

Community Benefit Advisory Committee:

I am requesting an allocation of up to \$25,000 from Community Benefits Funds for cemetery preservation and improvements in the Borough. As you may know, there are three cemeteries in town: Locust Grove, White Ridge and Fields. My request primarily focuses on Locust Grove and White Ridge Cemeteries. Work at Fields Cemetery is challenging due to the high tick population.

Locust Grove is an abandoned cemetery that dates to 1820s. It was used primarily as a potter's field and African American burial ground, often becoming the final resting place of those with no money or family. Bodies were buried in poorly marked graves making it difficult to determine the number and location of them all. Over time, with no one to care for it, the cemetery fell into ill repair.

Locust Grove cemetery has many trees that are dead or dying, several of which are overhanging onto South Street, creating a hazard. Also, a large portion of the cemetery is overgrown with Japanese Knotweed and Poison Ivy, which is highly invasive. I would like to remove these hazard trees as well as the invasive species. Once the land is clear, the ground can be leveled, and a fence can be placed to separate the cemetery from adjoining properties which will reduce the dumping which occurs there.

In 2025, the Borough attempted to promote dignity and protection to the cemetery by placing a curb (a local business owner funded the project) along the street to prevent cars from parking on the grass, adopting an ordinance establishing hours so individuals couldn't loiter on grounds overnight as well as allocating capital funds for improvements. The cost to remove the hazardous trees and clear the invasive weeds is estimated to absorb most of these funds. I am seeking additional funds to add a fence along the rear and side of the cemetery, identify grave locations, place markers and purchase cleaning agents for the gravestones.

White Ridge is a much larger cemetery in town. While it is generally well maintained by an independent Board, we have noted several headstones and areas which could use some TLC, especially those of service members. My goal is to use some of these funds to assist the Board in cleaning up overgrowth and for the purchase of cleaning agents for the gravestones.

While the exact cost of these projects is not precisely known, any unused balance will be returned to the Community Benefit fund. The Borough Administrator will verify all uses of these funds for their intended purposes.

Thank you for your consideration.



Candace Faust

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BOROUGH OF EATONTOWN
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

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July 8, 2026

William P. Lucia, III
Borough Administrator
Borough of Eatontown
47 Broad Street
Eatontown, NJ 07724

Dear Mr. Lucia,

The Community Benefits Advisory Committee received a letter dated May 15, 2026 which requested \$25,000 for cemetery preservation and improvements in the Borough. The letter cited Locust Grove and White Ridge cemeteries as having various maintenance needs such as tree removals and fence placement as well as grave cleaning and the clearing of brush and debris.

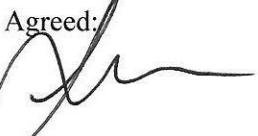
The Community Benefits Advisory Committee is charged with overseeing the implementation of the Community Benefits Agreement between the Borough of Eatontown, Netflix and the New Jersey Economic Development Authority. In this regard, it considered the letter at its meeting of May 19, 2026, found it to be a locally prioritized community benefit and approved the request.

Please sign below indicating your intention to ensure, on behalf of the Borough, that the funds will be used in accordance with the request.

Thank you,


Anthony Talerico, Jr.
Mayor

Agreed:


William P. Lucia, Borough Administrator
Borough of Eatontown