

### 'AAA' Bond Rating Received

Standard & Poor's Rating Services assigned its 'AAA' long-term rating, and stable outlook on Bernards Township's 2009 bonds and at the same time affirmed the 'AAA' rating on the Township's existing debt obligations. Standard & Poor's cited the Township's very low direct debt burden, favorable demographics, strong home values, consistently strong financial performance, and good financial management practices in affirming their top rating of 'AAA'. ([www.standardandpoors.com](http://www.standardandpoors.com))

### Successful Bond Auction Held

Bernards Township will issue \$15m in 'AAA' rated (Standard & Poor's 9/16/09) bonds on 10/7/2009 to permanently finance a variety of Open Space and Preservation purchases that have been acquired over the last three years. The bonds will fully mature in 2017, with all debt payments being funded by the Township's Open Space Tax.

The bond sale is a result of an auction held by the Township on [www.grantstreet.com](http://www.grantstreet.com). The auction for this highly rated debt issue generated significant interest by various underwriters; a total of twenty-four (24) bids were placed in the 9/17/09 auction.

The net interest cost (NIC) for the bond issue is calculated at 1.756618%. It is estimated that by having an 'AAA' bond rating, the Township will save approximately \$1,000,000 in interest over the eight (8) year maturity schedule. A New Jersey municipal issue with a lower bond rating generated only one (1) bid on 9/15/09, and received a NIC of 3.271328%.

In 2011, the Township will retire all non Open Space Tax funded debt.