



# BERNARDS TOWNSHIP

CHARTERED 1760



## The Mayors Corner

- Official Newsletter of Mayor Carol Bianchi



WINTER EDITION 2016

Dear Bernards Township Residents,

Thank you for the privilege of serving as your Mayor in 2016. Bernards Township is a wonderful place to live and serve, in large part because of our many volunteers on our boards and commissions, our all volunteer fire and first aid responders, police, staff, and residents who give so generously of their time to our community. Our entire Township Committee thanks all of you for your contributions.

Just when we started to think winter might pass us by, Blizzard Jonas dumped 30 inches of snow within 24 hours on Bernards Township. This storm presented challenges for our Department of Public Works as they worked around the clock without complaint. DPW Director Pat Monaco demonstrated strong leadership managing the cleanup while promptly responding to all residents' communications. Thank you to Pat and our DPW crew for their dedication. Thank you to the residents as well for your patience and understanding during this epic storm.

We hope that you received our storm updates. If you did not, please sign up at <http://www.bernards.org/signup.aspx> to be sure you receive our communications in the future.

In a further effort to inform residents about our snow removal operations and the response to this storm, Mr. Monaco will make a public presentation at our next Township Committee meeting on Tuesday February 9 at 8 pm.

While our Township website has much information, this quarterly newsletter is intended to provide an additional resource to inform you of important issues and events in town. In this edition, you will find updates on affordable housing, the Millington Quarry, and information on resources and events.

Additionally, I would like the opportunity to meet you. I am hosting a coffee at our Municipal Building, One Collyer Lane, in the Owen Conference meeting room on Saturday February 6 from 8:30-9:30 am if you would like to stop by and discuss anything of interest to you.

Best wishes for a happy and healthy year,

Carol Bianchi



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## I. Ways to Keep Informed

Our Township Committee and Planning Board meetings may be viewed on Cable television channel 15 or Fios Channel 35 or on our website where they are videostreamed. Prior meetings may be accessed through Township Committee agendas where links to video clips are provided. The Township Committee meets on the second and fourth Tuesday following the first Monday of the month at 8 pm. **Our agenda is posted on the Friday before the Tuesday meeting for your review.**

If you wish to receive notices of upcoming Planning Board and Zoning Board meeting agendas, email Fran Florio [fflorio@bernards.org](mailto:fflorio@bernards.org) and she will add you to an email list. This will keep you informed of development applications in town.

On our website, you can sign up for emergency Swiftreach 911 calls, view road closures, pay taxes and sewer fees online, and access our ordinances, Master Plan, and a customer service survey for town employees. We encourage you to complete **a Tap the Talent form** as a first step to get involved in town on a board or committee.

Additionally, Bernards Township has a Facebook and Twitter page. Follow us @BernardsTwpNJ.

## II. Other Resources Highlighted

### Transportation resource:

I recently met with Ridewise, a resource for sustainable travel alternatives in Somerset County, to learn of programs which may help our employees and residents. One program is RideConnect, which offers subsidized rides anywhere within Somerset County or within 5 miles of the county border for residents 65 years and older, or 18 and older with a developmental or physical disability. Call Ridewise at (908) 704-1011 for more information.

Another useful resource is [www.511nj.org](http://www.511nj.org), where commuters can sign up for personalized up to the minute traffic alerts.



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### III. Department/Committee/Board/Commission Highlighted

Community Service Department:

Did you know that Bernards Township has a Community Service department which supervises and conducts community projects using free court appointed individuals? This program saves residents tax dollars and improves our quality of life. Furniture donation pickups, litter/graffiti removal, and set up and take down at Charter Day, are among the projects. Call Larry Millus at (908) 766-9748 to arrange a pick up (for a fee of \$30). Items are donated to recently domiciled homeless veterans and a non-profit charity called Furniture Assist, Inc.

### IV. In The News

-Sewer Service for the Hills: American Water has completed its purchase of the EDC which provides sewer service to the Hills development in Bernards Township.

[http://www.njbiz.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20160105/NJBIZ01/160109956/  
american-water-completes-takeover-of-bedminster-bernards-utility&template=mobileart](http://www.njbiz.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20160105/NJBIZ01/160109956/american-water-completes-takeover-of-bedminster-bernards-utility&template=mobileart)

-Affordable housing: In March 2015, the Supreme Court of New Jersey abolished the Council on Affordable Housing (COAH), the regulatory agency in charge of establishing municipal affordable housing obligations. The Court transferred jurisdiction to the trial courts to establish new rules and determine each municipality's fair share. Bernards Township, and other municipalities throughout New Jersey, filed an action in court for immunity from builders' lawsuits until a final decision is reached. The developer associated with Dewy Meadow and Crown Court intervened in the action to weigh in on the township's obligations and to seek approval for affordable housing at the Crown Court apartment complex, vacated A&P, and by a daycare center at the Dewy Meadow site. The Township has hired an expert and counsel to represent our interests. We will advise of any significant developments in the action. (Documents can be found under Community Announcements on our webpage.)

Information on affordable housing units in BT can be found at [http://www.bernards.org/  
Departments\\_Services/Affordable\\_Housing/default.aspx](http://www.bernards.org/Departments_Services/Affordable_Housing/default.aspx)



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#### IV. In The News (con't.)

-*The Millington Quarry*:. A quarry task force, consisting of the Mayor and Township Committee member John Malay, Township Planner David Schley, Engineer Tom Timko, and Administrator Bruce McArthur, has been established to listen to a contract purchaser's preliminary proposals for development.

The quarry has been regrading and rehabilitating the quarry site under the terms of a Settlement Agreement with the Township, which established protocols for the importation of fill. Truck traffic has been minimal relative to the early to mid 2000s when fill was imported at a high volume. Upon cessation of mining, the quarry currently will be rezoned automatically as a 2 acre residential zone. Prior plans over the years, described by the quarry as conceptual, were submitted with rehabilitation plans designed to prepare the land for future development.

#### V. Events:

The Pleasant Valley Pool and Coakley Russo golf course at the VA hospital on Lyons are accepting pool and golf membership applications and renewals. Register and renew by February 29 and save.

[http://www.bernards.org/Departments\\_Services/Parks\\_Recreation/pr\\_fa\\_pv\\_pool.aspx](http://www.bernards.org/Departments_Services/Parks_Recreation/pr_fa_pv_pool.aspx)

[http://www.bernards.org/Departments\\_Services/Parks\\_Recreation/pr\\_fa\\_coakley.aspx](http://www.bernards.org/Departments_Services/Parks_Recreation/pr_fa_coakley.aspx)

Visit our recreation page for a complete listing of recreational opportunities offered by our Recreation Department and for a listing of other local sports organizations.