

# BOROUGH OF FAR HILLS

FALL 2022



- **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.



## GENERAL ELECTION

NOVEMBER 8, 2022

Polls are open from

6:00 AM - 8:00 PM

Borough of Far Hills  
Municipal Building  
6 Prospect Street

Voter Information  
[VOTE.NJ.GOV](http://VOTE.NJ.GOV)

## FROM THE MAYOR'S DESK

Dear friends and neighbors of Far Hills,

I would like to begin my letter by recognizing Mayor Paul J. Vallone, M.D. and his wife Janis for over 11 and a half years of service to the Borough of Far Hills. Far Hills is a much better place because of Dr. and Mrs. Vallone and their dedication and commitment to improving our community is immeasurable. Thank you, Paul and Janis and we wish you all the best, with health and happiness in your future.

After the resignation of Mayor Vallone, the task of finding a mayoral replacement fell to the Borough Council. Based on my nearly twenty-two years of service on the Borough Council and twelve and a half years as Council President, I was elected by the Borough Council and it is my privilege to serve out the remaining term as Mayor of the Borough of Far Hills. My highest goal as your Mayor is to collectively work with Council President, Kevin Welsh, the Borough Council, the Planning Board and Board of Health to maintain and enhance the quality of life for all Far Hills residents. As elected officials, we are public servants, responsible for making decisions regarding policy and law to be implemented by our very competent professional staff.

We have a strong Borough Council and have just added two new members to our Planning Board with a third to join shortly. I would like to express my appreciation to both Andrea Harvey and Thomas Swon, for volunteering to serve as Alternate #1 and #2 on the Far Hills Planning Board.

October in Far Hills was a mix of bustle and energy as our village streets were full of shoppers searching for hidden treasures at the bi-annual Atlantic Visiting Nurse Rummage Sale that occurred October 7-9, 2022. The merger of the Visiting Nurse Association of Somerset Hills and Atlantic Homecare and Hospice, a division of Atlantic Health System, has opened the door for a wonderful new relationship between Far Hills and Atlantic Health System. They will be leading the last phase of our J. Malcolm Belcher Fairground renovation project. Immediately after this fall's sale, the two barns that are the main frame around the AVN Rummage Sale, will be renovated and painted to identically match the other fairground structures. Thank you, Atlantic Visiting Nurse, for all this as well as the tremendous services that you provide for Far Hills and surrounding communities each and every day.

October in Far Hills would not be complete without the annual Steeplechase Race. The 101<sup>st</sup> running of the Far Hills Race Meeting was held on October 15, 2022 and was again sponsored by Open Road Auto Group and Peapack Gladstone Bank. The hilltop at Moorland Farm glistened with vibrant Autumn foliage while equine enthusiasts witnessed the finest thoroughbreds race for the finish line. This event was very well attended and over the years, Far Hills Race Meeting has donated more than 18 million dollars to support local healthcare organizations. This year pari-mutuel wagering was available through each spectators' cell phone. The interest in the event has also warranted an expansion to national and global televised coverage.

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## FROM THE MAYOR'S DESK

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Chief Michael DeCarolis and Lieutenant Christopher Kocur manage the Far Hills Police Department, which, together with the Far Hills-Bedminster Fire Department, and Far Hills Bedminster First Aid Squad, continue to provide admirable and exceptional service to the Borough and our residents. We thank the men and women that serve our community through these fine organizations.

I would be remiss if I did not also recognize the exemplary service rendered by our administration and financial personnel, under the leadership of Borough Clerk, Dorothy Hicks and CFO Debra Stern respectfully. We recently experienced some deviation in our normal routine and the amount of internal cooperation by these professionals was strenuous but each team member stepped up to meet the challenge. Thank you all for your continued professionalism and devotion to the Borough.

I want to welcome back Court Administrator, Marjorie Freeman, to our Far Hills family. Marjorie was out on an extended medical leave and has come back stronger than ever to resume her responsibilities. A special "Thank You" to Deputy Court Administrator Cathy Adamo for her coverage during Marjorie's absence. I would also like to welcome Judge Katty C. Wong-Taylor to the bench in Far Hills, a truly competent and experienced professional.

Chairman Thomas Rochat and Vice Chairman Robert Lewis lead and give guidance to the Far Hills Planning Board as they continue to be responsible for reviewing applications for development in the Borough and managing our Master Plan. Chairwoman Marilyn Layton and Vice Chairwoman Sheila Tweedie provide leadership to the Far Hills Board of Health and in collaboration with the Somerset County Board of Health monitor health issues that may impact our residents.

I want to assure you that myself, the Borough Council and Planning Board are reviewing the required affordable housing agreements relating to the pending affordable housing developments, including the forthcoming Errico Acres development. Specifically with regard to this development, the Borough Council and I have determined that a financial/fiscal audit of the Affordable Housing Agreement, including the fiscal impact of the development on the Borough will be completed. The developers, Pulte Group and Melillo Equities, are in agreement with our request and will work amicably with the Borough to have the financial/fiscal audit completed prior to the construction of the project.

We have also decided to retain the legal services of Special Counsel, Jeffrey Lehrer to assist our Borough Counsel, Joseph Sordillo, both of DiFrancesco, Bateman, Coley, Yospin, Kunzman, David, Lehrer, & Flaum, P.C. This will strengthen our legal team with respect to the current affordable housing requirements as well as preparing for the upcoming round. I, Council President Welsh, and members of the Borough Council are committed to working side by side with our legal team on this financial audit to ensure that the final outcome addresses all concerns. I invite you, as residents of the Borough of Far Hills, to attend our public meetings and become involved.

Lastly, as I conclude my third month as Mayor, I want to thank the Borough Council, Planning Board, Board of Health, Administration, Police, and most importantly, our residents for their outpouring of support during the transition.

The holiday season is quickly approaching and the Recreation Committee has organized a Holiday Evening at the J. Malcolm Belcher Fairgrounds, planned for Saturday, December 3, 2022 at 6:00 PM, so please mark your calendars to join us for this spectacular event.

On behalf of my wife Deidre, myself and our entire family, we wish you and your family a safe, healthy, and very happy holiday season ahead.

Respectfully,

*David*

Mayor David P. Karner  
Borough of Far Hills

## 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.

- **November 12 - Somerset County Public Works Garage North - 411 Chimney Rock Road, Bridgewater**  
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](http://www.co.somerset.nj.us/shredding)

## TAX & SEWER PAYMENTS - NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE



Far Hills residents can safely and conveniently pay their Property Tax & Sewer Utility charges online. Please visit the Borough's website at [WWW.FARHILLSNJ.ORG](http://WWW.FARHILLSNJ.ORG) for additional details.

Sign up is quick and easy!

## IDENTIFYING & PREVENTING STORMWATER POLLUTION

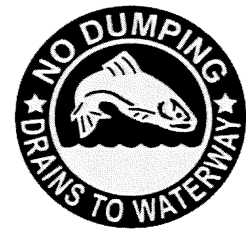
Stormwater runoff is water from rain that does not soak into the ground. It flows from rooftops, over paved areas, bare soil, and sloped lawns. Municipal storm sewer systems, storm drain inlets, pipes and ditches collect stormwater runoff and convey it directly to local bodies of water.

Ideally, the stormwater runoff is contaminant free. In reality, 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 stormwater pollution.

Disposal of anything other than stormwater 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
- ◆ 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 take your car to the car wash



## 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](http://www.nixle.com) or simply text your zip code to 888777.

## BOROUGH OF FAR HILLS DIRECTORY

|   |                      |                  |                            |
|---|----------------------|------------------|----------------------------|
| <b>MAYOR AND COUNCIL</b>  |                      |                  |                            |
| Mayor   | David P. Karner      | 908.234.0611     | DKARNER@FARHILLSNJ.ORG     |
| Council President   | Kevin Welsh          | 908.234-0611     | KWELSH@FARHILLSNJ.ORG      |
| Councilman  | Joseph Carty         | 908.234.0611     | JCARTY@FARHILLSNJ.ORG      |
| Councilwoman  | Mary Chimenti        | 908.234.0611     | MCHIMENTI@FARHILLSNJ.ORG   |
| Councilman  | Ted McLean           | 908.234.0611     | EMCLEAN@FARHILLSNJ.ORG     |
| Councilman  | Rick Rinzler         | 908.234.0611     | RRINZLER@FARHILLSNJ.ORG    |
| Councilwoman  | Sheila Tweedie       | 908.234.0611     | STWEEDIE@FARHILLSNJ.ORG    |
| <b>OFFICE OF THE BOROUGH CLERK</b><br>MON. - FRI. 9:30 AM - 3:30 PM   |                      |                  |                            |
| Borough Clerk   | Dorothy S. Hicks     | 908.234.0611 x19 | DHICKS@FARHILLSNJ.ORG      |
| Deputy Borough Clerk  | Samantha D'Antuono   | 908.234.0611 x27 | SDANTUONO@FARHILLSNJ.ORG   |
| Assistant to the Clerk  | Marina Yoler         | 908.234.0611 x10 | MYOLER@FARHILLSNJ.ORG      |
| <b>CONSTRUCTION DEPARTMENT</b><br>MON. - FRI. 8:30 AM - 12:00 PM      |                      |                  |                            |
| Construction Official - BY APPT.                                      | Steve Mahoney        | 908.234.0611 x26 | SMAHONEY@FARHILLSNJ.ORG    |
| Technical Assistant   | Helen Patatoukas     | 908.234.0611 x11 | HPATATOUKAS@FARHILLSNJ.ORG |
| Zoning Officer - TUES. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM                              | Kim Coward           | 908.234.0611 x18 | KCOWARD@FARHILLSNJ.ORG     |
| Fire Prevention Official - BY APPT.                                   | Steve Dill           | 908.234.0611 x11 | SDILL@FARHILLSNJ.ORG       |
| <b>FINANCE DEPARTMENT</b>   |                      |                  |                            |
| Chief Financial Officer   | Debra Stern          | 908.234.0611 x12 | DSTERN@FARHILLSNJ.ORG      |
| Assistant to the Finance Officer                                      | Sarah Housman        | 908.234.0611 x12 | SHOUSMAN@FARHILLSNJ.ORG    |
| Assistant to the Finance Officer                                      | Elena Martin         | 908.234.0611 x12 | EMARTIN@FARHILLSNJ.ORG     |
| Assistant to the Finance Officer                                      | Adriana McKenna      | 908.234.0611 x12 | AMCKENNA@FARHILLSNJ.ORG    |
| <b>MUNICIPAL COURT</b><br>MON., TUES., THURS., FRI. 9:30 AM - 3:30 PM |                      |                  |                            |
| Municipal Judge   | Katty C. Wong-Taylor | 908.781.1911     | N/A                        |
| Court Administrator   | Marjorie Freeman     | 908.781.1911     | N/A                        |
| Deputy Court Administrator  | Cathy Adamo          | 908.781.1911     | N/A                        |
| <b>POLICE DEPARTMENT</b>  |                      |                  |                            |
| Police Chief  | Michael DeCarolis    | 908.234.1192     | CHIEF@FARHILLSPOLICE.ORG   |
| <b>TAX ASSESSOR - TAX COLLECTOR</b>                                   |                      |                  |                            |
| Tax Assessor<br>THURS. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM AND BY APPT.               | Ed Kerwin            | 908.234.0611 x13 | EKERWIN@FARHILLSNJ.ORG     |
| Tax & Sewer Collector<br>WED. 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM AND BY APPT.          | Adriana McKenna      | 908.234.0611 x14 | AMCKENNA@FARHILLSNJ.ORG    |
| <b>PLANNING BOARD</b>   |                      |                  |                            |
| Board Secretary - TUES. 4:00 PM - 6:30 PM                             | Shana Goodchild      | 908.234.0611 x28 | SGOODCHILD@FARHILLSNJ.ORG  |
| <b>BOARD OF HEALTH</b>  |                      |                  |                            |
| Board Secretary - MON. - FRI. 9:30 AM - 3:30 PM                       | Samantha D'Antuono   | 908.234.0611 x27 | SDANTUONO@FARHILLSNJ.ORG   |

## SUICIDE AND CRISIS LIFELINE



The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline is now: 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline

988 has been designated as the new 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.

## A MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF OF POLICE

The Far Hills Police Department is dedicated to improving the quality of life in our community through a spirit of service. We are an effective, skilled, and progressive organization made up of dedicated officers who live out our mission of partnering with our community and protecting our citizens, while respecting the rights and dignity of all persons. Our officers and professional staff possess the highest standard of personal and professional integrity, enabling them to prevent crime, enforce our laws, work as community problem-solvers, and serve as examples to our residents. Every day, I am proud to work with people who make a significant, positive difference in our community. The FHPD has a proud history going back to 1921. Today, we strive to remain at the forefront of modern policing practices in honor of this proud tradition and the trust placed in us by the community. We demonstrate our mission best by working cooperatively with other governmental agencies, businesses, the faith community, and all citizens. We do not just react to incidents of crime or disorder. We continue to nurture our meaningful, working partnerships with others in the community to make it a safe place for everyone to live, work, and play. We call this "Community Policing."

Community Policing is a philosophy and an organizational strategy that promotes a new partnership between citizens and their police. It is based on the premise that both police and citizens must work together to identify, prioritize, and solve community concerns. We must be creative and innovative as we work to reduce and prevent crime, disorder, and fear. We will be relentless in our efforts to identify and arrest criminals, while also staying committed to helping our citizens develop long-term solutions to our community problems. The Far Hills Police Department and concerned, involved citizens are making a difference. We will continue to build on these positive relationships and accomplishments. This is achieved through our focus on accountability, buy-in, and collaboration within both the department and the community. We are your partners and your protectors. We are, and will always be, YOUR police department. Additionally, we recently participated in a program run by Somerset County called "Become a Police Officer." This program will give our department a look at possible Police Officer candidates specific to Somerset County.

You may have noticed our pink patrol car displayed throughout the Borough during the month of October. Our department was part of the "Pink Car for Breast Cancer Awareness Month" sponsored by the Far Hills Race Meeting, Open Road Auto Group, and RWJ Barnabas Health.

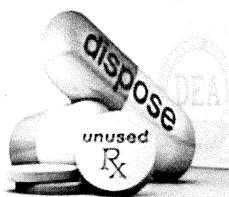
We are looking forward to a successful last quarter of 2022. — Chief Michael DeCarolis

## HOLIDAY EVENT - SAVE THE DATE

Please join us at the J. Malcolm Belcher Fairgrounds on Saturday, December 3, 2022 at 6:00 PM for our first annual Holiday Event. This free family event is open to our Far Hills Community and will feature the lighting of the holiday tree, yummy refreshments, entertainment, and more!



## PRESCRIPTION DRUG TAKE BACK DAY



The Borough of Far Hills is taking part in the DEA Diversion Control Division's 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual National Prescription Drug Take Back Day on Saturday, October 29, 2022 from 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM at the Borough of Far Hills Police Department. This program aims to provide a safe, convenient and responsible means of disposing prescription drugs, while also educating the general public about the potential for abuse. For more information, contact the Far Hills Police Department at 908.234.1192.

VOTER INFORMATION

*Vote-By-Mail ballots CANNOT be returned to your polling location*

**IN-PERSON EARLY VOTING:** Enables all registered voters to cast their ballot, in-person, using a voting machine during a nine-day period prior to Election Day, beginning October 29, 2022 until November 6, 2022. The hours will be Monday-Saturday 10:00 AM - 8:00 PM and Sunday 10:00 AM - 6:00 PM. No appointment necessary.

**WHERE:** In-Person Early Voting for Somerset County residents is available ONLY at the following six municipalities. For additional details, please visit [VOTE.NJ.GOV](http://VOTE.NJ.GOV)

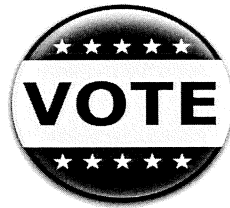
Bernards Township  
Bridgewater Township

Franklin Township  
Hillsborough Township

Montgomery Township  
North Plainfield Borough

**IN-PERSON ON ELECTION DAY:** The Far Hills polling location at 6 Prospect Street, Far Hills, NJ 07931 will be open on Election Day, November 8, 2022 ONLY. Polls are open between 6:00 AM and 8:00 PM.

1.877.NJ.VOTER (1.877.658.6837)  
For more information visit  
[VOTE.NJ.GOV](http://VOTE.NJ.GOV)



Somerset County Election Offices

County Clerk 908.231.7013  
Board of Elections 908.231.7084

Interested in being a poll worker? Apply at [POLLWORKER.NJ.GOV](http://POLLWORKER.NJ.GOV)



WISHING YOU A FESTIVE FALL SEASON!

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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

