



BOROUGH OF FAR HILLS

SPRING/SUMMER 2024

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

MOVIE NIGHT

Saturday, June 8, 2024

8:15 PM

Far Hills Fairgrounds

Bring your chairs and blankets and join your neighbors as we kick off the 2024 Summer Season.

Rain date

Sunday, June 9, 2024

Dear Friends and Neighbors of Far Hills,

The Borough Council and members of the Planning Board and Board of Health have been busy. I would like to thank our team as we have put in many hours of work to protect and revitalize our beautiful borough. I am also very thankful for our competent board professionals, including our Borough Clerk Dorothy Hicks and CFO Debra Stern, they truly are an asset to the Borough.

As your Mayor, I will continue to work towards improving our strong financial position and protecting our low tax rate. As Mayor, I will continue to promote pedestrian safety and support the revitalization of the J. Malcolm Belcher Fairgrounds as well as to promote additional community-centered events. I will work hard to protect the rural nature of Far Hills. I will continue to support local events such as the semi-annual Atlantic Visiting Nurse (AVN) Rummage Sale, Memorial Day Parade, Far Hills Steeplechase, Veterans Day celebrations, Essex Horse Trials, our Holiday Tree Lighting, Movie Nights at the fairgrounds and beyond. Small-town living, small-town values, big family living.

I would also like to thank our outstanding local police department as they continue to keep Far Hills safe. Thank you to Chief Michael DeCarolis for his many years of leadership. He has put together a great team, including second-in-command Lieutenant Christopher Kocur, and we are thankful for all that the Chief and Lieutenant and their entire team do for our community. As we all know, car thefts and burglaries have hit the surrounding area hard. I urge all of our residents to keep their cars and homes locked at all times. If you see something, say something!

This year, the Far Hills Police Department, in collaboration with Bedminster Police, will host a National Night Out on Tuesday, August 6, 2024. The event will be held at River Road Park in Bedminster. National Night Out is about community and police raising awareness forging relationships with the community. The event is held throughout the United States and is fun for family and friends to attend.

The newly formed Somerset County Safety Committee comprised of Mayors and Police Chiefs from Far Hills, Bedminster, Bernards, Bernardsville, Bridgewater, and Peapack & Gladstone has a collective goal to improve the safety of all our residents. We have passed new local ordinances to toughen the local fines for burglaries, trespassing, and car thefts. We are working with our state legislators to toughen the laws on their end, and in collaboration with US Senator Tom Kean are seeking grants through the FY2025 Communities Funding program. If successful, this funding would provide roadway cameras to help locate stolen cars when they are in the area. This comprehensive approach will help deter these activities, as we strive to be known as an area that will not tolerate these crimes against our residents.

FROM THE MAYOR'S DESK

A few updates on affordable housing. Work was completed at 46 Peapack Road and the second-floor addition on 8 and 10 Peapack Road is well under way. These projects, including the Pulte/Kimbolton project, will complete our obligations for the prior round of affordable housing. Believe it or not, the next round is just around the corner. We will have our obligation given to us by Fair Share late this year, and we will have to agree or challenge the number by the end of January 2025, which results in a very tight timeline. The pressure put on us by the state is immense. We are working on strategies to meet our obligations while at the same time serving in the best interest for all of our residents throughout this burdensome process.

In accordance with our NJDEP Tier A Municipal Stormwater General Permit, the Borough Council has adopted additional ordinances in order to regulate the impact of stormwater runoff and pollutants on our environment. Each of the ordinances are detailed in this newsletter, and I encourage you to become familiar with them to help ensure the safety of the waterways in our community and throughout New Jersey.

I would like to thank our Recreation Committee and all the volunteers who gave of their time to serve our community. Committee members organized two movie nights last summer that were enjoyed by over 150 residents at each event! They also coordinated our annual Holiday Tree Lighting which drew a similar large crowd and as one of my favorite events, I hope to see you there this December. This Committee supports small-town living and our fundamentals of community-centered events. In 2024, they hosted a Community Clean-up Day at the Fairgrounds and will be presenting two movie nights, the first being held on June 8, 2024 at 8:15 PM, a fan favorite, "Back To The Future". Plans for the second movie night are still in production. I look forward to seeing you at these upcoming community events.

We have also prioritized capital projects throughout the Borough to make the necessary improvements to our roads and infrastructure. The project on DeMun Place and Dumont Road includes enhanced crosswalks, upgrades to the drainage system and a complete mill and pave. In collaboration with Somerset County, pedestrian safety crosswalks are planned for installation to promote "safer cross zones" from the Village area to the Fairgrounds. Utilizing NJDOT Local Aid Grant funding further enhancements to several roadways in the Borough are in the works. Improvements on the upper section of Pennbrook Road are planned for the fall and will consist of an enhanced storm inlet drainage system as well as a repaving of the roadway. Similar work is planned for the front section of Lake Road. Currently we are in the process of preparing another grant application to continue to improve the roads, drainage, and walkability of our community. We are investing in our infrastructure in a thoughtful and meaningful way.

I would also like to thank the Far Hills Garden Club for their numerous beautification projects throughout our Borough. Fresh flowers installed around town and, most recently, at the Matheny Group Homes on Peapack Road have added a lot of charm and character to our wonderful community.

I was proud to participate in this year's Memorial Day Parade as our community came together to pay our respects and remember the fallen men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice for the freedoms we enjoy each and every day.

On behalf of myself, my wife Ashley and our three children, we wish you a very happy and healthy spring and summer in 2024.

Respectfully,

Mayor Kevin Welsh
Borough of Far Hills

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT ORDINANCES

In accordance with NJDEP Stormwater regulations, the Borough of Far Hills has enacted the following ordinances to protect our environment, and to keep pollutants that are commonly conveyed by stormwater from adversely impacting our waterways. It is a combination of proactive and preventative measures that can improve our water quality and protect our properties and resources. These ordinance may be found on the Borough's official stormwater management webpage at: https://farhillsnj.org/stormwater_management.php

ORDINANCE 2008-03 - LITTER

It is unlawful to throw, drop, discard or otherwise place litter of any nature upon any public or private property, other than in a litter receptacle. The purpose is to prevent unsightly and unsanitary conditions and prevent litter from impacting waterways.

ORDINANCE 2015-13 - PET WASTE

Requires pet owners to pick up and properly dispose of pet waste dropped on public or other people's property. It prevents fecal contamination from impacting the local waterways.

ORDINANCE 2021-13 - TREE REMOVAL/REPLACEMENT

Establishes requirements for tree removals/replacements, in recognition that trees play a critical role in mitigating stormwater runoff. The planting of replacement trees serves to maintain the overall inventory and offset erosion and other conditions that form when trees are removed.

ORDINANCE 2023-21 - YARD WASTE

Yard waste is regulated via Ordinances which establish the current zone collection system and the methods of collecting leaves, brush and other yard waste. The purpose is to keep grass and leaves out of the storm sewer system.

ORDINANCE 2023-22 - WILDLIFE FEEDING

Prohibits the feeding of unconfined wildlife in any public park or on any other property owned or operated by the Borough of Far Hills in order to protect public health, safety and welfare.

ORDINANCE 2023-23 - PRIVATE STORM DRAIN INLET RETROFITTING

Requires the retrofitting of existing storm drain inlets which are in direct contact with repaving, repairing, reconstruction, or resurfacing or alterations of facilities on private property. The purpose is to prevent the discharge of solids and floatables to prevent litter from impacting waterways. The transport of pollutants into local water bodies can result in the destruction of fish, wildlife and habitats; threats to public health and the loss of recreational and aesthetic value.

ORDINANCE 2023-24 - IMPROPER DISPOSAL OF WASTE

It is illegal to dispose of waste in any place not specifically designated for the purpose of solid waste storage or disposal. The purpose to prevent unsanitary conditions and groundwater pollution.

ORDINANCE 2023-25 - ILLICIT CONNECTIONS

It is unlawful to connect any pipe or device to the municipal storm sewer system that is intended to discard, spill or dump any material other than stormwater runoff or groundwater (sump pumps) into the system. The purpose of this Ordinance is to prevent pollution and contamination of waterways which receive discharge from our storm sewers.

ORDINANCE 2023-26 - PRIVATELY-OWNED SALT STORAGE

Establishes requirements for the storage of salt and other solid de-icing materials on properties not owned or operated by the municipality (privately-owned), including residences, to protect the environment, public health, safety and welfare, and to prescribe penalties for failure to comply.

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF OF POLICE



The Far Hills Police Department is committed to our core values of service, integrity and respect. With the support of our residents, elected officials, businesses and other departments, we provide a safe small-town atmosphere in a rapidly growing and vibrant community. Our police department always remains focused on our commitment to serve our community.

It is an honor and a privilege to be your Chief of Police, and I am proud of my fellow police officers and civilians that make up the Far Hills Police Department. We are committed to providing the best possible service to our community.

Please follow us on Facebook and as well as sign up for NIXLE where we provide emergency notifications, weather updates and community information to the public. If you have any questions or concerns, please email me at CHIEF@FARHILLSPOLICE.ORG

We are looking forward to a great second half of 2024.

Michael C. DeCarolis
Chief of Police

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.

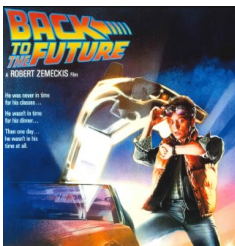
ONLINE TAX PAYMENTS NOW AVAILABLE

Far Hills residents can conveniently and easily pay their Property Tax & Sewer Utility bills online. Visit the Borough's website at FARHILLSNJ.ORG for additional information or contact the Tax & Sewer Collector at 908.234.0611 x14.

TAKE CHARGE OF BATTERY SAFETY

From the first sign of a problem, you could have less than a minute to escape a battery fire. With the speed of these fires, the best way to be safe is to prevent a fire from starting. Specific safety measures for Lithium-Ion Batteries can be found at BATTERYFIRESAFETY.ORG so you can take C.H.A.R.G.E of Battery Safety.

FAR HILLS IS GOING BACK TO THE FUTURE



Please join your friends and neighbors as we kick off the Far Hills 2024 Summer Season Movie Night featuring the blockbuster film "Back to the Future".

Relax under the stars at the J. Malcolm Belcher Fairgrounds on Saturday, June 8, 2024 at 8:15 PM. Complimentary beverages, popcorn and ice cream will be provided. Rain date will be Sunday, June 9, 2024 at 8:15 PM.

FAR HILLS PHOTO DIRECTORY

Included in this newsletter is the Borough of Far Hills 2024 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.