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New Providence forum to discuss municipal mergers

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NEW PROVIDENCE — The public is invited to learn about the potential benefits of municipal consolidation for the borough and neighboring municipalities at a public forum on Wednesday, Oct. 27, at 7:30 p.m.

The event will be held at the New Providence Library, 377 Elkwood Ave. The free program will feature Gina Genovese, executive director of Courage to Connect New Jersey, who will explain the growing efforts statewide to connect municipalities under a single administration. A question-and-answer session will follow.

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The event will be hosted by former Borough Councilman Bob Robinson, and a local orthodontist with a practice on Springfield Avenue. Robinson said Courage to Connect New Jersey's

message that government could be more streamlined, more efficient and less costly resonates with residents who are tired of paying high property taxes.

Genovese, who is also the owner of Gina's Tennis World in Berkeley Heights and former mayor of Long Hill Township, said municipalities across New Jersey are starting to seriously consider consolidation as an option for reducing property taxes.

"This is the beginning of a movement in New Jersey in which people and local government work together to build a sustainable future," Genovese said. "With our state teetering on bankruptcy and municipalities desperate to save money, the artificial boundaries separating our communities are beginning to crumble."

For more information visit CourageToConnectNJ.org. The site offers a simple step-by-step guide for local groups and local governments to work through the municipal consolidation process.

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