



TOWNSHIP OF LONG HILL

COUNTY OF MORRIS

GILLETTE, HOMESTEAD PARK, MEYERSVILLE, MILLINGTON, STIRLING

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Please read the following important message from Mayor Piserchia:

Press Release February 18, 2021 Local Coordination of COVID-19 Relief Efforts

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has released an alert to the public regarding COVID-19 fraud schemes. Con artists are using social media, telephone and other means to perpetrate COVID-19 scams such as offers for testing, treatment or the purchase of COVID-19 vaccination cards in exchange for personal details which may result in identify theft, fraudulent medical billing or worse. A link to the alert is included below and I encourage all Long Hill residents to review it to understand how to protect yourself and your loved ones.

I would like to raise special attention to the fact that elderly residents are a favorite target of scammers. If you have been targeted, or know someone who was, I encourage you to contact the Long Hill Police and report the incident. The safety and security of our seniors is of paramount importance.

The Long Hill Office of Emergency Management (OEM) works in partnership with the Long Hill Police Department to ensure that elderly residents in need of special assistance will get the attention they need, whether because of power outage, flood, storm or the current pandemic. This program is particularly sensitive to privacy concerns and the need for confidentiality. OEM/CERT and MRC (Medical Reserve Corps) volunteers have been working quietly and tirelessly in the background during this pandemic to help seniors in need. I commend them for going above and beyond the call of duty and doing so with grace, humility and anonymity.

I'd also like to highlight Operation Good Morning, managed by the Long Hill Police Department. This program is available to all residents 55 and older, living alone or are alone for extended periods of time, or who might have a medical condition that could lead to incapacitation. Full program description can be found on the Township website. Completed applications can be mailed, e-mailed, faxed or dropped off at the Police Station. If a resident prefers, an officer will gladly stop by the resident's home, help complete the form, and take it with them when they leave.

<https://longhillnj.gov/police/operation-good-morning.html>

Additionally, I would like to directly address the private volunteers & groups who are also helping our residents cope during this pandemic. On behalf of the town, I thank you. I encourage you to keep helping your fellow residents. It's this neighbor-to-neighbor support system of ours that makes for a truly great community. I do want to reinforce that it's important that volunteers utilize established local government channels for support and services and refer seniors as necessary to the township. In this way we can all make sure no needful residents fall between the cracks of the system. And doing so will ensure we realize maximum results from our collective efforts. Lastly - and this is very important - be mindful that con artists can successfully victimize a senior with an exceptionally minimal amount of personal information unwittingly shared on social media. I have seen numerous examples of caring residents, including some from out of town, post names and ages of loved ones. While well-intentioned, this can lead to negative, unintended consequences as, within seconds, addresses and phone numbers can be obtained. Bad actors lurk on social media sites and are looking for opportunities to victimize the elderly by pretending to be a helping hand. If you would like more information on internet safety and protecting the elderly from fraudulent activity, I encourage you to reach out directly to the Long Hill Township Police Department.

Here is the alert from the U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services:

<https://oig.hhs.gov/coronavirus/fraud-alert-covid19.asp>

Stay safe,
Guy Piserchia
Mayor
Long Hill Township
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