



# The Long Hill Ledger

## Message from the Mayor:

The Township is improving Long Hill TV. We purchased HD cameras and hope to have them installed soon. This project was partially funded by a grant from the Investor's Bank Foundation. Our goal is to live-stream the meetings in HD on Facebook and YouTube, as well as broadcasting them on Long Hill TV.

We also will be rolling out two new recycling programs in the fall. The first is a partnership with Trex to recycle plastic bags and bubble wrap. If we provide Trex with 500 pounds of plastic materials in six months, they will donate a Trex bench to the Township. The second is a new textile recycling program. Green bins will be placed on Township property to collect cloth materials of any type and in any condition.

Finally, with the sale of the sewer system back on the ballot in November, I encourage residents to attend information sessions that will be scheduled this fall to ask questions and obtain the facts about the sale. Relying on social media for details related to this very important decision could lead to misinformation and an uninformed decision.

Finally, school is back in session so please be sure to drive safely.

Remember to follow me on Facebook at Dorsi4LongHill.

Matthew Dorsi – Mayor



## It is Time to Sell the Wastewater System – Numbers Don't Lie

On Nov. 5, residents of Long Hill will once again vote by referendum whether or not to sell our wastewater system (sanitary sewer system). The reason the Township Committee voted to give voters a second chance to sell is simple – it comes down to math.

If the vote to sell is yes, sewer bills will actually be less in 2025 than they are today, assuming the same water usage. How is this possible? The winning bidder, New Jersey American Water, commits to adopting the Township's 2018 rates upon closing, an 11 percent decrease. Thereafter, rates would be held at zero for a minimum of two years and increase no more than 3 percent per year in years three through five. NJAW is a rate-regulated utility that requires the approval of the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities before making any changes to customer rates. After 2025, any rate increase must be approved by the BPU, the same body that monitors all other utilities in town, such as water, electricity, gas and cable.



If the vote is no, the 2019 rate increase will remain and Long Hill's wastewater capital plan calls for double-digit increases for three more years and, hopefully, a leveling off thereafter. That's assuming there are no surprises.

Thus, if we sell, a \$1,000 bill in 2019 will be roughly the same in 2025. If we don't sell, that same \$1,000 bill will nearly double.

Why the need for such a large capital plan? Long Hill Township is out of compliance with DEP regulations. While the DEP has been patient for years, they now are demanding we comply with state regulations within five years. Toward that goal, the Township submitted an actionable plan to the state that we must now implement or face significant fines.

In addition, our settlement with Fair Share Housing requires us to provide capacity for additional housing, also within five years, whether or not those units are built. Last but not least, the engineering firm hired by Long Hill to review our sanitary sewer system designed a 20-year capital plan that requires \$28 million in annual maintenance and improvements. That's \$1.4 million per year for 20 years, nearly as much as it currently costs just to run the system.

New Jersey American Water, the winning bidder, must comply with the DEP plan referenced above as well as with all other DEP mandates. The Township is bound by our agreement with Fair Share and has required NJAW to enhance capacity to provide for it. They also must provide sewer capacity for an additional 7 percent of the town within that same time frame.

These are legally binding commitments and must all be provided within the rate structure outlined above. It's worth noting that NJAW has been the township's utility for more than 100 years and by all accounts does an outstanding job. It's time they are our sewer company, as well.

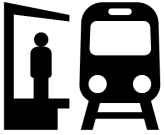
Township Committee

# Administrator's Corner

It was a busy summer in Long Hill with several projects happening at once.

## Infrastructure Improvements

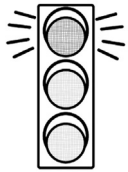
The long-awaited improvement project on Morristown Road was completed with new curbs and sidewalks, as well as milling and repaving. Similarly, our municipal road paving project was completed with 10 roads being milled and repaved this year: Cottage Place, Daugherty Ave., Apple Hill Dr., Milton Ave., Brookside Dr., Skyview Terr., Birchwood Dr., Shamrock Ct., Stonehedge Rd. and Knoll Ct.



I hope commuters at the Stirling Train Station are enjoying the newly repaired and repaved lot. This involved a major drainage project performed by our DPW and included drainage to Turtle Rock Park. Commuters at the Gillette Station also are benefiting from three new lights recently installed to increase safety. Finally, commuters at Millington Station now have the convenience of using debit and credit cards at the parking meter.

## Morris County Projects

Morris County has removed 263 ash trees to deal with infestation caused by the Emerald Ash Borer, a small but deadly insect that infects and destroys ash trees in its path.



Morris County and Long Hill funded the newly installed traffic light at the intersection of Mountain Avenue and Valley Road with a dedicated left turn going east on Valley and turning onto Mountain. This should help to eliminate motorists using Lackawanna as a cut-through to the train station.

The Matthew Kantor Park trail extension will be completed this fall with funding provided by the county.

## State Aid



Applications to NJDOT for grants for the paving of Old Forge Road, for Main Avenue streetscape and a bike path on High Street have been submitted and awards will be made in the fall. Paving and improvements to River Road were funded this year through a NJDOT grant. The work will be performed in 2020.

## Sewer Bills

Every year, many residents have questions regarding their sewer bills. For future reference, the Sewer Use billing comprises a flat service

fee, which in 2019 is \$196, plus a per-gallon charge for water used, which in 2019 is \$20.46 per 1,000 gallons. Water consumption is reported to the Township in water reading reports from New Jersey American Water Company. The six months used for the billing are January, February and March, and October, November and December of the previous year. The sewer rates are set by the Township Committee each year in conjunction with the adoption of the annual budget. This year's rate reflects a 12 percent increase over the 2018 rate.

## Recycling and Garbage

Over the summer, some residents began to notice stickers on their recycling containers. Those stickers indicate that improper materials are in the container and will not be accepted. It is important to follow proper guidelines for recycling. Please remember the following tips: Recycling items should be empty, clean and dry. Plastic bags are NEVER recyclable; do not put your recyclables out for collection in a plastic bag.

To learn more about recycling, please visit the Township website, [www.longhillnj.gov](http://www.longhillnj.gov), Republic Services' website, [www.RecyclingSimplified.com](http://www.RecyclingSimplified.com), or download Recycle Coach, a free app designed to help make recycling and other information easily accessible for our residents. The app is available on our website as well as mobile devices.

Please see our DPW column on page 3 for more information on garbage, bulk scrap metal or appliance pick up. As always, if your neighborhood's garbage collection was missed, it will be picked up the next day.

## Veterans Banners

It is not too late to honor a veteran by having a Hometown Hero banner displayed on Main Avenue or in Matthew Kantor Park. The deadline to have the banner in place for Veterans Day is September 6. A form available on the Township website must be completed and submitted to Town Hall with a photo of the veteran in uniform. If you'd like the photo returned, please submit a self-addressed, stamped envelope or you can pick up the photo at Town Hall after September 16. Questions can be directed to Andrea Tsimboukis at [adminassistant@longhillnj.gov](mailto:adminassistant@longhillnj.gov) or at 908.647.8000, ext. 200.

Nancy Malool – Township Administrator  
[administrator@longhillnj.gov](mailto:administrator@longhillnj.gov)

## Public Safety

Long Hill Township schools are open so please be careful when driving in the morning and mid-afternoon. Please slow down and take extra care when passing school bus stops. Our children and youth depend on you for their safety.



Thank you to all residents who came out Aug. 6 for National Night Out, an annual opportunity for residents to meet local law enforcement representatives and build community ties. In the past the Long Hill Police Department participated in the county-wide National Night Out event held each year in Mennen Sports Arena in Morristown.

In keeping with our policy of community policing, this year the department decided to hold our event locally to allow more residents to meet and mingle with both police officers and other first

responders. With games for the kids, a jaws of life demonstration, a fire truck with water cannon, a movie in the park, food and a DJ, the event was an evening of fun and community interaction.

Finally, hats off to the 10 officers who recently were recognized at a Town Hall meeting for their part in the apprehension of a band of thieves earlier this summer in town. When a resident reported an attempted break in, our officers responded and the thieves stole a vehicle and fled by foot. Over the course of several hours officers canvassed the neighborhood and eventually arrested five juveniles and one adult. Kudos to the Long Hill police officers and thank you to the police from neighboring towns and the county who also responded. This was solid police work at its best.

Police Chief Ahmed Naga  
[NAGA@longhillpolice.US](mailto:NAGA@longhillpolice.US)

# Jump into Fall in Parks & Recreation!



*Our 2018 Halloween Parade*

We hope everyone made some fun memories this summer and re-energized for the fall activities.

Fall field hockey programs through the Recreation Department begin in September for middle school kids in the Watchung Hills-sending district towns. If you enjoy watching field hockey, most Sunday afternoons there will be a game or two on the turf field at Kantor Park. There also will be plenty of soccer games in the park to take in this fall.

In October our basketball programs will start up. Travel basketball try-outs for grades 4-8 will begin the first week in October. Recreation basketball programs for kids in grades 1-8 will start in November right before Thanksgiving. We also will have an Adult Open Play Basketball program (18 years+) on Thursday nights starting in October. Registration for all basket-

ball programs will open on or before September 30.

Our Gentle Yoga and Mindful Yoga programs will continue with Yoga Instructor Lisa Atkins at the Old Millington Schoolhouse during the day and also now in the evenings. Be sure to check our website for all the classes available.

Tennis lessons at Kantor Park continue with Skyline Tennis. Lessons are offered for children and adults – a great way to enjoy the fall weather.

Looking for other ways to enjoy the fall foliage in Long Hill? Why not take a walk/hike through the Hicks' Tract? This 59-acre park has several different trails, all blazed by our local Boy Scout troops. Also, don't forget, we have the beautiful Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge right in our back yard. Encompassing more than 7,700 acres of land, the refuge has identified more than 244 species of birds and many different mammals, reptiles, fish and amphibians.

Mark your calendars for our Annual Halloween Parade, which will be held on Sunday, October 20, at 3 p.m. at Kantor Park. This is a FREE event for all Long Hill residents.

Be sure to check out all our offerings on our website: [www.longhillnj.gov](http://www.longhillnj.gov)

Lisa Scanlon & Danielle McLeer  
Parks & Recreation Department  
[recreation@longhillnj.gov](mailto:recreation@longhillnj.gov)



## Department of Public Works

It was a busy spring and summer for the Long Hill Department of Public Works and we will be out in force this fall. We repaired storm water basins and contracted out the paving through the county co-op for the 10 roads that were recently paved. (Please see the Administrator's Corner for a list of the 10 roads completed.)

We completed a large drainage project at the Stirling Train Station and several other drainage projects. The department also completed the Gillette Train Station lighting project, along with an electrical contractor. (Please see the Administrator's Corner for more on both train station projects.)

In the fall we will be out street sweeping, performing tree removal and trimming, making storm catch basin repairs and repairing potholes and sealing cracks in various roads throughout the Township. In addition, we will be preparing all our storm equipment for the upcoming winter season.

Our department accepts the following recyclable materials at our DPW yard during our normal operating hours: Styrofoam (must be clean and only white), fluorescent light bulbs, tires

(you must obtain a sticker for tire drop-off at the municipal building prior to drop off), cooking oil, aluminum cans, TVs and electronics, brush and grass clippings, scrap metal and batteries.

Reminder: You do not need to call if you need a scrap metal or appliance pick-up. Just be sure they are out on your bulk pick-up day. (Please check the Township calendar or website for dates). We also offer monthly curbside collection of electronics, TVs, scrap metal and appliances.

### Curbside Collection of Solid Waste

There is a two-can maximum limit on daily curbside collection of garbage. Trash cans are limited to standard sizes. Bulky items also have a two-item limit per the once-a-month collection. See the Township calendar or website for further information.

The Department of Public Works can be reached at 908-647-0070 or [roads@longhillnj.gov](mailto:roads@longhillnj.gov).

Al Gallo – Director of Public Works  
[roads@longhillnj.gov](mailto:roads@longhillnj.gov)



## Long Hill Board of Education Recognized for Excellence, Plans for More

The Long Hill Township Board of Education this spring received the prestigious Carole E. Larsen Master Board Certification by the New Jersey School Board's Association (NJSBA). The Long Hill Township School District is the 26<sup>th</sup> board of education out of more than 580 in the state of New Jersey to receive this coveted title.

The process of achieving Master Board status takes several years and has many components. First, a board must achieve Certified Board status, which requires a high level of training focused on district performance improvement. The board also must pass a policy wellness check and demonstrate board effectiveness through the board self-evaluation process, as well as earn the highest marks when it is evaluated by the New Jersey Department of Education. Special emphasis is placed on group process, group decision-making, careful planning and effective meetings. The board is then required to complete an additional 16 credits of training.



Members of the Long Hill Township Board of Education received the prestigious Carole E. Larsen Master Board Certification at a ceremony on May 23, 2019. Pictured are (left to right) Bruce Young, NJSBA Vice-President of County Activities, Charlene Peterson, NJSBA Field Representative; Kim Case, Board Trustee; Marta Moakley, Board President; Dr. Edwin Acevedo, Superintendent of Schools; Karen Nyquist, Board Trustee; and Matthew DiGiorgio, Board Trustee.

In addition, on July 3, 2019, The New Jersey State Board of Education in Trenton, upon the recommendation of the Commissioner of Education, recognized the Long Hill Township School District as a school district of excellence. This was evidenced by completing a stringent evaluation process through the New Jersey Quality Single Accountability Continuum (NJQSAC).

NJQSAC is comparable to an audit, which is conducted by the New Jersey Department of Education and measures the district's performance every three years in the following five areas: Instruction and Program, Fiscal, Governance, Operations and Personnel. Benchmarks were set in each of the five areas where the district had to demonstrate compliance within 20 to 30 indicators in each of the five aforementioned areas. This was possible due to the supportive efforts of our Board of Education and the diligent work of the district's NJQSAC Committee, consisting of teachers, administrators and board members.

Lastly, the Long Hill Board of Education at its recent July 15 retreat demonstrated its commitment to student achievement by developing the district's 2019-20 district goals, which focus on Future Ready School initiatives, improving student learning through project-based learning, increasing communication with the community and, most importantly, developing a new five-year district strategic plan.

Parents, teachers, and community members will be invited in the early autumn to begin the conversation of developing a plan of what we would like our school district to look like in the next five years. This is an exciting opportunity for our schools and community and we encourage all to attend. More information will be forthcoming from Dr. Edwin Acevedo, Superintendent of Schools.



Township of Long Hill  
915 Valley Road  
Gillette, NJ 07933

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Permit No. 1512

## Events Around the Township

### **Gentle Yoga/ Mindful Yoga**

Morning & Evening Classes  
Millington Schoolhouse

Check the Township website Recreation Page class schedule.  
This is a 10-week series. All levels are welcome.

### **Stirling Lake Dance**

Friday, September 6 • 7:30 pm-9:30 pm  
DJ and dancing on the beach  
Long Hill students in grades 6-8

### **Halloween Parade**

Sunday, October 20 • 3:00 pm • Kantor Park  
(rain date October 27)  
Costume contest, prizes and giveaways for all participants.  
Fun and free for all Long Hill residents (all ages).

### **Fall Basketball Programs**

- Travel Basketball Team try-outs start in October – Grades 4-8
- Saturday Recreation Basketball Program starts in November – Grades 1-8
- Adult Open Play – Thursday nights

### **Coaching/Community Classes**

- Rutgers S.A.F.E.T.Y. Clinic – This three-hour program for volunteer coaches meets minimum required safety standards and provides a lifetime certification.
  - Red Cross First Aid & CPR/AED Classes are offered monthly through a cooperative effort between the Recreation Dept. and our local first aid squad.
- Check the Township website Recreation Page for offerings.

### **LHT Library Book Club**

Monthly on the second Monday • 7:00 pm  
While joining a book club is a great way to share a love for reading, it's also a friendly way to meet new people, socialize and have a laugh! Book Club books are available for check-out at the Front Desk. Join us!

### **Holiday Closings**

Labor Day - Monday, September 2  
Columbus Day - Monday, October 14

### **Election Day**

Tuesday, November 5  
Come out and vote! Polls are open 6:00 am-8:00 pm

### **Visit the Township website for a complete listing of:**

Important community announcements, Committee meeting schedules, recreation program information and more –  
[www.longhillnj.gov](http://www.longhillnj.gov)