



# The Long Hill Ledger

Quarterly Newsletter

## Message from the Mayor:

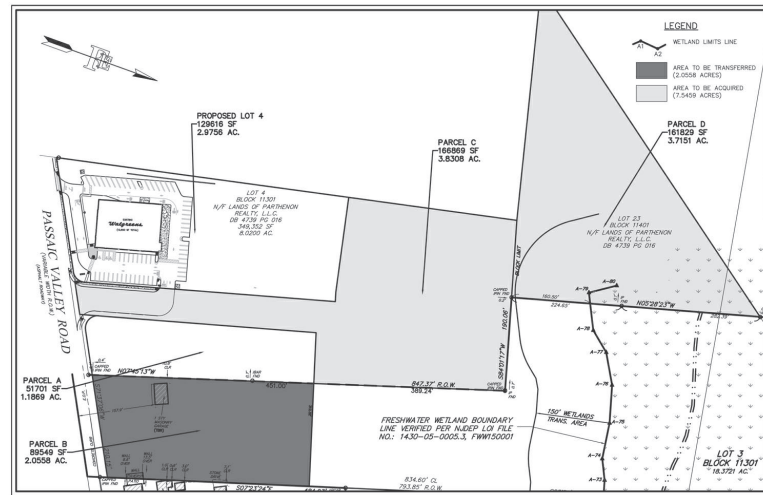
It's hard to believe it's already March and, while there is so much I can talk about, I want to bring two items to everyone's attention.

The first is the study and potential sale of our wastewater treatment plant. By the time you read this we will be on our way to discussing requests for proposals for the sale of the plant. The second major issue concerns an upcoming land swap – part of the Open Space property we acquired last year in exchange for property from a neighbor.

Both of these outcomes will have a direct impact on the town not just for years, but for decades to come. There are two articles in this issue describing the process in greater detail and even more information on the Township's website. It's important that we get your input. I implore everyone to engage in the discussion!

I'm also pleased to announce that Long Hill Township has been named one of the safest small towns in America by Lendedu.com. See a full press release on the Police Department's Facebook page or the Township website.

Cornel Schuler, Jr.  
Mayor



## Property Exchange to Improve Safety at New Park

By Cornel Schuler, Jr. – Mayor

The Township is pursuing an exchange of land for increased public safety for access to the future park area across from town hall. The property across from town hall encompasses the area from Morristown Road to Walgreens and from Valley Road to the train tracks behind the businesses.

Without this exchange, access to the property would have to be located along Valley Road next to the funeral home with a restricted right turn in, right turn out. The Township Committee, along with input from the Long Hill Police Department, feels it would be beneficial to access this property at the traffic light at Walgreens. This will give users of the park much safer access and exit to Valley Road. Additionally, pedestrian access through crosswalks provides safer access than any other method.

The Township is receiving 7.5 acres of land valued at \$431,400 located directly north of Walgreens and the access road east of Walgreens in exchange for two acres of land valued at \$380,000 located west of the funeral home. In the above map, the dark grey area is the land the Township is giving away in exchange for the light grey area.

*Continued on page 2*

## Possible Wastewater Sale

By Cornel Schuler, Jr. – Mayor

We do not often think about it when we do our dishes, take a shower or flush the toilet but there is an entire infrastructure to support the sanitary sewer system of the Township. And just like roads, the system deteriorates with age even though most of us never see it. Much of our infrastructure dates back to pre-1930, making it over 80 years old.

As part of our research into a potential wastewater sale, the Township recently received two reports from Remington & Vernick, an independent engineering firm. The first is a 20-year capital plan for the entire system. This gives us an engineer's recommendation for what components we should expect to replace and over what period of time we should replace them. The second report is a valuation report which basically tells us how much our entire sewer infrastructure is worth.

The Township Committee is in the process of forecasting a future rate chart based on the cost of work outlined in the 20-year plan, along with current operating costs, debt costs and future expected improvements/expansion, which should be available by the time you read this.

With so much capital needing to be invested, it became prudent for the Township to investigate whether a larger entity can scale the costs better than we can as a small town.

At a very high level, this is the process. The Township, with public input, issues a Request for Proposal (non-binding). About six weeks later we receive bids. The Township Committee discusses the bids with public input and decides which bid, if any, is worthy enough to pursue (again, non-binding).

*Continued on page 2*

# Administrator's Corner

With spring right around the corner, the Township is poised to move forward with many projects.

**Northfield/Main/Central Sidewalks:** This project was delayed last year due to Gov. Christie's Executive Order 210 relating to the Transportation Trust Fund. Now that the issue has been resolved, we will go to bid on this project and begin work this spring, with a target completion date in the summer.

**Mitchell Road Drainage:** Thanks to Mother Nature, work on Phase 1 of this project took place during January and February and should be completed by the end of March.

**2017 Municipal Budget:** The Township Committee should be in a position to adopt our 2017 Municipal budget by early April. All information pertinent to the budget can be found on the Township's website.

**Redevelopment Zone-Valley Road:** We have received proposals from developers interested in working with the Township on the redevelopment of this area. We are reviewing these proposals and expect to select a developer and enter into an agreement by this spring.

**Old Millington School House:** The Township Committee authorized the execution of a contract with AB Contracting to complete the renovation of the section of the school house which previously housed our Township offices. This work should be completed by June, at which time we will seek a tenant to occupy this space, allowing for the generation of revenue that would help offset the operating expenses of the facility.

**Trails Grant-County of Morris-Construction of Trail-Matthew G. Kantor Memorial Park-Field #2:** The Township received a grant from the County of Morris to complete the

walking path adjacent to field #2 at Matthew G. Kantor Memorial Park. Pre-bid engineering work will be completed by April, at which time we can bid the project and have it completed in time for the summer season.

**Neighborhood Traffic Concerns:** An ad-hoc committee composed of Township officials and citizens has been formed to discuss traffic concerns within many of our neighborhoods which are being used as "cut through routes." Among the issues to be addressed will be speeding and careless driving by motorists and how best to curtail this activity.

**Mutual Aid Agreement for Fire Companies:** Work continues with our insurance risk manager and members of our fire companies to standardize our mutual agreement form with participating mutual aid fire companies. This allows use of additional manpower from surrounding municipalities in case of large incidents and use of the closest resources to an incident.

**Opiate Presentation by the Morris County Prosecutor's Office:** Morris County Chief Assistant Prosecutor Brad Seabury will be making a presentation on the opiate/heroin epidemic that has become significant in our area. The presentation will be on Wednesday, March 29, at 7:00 p.m. in the Long Hill Township Municipal Building. All residents are urged to attend.

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

Neil Henry  
Township Administrator  
administrator@longhillnj.gov

## Property Exchange (cont.)

While this agreement brings great value to the Township it also meets all requirements set for land exchanges by the state Department Environmental Protection Green Acres program.

The motivation for entering into this effort is public safety but the Township gains some additional benefits that are not counted in the valuation due to the rules imposed by the DEP. For example, the intersection at Walgreens has a traffic light which was installed and paid for by the developer of the property. The cost for this intersection work was approximately \$350,000 and the Township will acquire this at no cost.

Additionally, the location and size of the land the Township is receiving will increase the usable area for the park, which could be used for an additional field or other park component. Both of these create additional value for Long Hill residents.

The Township held its first public meeting on the matter on February 8 and expects to hold its second public meeting in late March or early April. Please visit the Township website for the meeting date and time and come to provide your input.

## Wastewater Sale (cont.)

As appropriate, the Committee passes an ordinance approving one of the bids and submits it for a public referendum vote in the November Election and **everyone** can vote on the sale.

Only a NO sale majority becomes binding; a YES vote still requires an additional acceptance by the Township Committee.

As we develop the RFP it is important for us to include any conditions we want met from a buyer, including the handling of personnel, future rate limits, a minimum accepted bid, extending service coverage areas and lifting the current sewer ban, to name just a few.

Everything we as a town are concerned about needs to be brought to light, debated publicly and the end results included in the RFP. The Township Committee needs and wants to hear the public's ideas and concerns, as well as get their input on issues we already considered. We will be scheduling meetings to discuss the RFP. See the Township website for dates and please come and voice your concerns at any meeting.

Additional details, the reports, charts and documentation are available for download in a special section on the website – [www.longhillnj.gov](http://www.longhillnj.gov).

# Parks & Recreation

Spring will kick off with a volleyball clinic for girls and boys at Middle School. Our local sports organizations will begin their seasons in March, with lacrosse, soccer and baseball/softball kicking off programs for K-8 grades.

On April 8 at 10 a.m. sharp, please join us for our Annual Egg Hunt at Kantor Memorial Park. Long Hill children up to 8 years old will be delighted to see the lawn scattered with hundreds of eggs containing goodies, including several special prize eggs. The hunt also will feature a petting zoo with lots of very sweet animals and pony rides, sponsored by Soo Bahk Do Karate Studio of Gillette. Peter Cottontail can't wait to greet all the kids (and adults).

Registration for Stirling Lake and our summer camp programs will open March 15. Stirling Lake will open for swimming Saturday, May 27. Tentative dates for our grades K-8 camp and our Little Explorers ages 3-5 camp are June 26-August 4.

Memorial Day (Monday, May 29) in Long Hill is always a special day of remembrance. We will start the day at 9:30 a.m. with our annual parade up Main Avenue and a ceremony on the front lawn of Central School. All are invited and local town organizations interested in participating should contact the Parks & Recreation Dept. All residents are invited to join Township Committee members and the Recreation Advisory Committee for a picnic and an afternoon of swimming and beach activities 1:30-4:30 p.m. Complimentary hot dogs will be

served, and there will be beverages and snacks for a small fee.

Parrot Beach, a Jimmy Buffet tribute band, will once again join us to kick off summer with a performance at Stirling Lake Saturday, June 24, 6:30-8:30 p.m. All residents and members of Stirling Lake are invited to bring the family and picnic on the sand while listening to beach tunes and then work it off with a conga line down the beach – always a fan favorite.

Please remember to visit the Long Hill website ([www.longhillnj.gov](http://www.longhillnj.gov)) and the Recreation pages for more on spring and summer programming. Also please remember to sign up for "Recreation e-News Updates" on the website to learn about upcoming programs and events.

Lisa Scanlon – Director, Parks & Recreation  
[recreation@longhillnj.gov](mailto:recreation@longhillnj.gov)



*2016 Annual Egg Hunt at Kantor Park*

## Dept. of Public Works

The Department of Public Works will be delivering double ground hardwood mulch to residents starting in April. Delivery charge is \$100.00 for five cubic yards. Deliveries will be on Fridays so please call a few days in advance to book your order, as quantities are limited.

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 of the collection to schedule a pickup. We also have a recycling drop-off center located off Valley Road in Stirling for Township residents. Please see the Township website for items that can be dropped off. The hours of operation are Monday through Thursday, 6:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., and Friday, 6:00 a.m. to 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 [roads@longhillnj.gov](mailto:roads@longhillnj.gov).

Tom Sweeney – Director of Public Works  
[roads@longhillnj.gov](mailto:roads@longhillnj.gov)

### **\*Important-Valley Road Water Main Replacement Notice\***

The water main replacement project on Valley Road is expected to be completed by April 1. All roads should remain open during the project; however, lane closures and/or alternating traffic may be required at different stages. All businesses will be accessible.

## Public Safety

### **Stop Speeding Before It Stops You**

By Police Chief Michael Mazzeo

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), more than 9,500 lives were lost in speeding-related traffic crashes nationwide in 2015.

Even one life lost to speeding is one too many. That's why Long Hill Township Police Department is joining NHTSA and other state and local law enforcement to remind all drivers to Stop Speeding Before It Stops You.

We are reminding drivers to stay alert and obey the 25 mph speed limits, especially in neighborhoods, school zones and on secondary roads. Anytime drivers speed, they put themselves, their passengers and other drivers and pedestrians at risk.

Speeding greatly reduces a driver's ability to slow when necessary or to steer safely around an unexpected curve, another vehicle or object in the roadway. In school zones or neighborhoods, that can include a child or animal.

Drivers need to remember there is a reason speed limits exist. The roadways can be a dangerous place and the speed limits are designed to protect everyone – drivers, passengers, pedestrians. The next time you get behind the wheel, please remember to Stop Speeding Before It Stops You.

It's 2017 – Please, don't forget to register your alarm system.

Permits are required for every alarm system used in both private homes and businesses within the Township. Alarm permits expire on December 31 and must be renewed annually before January 31 or you will be in violation and potentially issued a summons. Forms are available at Police Headquarters and on the Township website.

# Events Around the Township

## **Little League Gala – Primavera Regency**

March 24 • 7:00 pm - 10:00 pm

Come out for a great evening and support your local baseball and softball programs.

## **Community Presentation: Opiate and Heroin Epidemic**

Wednesday, March 29 • 7:00 pm • Town Hall

Chief Assistant Prosecutor Brad Seabury presents on the Opiate/Heroin epidemic in New Jersey. Also broadcasted live on LHTV.

## ***Babe Didrikson Zaharias: The Greatest Ever***

Saturday April 1 • Noon

Actress Linda Kenyan will channel the multi-talented Babe Didrikson in a performance sure to astound whether or not you love sports.

## **Annual Egg Hunt**

Saturday, April 8 • 10:00 am • Matthew J. Kantor Memorial Park  
Rain date April 15

## **21st Annual Long Hill PBA Fishing Derby**

Saturday, April 15 • 8:00 am - 2:00 pm

Open to all LHT kids grades Pre-K–5. Free t-shirts, prizes and food!

## **Shredding Day – Friends of the Library**

Saturday, April 22 • Municipal parking lot

Discard your old files and documents safely at this annual shredding event and Library fundraiser.

## **Long Hill Chamber of Commerce Stirling Street Fair**

Sunday, April 23 • 10:00 am - 5:00 pm

## **Annual Boy Scout Flower Sale**

Friday, May 5; Saturday, May 6; and Sunday, May 7

Valley Mall parking lot next to JoS. A. Bank.

Time to plant your spring flowers and support the scouts.

## **Stirling Lake Opening Day**

Saturday, May 27

Stirling Lake official unofficial start of summer in Long Hill.

## **Memorial Day Events – Monday, May 29**

9:30 am • Memorial Day Parade along Main Ave. Ceremony at Central Middle School.

1:30 pm - 4:30 pm • Community Picnic & Open House at Stirling Lake. All residents are welcome!

## **Stirling Lake Dance**

Friday June 9 • 7:30 pm - 9:30 pm

DJ, fun and games on the beach for Long Hill students grades 5-7.

## **Summer REC Programs and Camps Coming in June**

Watch for registration information and deadlines on the township website Recreation page. Don't forget to register your campers.

## **Visit the Township website for a complete listing on:**

Township Committee meetings, Recreation Dept. activities, garbage and recycling schedules, important community announcements and more. [www.longhillnj.gov](http://www.longhillnj.gov)

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