



BOROUGH OF FAR HILLS

SPRING 2023

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.

Meeting agendas and minutes can be found on the Borough's website:

FARHILLSNJ.ORG

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **EASTER EGG HUNT**
April 8, 2023
- **MEMORIAL DAY PARADE**
May 29, 2023



Dear Friends and Neighbors of Far Hills:

I am deeply honored, and it is my privilege to accept the responsibility of Mayor of Far Hills. As mayor, I am collectively working with the Borough Council, Planning Board, Board of Health, and Board professionals to maintain and improve the quality of life for all the borough's residents. I want to thank Mayor Vallone and Mayor Karner for their exemplary service to the borough over the past many years.

As we welcome a new year, the borough has been busy with reorganizational meetings. The Borough Council has a new and very capable Council President Mary Chimenti. David Karner and Rick Rinzler were elected this past fall and took the oath of office for their council seats. We had three candidates presented to the council by the Republican County Committee to fill my open seat on the council. After much consideration, the council has selected Peter J. Cocozello, Jr. to take the open seat. The Planning Board remains strong under Chair Thomas Rochat and Vice-Chair Robert Lewis. The Board of Health is in good hands under the leadership of Chair Rick Rinzler, and Vice-Chair Sheila Tweedie. I would also like to welcome two new Board of Health members, Cindy Decorges and Elizabeth Glynn Valentine. I am also very thankful for our very experienced board professionals, and Borough Clerk Dorothy Hicks and CFO Debra Stern for their continued outstanding work.

My goals as mayor are to continue to improve our strong financial position, protect our low municipal tax rate, and openly communicate and promote a community centered town. As mayor, I will continue to promote pedestrian safety and support the revitalization of the J. Malcolm Belcher Fairgrounds. I will work hard to protect the bucolic nature of Far Hills. I will continue to support local events such as the semi-annual Atlantic Visiting Nurse Rummage Sale, Memorial Day Parade, Far Hills Steeplechase, Veterans Day, Essex Horse Trials, Holiday Tree Lighting, and beyond. Small-town living, small-town values.

I am delighted to say our strong alliance with Atlantic Health Systems (AHS) and the Atlantic Visiting Nurse (AVN) Rummage Sale has become even stronger. Over the past several months, Councilman Karner, Councilwoman Tweedie, renegotiated a new long-term lease that will protect both the AVN and Far Hills. This new twenty-year lease is a significant financial improvement for the borough over the prior lease terms.

The AHS will continue to fund renovations and maintenance to the main barns at the fairgrounds. They will also perform a yearly light grading and heavy track roll

continued on page 2

FROM THE MAYOR'S DESK

continued from page 1

to keep the track in good shape for use by our residents. I am happy to say this was the first ordinance I introduced as mayor and has since been signed into effect.

On the affordable housing side of things, we have a few updates. We have recently completed two separate housing units with the Matheny School on Peapack Road. Future affordable housing projects will begin shortly at 46 Peapack Road with rehabilitation of the existing single-family structure into affordable housing rental units. Construction is anticipated to commence this spring at 8 and 10 Peapack Road which includes second story additions on both buildings providing affordable housing rental units.

We have completed the financial/fiscal audit of the Errico Acres development. The developers Pulte Group and Melillo Equities worked cooperatively with the borough, and I was able to renegotiate the agreement previously authorized in 2019. We will now pay zero dollars, as opposed to the 2019 agreement which would have cost the borough \$6.9 million over a 15 year period. The age restriction on the market rate units is a major benefit to the borough as it limits the number of school-aged children as well as helps to reduce overall traffic from the site. I want to thank the borough professionals and our council for fighting for the best outcome possible. This is a major cost savings for the borough as well as achieving full compliance with our third round affordable housing obligations.

We also look forward to major improvements to Pennbrook Road. As we work with the New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT), the approved grant will help to repave the road and improve the drainage. We anticipate this project will be underway this spring.

As spring approaches, we look forward to the inflorescence of flowers and abundant greenery. The annual Far Hills Bedminster Easter Egg Hunt will take place on April 8, 2023 at the J. Malcolm Belcher Fairgrounds. Planning is underway for the spring Atlantic Visiting Nurse Rummage Sale, with donations being accepted April 8-25, 2023 and the sale occurring May 5-7, 2023. The Memorial Day Parade is scheduled for May 29, 2023 at 10:00 a.m., as it is essential to remember our fallen men and women, our proud protectors of freedom. The Essex Horse Trials event will be held at Moorland Farm on June 4, 2023.

I want to thank our Recreation Committee for all their hard work. The revitalization of the fairgrounds and the buildings is a wonderful site to behold. The first annual tree lighting was a success with over 120 in attendance this past December. I would also like to thank the Far Hills Garden Club for all their beautification of Far Hills with fresh bulbs installed around the train station.

I want to thank Chief DeCarolis and Lieutenant Kocur for continuing to lead our Police Department and keeping our streets safe. I want to thank the many volunteers at the Far Hills Bedminster Fire Department and the Far Hills Bedminster First Aid Squad. We thank all those who collectively make Far Hills a safe place to live.

I want to remind the residents that Somerset County continues to be a target for auto theft. These are crimes of convenience; a key is left in a car and they take it. Please, I urge you to take the key out of your vehicle and always lock your car! Lock it or lose it! If we continue to provide the opportunity, criminals will continue to come to our town.

On behalf of my wife Ashley, myself, and our three children, we wish you a very safe, happy, and healthy 2023.

Respectfully,

Mayor Kevin P. Welsh
Borough of Far Hills

IDENTIFYING & PREVENTING STORMWATER POLLUTION

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.

THINGS YOU CAN DO TO PROTECT OUR WATER QUALITY

- Never dump anything down storm drains
- Dispose of household waste properly
- 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
- Check vehicles for leaks
- Wash vehicles on grass instead of on the driveway or visit a car wash



2023 SOMERSET COUNTY RECYCLING & FOOD DONATIONS

Download the Recycle Coach App for free. It provides easy access to:

- Your Recycling Schedule
- “What Goes Where” search tool
- Pick up Reminders
- And more!

Go to: www.co.somerset.nj.us/recycle-coach for more information.

YEAR ROUND FOOD DONATIONS

Donating is simple as 1, 2, 3. On each Recycling Day:

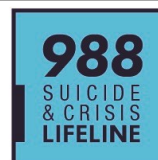
1. Place canned items in a bag
2. Mark bag as “FOOD”
3. Leave at curb next to your recycling bin

Remember only canned items are needed; please no glass or perishables.
For more information, please call 732.469.3363



NEED SUPPORT NOW?

If you are having thoughts of suicide
If you need mental health-related crisis support
If you are worried about someone else



Please call or text 988

Or visit the **National Suicide Prevention Lifeline** 988lifeline.org to connect with a trained crisis counselor.

AFRAID OF IDENTITY THEFT? THINK OPERATION SECURE SHRED

FREE * SECURE * CONVENIENT

8 SATURDAYS IN 2023 RAIN OR SHINE 9 AM - 1 PM (or until trucks are full)
DROP-OFF SITES AND DATES

- Somerset County - **(April 22, August 12, September 16)**
Public Works Garage, South County Facility
410 Roycefield Road, Hillsborough
- Somerset County - **(May 20, July 15, October 14, November 18)**
Public Works Garage, North County Facility
411 Chimney Rock Road, Bridgewater
- Franklin - **(June 3)**
Franklin Township Sewerage Authority
70 Commerce Drive, Somerset



TAX & SEWER - ONLINE PAYMENTS NOW AVAILABLE

Far Hills residents can conveniently and easily pay their Property Tax & Sewer Utility bills online. Please visit the Borough's website at FARHILLSNJ.ORG for additional details.

PREVENT SEWER BACKUPS IN YOUR HOME

Most sewer backups in the home are caused by improper disposal of waste into toilets and drains. The following items should NEVER be discarded into toilets or drains:

- Oils or Grease from Cooking
- Diapers and Baby Wipes
- Feminine Hygiene Products
- Paper Towels
- Kitty Litter

These items do not break down in the sewer pipes and may cause backups in your home. The improper disposal of these items will create serious maintenance and health issues for the homeowner and the wastewater collection and treatment systems.

NIXLE REGISTRATION

NIXLE IS FREE! Get trusted alerts from the Far Hills Police Department. Receive updates on road and traffic conditions, weather alerts and important local information. Sign up at NIXLE.COM or simply text your zip code to 888777.

FAR HILLS PHOTO DIRECTORY

Included in this newsletter is the Borough of Far Hills 2023 Photo Directory. This Directory will assist you in identifying the face behind the name of Borough staff who so proudly serve the residents of Far Hills.