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## Maple Shade council introduces budget with slight tax increase

Published: Wednesday, March 28, 2012



by **Chrissy Dagnelli**  
Journal Register News

MAPLE SHADE—In addition to introducing the 2012 budget, town council here discussed ongoing road work, the opening of the farmers market and listened to a presentation from Sustainable New Jersey at its last meeting, March 22.

Mayor Lou Manchello introduced the 2012 municipal budget, which comes with a slight increase, 4.1 cents, to the local purpose tax. That means the average Maple Shade taxpayer, with a house assessed at the town average of \$204,500 will pay, under the proposed budget, about \$80 more a year, or \$20 more quarterly.

A full description of the budget will be made available at the Maple Shade library and on the township website, [mapleshade.com](http://mapleshade.com), for residents to preview. Public events and recreation events will be funded at the 2011 level.

“This budget maintains the level of services offered by the township in past years. There will be no decrease in personnel,” said Manchello.

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The public who wish to be better informed or more involved in the budgeting process can attend the Thursday, April 26, town council meeting 7 p.m., at the municipal building, 200 Stiles Avenue. All town council meetings are held in the upstairs court room.

Sustainability New Jersey presentation

Lori Baunstein, with Sustainable New Jersey in Cherry Hill Township, gave a presentation to the Maple Shade Town Council at the request of some Maple Shade residents on how to adopt the certification program Sustainable New Jersey.

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Making Cherry Hill more sustainable was initiated by Baunstein and a green team more than five years ago. She approached the mayor with the "think globally, act locally" philosophy on which the township agreed to make the town more sustainable.

She indicated this program is of no cost to run, since it is managed and run by volunteers, and will save tax payers money, as well as keep Maple Shade progressive like neighboring towns. Currently, out of 566

municipalities in New Jersey, 358 are registered.

"It's your choice; you pick from a menu of items, no one is coming in telling you to pick X, Y or Z. It is very customizable," said Baunstein. [Continued...](#)

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