



Township of Bernards

1 Collyer Lane, Basking Ridge, NJ 07920

Phone: 908-204-3001; Fax: 908-204-3015; Website: www.bernards.org

September 10, 2021

Dear Bernards Township Resident,

I hope you had a great Summer and are looking forward to a new “back to school” season, one that hopefully is more normal for our children.

The remnants of Ida created damage and distress for many across the Country as well as some of our residents. I want to reiterate our commitment to address concerns as they arise in the days ahead. We have reached out to our surrounding towns that were severely impacted by Ida and currently no requests have been made to Bernards Township. We will continue to reach out to these towns as needs may arise that we can assist with.

However, we have identified the following from online sources who are looking for assistance. If you would like to help, please see the references below and periodically check either our town website or general internet searches as new requests will be coming in:

- Bridgewater United Methodist Church is collecting donations for local families in shelters and affected by Tropical Storm Ida. Supplies are being collected in the donation bin in the vestibule or monetary donations to go towards shopping supplies. Items being collected include individually packaged snacks, bottled water, toiletries, baby supplies, games and small toys, towels and blankets, cleaning supplies and first aid items. Visit bridgewaterumc.org/give for more information.
- Somerville Middle School is accepting donations at the back entrance of the school. They are looking for clothes, socks, underwear and things to keep children entertained.
- Feeding Hands, a food pantry in Hillsborough is currently accepting monetary donations. The link for donations is <http://www.feedinghandspantry.org/donate/>. They do not have the space to receive food donations now, as both of their two locations were heavily flooded. Monetary donations will help replace equipment, supplies, and help to find appropriate space to house the pantries.
- The Manville VFW [Thomas J. Kavanaugh Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 2290 \(vfw2290.org\)](http://www.thomasj.kavanaughveteransofforeignwars.org) is accepting donations, according to a community Facebook page. The high school is also reportedly accepting donations of sealed pet food and bags for clean-up.

Bernards Township Health Department continues to assist Bernards and the other member towns in providing Covid testing and vaccination clinics. Please visit www.BernardsHealth.org for additional details.

Our Engineering and Public Works Departments are busy with capital infrastructure improvements and will be addressing damage to our transportation system in the weeks ahead.

Our Parks & Recreation is busy with many programs. Registration is open for several fall season programs for both youth and adults!

- Youth and Adult Tennis Lessons
- Ant & Floor Hockey for grades K – 5
- Little Hoops Basketball Clinic for grades K – 8

- Field Hockey Clinic for grades 2-4
- Girls Lacrosse Clinic for ages 7 – 13
- Teen Open Gym Basketball for grades 9 – 12
- 40+ Men’s Softball League
- 18+ Yoga, 40+ Fitness
- 18+ Open Gym Basketball
- 18+ Open Gym Volleyball and 18+ Open Gym Badminton. Space is limited so register ASAP to reserve your spot!
- Our Community Art Show is open at the Environmental Education Center through September 28.
- We are also preparing to hold our youth recreation basketball league this winter and more information will be available later this month

Our parks are open, and we are currently accepting in-person facility reservations for picnic shelters, indoor facilities, and athletic fields. Tennis, Paddle & Pickleball Court reservations are available online. The Coakley-Russo Memorial Golf Course is now offering prorated membership rates and is open daily through November 14. We had a fantastic summer at Pleasant Valley Pool and at all our concerts, movies, and plays in the park performances. We hope to see you next season!

For information on all the above visit <https://www.bernards.org/departments/recreation>. Follow us on Instagram @bernardstwp_parksandrec and subscribe to our weekly e-newsletter at <https://conta.cc/3ifNhWH>.

Please join us for the 20th Anniversary REMEMBER SEPTEMBER 11 ceremony on **Saturday, September 11**, 10:00 am at the Harry Dunham Park 9/11 Memorial. Additionally, Fox News has run a story commemorating the 20th Anniversary of 9-11 and the impact on Bernards Township. It can be viewed on the following link <https://video.foxnews.com/v/6271482611001>

“Yoga in the Park with Mayor Fields” will be held on **Monday, September 20**, 5:45 pm to 7:15 pm at Harry Dunham Park. So, stop by and relieve your stress and energize your body.

As you may be aware, we have been hosting monthly “Meet the Mayor Series” as a forum to provide monthly informational and Q&A discussions. The month of September will feature guest speaker Justice Helen Hoens, sharing her experience on the NJ Supreme Court. It will be held on **Wednesday, September 29**, 7:00 pm at the Municipal Building.

SAVE THE DATE for the Mayor’s Fall Festival! On **Saturday, October 2**, 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm at the Municipal Complex & Astor Fields. Parking will be at Ridge High School. The event features Parks & Recreation’s famous Pumpkin Rolling Races, a DJ, Face Painting, Costume Swap, Crafts, Activities, Balloon Artist, Historical Tours and more! We hope you will join us for this fun fall event!

For the month of October UNICO will be our guest organization. The event will be held on **Monday, October 18**, further details to come.

The Field of Honor Dedication Ceremony will be held on **Sunday, November 7**, 12pm at Town Hall. The information on how to sponsor a flag will be available in late September on our website and the deadline will be **October 31st**.

In closing, our hearts, prayers, and support go out to the families who lost loved ones throughout this great country and to our residents impacted by the flooding that took place. Our commitment to those impacted remains our priority. If I can personally assist you, please email me at jfields@bernards.org.

Sincerely,

Janice M. Fields, Mayor
Bernards Township