



Winter 2020 Mayor's message  
(continued)

Making this prominent list is a result of the Township Council and I striving to be wise stewards of the municipal budget and making sure that Piscataway remains an affordable and attractive community. A key component in our efforts is creating economic development that gives opportunities to our residents and adds corporate revenue to our local tax base.

**At the County's grand opening of the rebuilt Baekeland Avenue bridge that traverses Ambrose Brook just west of Possumtown Road are left-to-right: Council President [Frank Uhrin](#) (Ward 1), Freeholder Charles Kenny, Freeholder Director Ronald G. Rios, Mayor Brian C. Wahler, Councilmember [Michele Lombardi](#) (Ward 4), Council Vice President [Gabrielle Cahill](#) (At-Large), Councilmember [Kapil K. Shah](#) (At-Large)**

By working with businesses, we were able to turn several abandoned office buildings and vacant brownfields into thriving centers of commerce with state-of-the-art logistics centers that have easy access to I-287. That is how we have been able to provide

two years of a 12.8 percent lower municipal tax rate while building a \$32 million Community Center with no residents' tax monies and maintaining an "AA+ stable" bond rating with Standard & Poor's.

For example, on the western side of town is a large swath of land that during World War II was the site of Voice of America radio antennas from which the name Telegraph Road came. After the war it became a sizable home to chemical processing facilities. Hundreds of crews working around the clock would manufacturer petrochemicals and plastics for decades for the Bakelite Corporation, Union Carbide and Dow Chemical.

Yet the economy changed and the land was vacated, ecologically strained by years of chemical activity and its value on the tax rolls greatly diminished.

After working diligently to recruit interest, private industry came into our Township, remediated the environmental contamination and built the Rockefeller Group Logistics Center. The site is now home to facilities of Best Buy, Fujitsu, Humanscale, KISS Beauty Products, Kuehne & Nagel and SHI International Corp. These companies are providing good paying jobs to hard working residents, operating on environmentally restored soil and funding the construction of our Community Center.



With continued economic growth and more improvements to our Township such as refurbished parks and resurfaced roads, we look forward to continued prosperity for our entire community.