



# BERNARDS TOWNSHIP CHARTERED 1760



## THE MAYOR'S CORNER

### Official Newsletter of Mayor Carol Bianchi

January 9, 2019

Dear Bernards Township Residents,

Thank you to everyone who attended our Reorganization meeting on January 2 or who was there in spirit. We had an overflow crowd and many turned out to support our newest members Joseph Esposito and Joan Harris. Welcome and congratulations to them. I also want to thank our IT department, DPW, administration, and other staff members, for setting up additional video screens for anyone who could not fit in the courtroom.

I am honored to serve as Mayor for 2019 with Jim Baldassare as Deputy Mayor. In a township committee (TC) form of government such as ours, voters elect your representatives for three year terms and the TC members elect the Mayor each year. Your five TC members have diverse experiences and points of view and I have no doubt we are going to work very well together to serve you, the residents.

Thank you to outgoing TC members John Malay and Carolyn Gaziano for their many years of service, and John Carpenter for serving as mayor in 2018.

At our Reorganization, several new task forces were announced to engage residents in important matters:

1. Communications - The purpose is to promote and assist neighbors in utilizing township communications and recommend improvements in communicating with residents. (Please also note that we post our agendas for TC, Planning and Board of Adjustment/Zoning Board meetings on our website and now on Facebook. Mark your FB settings to notify you of Bernards Township postings so you can check the agendas and know about important matters and proposed development in town.)
2. Vision 2020, "Planning for the Future"- This task force will create a survey for residents to indicate their vision and priorities for the next decade.
3. Affordable housing task force – Members will coordinate advocacy for legislative change, compile and share information with the TC and residents on the various ways to meet our affordable housing obligations in the future, and assess the costs and risks of these alternatives. The result will be a flexible working document, which may be amended based on new information and rules. In addition, professionals will recommend any ordinance changes to plan best for the future.
4. Quarry Oversight – This committee will work with staff and ensure the rehabilitation plan is completed and provide other relevant information to the TC.

Please go to our website and complete a Tap the Talent form.

<http://www.bernards.org/taptalent2012/webaddnew.aspx> . You may identify one or more of the above task forces under "Other." Also, please indicate your flexibility to attend during the

weekday, as daytime meetings would be best for our professionals and staff and to avoid conflicts with our many evening township meetings.

It is very important to maintain our strong financial position as well as our excellent quality of life and sense of community. Volunteers help us do all these things. Thank you for considering lending your services to our community to make Bernards Township the best we can be.

God bless all and I look forward to serving you this year.

Carol Bianchi  
Mayor 2019  
Bernards Township