



# The Long Hill Ledger

Quarterly Newsletter

## Message from the Mayor:

Summer is nearly here and school is almost out so it's time to start thinking about taking advantage of all the recreation activities available in town. There are lots of activities to take part in all summer long so be sure to check them out.

Warm weather also means that it's the ideal time to pave roads and I'm sure everyone is hoping Valley Road gets done soon. New Jersey American Water has completed their piping work and, while we all want the road paved yesterday, unfortunately we need to be patient and wait for the disturbed areas to settle before the complete milling and re-paving process begins. As rough as the road is, we would rather have it done right than fast, so expect a full re-pave of Valley Road by the end of summer.

Also, please remember that we will be having meetings in June and July about the Request For Bids for the possible wastewater system sale referendum. Come to a meeting and be heard!

Enjoy the summer and be safe.

Cornel Schuler, Jr.  
Mayor



## Summer Fun Awaits



*Dominic Rizzo from Rizzo's Wildlife visited our summer camp last year with some "furry friends" in addition to the reptiles he usually brings to show the kids. Pictured above left, Dominic with Stinkerbelle, who has been de-scented so our campers felt safe to meet her. Above right, Dominic introduced our campers to a very sweet opossum named Minnie. Both animals are New Jersey natives.*

### Would You Ever Think You Could Get This Close to a Skunk?

By Lisa Scanlon, Director, Parks & Recreation

Long Hill Parks and Recreation is ready to welcome our campers to our summer programs. The Summer Rec Camp (grades K-8) and our Little Explorer's Pre-School Camp (ages 3-5) will both begin on June 26. We are looking forward to sharing lots of summer fun activities with the campers!

Additionally, in August we will be offering a Bricks 4 Kidz® Lego® Camp and another new camp from Stem Owl® – An Introduction to Physical Computing, Technology & Programming. Both these camps will be held at the Millington Schoolhouse. Plans also are underway to introduce a theater camp at the end of August.

Our Summer Field Hockey Clinics will be running for Middle School girls as well as for High School/College students. Beach Volleyball for High School students will continue at the sand court at Stirling Lake.

More camp information and registration instructions can be found on our website under Recreation at [www.longhillnj.gov](http://www.longhillnj.gov).

We hope you'll join us to usher in summer at Stirling Lake as we welcome back Parrot Beach, a Jimmy Buffet tribute band. Pack your coolers and join us on the beach for an evening of fun and great music on Saturday, June 24 (raindate: June 25), 6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m. This free event is open to all Long Hill residents and members of Stirling Lake.

In June, we are offering Learn to Swim lessons on Saturday mornings. Our swim lesson program is designed for beginners starting at age 3. After June, we will schedule additional lessons as needed.

Memberships to Stirling Lake are accepted all season long. We also have an August-to-Labor Day rate, as well, if preferred. There are lots of fun activities in addition to swimming available at the lake. Take out a kayak or paddleboard and, of course, test your agility on the Wibit – our inflatable water obstacle course. Come out in July for our 3rd Annual Wibit Races and see who are Long Hill's fastest Wibit racers!

Tennis lessons are offered at Kantor Park by Skyline Tennis. There is a tab on the Recreation pages of the website with more information if you'd like to take a lesson. Lessons are offered for all skill levels – adults and kids.

After just celebrating Earth Day, I would like to take this opportunity to remind all to please dispose of trash properly in the parks – especially chewing gum. Picking "ABC Gum" (Already Been Chewed) off fixtures, my shoes, out of my dog's paws and the turf fibers, etc., is not something I like doing. A little extra care to properly dispose of it would be appreciated.

We hope to see everyone enjoying their summer in the parks, in the camps and out in the community. Enjoy the relaxed schedules of summer and the time outside.

# Administrator's Corner

**Personnel Change:** Administrator Neil Henry has resigned from Long Hill Township and taken a position with another town. We are currently working to fill the administrator position and councilman Guy Piserchia is performing the tasks until a permanent replacement can be hired. Here is an update on some of the Township projects.

**Northfield/Main/Central Sidewalks:** We have begun this project and construction is underway. Care will be taken during construction near schools and the Township will coordinate with the police and school officials.

**Mitchell Road Drainage:** We have completed planning for Phase 2. This will consist of stabilization of the channel downstream below the existing 24-inch pipe and where the drainage from Mitchell Road and Daugherty Road has been completed.

**Redevelopment Zone-Valley Road:** We have selected Elite Properties of Warren as the designated redeveloper for this project. Initial discussions are being held about the project and due diligence is being performed on issues relating to the flood hazard areas and sewer capacity. Public input about design will take place over the summer months after we have completed due diligence.

**Old Millington Schoolhouse:** Phase 3 is scheduled to be completed this month and the Township will begin looking for tenants for the office section of the schoolhouse.

**Trails Grant-County of Morris-Construction of Trail-Matthew G. Kantor Park-Field #2:** We have submitted permit requests to the DEP to enable the Township to put this project out to bid. Once we receive the required permit, the Township will look to complete the project as rapidly as possible.

**Neighborhood Traffic Concerns:** An ad-hoc committee composed of Township officials and citizens has been formed and meetings were held to solicit input on the traffic issues. The committee will be making recommendations to the Township Committee.

**Opiate Presentation by the Morris County Prosecutor's Office:** Morris County Chief Assistant Prosecutor Brad Seabury made a presentation to the township about the opioid epidemic. A recording of the presentation can be found on the LHTV website.

**Wastewater System:** The Township has received approval to advertise the wastewater system for sale and has begun the process to solicit bids. Information about the process and public input can be found on the Township website.

Please feel free to contact the administrator's office at [administrator@longhillnj.gov](mailto:administrator@longhillnj.gov) at any time should you have questions on these or any other projects.

## Department of Public Works

### Tom Sweeney – More Than Roads

Tom Sweeney has been working for Long Hill Township for 23 years and is well known as our Director of Public Works. Yet few residents know Tom's depth of knowledge and expertise.

He began his career with the township as a laborer in the Wastewater Department. He became Head Mechanic in 1998, Assistant Road Foreman in 2004, Superintendent of Roads in 2005 and Director of Public Works in 2009.

Along the way Tom picked up not only the experience and knowledge that comes with the job but also invaluable formal education and certifications. Tom is a Certified Public Works Manager, a Certified Recycling Professional – only the second in Morris County at the time – and a Certified Recycling Coordinator. He also is a member of the New Jersey Association of Recycling.

Tom has put all this expertise to good use. In 2010 he launched a Recycle and Re-use program, beginning with recycling branches into mulch, then expanding to include Styrofoam, fluorescent light bulbs, scrap metal and electronics, with food waste his next target.

Tom notes there are four things on Earth identifiable from space – the Pyramids, the Great Wall of China and two garbage landfills.

"All my education has helped me grow with the job," Tom said. "And the recycling has helped the township with cost-avoidance for landfill fees. Everything you can remove from the waste stream helps."

Public Works can be reached at [roads@longhillnj.gov](mailto:roads@longhillnj.gov) or 908.647.0070.



# Wastewater Update

## Potential Wastewater Sale Update

By Cornel Schuler, Jr. – Mayor

In February 2017 the Township was presented with an asset evaluation and 20-year capital improvement plan for our sanitary sewer system from Remington & Vernick Engineers (the document is on the Township website). In the report they outlined that the Township would need to spend, on average, \$1.4 million per year more than we spend today – for the next 20 years – to continue operating the system.

To give that some context, the current annual budget for the sewer system, including debt service, utilities, staff, insurance, pensions, supplies, capital improvements, services, etc., is about \$1.5 million per year.

On May 3 Long Hill issued a Request For Bids (RFB) for the potential sale of the system. Based on public discussions at Township Committee meetings leading up to the May release of the RFB, a number of requirements were included in the document. The full bid document is on the Township website (<http://longhillnj.gov/notices/FINAL-RFB-SALE-OF-WASTE-WATER-SYSTEM.PDF>). Here are some of the highlights of our requirements:

- Make capital improvements to the Morristown Road and Clover Hill pump stations within two years of closing;
- Make capital improvements to lift our 16-year-old voluntary sewer ban within five years of closing;
- Provide capacity increases to accommodate any future affordable housing obligations;

- Provide future increases in capacity to accommodate any future growth;
- Extend the collection system to at least 95 percent of the Township within five years of closing (currently 88 percent of the town has access);
- Provide a continuance of the Township's discount for eligible senior citizens;
- Provide a five-year binding rate structure with a maximum 3 percent per year rate increase;
- Provide a non-binding rate projection for 20 years;
- Interview current wastewater system employees for possible employment.

The New Jersey State Comptroller's office reviewed and approved the RFB and bids are due from prospective buyers on June 14. The Township Committee will be discussing the bids at its June 24 meeting and we encourage everyone who is interested to attend, ask questions and voice your opinions.

We will then decide whether to accept the best bid and potentially recommend a question be placed on the ballot in November. It is important to note that the Township Committee's decision is NOT a binding sale of the sewer system. All the Township Committee may do is place a question of the sale as a referendum question on the ballot in the general election in November. This is every resident's decision to make, so please make sure you are registered to vote in November so you can cast your ballot for or against the sale.

## Opioid Epidemic

### This Has to Stop

By Guy Piserchia, Councilman

Ninety-five percent of opioids consumed in the world are taken in the United States. America doesn't have a monopoly on pain. Something is terribly wrong.

A few weeks ago Morris County Chief Assistant Prosecutor Brad Seabury gave a powerful presentation at Town Hall describing the opiate epidemic that has infected this country. Long Hill is not exempt. It is ruining lives, destroying families and killing our kids. Last October the older brother of one of my daughter's best friends died. He was an Eagle Scout, great looking and a star athlete. He was also a drug addict. This has to stop.

Police Chief Michael Mazzeo, Deputy Mayor Brendan Rae and I have formed a task force to fight back against this scourge. We will be reaching out to community leaders to help us. We have spoken with the governor's office and county officials to enlist their support. Gov. Christie chairs a federal commission that will make recommendations to the President on how to combat the opioid epidemic in the United States. Long Hill Township intends to help.

Prosecutor Seabury's presentation can be viewed on the Township website. I encourage you to watch it with your family.

## Public Safety

### Vacation Safety Tips

By Police Chief Michael Mazzeo

Hire a house- or pet-sitter – The best way to make sure your house is safe while you're gone is to have someone living in it, feeding pets and coming and going.

Hold your mail and newspaper – When you're leaving for more than a couple days, call your post office to stop mail delivery until you get back. Also stop your newspaper – a pile of yellowing newspapers on the doorstep is a movie cliché for a home that's unoccupied.

Make your home look lived in – Buy timers that turn on the interior lights for a few hours every evening and install outdoor lights that activate by timer or motion. Ask your neighbor to take out your garbage and put the cans back after the garbage pickup.

Maintain your lawn – Hire someone to take care of the landscaping chores in your absence.

Beware social media – Your blog or Facebook page isn't the best place to announce you'll be or are away from home. The less information you put out there, the less likely it is to reach the wrong ears and eyes.

### Going on Vacation?

Contact the Long Hill Township Police Department to add your home to the Vacant/Vacation Security House Check List. Your home will be checked by using our ride-by procedure, which consists of a visual check. Notify the Long Hill Police by calling 908.647.1819, then press 1.

# Community Events Calendar

## Township Schools Close for Summer Recess

Wednesday, June 21 • Last day of classes

## Stirling Lake Season

Memorial Day Weekend–Labor Day, Monday, September 4

Summer season is underway. Family, single, student and senior memberships available. NEW for '17: DAILY PASSES for residents. Away for July? August-Labor Day badges available. 3rd Annual Wibit Races in July – not to be missed!

## Parrot Beach ~ Live Jimmy Buffet cover band • No cover

Saturday, June 24 • 6:30 pm-8:30 pm • Stirling Lake

An evening of dancing on the beach and the summer sounds of Jimmy Buffet. Pack a picnic dinner and bring the family. Open to all residents. Rain date June 25.

## Longhill Recreation Summer Camp Opening Day

Monday, June 26 • First day for all registered campers

Pre-K and K-8 camps

## 27th Annual Freedom Tour Bike Race

Sunday, July 23 • 1st race 8:00 am • Downtown Stirling

## National Night Out

Tuesday, August 1 • Mennen Arena

161 East Hanover Ave., Morris Township

Morris County Parks Police 16th Annual – award-winning program. Free family event: amusements, food, entertainment, ice skating and demonstrations. Explore police, fire, emergency, military and rescue vehicles. Visit our Long Hill Police and county and state agencies!

## August Camp Opportunities

Millington Schoolhouse

### Stem Owl Camp

M-F August 7-11 • 9:00 am-12:00 pm • Ages 8-11

### Bricks 4 Kidz® Lego® Camp

M-F August 14-18 • 9:00 am-12:00 pm • Ages 5-9

## Chill out this summer at the library!

Comfy chairs, Wi-Fi, magazines, coloring, movies, books and more are waiting for you. Did you know? Long Hill Library runs the latest release movies FREE Mondays @ 6:00 pm and Wednesdays/Thursdays @ 2:00 pm.

## Looking for more ideas for summer fun?

Visit these websites for additional information:

**Parks & Recreation Programs:** [longhillnj.gov/recreation](http://longhillnj.gov/recreation)

**Long Hill Township Library:** [www.longhilllibrary.org](http://www.longhilllibrary.org)

**Morris County Parks:** [www.morrisparks.net](http://www.morrisparks.net)

**Somerset County Parks:** [www.somersetcountyparks.org](http://www.somersetcountyparks.org)

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