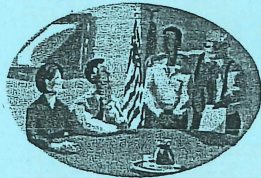
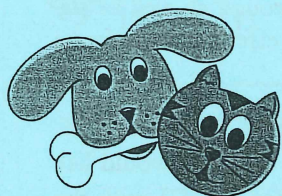


# BOROUGH OF FAR HILLS

WINTER 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.



All Far Hills dogs and cats must be licensed annually.

**Current licenses expire on January 31, 2017.**

A 2017 application has been included in this mailing for your convenience.

## from the Mayor's desk

Dear Friends and Neighbors:

As we close out 2016 and begin 2017 I want to take this opportunity to wish you and your families the very best in 2017 and hope that you and your loved ones had a wonderful Holiday Season.

As has been customary for me, I use this Newsletter to inform you of changes that take place not only here in Far Hills but events and legislation from Trenton that may affect us as well. I am very pleased to say that through the efforts of myself, our Council, Planning Board, Board of Health, Administrative personnel and our Police as well as the professionals who advise us, Far Hills continues to be in excellent condition both fiscally and esthetically. So, let us begin, as with any family there is change, people retire or move and our municipality is no different. This year, Thomas Howland who served as Councilman for 14 years has relocated, we thank him for his service to Far Hills and wish him well. Anthony Petrilli was sworn in as Councilman and will assume the responsibilities related to our Court system. Nancy Probst, our Planning Board Secretary moved on and we also wish her well. We welcome Trina Lindsey as our Planning Board and Board of Health Secretary. We also welcome Samantha D'Antuono as Assistant to the Clerk, Cynthia Huljack as Technical Assistant to the Construction Officer, Elena Martin as Finance Assistant and Patrolman Christopher Merkle to fill a vacancy in our Police ranks. We welcome all of our new employees, please take time to say hello to them when the opportunity arises. Let me also stress that working with our CFO Debi Stern, our Personnel Committee and Ms. Jill Searing, our Human Resource consultant, we were able to fill the growing employment needs of the Borough with little to no additional payroll increase due to previous attrition, a win-win for all! I also want to congratulate David Karner and David Surks having won re-election in November to our Council and thank them for the many hours they devote to our Borough. Also, Mrs. Jamie Leiss was elected to be our School Board representative, all can be reached at the municipal building offices at 908.234.0611.

Let us talk about taxes, our municipal taxes are something that we are very proud of, this year 2016 our tax rate remained unchanged, we have the lowest municipal tax rate in Somerset County and one of the lowest in the State of New Jersey, something I and the Council work very hard to preserve and will continue to do so into 2017. Remember, there are three components of your taxes: municipal, school and county; the last two we have NO control over so be sure to stress to your School Board the importance of being as fiscally prudent as possible as school taxes are the largest component of YOUR taxes.

This year saw two successful VNA Sales with minimal impact on the community due to our Pre-VNA Sale meetings with Council members, police, representatives of the

continued on page 2



## from the Mayor's desk

from page 1

VNA and myself allowing them to do the good work the VNA provides members of our Community. The Steeplechase Race in October was a great success, it was a beautiful fall day and showcased our bucolic community and was enjoyed by some 35,000 attendees. June 2017, a new equestrian event will take place, called the Essex Horse Trials. This new event will highlight the equestrian tradition of our area and will be fun for all; plan on attending. Our commitment to the equestrian tradition is intended to reinvigorate this substantial industry, which contributes over 1 billion dollars in revenue to New Jersey and will hopefully have beneficial effects toward stimulating land and home values in our area. Our Memorial Day Parade in May was a great success as was our Veterans Day service this past November. Please put both of these events on your calendars for 2017 and plan to attend.

Roads seem to have a life of their own and this year saw some challenges. Following a severe rainstorm, a sink hole developed on Route 202 necessitating the closure of that road between Far Hills and Bernardsville for almost three months while the NJ Department of Transportation (NJDOT) reconstructed the roadway. Stressing the inconvenience for our residents, I applaud the NJDOT for working 6 days a week and 10-12 hours a day or more on the project. Due to the insolvency of the Transportation Trust Fund our combined project with Bernards Township to reconstruct Douglas Road was put on hold, although I am happy to say that I have recently been informed that the project is now slated to go forward in the spring of 2017. I will keep you informed as information comes to us. Accidentally, the Department of Public Works (DPW) that we share with Bedminster hit a culvert wall on Lake Road while cleaning up debris following another rain storm and caused that wall to collapse. We are working with our insurance company to obtain a commitment to repair this wall and possibly the entire culvert as our engineers say will likely need to happen. The culvert is over 100 years old and I have been updating members of the community on Lake Road with regard to the progress with a community representative receiving updates as they become available.

COAH, the (Council on Affordable Housing) continues to wind its way through our Court systems, this continues to be a financial strain on all municipalities throughout New Jersey. At a recent Conference of Mayors meeting that I attended, this issue was front and center and the importance of our state leaders to continue to resolve this UN-FUNDED mandate on behalf of municipalities was strongly stressed. Locally, I, the Council and our attorneys continue to put Far Hills in the best possible position going forward to address our responsibilities once they are clearly defined by the Courts.

Our Police Department, under Chief Mike DeCarolis, continues to be vigilant to ensure quality of life for our residents in a safe environment and continues to address motor vehicle laws throughout the Borough as well as addressing many issues that come their way. Deployment of a mobile speed sign has been very effective thus far as well.

The Clarence-Dillon Public Library is a great community center with much to offer our residents, stop in and become familiar with all the lectures, movies, seminars and yes, books that it contains. Finally, in closing I would like to share a fun fact. Far Hills Borough will be 96 years old on May 12, 2017, having been chartered in 1921 with the vision of keeping this Borough a special place with open spaces, a country heritage and bucolic collegial way of life. Rest assured that I, and our Council will continue to strive to ensure that Far Hills continues to be a great place to live and work and remember that your positive suggestions are always welcome. As always, I can be reached in 908.234.0611. Thank you for your continued support and remember that working together we can surmount any challenge and move into 2017 all very proud that we call Far Hills home.

Sincerely,

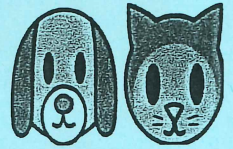
Paul J. Vallone, M.D.  
Mayor, Borough of Far Hills



## FREE RABIES CLINIC

Available to Somerset County residents. Vaccinations for both dogs and cats.  
Saturday, January 14, 2017 from 10 am to 12 pm. No appointment necessary.

Bernards Township Public Works Garage, 277 S. Maple Avenue, Basking Ridge, New Jersey 07920  
For more information, please contact 908.204.2520.



## 2017 RECYCLING SCHEDULES

Recycling is beneficial to the environment because it protects habitats, saves natural resources and produces less pollution than traditional methods of waste disposal. It is also required by law in New Jersey.

Somerset County sells recycled materials to generate revenues that help to offset recycling costs for taxpayers. Recycling also saves residents money by reducing landfill disposal costs.

The 2017 Recycling Schedules should have been attached to your November recycling can. Additional schedules are available at the Borough of Far Hills Municipal building. Included with the Recycling Schedule is a how-to guide which has important information for the bi-monthly pick-ups. Information about Household Hazardous Waste Days, electronic waste recycling, proper disposal of Rx medication, and 1st Saturday of the month Drop-off Days is also included.

Please keep the schedule handy and refer to it often.

### CHRISTMAS TREE RECYCLING

The Somerset County Park Commission will accept Christmas trees from December 27, 2016 through January 31, 2017 at either of these locations:

- North Branch Park, Parking Lot A, in Bridgewater
- Colonial Park, Parking Lot F, in Somerset

For more information about Christmas tree recycling, call 908.722.9292, ext. 6.



## 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](http://www.visitsomersetnj.org) for more information.

## BEAR FACTS FOR HOMEOWNERS



New Jersey residents, especially those in areas frequented by black bears, should take steps to avoid attracting bears with food or garbage. This is the best way to prevent black bears from becoming a nuisance near your home.

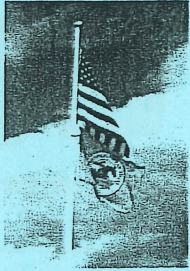
Some residents may observe black bears using yards as part of their natural travel corridors. The mere presence of a black bear is not considered a problem. Generally, bears tend to be wary of people. It is important not to leave out any food or garbage that may encourage bears to linger in residential areas. One person feeding bears can create a problem that may affect the entire neighborhood.

Black bears learn very quickly and bears that are fed intentionally or unintentionally by carelessly leaving out food or garbage will associate people with food. Bears will eat almost anything including human food, garbage, pet food, birdseed and small livestock. Once they find an easily accessible food source they will lose their wariness of people and may return to the available food source. These bears can become a nuisance or aggressive and may have to be trapped and aversively conditioned or destroyed.

Report black bear damage or nuisance behavior to the DEP's 24-hour, toll-free hotline at 1-877-WARN DEP (1.877.927.6337).



## 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.

For size and pricing information, please contact the Borough Clerk's office at 908.234.0611 x19.

## IMPORTANT CHANGE IN SEWER UTILITY BILL



Effective in 2017, the Borough of Far Hills will transition from semi-annual billing to annual billing statements. Beginning approximately March 1st, residents and commercial units, who are serviced by the Sewer Utility System, will receive one annual sewer utility bill with four payment stubs attached. (Similar to the way the property tax bills are currently mailed.) The stubs are to be used for all four quarters in 2017.

**For your convenience, payments can be made in one of three ways:**

1. Leave in the Dropbox located outside of the main entrance of the Borough of Far Hills Municipal Building - (24/7 access)
2. Deliver in person to the Sewer Utility Collector's office - 9:30 am to 4:00 pm, Monday-Thursday; and till 2:30 pm on Friday.
3. Mail in your payment to the Sewer Utility Collector's office - 6 Prospect Street, Far Hills, NJ 07931.

**Due dates for submitting payments are as follows:**

- 1st Quarter - March 1st
- 2nd Quarter - June 1st
- 3rd Quarter - September 1st
- 4th Quarter - November 1st

There is a 10 day grace period granted for each quarter. Please note that due to the implementation of the new annual billing cycle in 2017, the 1st Quarter due date may be extended one month to April 1st. Should you have any questions, concerns or suggestions, please do not hesitate to contact the Sewer Utility Collector, 908.234.0611 x14. Office hours in Far Hills are Wednesdays from 1-4 pm.



## BOROUGH OF FAR HILLS - NEW MAILING ADDRESS

It is no longer necessary to include the PO Box numbers in our mailing address. Simply address to the appropriate department, for example, Borough Clerk, Police Department or Tax Collector at the following address:  
**6 Prospect Street, Far Hills, NJ 07931**

## ANNUAL ALARM REGISTRATIONS

Both residential and commercial alarm systems must be registered annually with the Far Hills Police Department. An informational letter and registration form are included with this newsletter for your convenience. Kindly remit your payment of \$20.00, made payable to the Borough of Far Hills, along with your completed registration to:

Chief Michael DeCarolis  
Far Hills Police Department  
6 Prospect Street  
Far Hills, NJ 07931





## HOW LITTER AFFECTS OUR WATERSHED

Water is one of our greatest natural resources. We sometimes take it for granted but it is essential for life.

Each year there are reports of polluted waterways, fish and crabs that are unsafe to eat and beaches closed due to pollution. Littering and illegal dumping present a serious danger to our watersheds.

A watershed is the land area from which water drains into a lake, stream, river or ocean.

Far Hills has several creeks that drain into rivers and lakes. Water from our roadways drain into the storm drains and into the creeks. Unfortunately, many people believe that the storm drain water is treated and filtered before it reaches our waterways. This is NOT true. Storm drain run-off is untreated and unfiltered.

Litter, debris, automotive fluids, leaves and grass that are washed or dumped into the storm drain will contaminate not only the local creeks but also the rivers and eventually the ocean. Our watershed is shared with wildlife that depends on these waterways for life. They include fish, birds, turtles, and some mammals.

### HOW YOU CAN HELP!

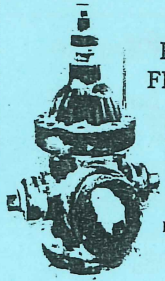
- Adopt a storm drain near your home. Remove debris as it accumulates on top of the grates. This will not only keep our watershed clean, it will reduce the chance of flooding.
- Do not litter. Keep a small plastic bag in the car for garbage and dispose of it properly.
- Do not dump anything into a storm drain, this includes pet waste, automotive fluids, paint, chemicals, grass and leaves. Bring hazardous materials to the Household Hazardous Waste Days. For more information refer to your Somerset County Recycling schedule.
- Report littering and illegal dumping. Call the Far Hills Police Department at 908.234.1192. Please have the license plate of the vehicle or the name of the person, date, time, location and what was littered. Do not confront anyone!
- Report broken or sinking storm drains to the Borough Clerk's office at 908.234.0611.
- Secure your garbage in a can with a tight fitting lid to prevent spillage and animals from tearing open bags.
- Properly secure loads on your vehicle or work trucks to prevent items from falling off.
- Business owners should check their garbage dumpsters each day to correct any overflow problems or illegal dumping.

Clear the drains before it rains!





## KEEP FIRE HYDRANTS CLEAR OF SNOW



### Please Clear Your FIRE HYDRANTS

Emergency Personnel  
Need Your Assistance

Please Shovel a 3 Foot Area  
Around All Fire Hydrants

When it is cold and blustery outside, you most likely will want to spend most of your time indoors. However, it's important to keep an eye on what's happening outside too. Winter weather can create fire safety hazards, such as ice and heavy snowfall that can obstruct fire hydrants. You can help reduce the risk by keeping fire hydrants accessible and clear of ice and snow.

In an emergency, seconds count. Please do your part to ensure hydrants are cleared with a 3 foot area around them for easiest access by our fire professionals.

## LOOK OUT FOR THEM, LIKE THEY LOOK OUT FOR YOU



A license identifies and protects your pet in case it becomes lost. You are required to renew your license yearly and to keep your license updated when you move and/or your pet is given away, lost, stolen or is deceased. A license is not only a requirement, but it provides the following benefits:

- A license tells everyone that your pet is not a homeless stray.
- When licensed, found pets can be quickly reunited with their owner.
- Your license is proof that your pet has been vaccinated against rabies.
- Animal licensing is an essential part of animal care and control in our community.

In order for a dog license or cat certificate to be issued, the owner must present proof that a licensed veterinarian has vaccinated the dog/cat against rabies. New Jersey State law requires that all rabies certificates must be valid through November 1st of the license year.

Licensing your pet is the law. All Far Hills dogs and cats must be licensed, as per NJ statute 4:19-15.1 et. seq. and Far Hills Ordinance 2015-13. All current dog and cat licenses expire on January 31, 2017. The licensing of animals is an important aspect of rabies and animal control.

If you have any question or need additional information, please call 908.234.0611 x10. A 2017 Pet License Application has been included for your convenience.

## NEW JERSEY'S SPECIAL NEEDS REGISTRY FOR DISASTERS



For people with disabilities who need help during an evacuation or emergency. Call 2-1-1 or [www.registerready.nj.gov](http://www.registerready.nj.gov)

This registration website allows residents with special needs and their families, friends and associates an opportunity to provide information to emergency response agencies, so emergency responders can better plan to serve them in a disaster or other emergency. The information collected here is confidential and will not be available to the public.

The information will be held securely and only used for emergency response and planning.

Please be as complete as possible in your responses. You will be contacted occasionally to ensure the information is correct and to make any necessary changes.

## FAR HILLS WEBSITE...COMING SOON!

Far Hills staff have been working extra hard on the new Borough of Far Hills website. It's currently under construction, but will be available soon at [WWW.FARHILLSNJ.ORG](http://WWW.FARHILLSNJ.ORG)

