



BOROUGH OF FAR HILLS

WINTER 2021



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

Due to the current restrictions associated with the pandemic, meetings will be held via a remote meeting access format. Notice containing information and instructions for members of the public to join the meeting will be specifically posted, in advance of each such meeting, on the bulletin board located at the Borough Hall, 6 Prospect Street, Far Hills, NJ and on the official website of the Borough of Far Hills located at WWW.FARHILLSNJ.ORG



All Far Hills dogs and cats must be licensed annually.

Current licenses expire on January 31, 2021.



Annual Alarm Registration is due by January 31, 2021.

FROM THE MAYOR'S DESK

Dear Neighbors and Friends,

Like many of you, I am pleased to welcome a new year and say goodbye to 2020. 2020 started like every year, with hope and promise for health, happiness and prosperity for our families, friends, our children and our communities. Then five letters and 2 numbers, known as COVID-19 came into our lives, our families' lives, our communities, and our country and the rest as they say is history.

I will not belabor the obvious, we all know how devastating this has been for many and how this pandemic has changed the way we live, work and play. But, America has something that helped us through many crises in the past, through Polio, through World War II, through the Great Depression, through AIDS, through Ebola. We are resilient, we are forward thinking, we are problem solvers and we are a country with a vision toward the future with the means to solve problems, and not be defined by them. And so in that vein, let's briefly look back for a moment and recount what we have accomplished here in Far Hills.

We have kept our residents safe by working with and coordinating with the Police, Somerset Board of Health and the Governor's office. We have kept our PPE supplies and closed the Municipal Building to the public, yet continued to have meetings via Zoom. We have continued to provide infrastructure repair with repaving of Liberty Corner Road, and Mine Brook Road in conjunction with our neighbors in Bernards Township, the repair of and paving of Prospect Street and the new drainage system on Dumont Road to help ameliorate drainage issues. We have proposed and are seeking funding for additional road projects as well. We have after much hard work had the COAH plan this past December certified by the Court and Far Hills has been commended by the Court for the job done on this difficult issue. We have continued to keep our taxes low by planning well ahead for difficult times despite the loss of revenue from the VNA events as well as the equestrian events and the Far Hills Race which all had to be cancelled in 2020.

We continue to share services such as our Far Hills Bedminster Fire Department and EMS. We are also very proud of our Clarence-Dillon Library for providing a great Community Center with educational events and materials. We have added a Police Officer to replace the one who left us, and additional support staff at the municipal building to further assist our residents. So, yes despite COVID-19, we have been very busy and very productive.

continued on page 2

FROM THE MAYOR'S DESK

continued from page 1

As we look forward to 2021, the unknown factor of COVID-19 continues but our plans are undaunted. We are planning for Far Hills turning 100 with Council President Karner and my wife Janis Vallone spearheading a great community event on May 15th, with a parade and a picnic for Far Hills residents, a time capsule burying and a proclamation to take place, plan to attend.

Road projects will continue pending NJDOT grants, and we'll continue Fairground improvements, a place where our residents enjoy walking, relaxing and walking their dogs on a leash, of course. We are working toward restoring the large events with the VNA and Far Hills Race Association and continue to seek guidance from the Governor's office regarding these much anticipated events in 2021.

We continue to look at and explore options to maximize our purchasing dollars and financial relationships so that our fiscal conditions remain strong. The Council and I will continue to do everything possible to keep our taxes low, which we have done very successfully for the last 10 years.

My dear friends and neighbors, the state of the Borough of Far Hills remains very good, we will continue to safeguard the health of our employees and will continue to keep Far Hills a place we are proud to call home.

Thank you and God Bless America.

Sincerely,

Paul J. Vallone, MD
Mayor
Borough of Far Hills



LICENSING YOUR PET CAN SAVE ITS LIFE



A license identifies and protects your pet in case it becomes lost. You are required to renew your pet license annually and to keep the information updated with any changes that may occur throughout the licensing year. A license is not only required by law, but it also provides the following benefits:

- A license tells everyone that your pet is not a homeless stray.
- Licensed pets that are lost can be quickly reunited with their family.
- Your license is proof that your pet has been vaccinated against rabies.

New Jersey State law requires that all rabies certificates must be valid through November 1st of the license year. 2021 pet licenses cannot be issued if the rabies certificate expires before November 1, 2021.

If you have any questions, please contact the Borough Clerk's office at 908.234.0611 x10.

A 2021 Pet License Application has been included with this newsletter for your convenience.

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 water and exist solely to transport rain water to surrounding rivers, streams, and other bodies of water.

THINGS YOU CAN DO TO PROTECT OUR WATER QUALITY

- Never dump anything down the 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



NEW REQUIREMENTS FOR PROPERTY OWNERS

As of August 2020, a certificate of Construction Records Clearance is required prior to the sale of any residential or commercial structure and prior to the rental of any tenant space in a commercial structure within the Borough of Far Hills.

An application form must be submitted at least four business days prior to the change of occupancy or closing. The form is available on the Borough website at WWW.FARHILLSNJ.ORG

If you have any questions, please contact the Construction Code office at 908.234.0611 x11.

CHANGES TO THE SEWER UTILITY PAYMENT DUE DATES

Effective in 2021, the Borough of Far Hills will transition from quarterly sewer payments to semi-annual payments. Beginning approximately April 1, 2021 property owners who are serviced by the Sewer Utility System, will receive one annual sewer utility bill with two payment stubs which will be due on **May 1st** and **November 1st**, with a grace period until the 10th of the month.

Payments received after the grace period will be assessed interest fees at 8% per annum on the first \$1,500.00 of delinquency and 18% per annum on any delinquency in excess of \$1,500.00. It is important to note that interest is calculated to the date the payment is received.

If you have any questions, please contact the Borough Tax Collector, Adriana McKenna at 908.234.0611 x14 or via email at AMCKENNA@FARHILLSNJ.ORG

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.

FAR HILLS CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION



The Borough of Far Hills will turn 100 years old this year and to celebrate, the residents of Far Hills are invited to a birthday party on **May 15, 2021**.

The planned festivities will include a parade starting at the Far Hills Train Station, continuing down to Peapack Road and ending at the monument in front of our municipal building.

Mayor Paul J. Vallone, MD will read a Proclamation commemorating this great event. A time capsule will also be buried which will include articles, photos and comments submitted by you, our residents. We encourage you to send in photos, memories and stories that we can all share and which will be proudly displayed in our 100th Anniversary Commemorative Poster.

We are also compiling "100 Things I Love About Far Hills" to be included in the time capsule for future generations to enjoy.

Please submit what you love about living in Far Hills to either Janis Vallone at JNANIE90@MSN.COM or Council President David Karner at DKARNER@HOTMAIL.COM

Following this ceremony, residents are invited to join us for an elegant catered country picnic at the J. Malcolm Belcher Fairgrounds.

Be sure to mark your calendars and join your neighbors in our momentous celebration! Watch the Borough of Far Hills website at www.FARHILLSNJ.ORG for updates.