



The Long Hill Ledger

Quarterly Newsletter

Message from the Mayor:

Long Hill Township has had a great year but none of it could have happened without the tremendous contributions by our volunteers. Our community is blessed to have many dedicated and enthusiastic people help in various ways. Some positions are visible on a regular basis, such as volunteer Fire, EMS or CERT. Yet we have volunteers who are not so visible, such as the Wastewater Advisory Committee. We have volunteers who have to make tough decisions, such as the Zoning Board, and volunteers who help preserve our history and protect our environment.

The key to all this is the unwavering commitment by individuals who want to contribute to our community in some way. If you want to help our community, whether it be in a big way or small way, please step up and volunteer! There is a volunteer form under the community link on the Township website or contact the group you want to join directly. Thank you to all our volunteers, and I want to wish everyone a happy and safe holiday.

Bruce Meringolo
Mayor



Highlights of 2016



Township residents gathered for a town-wide picnic on Sept. 10 to celebrate 150 years.



Mayor Bruce Meringolo led the burial of the time capsule.

Photos credit: Conrad Dudderar, Echoes Sentinel

As the year nears its closing, it is an appropriate time to look back at 2016 and note the Township's progress in a number of areas and projects.

150th Anniversary Celebration – Perhaps the most notable – or at least most enjoyable – projects of the past year included the slate of events celebrating Long Hill's 150th anniversary. The unofficial celebration began with a tea at the grand opening of the renovated Millington School House, which was followed by the 150th Anniversary Logo contest in local schools, then a Taste of the Town celebration on March 23, Long Hill's original Charter Day, when daffodil and squill bulbs turned the Township blue and gold.

The main event was the Picnic in the Park at Matthew G. Kantor Memorial Park on Sept. 10. Food was served by the Stirling Fire Company and the Millington Fire Company hosted a craft Beer Garden. Attendees enjoyed music from a DJ, a roving balloon artist and magician, face painting and fireworks. There also was a scavenger hunt designated to highlight Long Hill's history.

"We can all feel good about the celebration," said Neil Henry, Long Hill's Administrator. "A special thanks goes to our 150th Anniversary Committee."

Turf Field and Lights – Seven years in the making, the completion of the turf field and installation of lights has significantly increased recreation activities at the field, allowing people to use the facility earlier and later in the season and into the evening. Long Hill was the first township in New Jersey to have cutting-edge LED lights installed by manufacturer Musco, which ensures virtually no spill-over away from the field.

"It's been received very enthusiastically by residents," Neil said. "When I leave here after dark and see the use it's getting, I feel the project was worthwhile."

Acquisition of Central Park/Passaic Valley Park – The acquisition of this 70-plus acres of parkland will allow for creation of a vision for its use, including athletic fields and passive recreation.

County of Morris Trails Grant – The Township applied for a grant from the county to complete the paved trail loop in Matthew G. Kantor Memorial Park. A response to application should come by the end of the year.

Flood Acquisition Property Program – This program, funded by the county and NJ Green Acres, allowed the Township to purchase seven homes, which now will be demolished. These properties will remain open space.

In-House Animal Control – In an effort to save costs, Long Hill purchased a four-wheel drive vehicle from the county for \$53 and hired a part-time Animal Control Officer. Previously the Township was spending approximately \$13,000 per year to retain an outside firm for animal control services, which were needed about a half dozen times per year.

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Administrator's Corner

As is normally the case, there are a number of significant projects on the radar screen that are being handled by the Township Administration. Some of many projects include:

Northfield/Main/Central Sidewalks: With the passage of the 23 cent increase in the gasoline tax, we expect the grant funding for this project to remain in place and that Gov. Christie's Executive Order 210 can be rescinded, allowing this project to move forward. As of this writing, the logistics of this project still need to be worked out and with the winter weather upon us, it remains to be seen how much we can get started. Further updates will follow.

2017 Municipal Budget: We've begun work on the 2017 Municipal Budget. I am meeting with our CFO and each department head to review budget requests. Once these requests have been assessed, we will present a draft budget to the Finance Subcommittee, who will make additional adjustments leading up to a presentation to the full Township Committee in February. We expect introduction and adoption in the March-April time period.

Potential Privatization of the Wastewater Facility and Collection System: We've begun working with the engineering firm of Remington & Vernick, who we retained to perform the valuation and conditions report of our Wastewater Facility and Collection System. I am hopeful this work will be completed by the end of the year, at which point the Wastewater Advisory Committee will assess the work and develop a next-step strategy.

Mitchell Road Drainage: We have awarded a contract to JTG Construction of Newark, who was the low bidder at \$49,636. Work on this project is expected to begin in the very near future.

Re-Development Zone-Valley Road: We are in the process of issuing a Request for Proposal to developers interested in working with the Township on the Re-Development of this area. Responses will be reviewed by the Re-Development Committee, with a recommendation being made to the full Township Committee late this year or perhaps early in 2017.

2016 Reassessment: Inspection of 25 percent of the Township's property is almost complete as part of the 2016 Annual Reassessment. You will receive follow-up correspondence advising you of your new assessment and any necessary steps you may take to question this year's assessment.

New Municipal Clerk: The Township Committee has appointed Debbie Brooks as our new Municipal Clerk. Debbie comes to Long Hill Township from Branchburg Township, where she served as a Deputy Municipal Clerk.

Please feel free to contact me at any time should you have questions on these or any other projects.

Sincerely,
Neil Henry
Township Administrator
administrator@longhillnj.gov

CERT

CERT Team Celebrates Its 10th Anniversary

On September 24 the Long Hill Township CERT team assembled at the Stirling Hotel to celebrate 10 years of service to the Township. Team members were acknowledged for their long-standing dedication to the team and the Township. Their families also were acknowledged and thanked for tolerating the sudden interruptions to life at home and long hours spent away due to CERT responses to both planned and emergency activations. The CERT team also recognized many partners and supporters of the organization who were also in attendance.

In its 10 years the CERT team has become a large, strong and thriving organization, with more than 175 residents having participated in the program since its inception. The team is respected and trusted by Long Hill's First Responders and the OEM department and has earned a stellar reputation as one of the exemplary CERT teams in the state.

Looking ahead, the future remains bright for the Long Hill CERT team as it continues to invest in the personnel, equipment and training required to excel when called into action. CERT will continue to offer classes for those who want to join the team and opportunities for current members to take on leadership roles.

Jay Weisman
Citizen Corps Program Administrator

2016 Highlights (cont.)

Training Exercise – The Local Emergency Planning Committee, in conjunction with emergency service groups from Long Hill, Morris County and surrounding mutual aid partners, conducted a full-scale exercise simulating a structure fire at the Lounsbury Meadows complex in Stirling. More than 100 volunteers from the community participated. Annual drills and exercises are critical to ensure existing emergency operations plans are viable and the emergency response agencies and community groups are adequately trained and equipped.

Accreditation – The Long Hill Township Police Department was accredited and certificated by the New Jersey State Association of Chiefs of Police (NJSACOP). Accreditation standards in law enforcement assure citizens that the police department meets specific criteria of public safety services which have been set forth by NJSACOP. Accreditation is a high honor and is achieved through commitment to professional excellence and outstanding service to the community.

Online Payment for Taxes and Sewage – Township residents may now pay these bills online. This offers both greater operational efficiency and convenience for our residents and businesses.

Long Hill Ledger – In the spring the Township introduced its new quarterly newsletter, *The Long Hill Ledger*. This is the fourth edition.

"It's been very well received," Neil said. "There's always room for improvement in how we communicate to our residents."

Parks & Recreation

All Recreation Basketball Programs held on Saturdays will run November 19 - March 3. All ability levels are welcomed for students grades 1-8. Kids in grades 5-6 and 7-8 play other Long Hill teams. Lots of bragging rights are earned when there are 1st and 2nd place trophies awarded.

Travel Basketball programs are in full swing, offering more competitive play in a local league for students in grades 4-8, boys and girls. While the teams have been practicing for a while now, their season officially opens November 27 and ends with Championship Weekend March 12. Watch the website and newspaper as Long Hill teams bring home those trophies!

During March and April, we will offer Volleyball Clinics again for boys and girls in grades 5-8. Please watch our e-Newsletters and the website for more information.

Adult Open Play Basketball started October 20 and continues every Thursday night through March 9. Pre-registration on Community Pass is required. These are pick-up games in the old gym at Central School (provided the school is open) 7:30 p.m.-9:00 p.m., open to men and women ages 18 and up. Participants must wear sneakers and bring their own basketball. More information is located on the website.

This fall we started a new Gentle Yoga class for adults. We are putting together more programming for adults so please sign up for our Recreation e-Newsletter on the website so you don't miss anything.

With colder temperatures on the horizon, we will keep watching conditions at Stirling Lake for possible ice skating opportunities. Residents will know if it is safe to skate by a "Skating" or "No Skating" sign on the flagpole. Activities on the turf field at Kantor Park will continue through the winter as long as conditions permit.

Interested in learning First Aid and CPR/AED? Classes are offered each month at the Long Hill First Aid Building through the cooperative efforts of the Parks and Recreation Dept. and the Long Hill First Aid Squad. Please check the Long Hill Recreation pages of the website for more information. Red Cross reports that 80 percent of what you learn in these classes you will perform on a loved one.



*The 2015-2016
Recreation Champions
Grades 7/8.*



*DPW plows a section of
the lake to prepare for
ice skating.*

Dept. of Public Works

The Department of Public Works will be filling potholes, sweeping streets and trimming trees curbside throughout the Township in preparation for the winter season. Please do not blow leaves into the streets or block catch basins, which causes flooding.

When the first snowstorm hits, Public Works will salt roads and plow each road from curb to curb. Please do not park cars on streets during the plowing operations. Please do not plow snow from driveways into the street or blow snow from sidewalks into the road.

The Public Works Department offers monthly curbside collection of electronics, TVs, scrap metal and appliances on the last full week of every month. Please call 908-647-0070 in advance to schedule a pickup. We also have a recycling drop-off center located off Valley Road in Stirling for township residents. Accepted items include branches, logs, grass clippings and leaves, electronics, scrap metal and appliances, fluorescent light bulbs, Styrofoam, lead acid batteries and automotive tires. Hours: Monday-Thursday 6:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m. / Friday 6:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m. We also are open on certain designated Saturdays from April through December; see the Township calendar or website for specific dates. We can be reached at 908-647-0070 or by email at roads@longhillnj.gov.

Sincerely,
Tom Sweeney
Director of Public Works

Public Safety

Be Safe this Holiday Season

By Police Chief Michael Mazzeo

Safety Tips While Shopping

- Do not leave purchased items visible in the car – leave them in the trunk.
- Keep the amount of cash you have to a minimum or separate it into different pockets or locations on your person.
- Keep track of all credit cards and retain receipts to compare to your monthly statement.
- Remain aware of your surroundings at all times and move to and from your vehicle purposefully. Have keys ready before getting to your car so you do not have to search for them while standing near the vehicle.

Home Safety Tips While Away

- Create an up-to-date home inventory list, including make, model, serial numbers and other detailed descriptions and photographs of items of value (including jewelry). Keep this list somewhere safe out of the house.
- Set at least two light timers to turn lights and the TV on and off in a logical sequence to give the appearance that someone is home.
- Stop mail and newspaper deliveries or arrange for a neighbor or friend to pick them up.
- Ask a neighbor to tend the yard, shovel the snow, and watch your home or have a friend or relative house-sit.
- Make sure all doors and windows are locked when you leave, even if you have an alarm system.

Events Around the Township

Long Hill Recreation Basketball Season Opens

November 19 • Girls and Boys Grades 1-8

All abilities and levels are welcome.

Costume Jewelry:

A Cultural Stroll through the Decades

Saturday, November 12 • 11:00 am • Long Hill Library

Learn about costume jewelry's fascinating history with expert Marilyn Visakay. See how jewelry has been affected by societal sensibilities, national movements, pop culture, fads, disasters, scientific advances and world wars. Dazzle us! Wear your costume jewelry to the event!

Red Cross CPR/AED Class

Tuesday, November 22 • 7:00 pm - 10:00 pm

Long Hill First Aid Squad Building

Community Classes Available

Upon successful completion of the class, participants receive a certificate from the Red Cross valid for two years. Certification cost is \$22. Online pre-registration is required. To sign up visit the Township's website, Recreation Dept. page, Community Pass registration program. Questions? Contact the Parks & Recreation Dept.

Meyersville Tree Lighting

Sunday, December 4 • 5:00 pm • Meyersville Circle

Come share a cup of hot chocolate and cookies when Santa arrives to help light the tree and Garden State Fireworks delights the crowd with a fantastic show. All good little boys and girls should bring their lists to share with Santa.

Holiday Concert ~ From Jazz to Soul

Sunday, December 11 • 2:00 pm • Long Hill Library

Enjoy seasonal and holiday favorites. Songs that touch on giving thanks, enjoying the winter weather and celebrating all that this joyous season brings.

Special Holiday Closings

Municipal Offices will be closed on the following days:

- Thursday, November 24 and Friday November 25
- Friday, December 23 and Monday, December 26
- Monday, January 2

Visit the Township website for a complete listing of:

Township Committee meetings, important community announcements, volunteer programs, committees, education, garbage and recycling schedules and more.

www.longhillnj.gov



Township of Long Hill
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Gilllette, NJ 07933