



BOROUGH OF FAR HILLS

WINTER/SPRING 2020



- **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 2, 2020
Polls are open from
6:00 am to 8:00 pm

Far Hills
Municipal Building

Voter Information
NJELECTIONS.ORG

FROM THE MAYOR'S DESK

Dear Neighbors and Friends,

As we move through the winter months and look forward to the first blossoms of spring, I want to update you with the progress we have made over the last several months.

Through the nearly year-long efforts of Council President Karner and Councilman Carty, negotiations with our Police Department have concluded and I am proud to say that this five year PBA contract ensures that our residents will continue to benefit from the fine police officers whom we know, who keep us safe and who are invested in our Far Hills community. This new contract is very fair to our officers and mindful of the Borough's fiscal budget, truly a win-win.

Work continues as we review proposals for the procurement of new permitting software for our Construction Department, as software previously provided free of charge from the State of New Jersey will no longer be available. The new software will streamline the permit application process for both residents and the contractors doing work in Far Hills. It also provides an integration between municipal departments and assists our professionals in ensuring safety and compliance with all applications. We have and are continuing to improve and expand the Borough website and doing so in a cost effective way, and I thank our Borough Clerk, Dorothy Hicks for her efforts in overseeing its progress.

Working collaboratively with our neighbors in Bernards Township and utilizing NJDOT grants wherever possible, we have completed the repaving of Douglas Road and will commence with improvements to Mine Brook Road in 2020. In addition, we are moving forward to address the drainage issues in the Village area and through the bid submission process expect to make final arrangements with a contractor within the first half of 2020. While most residents do not think about sewer and drainage pipes during the course of their day, we, the Council and especially Councilwoman Tweedie along with our Borough Environmental Engineer continue to monitor and maintain this extensive system below our Borough roadways.

Events continue in the Borough, beginning with the VNA Rummage Sale in the spring of 2020 and, as is customary, I and Councilman Hand and others will be meeting with the VNA team in March to plan for this year's sale which continues to provide support for many local residents in need of medical attention. Plan to attend the Memorial Day Parade on Monday, May 25, 2020 at 10:00 a.m., a historic day of remembrance when we honor our fallen service men and women.

continued on page 2

FROM THE MAYOR'S DESK

continued from page 1

The Essex Horse Trials will now be held on July 18-19, 2020 and the Far Hills Race Meeting will be held on October 17, 2020 marking the 100th running of this event.

Far Hills Borough will be celebrating its 100th anniversary in April of 2021, so stay tuned for much more on this upcoming event! Council President Karner and my wife, Janis Vallone will co-chair this momentous celebration.

Our Municipal Court continues to perform very well for the Borough. Councilwoman Chimenti has been working with our Court Administrator, Marjorie Freeman and Judge Mark Adler to ensure a smooth and fiscally positive operation.

Through a shared service agreement with Bedminster Township, we welcome Adriana McKenna as the Borough's new Tax Collector and express our appreciation to Donna Cummins for her many years of service in this position. We also welcome Shana L. Goodchild as Planning Board Secretary and congratulate Samantha D'Antuono on her promotion to Deputy Borough Clerk and Board of Health Secretary. We also extend our best wishes to Debra Halik, Technical Assistant to the Construction Official as she has accepted a position in another municipality closer to her home.

Over the next few weeks, we will continue the preparation of the municipal budget for 2020. Working with our CFO, Debra Stern, I and the Council will make every effort to maximize return and continue to keep Far Hills Municipal Tax Rate one of the lowest in the State of New Jersey while continuing to improve and upgrade our services and infrastructure and maintain our quality and character of life here in Far Hills.

Our COAH compliance continues to move forward as we have made great progress in satisfying our court mandated responsibilities and have done so while safeguarding the Borough's integrity and independence. I want to thank the Council, our professionals and especially you, our residents as we work together through this state mandate.

Maintaining a clean Far Hills is very important and by utilizing various means we have always and will continue to keep our Borough litter free. Everyone can do their part, while walking, running, biking, if you see a piece of litter, and can safely do so, please pick it up and properly discard it. Let's encourage our neighbors to do the same and even though it seems like a small thing, together it can make a big difference.

As always, I thank you for your continued support and I know that working together we can and will continue to ensure the wonderful quality of life here in Far Hills so that we will always be proud to call Far Hills home.

Sincerely,

Paul J. Vallone, MD
Mayor
Borough of Far Hills



2020 CENSUS INFORMATION

The 2020 Census counts every person living in the 50 states, District of Columbia and five U.S. territories. The count is mandated by the Constitution and conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau. The 2020 Census will mark the 24th time that the country has counted its population since 1790.

The census provides critical data that affects billions of dollars in federal funding to hospitals, fire departments, schools, roads and other resources. The results also determine the number of seats each state will have in the U.S. House of Representatives.

In Mid-March, homes across the country will begin receiving invitations to complete the 2020 Census. You can respond in one of three ways: online, by phone or by mail. April 1, 2020 is Census Day. When completing the census, you will include everyone living in your home on April 1, 2020. For more information, go to 2020CENSUS.GOV

Avoid Fraud and Scams

The Census Bureau will not send unsolicited emails to request your participation and will NEVER ask for your Social Security number, bank account or credit card numbers or solicit money or donations. The Census will not contact you on behalf of a political party. If you suspect fraud, call 800.923.8282

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 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



FAR HILLS PHOTO DIRECTORY

Included in this newsletter is the Borough of Far Hills 2020 Photo Directory. Here you will find the face behind the name of the people who so proudly serve the residents of Far Hills.

WWW.FARHILLSNJ.ORG

Visit the Borough of Far Hills website to find up to date information on happenings in the Borough, as well as agendas and minutes for the Borough Council, Planning Board and Board of Health. Easily reach out to your elected officials or Borough staff via email hyperlinks from your computer or smart phone. If you have any suggestions for additional items that you would like to see on the website, please let us know.

CRITICAL CUSTOMER CARE PROGRAM

The Critical Customer Care Program identifies customers who use certain electrically operated life sustaining medical equipment in their home. The program helps customers - for whom a service interruption could be immediately life threatening or would make operation of necessary medical or life supporting equipment impossible or impractical - prepare for planned and unplanned power outages. Please contact JCP&L at 800.662.3115 if someone in your home uses this type of medical equipment.

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 on April 27, 2020 from 9:30 am - 2:30 pm. 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 1 through June 10 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 11 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 call 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.