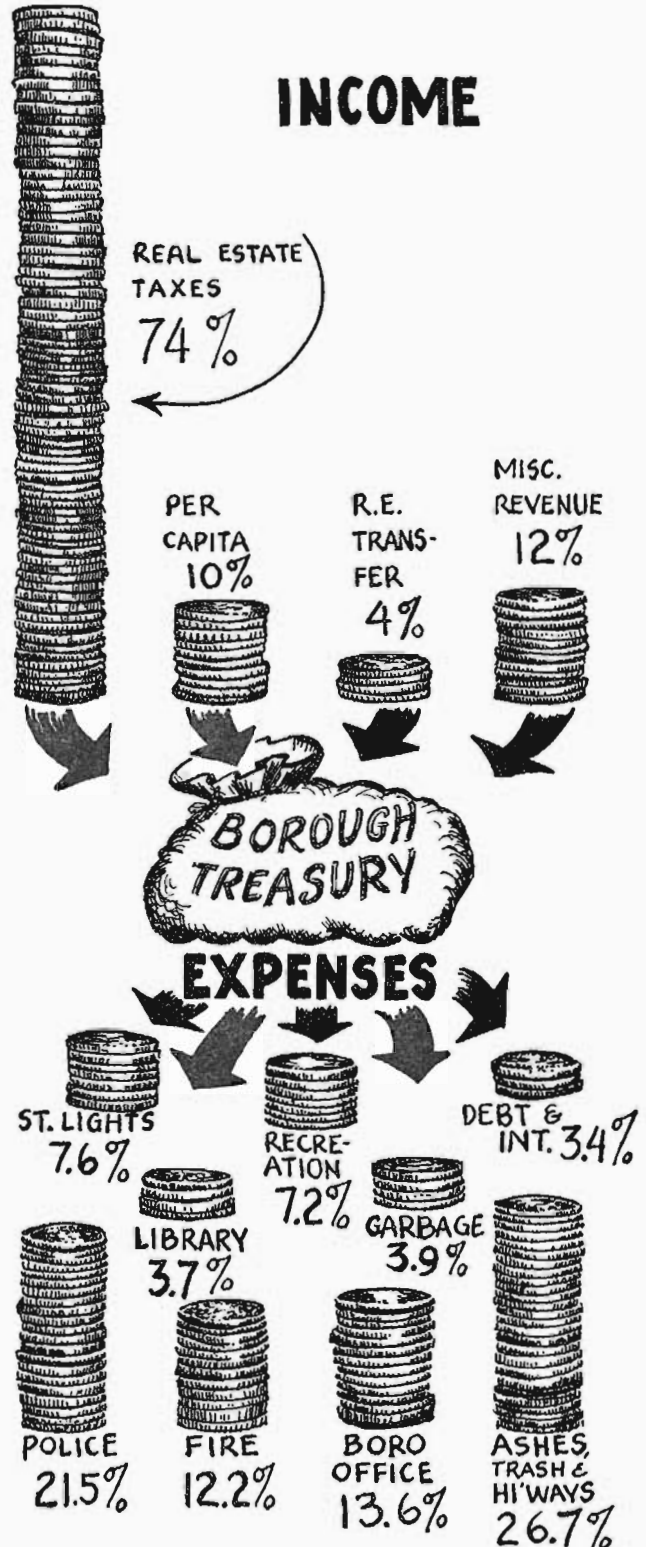
NOTE!

Of the taxes you pay, only 38% goes to maintain local borough services. School needs take 59%, the county government the other 3%. The figures given above are summarized from complete audited reports which may be seen in the Borough offices at any time. They prove that we stay within our income, yet render all required services.

BOROUGH REPORT WINS AWARD

For the second year the report of Narberth Borough made to its citizens won a merit award in the competition sponsored by the Institute of Local Government, Penn State University.

INCOME



BUILDING COMMITTEE

During 1954 a "buffer" zone, known as R-5, was created to separate Commercial from Residential zoning. This was put into effect on the South side of Windsor Avenue between Narberth and Essex.

The present trend seems to be to use apartment buildings as a buffer, as evidenced by changing the corner of Wynnewood and Montgomery Avenues to R-4 in order to construct a group of apartments there. While Council frowns on "spot" zoning (changes in the midst of a restricted area), it recognizes that progress must be made, and that multiple dwellings, if not an eyesore and not harmful to values around them, will undoubtedly continue to be erected.

During the past year a professional office building was erected at Windsor and Forrest Avenues. In 1954, 70 building permits were issued by the Building Inspector, representing total construction of \$134,015.

The Planning Commission of Montgomery County will make a study this year on possible improvements in the business section of Narberth, at the request of the Narberth Business Council.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

Narberth can point with pride to quick action taken by its Highway Department after Hurricane Hazel spent its force in this area last fall. The big blow produced a paralyzing effect on the entire suburban area. In the Borough of Narberth alone more than 1000 trees were damaged or felled, interfering with traffic. The Borough Manager and his crew of workmen were busy while the storm was still at its height, removing trees from the streets.

All streets were open, at least to one-way traffic, by 10.30 p. m. the night of the storm, and the streets were completely cleared the next day. The speed with which recovery was made established a record for the entire area.

Sewer Rental

Effective January 1, 1955 we have been notified of a change to be made in sewage disposal from Narberth. Our lines have heretofore emptied into Lower Merion sewers which will be dumped into newly constructed Philadelphia lines leading to the modern disposal plant built by the City. It will become necessary for the Borough to pay a pro rata share of this cost, and negotiations are continuing as to the amount required.

It is planned to meet this expense by imposing a sewer rental charge, probably based on annual water consumption per household. No estimate of costs can be made until the scale of charges to be levied by Philadelphia has been set.

New Equipment

As predicted in last year's report, two major items of equipment to keep our streets clean and dispose of trash were purchased in early 1954. A motorized street sweeper costing \$9,225 and a trash crusher and packer costing \$5,645 were purchased by the Borough, without the necessity of raising taxes. Streets are cleaned more often now, and trash can be collected faster.

PUBLIC HEALTH

During 1954 a new garbage collection contract was negotiated with a hog farm for a 5-year term from January 1, 1955.

This new contract is at an annual cost of \$4,500 which is an increase of \$2,100 over the previous contract. The increased cost was caused by the contractor having to install special equipment for cooking the garbage, a requirement the State deems necessary to eradicate serious epidemic diseases which arise from this source of food.

The Health and Welfare Committee requests residents to refrain from placing refuse such as bags, paper, bottles, cans or any other form of rubbish with this animal food. Failure to comply with this request may interrupt your regular collection.

PUBLIC SAFETY

For the fifth consecutive year Narberth was again included on the National Traffic Safety Contest Honor Roll for having had no traffic fatalities. Also the Borough was presented with a Certificate of Achievement in Traffic Safety by the Governor's Highway Safety Advisory Committee.

We were further commended by the AAA National Pedestrian Protection Contest for an outstanding record of no pedestrian deaths. To maintain this safe record is the constant aim and study of borough police and safety officials, headed by the Burgess who is law enforcement head of your local govern-

ment. This non-paying job carries many headaches, with complaints on everything from garbage collection, to dogs running, to personal neighbor fights.

The problem of traffic regulation and parking increases in intensity as more and more automobiles come to Narberth. Particularly difficult is the South Side parking problem, where streets are so narrow that cars could not pass if parking were allowed on both sides. The Burgess and police are experimenting with several types of restriction to select rules that will be fairest to the residents and users of those streets.

POLICE RECORD 1952-1954

| <i>Year</i> | <i>Accidents</i> | <i>Injuries</i> | <i>Property Damage</i> | <i>Arrests</i> | <i>Parking Violations</i> | <i>Moving Traffic Violations</i> | <i>Larceny</i> | <i>Burglary</i> | <i>Auto Theft</i> | <i>Theft from Autos</i> | <i>Meter Violations</i> |
|-------------|------------------|-----------------|------------------------|----------------|---------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1952 | 35 | 7 | \$6695.00 | 14 | 165 | 49 | 11 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 212 |
| 1953 | 31 | 8 | 6749.00 | 13 | 145 | 53 | 7 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 370 |
| 1954 | 32 | 6 | 8875.00 | 9 | 263 | 48 | 7 | 13 | 1 | 1 | 650 |

BOROUGH PROPERTY COMMITTEE

During the summer of 1954 maintenance work on the Community Grounds was actively carried on. The fences around the grounds were painted, basketball court resurfaced and garage built for the new motor sweeper. In 1955 the grandstands and tennis court wire fence will be repainted.

The fund built up for recreation improvements, under the supervision of the Recreation Board, is drawing good interest in a Federal Savings & Loan company. This fund, representing profits from Fourth of July celebrations held as a reserve fund for recreation, now totals about \$12,000.

New lighting was completed in the Narberth Library last year, and has been hailed as a decided improvement by library patrons and students.

SWIM POOL PROJECT

In the fall of 1954 a volunteer committee of Narberth citizens submitted a proposition to Council for a municipal swimming pool to be built on the Community Ground to the rear of the present Community Building. Funds would be provided by sale of borough bonds, which the Committee believed could be self-amortizing through receipts from pool memberships and admissions, which they felt would more than offset operating expenses, amortization of debt, and carrying charges.

Later a petition was circulated by the Swim Committee, signed by more than 1000 persons, and placed before Council, asking that the proposition be placed on the ballot for voters to express an opinion as to whether or not the project should be financed by the Borough on borrowed funds. Council studied the proposal carefully and checked all estimates. At the time this report went to press no decision was made as to final action. The volunteer committee was

asked by Council in March, 1955, to produce evidence of membership pledges and to re-study the question of location, to which many citizens had voiced objections.

CIVIL DEFENSE

The Burgess by appointment of the Governor of Pennsylvania is Civil Defense Director for this community and has behind him an outstanding committee of citizens which form the local Defense Council. Over 350 volunteer workers have been enrolled under 8 divisional chiefs for various services: medical, evacuation, auxiliary police, air raid wardens, communications, etc.

Our Defense group has complete plans which can be put into operation immediately should an emergency arise; this offsets which might be termed an "alarming complacency" on the part of many citizens. Deep appreciation goes to those citizens who have given so willingly of their time to meet a great possible need.

PERSONNEL

Several changes occurred in personnel and administration set-up in Narberth Borough administration during 1954. An ordinance was adopted establishing the post of Borough Manager, and George B. Suplee, long Superintendent of Public Works and Building Inspector, was named to that post. He also is Secretary of the Borough.

The death of Mrs. Ruth W. Graham occurred late in 1954. She had devoted many years of loyal and conscientious service to the Borough, and her place was hard to fill. Council looked about carefully for a replacement, and finally employed Mrs. Betty Jane Willard, with the title of Assistant Secretary.

Borough personnel during 1955 is listed on the following page.

BOROUGH DIRECTORY

BURGESS

Sterling M. Chain

COUNCIL

Joseph F. Tripician, President
Howard Cotter, Jr.
Leonard A. Drake
Nathan McClure
Douglas C. Miner
Harry L. Pulch
Dr. Richard T. Smith

BOROUGH MANAGER & SECRETARY

George B. Suplee

ASSISTANT SECRETARY

Betty Jane Willard

SOLICITOR

Henry A. Frye

TREASURER

John A. Mowrer, Jr.

TAX COLLECTOR

Richard L. Miller

ASSESSOR

E. L. Nies

BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT

Robert F. Wood, Chairman
S. Howard Patterson
Morris H. Sheer

AUDITORS

Arthur C. Staples
Elmer D. Hackman
Chester C. McKibbin

PLANNING COMMISSION

B. G. Simpson, Chairman
C. H. Woolmington, Secretary
W. Elmer Titus
T. Noel Butler
E. Milton Parran

CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION

Franklin C. Hutchinson, Chairman
Earl L. Hoffman
C. Howard Nold

RECREATION BOARD

William S. Howard, Chairman
Mrs. Lulu W. McCartney
Douglas C. Miner
Samuel K. Barclay
Ralph E. Hoyle

JUSTICES OF THE PEACE

Vincent Colelli
Robert E. Baker

SCHOOL BOARD

Eugene H. Ogdin, President
Ralph E. Hoyle, Treasurer
Mrs. Lulu W. McCartney, Secretary
William D. Galloway, Jr.
Mrs. Ingeborg T. Robb
Paul L. Caulwell
P. Mark Parthemore, Jr.
Joseph S. Roddy, Jr., Supervising Principal
Roland Fleer, Solicitor

SHADE TREE COMMISSION

Dr. Joseph S. Bartlett, Chairman
Walter B. Dean
Louis Marcozzi

BOARD OF HEALTH

W. James Drennen, President
W. Ralph Giles, Vice-President
Dr. A. G. Denman
Joseph S. Roddy, Jr.
Mrs. Jane Miner
George B. Suplee, Secretary and Health Officer
Dr. George W. Grim, Milk Control Officer

FIRE COMPANY

William S. Howard, President
Carl B. Metzger, Vice President
Richard M. Gillis, Treasurer
Burns F. Best, Secretary

Borough Office

105 Forest Ave., Narberth, Pa.

Phone: MOhawk 4-2840

Open Monday to Friday, Incl.
8 to 4.30 p.m.

In case of Fire, call MOhawk 4-2200.
For Police Aid, call Midway 2-4200.

FIRE COMPANY

There was *no* measurable property damage from fires in the Borough in 1954—a truly remarkable record. The Narberth Fire Company answered 91 alarms—55 from Lower Merion Township, part of which is in our local company's zone, and 36 from the Borough.

While some roasts were overdone, some chimneys burned out and grass scorched in vacant lots, no homes or business places were seriously damaged. Property damage in Lower Merion (Narberth's sector) was \$5860.00.

The new pumper ordered last year was delivered and is in use as the No. 1 piece of apparatus when an alarm sounds. On the inside back cover of this booklet is a photo of this modern equipment. The fire company has a roll of 46 active volunteer members, two paid housemen and a relief man.

FOURTH OF JULY

One of the contributing factors to the award from Freedoms Foundation (see cover) was the record established in this community for cooperative public observance of Independence Day. Hundreds of Narberth citizens served on committees to help make the day successful, similar programs having been held for the past dozen years.

Unusual in community celebrations, our Fourth of July program has been one of general public participation. Churches and civic organizations have day-time booths on the Community grounds. Volunteer firemen and Legionnaires turn out to police and serve the huge night crowd. In the morning there are athletic events for children of all ages, a baby parade and contest, a ball game after lunch, then evening fireworks, attended by many thousands of visitors from all over the Delaware Valley area.

Last year's chairmen have told Burgess Chain they will serve again: Robert Baker, Day program, and Charles Westman, Fireworks.

