



BOROUGH OF FAR HILLS

SPRING 2019

FROM THE MAYOR'S DESK



- **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 4, 2019
Polls are open from
6:00 am to 8:00 pm

Far Hills
Municipal Building

Voter Information
NJELECTIONS.ORG

Dear Neighbors and Friends:

As we move through spring into summer, I want to update you on events and issues here in Far Hills as I have done quarterly for the last nine years as your Mayor. There is much to cover so let's get right to it.

Working with the Department of Transportation over the last year I and the Borough Council have been successful in obtaining a commitment from DOT to do the much needed paving and restoration of Route 202. This will occur later this summer. Stay tuned. I want to thank Councilman Surks for his assistance in this matter.

We are also working with our neighbors in Bernards Township on a grant to pave an additional section of Douglas Road as well, and that is targeted for summer 2019.

Our Police Committee, (Council President Karner and Councilman Carty) continue their excellent work with Police Chief Michael DeCarolis in keeping Far Hills' residents safe. In May, we welcomed a new officer, Officer Zavala to our Police Department and through excellent fiscal management we have been able to provide our Police with the latest in communication and equipment necessary to keep them on the cutting edge so that our Police Department is equipped with all they need to maintain and ensure the safety of our residents.

As to fiscal management, our 2019 Budget reflects a minimal 1.6% increase in taxes and maintains Far Hills as having one of the lowest municipal tax rates in the State of NJ while providing and upgrading the essential services for our residents. We continue to build fiscal reserves and as per our independent auditors, Far Hills is an excellent example of fiscal management and integrity, something I and the Borough Council are very proud of.

The joint Memorial Day Parade with Bedminster will start at 10 am on Monday, May 27th, please plan to attend this important day in our Country's history.

The VNA completed their Spring Sale and Far Hills is proud of our association as the VNA who continues to help improve the quality of life for our residents in need of medical support.

June 8th, the Morris Freewheelers will be bicycling through Far Hills from 8:30 am until 3:00 pm, and June 9th, will see the Miles for Matheny from 11:30 am until 5:00 pm based out of our Fairgrounds, something for the entire family to enjoy. June 21-23, will see the Essex Horse Trials, a family event showcasing equestrian talent, a food court and an automobile show, please plan to attend this community event. You may also have noticed lovely plantings and pots around Far Hills, this is courtesy of a newly formed Garden Club which will further enhance the beauty of our Community.

I now want to address Affordable Housing. As most residents in Far Hills are aware, due to the many presentations and transparent discussion throughout all of 2018, I and the Borough Council having had looked at many, many possible options over several years, the Borough announced a Plan last year to address our Court mandated affordable housing requirement. This plan, which has been highlighted in the newspapers and discussed at

continued on page 2

FROM THE MAYOR'S DESK

continued from page 1

almost every Council meeting, includes an Adult small group home operated by Matheny on Peapack Road; several rental apartments across from the Fairgrounds in existing buildings run by Mr. Bill Hotz and a planned community on a 40 acre site off of Route 202.

This plan, which has been sanctioned by the Court, and commended by the Court and local papers for its transparency and inclusion of all of Far Hills, is beneficial to Far Hills in many ways. This plan satisfies all our COAH obligations, it will not require the Borough to borrow millions of dollars as do other plans, such as the RPM plan or other self-build plans. In fact, we do not have to borrow any money, and after recent discussions have confirmed that the Pulte development off Route 202 will be DEED RESTRICTED Age Restricted, this greatly reduces the number of school children to be educated and makes a very good plan an excellent one. This plan is INCOME POSITIVE to the Borough, it is located on a 40 acre tract most will be deeded a sanctuary prohibiting any further development and will be well landscaped and set well back from the road and will be similar in nature to the Polo Club, which has been and is a wonderful addition to Far Hills.

The Pulte community will have a higher price point and so will not be competitive to the Polo Club. We will have ample tax income to hire any additional Fire or Police services that maybe needed AND WILL NOT AFFECT YOUR TAXES.

Since January 2019, a small group of residents on Lake Road called Preserve Far Hills with the PRINCIPLES comprised of Amy Pressler, George Mellendick and Frank Semcer, who along with several other residents have done everything they can to derail this Plan. In fact, they have hired a lawyer and are SUING Far Hills, costing you the taxpayer substantially to defend ourselves. They profess that they know what is best for Far Hills despite that one of the litigants has not been seen at a Council meeting in years and others vary rarely.

While they profess to be in favor of Affordable Housing, they do not want it across from Lake Road and frequently suggest that the Affordable Housing should be placed on the Fairgrounds, in the Village or by the TRACKS; how demeaning.

Simply not in my backyard, hardly the big picture one needs to serve ALL the residents of our Borough.

They have insisted that the Borough "self funds" for our obligation despite the fact that I and the Council have looked at this option years ago and are again looking at it despite that it is not a financially feasible.

The fact remains that this option will cost Far Hills many millions of dollars, it will require us to bond for 20 plus years, will adversely affect our credit, will wipe out our reserves, will give us an affordable housing complex that produces little or NO tax ratables for the Borough and WILL RAISE YOUR TAXES dramatically.

They have also questioned an \$800,000 donation to be made to the Borough for restoration of our Fairgrounds and streetscape improvements downtown. This offering by the land owner was offered AFTER the Councils' decision to go with the Route 202 Pulte Plan, not BECAUSE of it. It had no bearing on our decision. Our view was that this would benefit EVERYONE, those who play baseball on the field, those who play soccer and our residents who simply want to walk their dog on a beautiful summer evening and this was thoroughly explained by our Borough Attorney, Mr. Sordillo at the May 13th Council meeting.

In short, I and the hard working and very dedicated members of your Borough Council, whom you have put your trust in, will only do what is in the best interest of this wonderful Borough we call home. Remember we all live here and are proud of this beautiful Borough we call home.

We have taken into account all of the options and have made a decision that this is in the best interest of ALL OF OUR RESIDENTS, for all of Far Hills NOT just a few.

I thank you for your continued support and ask you to listen to the facts, not the fiction.

Sincerely,

Paul J. Vallone, MD
Mayor

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 credit 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 Saturday from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm, or until trucks are filled, rain or shine. For additional information, call 908.203.6018 or go to www.co.somerset.nj.us/shredding

- June 15 - Somerset County Public Works North County - 411 Chimney Rock Road, Bridgewater
- July 13 - Franklin Township - Sewerage Authority 70 Commerce Drive, Somerset
- July 27 - Bedminster Township Public Works Building, 75 Miller Lane, Bedminster
- August 10 - Bridgewater Township Municipal Building, 100 Commons Way, Bridgewater
- August 31 - Somerset County Public Works South County - 410 Roycefield Road, Hillsborough
- September 28 - Branchburg Municipal Building, 1077 US HWY 202 North, Branchburg
- October 5 - Montgomery Township High School, 1016 Route 601, Skillman

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

Disposal of anything other that 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



FAR HILLS PHOTO DIRECTORY

Included in this newsletter is the Borough of Far Hills 2019 Photo Directory. Here you will find the face behind the name of the people who so proudly serve the residents of Far Hills. Also check out the Borough website at WWW.FARHILLSNJ.ORG

IMPORTANT NJ ELECTION DATES

- **May 28, 2019** - Deadline to apply for a Mail-In Ballot via the mail for Primary Election
- **June 4, 2019** - Primary Election Day
- **November 5, 2019** - General Election Day

Polls on Election Day are open 6:00 am - 8:00 pm at the Far Hills Municipal Building

Interested in being a Poll Worker, contact the Somerset County Board of Elections at 908.231.7086

FREE RADON TESTING KITS

Radon is a gas you cannot see, smell, or taste but it can affect your health! Testing is simple and free. Through a grant from the NJDEP, the Borough is pleased to offer free testing kits to residents. Stop by the Borough Clerk's office to pick up your kit. Any questions, please call 908.234.0611 x19

FREE TREE SEEDLINGS

Spring is in the air and it is time to think of plants and gardening. The Borough is happy to offer free tree seedlings to residents. For a limited time, Flowering Dogwood and Sweet Gum seedlings are available on a first-come, first-served basis.

FAR HILLS COMMUNITY WELL TESTING

In cooperation with the Raritan Headwaters Association, we are delighted to offer citizens an opportunity to test their well water. To participate in this program, please follow these steps:

- Review the table below for a sampling of the types of tests currently available.
- Registration and payment can be completed online at www.TestMyWell.org - select Community Well Testing Schedule and then choose Far Hills Borough or register at the Far Hills Municipal Building and pay by check. **Test kits will be available beginning June 3 through June 12 between the hours of 9:30 am to 2:30 pm.**
- Water samples should be dropped off at the Borough of Far Hills Municipal Building on **June 13** between **7:00 am to 10:00 am ONLY**. Samples will not be accepted after this time.
- Raritan Headwaters will ensure that all samples reach a state-certified laboratory later that day for testing. Residents will receive their confidential test results promptly, and if pollutants are detected the Association will provide information so that well owners can address the problems and make their water safe for consumption.
- Information and pricing for additional tests can be found at www.TestMyWell.org or contact 908.234.1852 ext. 401.

TEST	FEE	REASONS TO TEST	POSSIBLE SOURCES
Total Coliform & Fecal (E.Coli) and Nitrate Confirmation	\$60	Recommended to be tested annually. Cloudy water. 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. Storm water run-off. Seepage from fertilized land.
Iron	\$15	Discoloration of laundry or plumbing fixtures, rust stains. 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. Kidney problems or high blood pressure in adults.	Corrosion of household pipes, fittings, 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 preservative.
Radon	\$50	Can be ingested or inhaled as gases are released from the water into the air. Exposure to radon in drinking water can lead to lung cancer.	Naturally occurring, produced by the breakdown of uranium in soil, rock and water which can enter the home through well water.
Gross Alpha	\$80	Can be ingested or inhaled as gases 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.