



# BERNARDS TOWNSHIP

CHARTERED 1760



## The Mayor's Corner

Official Newsletter of  
Mayor Carol Bianchi



## FALL EDITION 2016

### Dear Bernards Township Residents,

Bernards Township kicked off autumn with our annual Labor Day bike races, fall festivals around town, block parties, and the planting of Japanese cherry trees at our schools. We recognized Constitution Week September 17-23 with walks at Sons of Liberty Park. On September 11, our community gathered at the Harry Dunham Park 9/11 Memorial to remember Bernards Township residents, and those with close ties to the township, who we lost on that day 15 years ago.

The Bernards Township community, including many Bernards Township soccer players and fans, welcomed Soccer Olympian and Ridge High graduate **Tobin Heath**, her family, friends, and coaches on September 23. Pleasant Valley Park soccer field #2 was renamed the Tobin Heath Field. Thank you to our Parks and Recreation Department, Township Administrator Bruce McArthur, our Police and Department of Public Works for your tremendous organization of this event and preparation of the field.

We thank you for your patience as you maneuvered the various detours this summer into the early fall. Bernards Township Sewer Authority contractors proceeded with the replacement of the sewer main on North Maple Avenue. New Jersey American Water Company installed a new water main along Finley Avenue. In addition, the Route 202 bridge in Bernardsville was closed for emergency construction. Changes were also made on Lake Road at the intersection of Brook Ridge Drive to address pedestrian safety. The annual paving program continues as several more streets will be paved this fall. Noise, dust, and detours are all unfortunate byproducts of roadwork. We realize it affected our residents most who live on these roads, and thank you again for your patience. To stay informed of upcoming road repairs and road closures, please sign up for email notifications and consult our road closure tab on our website [www.bernards.org](http://www.bernards.org).

While summer seems far behind, a big thank you is due to our Parks and Recreation Department for organizing township activities, including exceptional plays and fun concerts at Pleasant Valley Park. The town pool looked better than ever and residents enjoyed the addition of lounge chairs. New this year at Pleasant Valley Park was a car show sponsored by the Somerset Hills Rotary Club and the Somerset Hills YMCA in partnership with the township.

Read on for recent news, including the status of litigation concerning ISBR, Planning Board review of development options for the Millington Quarry, and upcoming events in Bernards Township.

And please remember to vote on November 8. Residents in Bernards will be voting not only for President, but also for U.S. Congress, Somerset County Freeholder, Sheriff, and Township Committee. Important voting information can be found at the following link:

<http://www.bernards.org/Municipal%20Clerks/Document/2016/ElectionAnnouncementsGeneral2016.pdf>

God Bless America!  
Carol Bianchi  
Mayor, Bernards Township

## The Oldest Oak Tree in America

There has been a tremendous amount of interest from all over the world and news stories about our most beloved oak tree which has lived through a reported six centuries in the center of our downtown Basking Ridge on the BR Presbyterian Church property. The Church has formed a task force to consider how to best commemorate the life of the tree and create memories from its wood. The Church has invited the community to a celebration of the life of the tree on November 6 at 3:00 pm.

## The Newest Trees in Bernards Township

In September, OISCA (the Organization for Industrial, Spiritual and Cultural Advancement-International) and the Bernards Township Shade Tree Committee planted Japanese cherry trees at BT schools. Township and school officials and students grabbed shovels to assist in planting the trees at William Annin Middle School and Mount Prospect School.

## Upcoming Events

🍂 Liberty Corner Fire Department is holding its annual Comedy Night fundraiser on Saturday, October 22 at the LC Firehouse. Tickets can be purchased at <http://www.eventbrite.com/e/comedy-night-fall-2016-tickets-27451960553>. Our fire departments and first aid squads are all-volunteer and depend on your contributions.

🍂 We will honor our Veterans on November 6 with a ceremony at 12pm at our Township Municipal Building. 100 flags will again be displayed at town hall. Your donation will benefit Community Hope's "Hope for Veterans" Programs at the Lyons VA Campus, which ensures a safe haven for 157 homeless and disabled veterans every day. Please consider adopting a flag through the following link: and come to our ceremony. <http://www.bernards.org/Parks%20and%20Recreation/Document/PDFs%20Fall%20and%20Winter%202016/Field%20of%20Honor%202016%20-%20Donation%20and%20Dedication%20Flyer.pdf> or by visiting our home page.

🍂 On November 3, the Historical Society of the Somerset Hills (THSSH) is hosting an event at the historic Bernards Inn, reminiscent of the Speakeasy days of the 1920's. Tickets can be purchased at <http://historicalsocietyofsomsethills.org/speakeasy>.

🍂 On December 3, the Basking Ridge Business Alliance will "Ring in The Season" with its Winter Market and Tree Lighting event in the center of Basking Ridge.

## News: ISBR Litigation, Millington Quarry and More....

🍂 **ISBR Litigation:** In an effort to keep residents informed, all documents concerning the ISBR litigation are posted on our website. In cases generating great interest, we continue to strive to make information readily available. A mediation session occurred and no resolution was reached. The Township has complied with the Department of Justice investigation, turning over documents and submitting numerous witnesses for interviews. We will keep you informed of the status of these matters.

🍂 **Millington Quarry:** The Township Committee adopted a resolution referring review of the Millington Quarry site to the Planning Board to determine whether the site should be designated as an area in need of (non-condemnation) redevelopment. This process will provide an opportunity to explore the best possible development of the Millington Quarry site with public input. A designation as an "area in need of redevelopment" would provide the Township Committee and Planning Board more flexibility and control over a

development plan. All documents concerning potential redevelopment were posted in advance on our website and provided to local news sources. Residents who are interested in the future development of the quarry may attend future Planning Board hearings. Agendas are posted on our website, but anyone wishing to receive agendas directly may contact Planning Board secretary Fran Florio at [fflorio@bernards.org](mailto:fflorio@bernards.org).

🍷 **Bernards Township formally recognized October 6 as Opiate Abuse Day.** Congressman Leonard Lance came to town and met with members of the BT Municipal Alliance, Community in Crisis organization, residents, members of the local Girl Scouts, Bernards Township police department and Township Committee, to discuss the worldwide opiate epidemic.

🍷 **The Somerset County Board of Chosen Freeholders** announced its purchase of 37.60 acres of land known as the “Ord property.” The Ord property is adjacent to the Great Swamp and across from the Somerset County Environmental Center. The purchase brings the total of county open space in Bernards Township to 1350 acres. The property will be used to expand the Environmental Center’s nature trail used for school programs and small-child exploratory hikes.

🍷 **Construction of the County/Township Salt Dome** has been completed. The county funded project will increase salt reserves and improve efficiency for the County and Township. Bernards Township continues to explore shared services that make sense for the Township.

🍷 **The Ross Farm** on North Maple Ave hosted a Farm to Table Event on September 24. Residents and visitors enjoyed organic entrees. Guests also enjoyed desserts from Pricilla’s Pantry in Liberty Corner and music from a local band The Altman Brothers. Visit the Ross Farm website to learn of upcoming events. <http://www.rossfarm.org/events/>

🍷 **Congratulations to the Friends of the Kennedy Martin Stelle Farmstead** for receiving a historic preservation grant in the amount of \$188,433 from Somerset County. Somerset County Freeholder Director Pat Walsh presented the award to Farmstead trustees Ann Rosenblum, Leslie Stevens, and Michael Kelly at a freeholder meeting. Please visit the Friends’ website for upcoming activities. <https://farmsteadartscenter.org>

🍷 **The Township Committee recognized local hometown hero Brendan Ladd** by formal resolution for saving the life of a three year old boy this summer. Brendan was working as a lifeguard at Pleasant Valley Pool when he noticed the child sink to the bottom of the pool. He immediately jumped in, removed the child, and administered CPR. We recognize all of the PVP lifeguards and staff who assisted that day. The child made a full recovery.

## Department Heads Report on Activities

Bernards Township’s various department heads presented power point presentations on the activities in their departments and the challenges ahead. These reports can be reviewed at the links below. The presentations were part of an effort to introduce residents to our department heads and their roles within the township. Thank you to the following department heads for their informative presentations.

Department of Health, Lucy Forgione:

<http://www.bernards.org/Township%20Committee/Reports/2016/HealthDepartmentToTC2016-05-24.pdf>

Police Chief, Brian Bobowicz:

<http://www.bernards.org/Township%20Committee/Reports/2016/PoliceReportToTC2016-05-24.pdf>

Director of Parks and Recreation Jennifer Gander:

<http://www.bernards.org/Township%20Committee/Reports/2016/Parks%20%20Rec%20Presentation%20-%20TC.pptx>

Library Director Ruth Lufkin:

<http://www.bernards.org/Township%20Committee/Reports/2016/Library%20Presentation.pptx>

Director of Public Works, Pat Monaco:

<http://www.bernards.org/Township%20Committee/Reports/2016/DPWReportToTC2016-06-28.pdf>

Engineer, Tom Timko:

<http://www.bernards.org/Township%20Committee/Reports/2016/EngineeringPresentationReportToTC2016-06-28-1.pdf>.

## **Bernards Township Library Highlighted**

Ruth Lufkin is the Director of the Bernards Township Library. Kippy Piedici serves as President of the Board of Trustees. Ruth provided the following news on the library:

Library programs and services continue to attract and satisfy users this fall even as the construction to put the finishing touches on the new teen space, technology center, and restructured single flight stairway at Bernards Township Library is completed.

These enhanced spaces will allow new programming opportunities for teens and increased support for technology learning. Comfortable seating where small groups can work together and more traditionally quiet work spaces will also be available.

These welcome changes to the building allow the Library to more fully serve today's Bernards Township residents in both traditional and new ways. Some other examples of recent service enhancements:

- The Chinese language collection for adults, established early in 2016 with the support of generous community volunteers, is very active.
- Patrons now have access through their Library card number at the Library website, to a wide range of online opportunities including Rosetta Stone language learning software, a variety of genealogy resources, and investment and job search support.
- Children can enjoy the online TumbleBooks Library - animated, talking picture books which they can read or have read to them!
- Of course books, including downloadable eBooks and eAudiobooks, are still in good supply. Whether you're looking for the latest publications and hot topics, literary classics, or timely and authoritative non-fiction, you're likely to find it at the Library.

There is still opportunity for donations to the "Friends of the Library" to provide technology items for the technology center and additional furnishings. Would you like to know more about the project or donate? Contact Library Director Ruth Lufkin, 908-204-3031 X.7, [RLufkin@Bernards.org](mailto:RLufkin@Bernards.org)

Best regards,

Carol Bianchi  
Mayor  
Bernards Township