



BOROUGH OF FAR HILLS

FALL / WINTER 2023



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

Unless otherwise indicated meetings begin at 7:00 p.m. and are held at the Municipal Building. Agendas are posted on the Borough website at FARHILLSNJ.ORG



HOLIDAY EVENT SAVE THE DATE

Please join us on Saturday, December 2, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. at the J. Malcolm Belcher fairgrounds for our Holiday Event. This free family event will feature the lighting of the holiday tree, tasty refreshments, entertainment, and more!

Rain date:
Sunday, December 3, 2023

FROM THE MAYOR'S DESK

Dear Friends and Neighbors of Far Hills:

As we approach the holiday season, we look forward to spending time with family and friends. We always look forward to this time of year as the excitement of the holiday season can be seen throughout the Borough and beyond.

Speaking of the holiday season, I invite you to attend our annual Holiday Event on Saturday, December 2nd with the illumination of the holiday tree at 6:00 p.m. at the J. Malcolm Belcher fairgrounds. The rain date will be Sunday, December 3rd at 6:00 p.m. This family friendly event was enjoyed by many who attended last year. The Bernards High School Madrigals will entertain guests by singing holiday carols and complimentary hot cocoa and cookies will be provided for all to enjoy. A special visit from Santa is also planned.

I would like to thank the Far Hills Recreation Committee for continuing to organize events over this past year. We held two movie nights at the fairgrounds as well as last year's Holiday tree lighting event. We believe strongly in these community centered events and will continue to support them into the future. We have always said we believe in bringing community together and the Recreation Committee is helping to foster these opportunities.

We recently held an election and we welcome back Councilmen Joe Carty and Peter Coccoziello as well as welcoming a new Councilman Charles "Skip" Schwester. We are looking forward to 2024 and will continue to work hard to provide the best possible services to our residents, as well as continuing to preserve our low tax rate.

As of this letter, we have completed phase one of our mill and pave project on Lake Road. I would like to thank our residents for their patience as we faced many challenges and obstacles in repairing this roadway. In other good news, we have recently received a grant from the NJDOT for the front section of Lake Road including paving with drainage improvements. When all is said and done we will have Lake Road paved from the lake to Route 202. I want to thank Councilman Coccoziello for his efforts on this project. With the addition of our recent Pennbrook Road lower section paving project and next year's Pennbrook Road upper section repave, we will have Lake Road and Pennbrook Road in fantastic shape.

During these expensive road projects, the Borough is leveraging grants from the NJDOT over the next few years to make improvements to Lake Road, Pennbrook

continued on page 2

FROM THE MAYOR'S DESK

continued from page 1

Road, DeMun Place and Dumont Road. We are investing in our infrastructure and I thank you for your patience while we work through the roadways on a timely, well thought-out manner. We are sensitive to the fact there are additional roadways that will need repairs and improvements and are working them into our five-year plan as we speak.

I would be remiss if I did not take a moment to thank longstanding Councilwoman Sheila Tweedie for her many, many years of work on the Borough Council, Planning Board, Board of Health and the Sanitary Transmission Advisory Board. I have learned a great deal from Sheila and wish her nothing but the best as she steps down from the Borough Council.

It has been a while since it's been talked about, but our Route 202 bridge between Bedminster and Far Hills is overdue to be replaced. The NJDOT is in their final phases of design and they are looking to replace the bridge in the summer of 2025. We will keep our residents informed as we get closer to this major project. I have asked the NJDOT to hold an information session with our residents and business owners so they can understand the impact this will have during the construction phase.

I would also like to thank the Far Hills Garden Club for their continued support and beautification of Far Hills. After this joyous season, I am looking forward to spring when over one thousand bulbs they have planted will come to life throughout the Borough.

I would like to thank all of our Council members, Planning Board members and Board of Health members for their dedication to serve Far Hills and its residents. I would also like to thank Dorothy Hicks, our Borough Clerk, for all of her hard work in overseeing our day-to-day operations. I would also like to thank our board professionals for all of their hard work this year.

A special thanks to Chief Michael DeCarolis and his team for keeping us safe. I would also like to give a special thank you to the many volunteers that serve on our Fire Department and First Aid Squad.

We would like to invite you to our Council meeting on January 22, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. Please join us as we review last year's challenges and successes. We are open to public input on how we can better serve our community in 2024. I'm calling this a "Community Check-In" meeting. Topics such as what we can do to improve life in Far Hills include improvements to the fairgrounds, our infrastructure, all of our community events, etc. I want everyone to feel comfortable to express their thoughts. We are in this together and together we make the very best community around!

On behalf of myself and my family, we wish you a very safe and healthy holiday season.

Hope to see you at the Holiday Event on Saturday, December 2, 2023 starting at 6:00 p.m.

Sincerely,

Mayor Kevin P. Welsh
KWELSH@FARHILLSNJ.ORG

SUICIDE AND CRISIS LIFELINE



The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline is now **988** as the three-digit dialing code that will route callers to the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline.

The Lifeline provides 24/7, free and confidential support for people in distress, prevention and crisis resources for you or your loved ones, and best practices for professionals.

LICENSING YOUR PET ENSURES THEIR SAFETY



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 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.

Free Rabies Vaccine Clinics are available on January 13, 2024 from 10:00 am to Noon at either the Bedminster Public Works Garage on Miller Lane or the Bernards Township Public Works Garage on 277 S. Maple Avenue. No appointment is necessary and is open to Far Hills residents.

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, 2024. The licensing of your pet is an important aspect of rabies and animal control.

The 2024 Pet License Application will be available on January 2, 2024 at the Borough Clerk's office as well as on the Borough website. Current pet owners will be notified of the renewal via email. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact us at 908.234.0611 x10.

SANTA TO DELIVER HOLIDAY GIFTS



For the past 20 years, members of the Far Hills Bedminster Fire Department have brought joy to children and adults alike through their annual Santa Run.

On December 16th, Santa will be riding around on a big yellow fire truck visiting the residents of Far Hills and Bedminster and delivering the holiday gifts.

If you wish to have Santa deliver your gifts, please drop them off at the Fire House located at 100 Miller Lane in Bedminster.

Dropoff dates:
Saturday, December 9th
Tuesday, December 12th
Thursday, December 14th

For more information, please visit FHBFD.ORG/SANTA

NEW MUNICIPAL STORMWATER REGULATIONS



The NJDEP has made changes to the stormwater permitting program regulations affecting all municipalities due to the increase in flooding events which result in additional stormwater runoff into our waterways. Due to these changes, Far Hills has been reclassified as a Tier A municipality, which has more stringent stormwater management requirements than our previous Tier B classification. Every Tier B municipality in New Jersey has been reclassified to Tier A.

In accordance with the Tier A requirements, several ordinances were adopted at the November 27, 2023 Borough Council meeting. These ordinances serve to regulate the impact of stormwater runoff and pollutants on our environment and each can be found on the Stormwater Management page on the official Borough of Far Hills website.

As part of our continuing educational outreach program, below is additional information on stormwater management and simple measures you can take to help protect our water resources.

Stormwater 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 stormwater systems, storm drain inlets, pipes and ditches collect stormwater runoff and convey it directly to local bodies of water.

Ideally, the stormwater runoff is contaminant free. In reality, pollutants such as soil, animal waste, salt, pesticides, fertilizers, oil and grease, and debris are transported to waterways where they are discharged with no treatment. This is stormwater pollution.

Disposal of anything other than stormwater in storm drains is illegal. It is important to remember that municipal stormwater systems are not set up to treat or process anything and exist solely to transport rain water to surrounding rivers, streams, and other bodies of water.

Nonpoint Source Pollution, or people pollution, is a contamination of our ground water, waterways, and oceans that results from everyday activities such as fertilizing the lawn, walking pets, changing motor oil and littering. With each rainfall, pollutants generated by these activities are washed into storm drains that flow into our waterways and oceans. They also can soak into the ground contaminating the ground water below.



Human activity is largely responsible for stormwater pollution. Everything that we put on the ground or into the storm drain can end up in our water. Each of us has a responsibility to make sure these contaminants stay out of our water. Whether we have clean water is up to you. Simple changes in your daily lifestyle can make a tremendous difference in the quality of New Jersey's water resources. Here are eight simple ways you can reduce nonpoint source pollution.



1. Reduce or eliminate all use of fertilizers, pesticides or herbicides.
2. Vegetate your yard to filter and absorb rainwater.
3. Limit the amount of impervious surfaces on your property.
4. Use biodegradable soaps.
5. Direct downspouts away from paved surfaces.
6. Take your car to a car wash instead of washing it in the driveway.
7. Maintain your car and recycle your used motor oil.
8. Pick up after your pet.

CHRISTMAS TREE RECYCLING



The Somerset County Park Commission will accept Christmas trees from December 26, 2023 until January 31, 2024 at either of these locations from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., seven days a week:

- North Branch Park, 355 Milltown Road, Lighted Baseball Field, Bridgewater
- Colonial Park, 156 Mettlers Road, Parking Lot F, Franklin Township

For more information, call 908.722.1200 x 5721

QUESTIONS ABOUT RECYCLING - GET THE FREE APP!

Download the FREE Recycle Coach App to learn how to recycle the easy way!

- Customized Recycling Schedule for Far Hills
- Pick up Reminders
- “What Goes Where” search tool

Go to: www.co.somerset.nj.us/recycle-coach or your app store to sign up!



YEAR ROUND FOOD DONATIONS



Did you know that you can help those in need year round while recycling? Please put food donations, canned only, in a bag and place at the curb on your recycling pickup days; it's that simple.

Alternatively, you can drop off canned food items on the first Saturday of every month at 40 Polhemus Lane, Bridgewater between 8:00 a.m to 2:00 p.m.

Remember, canned items only, no glass or perishable items. For more ways to help, contact 732.469.3363.

ONLINE TAX AND SEWER PAYMENTS - NEW PORTAL COMING SOON!



We are pleased to announce the upcoming launch of our new and improved portal for online payments of your property tax and sewer utility payments. This user-friendly system will offer additional features to view and pay your tax and sewer bills as well as the ability to save accounts, store payment methods and schedule payments in advance.

Visit the Tax Collector's page on the Borough website for enrollment information.

ARE YOU IN THE KNOW?

NIXLE SIGN UP IS FREE! Get trusted alerts from your local police department. 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.



YOU'RE INVITED TO OUR HOLIDAY EVENT



Please join us at the second annual Far Hills Holiday Event to be held on Saturday, December 2, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. at the J. Malcolm Belcher Fairgrounds on Peapack Road.

This free event is open to the public and will feature a tree lighting ceremony, refreshments, and holiday music. A walk through the luminary trail at the recently renovated fairgrounds will lead you to the holiday tree lighting ceremony which will occur at 6:00 p.m.

The festivities continue with holiday music performed by the Bernards High School Madrigals. To keep you warm and toasty, hot chocolate and cookies have been graciously provided by the Butler's Pantry and the Far Hills Café for all to enjoy.

Children will be able to visit with Santa who has made a special trip from the North Pole to Far Hills.

Please plan to attend with your friends and family so that we can come together as a community and enjoy the simple pleasures of this holiday season.

Thank you to the Far Hills Recreation Committee and each of our volunteers who have worked diligently to make this event possible. A special thank you to former Mayor Paul J. Vallone, MD and his wife Janis for donating this beautiful tree.

Rain date will be Sunday, December 3, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.



WISHING YOU A HEALTHY AND HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON!

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

BOROUGH OF FAR HILLS
6 PROSPECT STREET
FAR HILLS, NJ 07931

