

Hammonton-The Hammonton Democratic Party would like to wish a Happy New Year to the citizens of Hammonton. As we begin 2008, we anticipate an exciting election year as we choose a President, U.S. Senator and Congressman. As always, our local elections promise to be interesting.

However, before we can enjoy the thrill of elective politics, we must get down to the people's business of governing the town. We wish success to our recently elected Council persons as they move forward on their promises of continued revitalization and quality town services. We also hope that they are successful in their promises of no new taxes and reduced debt.

We, Democrats, will continue to be the loyal opposition. We take great pride in speaking for those who have no voice in government. We will continue to exercise the great blessings of liberty and offer constructive criticism when we disagree with the actions of our government. We also hope to be part of the solution in offering practical solutions for the common good.

In that spirit, we urge our council to exercise fiscal austerity. Indeed, many of the proposed cosmetic improvements are wonderful. Projects such as providing assistance to homeowners for historical registration of their houses, the Hammonton Lake Amphitheater, and the Little Italy Program are great ideas. However, even with grants, these projects are costly, especially, in the face of the current economic downturn.

Instead, we ask the Council to focus on completion of the Town Hall and funding our essential services, specifically, the police, fire and highway departments. These services are the basic expectation of local government. Perhaps, by setting these priorities, the Town Council may be able to keep their promises of no new taxes and reduced debt.

The Democratic Party stands ready to assist. May God continue to bless this community and this great country.

Hammonton Democratic Club