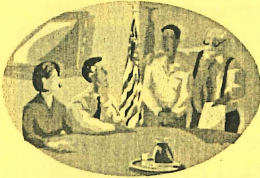


BOROUGH OF FAR HILLS

SPRING 2017



- **Borough Council** meetings are held the 2nd and 4th Monday of the month at 7:00 pm at the Municipal Building.
- **Planning Board** meetings are held the 1st Monday of the month at 7:00 pm at the Municipal Building.
- **Board of Health** meetings are held the 3rd Monday of the month at 7:00 pm at the Municipal Building.



PRIMARY ELECTION

June 6, 2017
Polls are open from
6 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Far Hills
Municipal Building

Voter Information
ELECTIONS.NJ.GOV

FROM THE MAYOR'S DESK

Dear Friends and Neighbors:

By the time you read this the warm days of summer will be a daily occurrence, our children and grandchildren will be graduating and we will be planning our summer and spending time with family and friends. The first six months of 2017 in Far Hills have been busy ones and there is much for me to update you on; so let's get to it.

After many meetings and discussions, I am proud to say that there has been no increase in the Borough's estimated Municipal Tax Rate for 2017. Far Hills has historically maintained the lowest Total Tax Rate in Somerset County and one of the lowest in the State of New Jersey. Achieving this, while providing the necessary infrastructure improvements and services to our residents, is a team effort consisting of all of the Council members working together with our CFO Debra Stern. One of the greatest expenses was at the request of our Police Chief Michael DeCarolis for two new police vehicles to replace older, unreliable vehicles making our police fleet newer, dependable and giving our officers the tools they need to protect our residents.

The Visiting Nurse Association of Somerset Hills (VNA) and the Borough of Far Hills have signed a new five year agreement to use the municipal fairgrounds, continuing the long standing relationship allowing the VNA to generate the income they need to continue their work and providing the Borough a revenue stream to improve local infrastructure, certainly a win-win for all. Despite Mother Nature not entirely cooperating, the Spring VNA Rummage Sale is in the books and I want to thank our Police Department for a great job and our friends at Moorland Farms for allowing overflow parking on the rainy days during the sale. Speaking of Moorland Farms, this year on June 24th and 25th will mark the debut of the Essex Horse Trials. This two day event will feature Equestrian Eventing, also referred to as equestrian triathlon, bringing back the long tradition of equestrian activities to Far Hills. The festivities also include family friendly activities, an antique car show and music, all at a very economical price. Plan to attend and support this event which will be fun for all ages. The Memorial Day Parade on Monday, May 29th was a great event highlighting national pride and remembering all service members who gave their lives to ensure our freedoms. I thank all of you who took the time to attend and show your appreciation for our fallen heroes!

This year, we honored Judge Robert K. Hornby who has presided over the Far Hills Municipal Court for the past 14 years. At a recent Council meeting, he was presented with a plaque commemorating his service and we wish him well in his retirement. Judge Mark S. Adler is our new municipal judge and we welcome him to the Far Hills Family. Judge Adler came highly recommended and after meeting with him on several occasions, the Council and I feel that he will be an asset to our court process.

continued on page 2

from the Mayor's desk

continued from page 1

Now to COAH, which has been a challenge to every municipality. This year, the Supreme Court dealt municipalities and New Jersey taxpayers a cruel blow by mandating that municipalities are responsible for building low income units from a period dating back from 1999 to present, whether there is a need for them or NOT!

Lawyers representing a consortium of municipalities of which Far Hills is a member, was joined so that we could reduce judicial/legal costs while continuing to oppose this judicial decision, however, this responsibility is clear and will not go away. Also remember that the COAH issue has been mired in the courts and indecision for the last 12 years, however, this Supreme Court ruling has changed the game and certainly not in the best interest of municipalities. Far Hills is presently in discussion with a developer who petitioned the court to build low income housing in Far Hills on property that they own. As these talks continue, the Council will have a series of meetings to discuss Far Hills' final responsibility and I encourage all interested residents to attend these Council meetings which will be advertised. To be clear, the Supreme Court has made it clear that each municipality MUST build low income units. The number of units that has been assigned to Far Hills is certainly up for debate and I, the Council, our Planner and lawyers are involved in many discussions towards having the lowest possible impact on our Borough and taxpayers. These talks are ongoing and time consuming, but extremely necessary. I will continue to update you as time progresses and encourage you to attend the Council meetings when the COAH issue will be discussed in the near future.

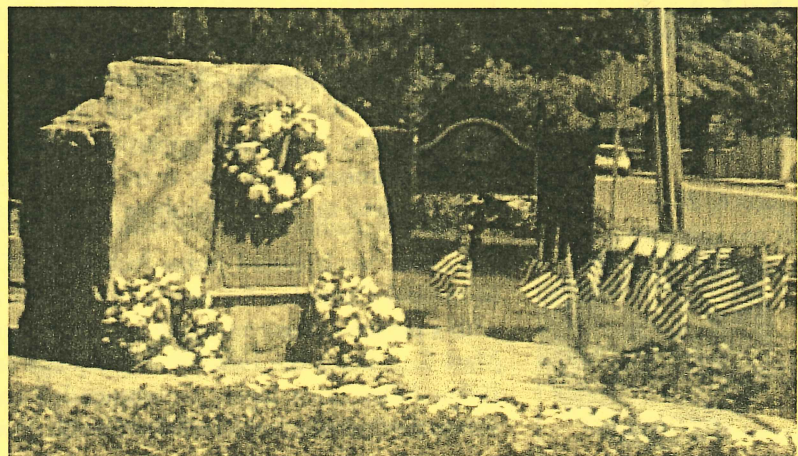
After 38 years, as an integral part of the fabric of Far Hills, the Butler's Pantry has closed and Mr. Doug Sutton has retired. While not a Far Hills resident, Doug has done much to contribute to Far Hills and has given selflessly to our Memorial Day and Veterans Day festivities as well as many other events over the years. A great and proud American, he will be honored at the June 12th Council meeting and I encourage all to attend to wish him well.

At the municipal building, we continue to update and modernize our computer systems working to streamline and organize the municipal records. This is a time consuming, expensive and labor intensive process but we continue to make progress working within our financial budget.

Finally, as always, I encourage all residents to remember that Far Hills is a great place to call home and working together from a positive perspective will ensure that this bucolic Borough will remain a place we can always be proud of. If you have any suggestions or comments, I can be reached at 908.234.0611 and as always I thank you for your continued support.

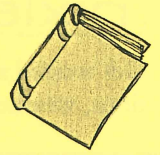
Sincerely,

Paul J. Vallone, M.D.
Mayor, Borough of Far Hills



ACTIVITIES ABOUND AT THE LIBRARY

Don't forget to check all the interesting happenings at the Clarence Dillon Public Library. There are a myriad of activities available for all ages including Book Groups, Movie Screenings, Instructional Classes, the Art Scene and Sandy's Music. For more information call 908.234.2325 or contact them online at www.dillonlibrary.org



SHOW YOUR MUNICIPAL PRIDE



We are proud to offer residents an opportunity to show their municipal pride. The custom Borough of Far Hills Municipal Flag, just like the one at the municipal building, is now available for residential use.

Please contact the Borough Clerk's office at 908.234.0611 for additional information on how to order your very own Borough of Far Hills flag.

HOME ALARMS - ANNUAL REGISTRATION REMINDER



All burglar, fire, medical emergency and panic alarm systems must be registered each year with the Far Hills Police Department. Please contact 908.234.1192 for additional information.

Please make sure your residence is clearly marked with visible street numbers to assist emergency services in locating your property.

TOP TEN THINGS TO DO THIS WEEKEND!



Each week, Somerset County Tourism posts a Weekend Top Ten list with fun and exciting things to do in Somerset County.

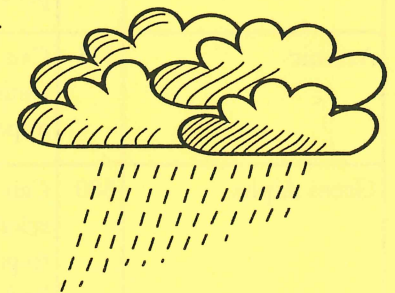
Check out www.visitsomersetnj.org for more information.

SPRING WEATHER IS UNPREDICTABLE - PREPARE NOW!

Thunderstorms cause most of the severe spring weather. They can bring lightning, and flooding. Whenever warm, moist air collides with cool dry air, thunderstorms can occur.

Prepare your family members for the possibility of severe weather:

- Tell them where to seek appropriate shelter as soon as they are aware of an approaching storm.
- Practice your emergency plan for every type of severe weather.
- Show family members where the emergency supplies are stored and make sure they know how to turn off the water, gas, and electricity in your home.



Prepare yourself and your family now so you'll be ready when storms approach.

For more information on preparing for severe weather visit, www.cdc.gov/features/springweather/index.html.

Emergency contacts are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. New Jersey American Water 1.800.272.1325, JCP&L 1.888.544.4877 and PSE&G 1.800.436.7734.

BE INFORMED - SIGN UP FOR NIXLE ALERTS



SIGN UP IS FREE!

Get trusted alerts from your local police and other towns of your choosing. Receive updates on road and traffic conditions, weather alerts and important local information. Sign up at www.nixle.com or simply text your zip code to 888777.

FAR HILLS COMMUNITY WELL TESTING

In cooperation with Raritan Headwaters, the Borough of Far Hills is delighted to offer citizens the opportunity to have their well water tested at below-market cost. If your household water comes from a private well, it is not tested by any state or local authority.

- Test kits are available for purchase at the Far Hills Municipal Building - June 5 - 9 between 9:30 am to 2:30 pm.
- Water samples should be collected and dropped off at the Far Hills Municipal Building on **Monday, June 12 between 7:00 am to 10:00 am only**. Samples will not be accepted after this time.
- Test results will be available within approximately two weeks.

A sampling of available tests is listed below.

A more comprehensive list of testing options is available at www.TestMyWell.org

For additional information, please call 908.234.1852 x401 or email at welltesting@raritanheadwaters.org

Test	Fee	Reasons to Test	Possible Sources
Basic: Total Coliform & Fecal Confirmation, Nitrates	\$60	Cloudy water and/or recurrent gastrointestinal complaints from people drinking water. High levels of nitrates are harmful to infants and pregnant women	Cracks in well casing, faulty seal or seepage near well - septic system problems stormwater runoff - seepage from fertilized land
Iron	\$15	Discoloration of laundry or plumbing fixtures, rust stains and/or bitter or metallic taste	Naturally occurring deposits - industrial wastes
Lead	\$25	Harmful to pregnant women and children. Can cause physical or mental development problems in infants or children and kidney problems or high blood pressure in adults	Corrosion of household pipes, fittings and/or solder (soft water may be more corrosive than hard water)
Arsenic	\$35	Can cause increased risk of cancers, gastrointestinal ailments, diabetes and cardiovascular impacts	Naturally occurring deposits - wood preservatives
Gross Alpha	\$80	Can be ingested, or inhaled as gases that are released from the water into the air. Exposure to gross alpha emitters in drinking water can lead to lung cancer	Erosion of natural deposits of minerals that are radioactive - may emit alpha radiation, which can enter the home through well water
Hardness	\$15		

GARDEN TIPS TO KEEP OUR WATER CLEAN



Everyday activities can affect water quality.

Do your part to help reduce the amount of pollution that flows into our waterways by following the tips below:

- Conserve water. Do not overwater your lawn and adjust sprinklers to avoid water running into the gutter.
- Identify pests before spraying pesticides. Ask a specialist at your garden center for advice on how to treat for a specific pest.
- Use integrated pest management (IPM) methods to minimize chemical use in your garden.
- Reduce the amount of grass by planting ground cover. This also reduces the need for fertilizers, herbicides and pesticides.
- Use natural pesticides such as milky spore and nematodes wherever possible. If you must use chemical pesticides, use them sparingly and in targeted areas.
- Have your soil tested by the Rutgers Soil Testing Laboratory - 848.932.9295 to determine if you need to fertilize. Never apply fertilizer to your lawn or garden if the weather calls for rain.
- Use a mulching mower instead of bagging grass clippings to reduce lawn waste and to reduce the need for fertilizer.
- If you must use herbicides, apply them directly to the weeds rather than broadcasting, if possible. A healthy lawn will reduce weed growth.
- Use mulch on flower beds and gardens to prevent weeds from growing and to help absorb water.
- Use drought-resistant native plants in gardens and beds. These plants require less fertilizer and less water, thereby reducing the amount of potential polluted runoff.



ROAD CLOSURES



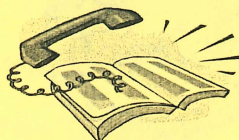
The following road closure will occur within the Borough of Far Hills this summer:

Milling and Paving of Douglas Road - On or about June 26, 2017 for approximately one week, Douglas Road will be closed from Allen Road to Liberty Corner Road. Layton Road will also be closed to all through traffic at Douglas Road. Please follow all posted detour signs.

Sign up for Nixle for automatic updates.

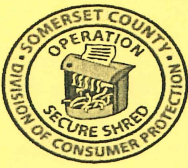
Please contact the Far Hills Police Department with any questions at 908.234.1192.

FAR HILLS PHOTO DIRECTORY



Included in this newsletter mailing is the Borough of Far Hills Photo Directory. Here you will find the face behind the name of the people who so proudly serve the residents of the Far Hills. We hope that you find this new format helpful.

DON'T BE A VICTIM OF IDENTITY THEFT!



The Somerset County Board of Freeholders and the County's Records Management Division will be sponsoring "Operation Secure Shred" events throughout Somerset County.

Properly disposing of personal documents is a necessary step in safeguarding and protecting your personal information and preventing identify theft. Residents from all 21 Somerset County municipalities are invited to have personal documents shredded. Residents do not have to reside in the town hosting an event to participate.

Documents will be commercially shredded safely, privately and properly by trained, licensed and bonded document-destruction specialists. Staples and paper clips do not have to be removed. Residents my bring documents in up to six boxes, containers or bags per visit and will be asked to take back their receptacles.

All events are held on Saturday from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm, rain or shine.

For additional information, call 908.203.6018

- July 8 - Franklin Township Municipal Building, 475 DeMott Lane, Somerset
- July 15 - Bedminster Township Public Works Building, 75 Miller Lane, Bedminster
- July 29 - Bridgewater Township Municipal Building, 100 Commons Way, Bridgewater
- August 26 - Washington School, 614 First Avenue, Raritan
- September 16 - Montgomery Township High School, 1016 Route 601, Skillman
- September 30 - Branchburg Municipal Building, 1077 US Highway 202 North, Branchburg
- October 28 - Green Brook Municipal Building, 111 Greenbrook Road, Green Brook
- January 20, 2018 - Bernards Township Engineering Services Building, 277 South Maple Avenue, Basking Ridge

IDENTIFYING & PREVENTING STORM WATER POLLUTION

Storm water runoff is water from rain that does not soak into the ground. It flows from rooftops, over paved areas, bare soil, and sloped lawns. Municipal storm sewer systems, storm drain inlets, pipes and ditches collect storm water runoff and convey it directly to local bodies of water.

Ideally, the storm water runoff is contaminant free. In reality, it picks up pollutants such as soil, animal waste, salt, pesticides, fertilizers, oil, grease and debris and transports them to waterways where they are discharged with no treatment. This is storm water pollution.

Disposal of anything other than storm water in storm sewers is illegal.

It is important to remember that municipal storm sewer systems are not set up to treat or process anything and exist solely to transport rain water to surrounding river, streams, and other bodies of water.

THINGS YOU CAN DO TO PROTECT OUR WATER QUALITY

- Never dump anything down storm drains
- Use fertilizer sparingly, sweep up any excess from driveways, sidewalks and roads
- Avoid pesticides
- Pick up after your pet
- Direct downspouts onto grassy areas away from paved surfaces
- Check vehicles for leaks
- Wash vehicles on grass instead of on the driveway, or take your car to the car wash

