



Barnegat Light Taxpayers' Association

www.barnegatlighttaxpayer.org

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings to long-standing members and **welcome** to new members.

Your BLTA had a very active 2017 and 2018. New bike racks were added to the ends of the beach blocks. Half of the new Pavilion benches were donated by BLTA with our plaque placed in a prominent position for all to see. The Wine and Cheese Social held at the Fire Hall last June attracted over 120 attendees. Membership has been increasing and stands at over 500, while email addresses are at 850. Also 139 of you are in our Facebook group. Our new email system, Constant Contact, allows us to reach our members quickly and efficiently.

Your Board is looking forward to 2019. Half the Board members are new and full of enthusiasm as well as expertise. The BLTA Board is all volunteer and has several professions represented. Our focus, as an organization independent of the Borough Council, is to work cooperatively for the betterment of Barnegat Light. We are proud of what has been accomplished, but constantly strive to do better.

Among our **initiatives** for 2019 are:

- Communicating with you more often and more digitally. Did you know we post articles from the Sandpaper and notices of important events on our website weekly, and on our Facebook page as well?
- Increasing our membership. The Board believes that the larger our group, the more effective we can be in representing the views and wishes of our membership. Besides receiving timely information and communications, our members can participate in town wide issues through surveys and, when appropriate, a vote.
- Holding one of our three General Meetings at the new Pavilion.
- A repeat of our Wine and Cheese Social to be held on Memorial Day Sunday at the Fire House, to be followed by our Traditional Memorial Day Parade.

We have an exciting program this year. Our **first General Meeting will take place Saturday morning June 22nd at the Pavilion**. It will be followed by a town-wide picnic, sponsored by The Borough Council, to celebrate the completion of the Pavilion. We have some exciting and informative speakers again this year and look forward to seeing you there.

We welcome you back and of course we welcome all new members.

Barbara Truncellito President

Membership 2019 by Dr. Rich Brodman

At the **Barnegat Light Taxpayer's Association** (BLTA), we start each year with the opening of another membership campaign. We believe that the best way to enjoy the upcoming events this Spring and Summer in Barnegat Light is to join or rejoin the BLTA.

BLTA's most important objective is to keep you informed about important events and happenings year-round, especially those that may affect property values, property taxes, or the community's quality of life. We accomplish this in a variety of ways, including the following...

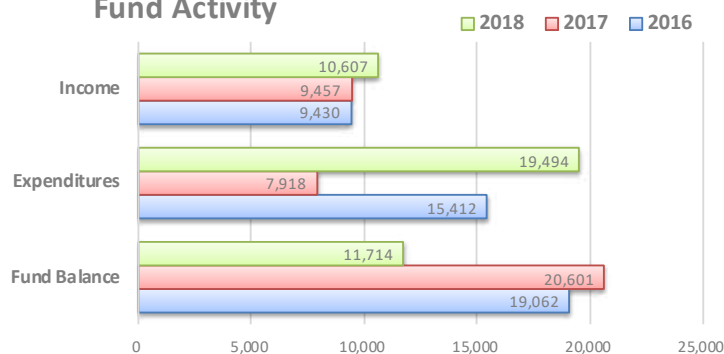
- During the summer we hold three, well attended public meetings where your voice can be heard, and where you can exchange views with fellow community members and the Mayor of Barnegat Light. We also have some fun at those meetings! We are planning to have our first general meeting (weather permitting) at our new pavilion.
- In addition to our website, we offer a BLTA members-only Facebook group to communicate items of interest and importance. Join us at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/BLTAGroup/>
- We offer you the opportunity to express your opinion on matters of interest to the Barnegat Light community through periodic surveys. The survey results are collated and analyzed and then presented to BLTA members, as well as the Mayor and Borough Council.
- Our BLTA President sends regular e-mails highlighting current issues.
- Members from BLTA regularly attend Borough Council meetings to keep both BLTA trustees and its members apprised of happenings.

All of these efforts take money and time. Consequently, we are asking that you strongly consider becoming a member or rejoining us in 2019, for a mere \$20. In 2018, 45% of the Borough's homeowners were members of BLTA. We would like to reach even more of our community. To that end, we maintain an up to date database of all borough residents to be sure that we can readily communicate with everybody.

With this Newsletter you will find a form which lists out the data we have for your individual Barnegat Light address. We are asking for your help in making sure that our data is accurate. We would particularly appreciate having an updated e-mail address (or addresses) in order to improve our ability to communicate items or issues of importance to you on a timely basis.

We thank you for your ongoing support, and look forward to seeing you at our general Meetings.

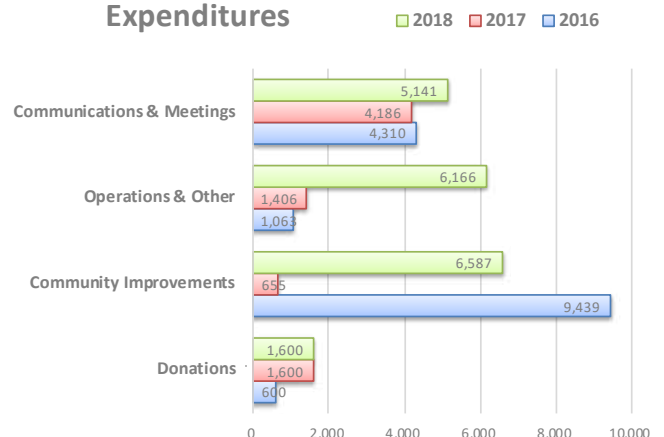
Fund Activity



Your BLTA's income in 2018 increased due to a \$1000 donation from a member. Expenditures were up approximately \$11,600, due to increased community improvements (Pavilion Benches \$5,199) and higher operating costs, principally IT, insurance, and catch up on prior years' fees to New Jersey.

BLTA Treasurer's Report Bill Chernelich

Expenditures



BLTA Website by Tom Zesk

Have you checked out the BLTA Website?

(barnegatlighttaxpayer.org)

Did You Know That on our **Home Page**...

- We have a *Special Events* section alerting you to upcoming important events and deadlines! (**Scroll down** to see it.)
- We repost current *News* articles and *Events* each week from *The Sandpaper*, which are of key interest to the residents of Barnegat Light. Older articles are found at the bottom of the News and Events pages.

Our **For Homeowners** page contains information from the Borough and LBI town governments, as well as links to bay and ocean information, and things to do.

You can find out about the BLTA, our Officers, Board of Trustees and Board Members, as well as see the by-laws and minutes from our meetings on the **About Us** page.

We have a **BLTA Facebook Group**, which you can join by finding us on Facebook Groups, or clicking on the banner at the bottom of the *For Homeowners* page on our website.

Have a question for us?

Write it in the **Contact** page and we will respond.

Bike Safety in Barnegat Light

by Dr. Rich Brodman

Great item for your fridge!



As a cyclist here in Barnegat Light, I am struck by the number of people who do not follow the basic rules of cycling. This is particularly true during our summer season. There are many cyclists who are riding on the wrong side of the road, heading into traffic. There are also riders who do not stop for traffic lights and run the risk of being struck by a car or hitting a pedestrian attempting to cross at the light. I don't think that these people are being arrogant. I suspect that many of our vacationing guests are not familiar with the cycling rules of the road.

BLTA will be partnering with the Long Beach Township Police Department to distribute this **Bicycle Safety Reminder**. It will be distributed at Borough Hall to all new home owners and beach badge purchasers. It will also be provided at the hut adjacent to the tennis courts.

For complete viewing of the Bicycle Safety Card and more information regarding this topic, please see the article entitled **Bike and Pedestrian Safety** under the **For Homeowners** section on our website.

About Town by Dottie Reynolds

Messages from your Mayor and Council:

Kirk Larson, Mayor

Best wishes for a happy, healthy and successful 2019 to all our taxpayers! We look forward to another good year in Barnegat Light. You are welcome to join us and voice your comments and concerns during the open public session held at every meeting. We like to hear from you and keep you informed.

Many concerns and objections are being raised regarding the harmful effects of the proposed wind farms off the coast disrupting fishing, marine mammal navigation, bird mortality, and exercises by the U.S. Coast Guard and Marines. Loss of our prosperous Barnegat Light fishing industry would have a huge negative impact on our local economy.

Michael Spark, Council President and Finance Chairman

Thank you to all taxpayers in Barnegat Light for paying their taxes promptly, resulting in a municipal tax collection rate over 99%! Once again I am working with our Mayor and Council to prepare a conservation responsible budget, which provides the needs of the town while keeping taxes low.

Mary Ellen Foley, Chairperson of Water Sewer

NJ has mandated that all towns install water meters on their residential and commercial properties in an effort to conserve water supplies. To help satisfy this mandate, Barnegat Light is purchasing and installing water meters *at no expense to our homeowners*. If your water meter is covered with landscaping or pavers, you will be responsible for the cost of removing and replacing it. Installation of new meters will take place in 2019. Billing of water charges will now reflect the amount of water you use, not the number of water spigots in your home, as previously billed.

Ed Wellington, Public Works

Projects recently completed include refurbishing of the decks and stairs of the Post Office, the Building Department, and the Police Department entrances as well as the Emergency Operations Center front entrance. We have upgraded the Public Works yard to include a new fuel tank storage and pump area, replaced several sheds for storage, and relocated stockpiles of stone and fill deposits to a new containment area within the yard.

In addition:

- Check out improvements at the Dog Park, and don't forget to renew your swipe card annually.
- Sign at the post office parking area has been replaced with a new digital electronic board.
- Soon the fence around the corrugated collection area will be replaced with a new cedar fence.

Frank Mikuletzky, Chairman of Public Safety

In order for emergency personnel to find your house in an emergency, **your house number must be displayed prominently**. Call borough hall with your house number to be put on a **confidential list for hearing or mobility impaired persons** for use in emergencies.

And: Consider joining the first aid squad and volunteer fire company. *Volunteers are always needed.*

Sam Alloway, Docks and Harbors

The Barnegat Light public boat ramp is located at 10th Street and Bayview Avenue. Boats and jet ski daily charges are \$20 day or \$120 for the season. Call Borough Hall for more information.

Dottie Reynolds, Beaches and Parks

Beaches open Saturday, June 15. Badge prices remain the same as last year. Don't forget, prices go up when purchased after June 5. Pre-season get badges at Borough Hall, in-season at 11th Street booth.

And:

- Beach Tram driver needed for 2 days a week for tram run along the foot of the dunes from 4th street to the first guarded beach.

Monarch Butterflies on LBI by Bonnie Brodman

Monarch butterflies migrate through LBI on their way to the fir tree forests of the central highlands of Mexico. Years ago, in the fall, you could see a cloud of 30 to 40 monarchs flying at a time. Now you see 1 to 3. Their population is down 90%. Why?

Monarch caterpillars eat only leaves from plants in the milkweed family. Common milkweed used to grow wild over vast stretches of the US. The development of open fields and the extensive use of herbicides by corporate farms has drastically reduced naturally growing milkweed everywhere.



What can be done? The most obvious solution is to plant milkweed. The garden club of LBI has planted milkweed (with permission) on public property up and down the island. There is a new butterfly garden with both milkweed and nectar flowers on our new pavilion property. If you would like to plant milkweed in your own gardens, it is available from Country Corner and Reynolds and on line nurseries, but you must ask to make sure it has not been sprayed with insecticide and, of course, you can't spray pesticide on it either.

Adult Monarch butterflies do not eat milkweed. They sip nectar from flowers. Thankfully, many LBI gardens have lots of flowers that the butterflies need.

The Garden Club is involved with hand raising Monarchs. This involves collecting the eggs and the caterpillars from the milkweed, bringing them inside to keep them safe from predators, and feeding them milkweed until they spin their chrysalises. (It takes about 2 weeks of round the clock eating.) Metamorphoses from a caterpillar into a butterfly inside the chrysalis takes another 10 days to 2 weeks.



Then, one by one, a beautiful butterfly emerges from its chrysalis. When its wings are fully dry and inflated, it's time to release the butterfly outside.

The butterfly crawls onto your hand and rests there awhile. When it is ready, the butterfly takes flight. It is magical every single time.

This year, the Garden Club members involved in this project released nearly 500 Monarch butterflies.

About Our Beaches by Dottie Reynolds

Why does Barnegat Light have the widest beaches and best dunes on LBI?

Answer: We do not allow unauthorized vehicles to disturb our beaches, or private paths to cut through our dunes. We do not rake our beaches. Beach raking disrupts the sand so it will blow away or wash away more easily, it removes the opportunity to admire and collect shells and sea glass along the shore, and removes food needed by the birds. The shells and seaweed continually disappear under the new sand as it blows or washes in with the tide and builds up our beaches. During superstorm Sandy, our community was a model, protected by our natural beaches and dunes. We did not sustain the damage of other communities.



BLTA Board 2018-2019

Trustees

President: Barbara Truncellito **Treasurer:** Bill Chernelich
Vice-President: Dr. Rich Brodman **Secretary:** Tom Zesk

Mary Ann Crutchlow Phil Kahn

Board Members

Betsy Aras Jack Byrnes Dr. Virginia Fitzsimons Kay McDonnell Patty Robinson

Committee Person

Patty Francfort

Little Free Library

Enjoying the books available at the **BLTA Little Free Library** in front of the post office? A large selection of books is also available to borrow in the community room in borough hall.

Tennis Courts are free for players with a season beach badge, or for \$10 an hour without a badge. Two **Pickle Ball courts** on 10th Street are free for players with a season beach badge.

Barnegat Light Jr Lifeguard in Training

Barnegat Light Junior Lifeguard in Training (LIT) Program will be offered again to 10 to 15 year old youths interested in learning water safety skills. Training will take place June 26th - July 31. The cost of \$100 includes shirt, swim shorts and sweat-shirt. More information and applications are available in Borough Hall and online on the BL webpage, LIT site, or BLBP Facebook.

Sign up for NIXLE

Get text alerts from local police and fire departments on your mobile phone.
Visit www.barnegatlight.org for more information.

Two More Dates...

BLTA General Meetings
July 13 & September 14
First Aid Squad Building
9:30 AM

Join Our Summer Work Force

Look on the Borough website for available positions. Call Borough Hall ((609)494-9196 for an application. Barnegat Light is a nice place to work.

Two Dates for your Calendar

Wine and Cheese
Memorial Day Sunday
May 26
4:30 to 6:30 PM

Where?
Fireman's Hall

All are invited, members, prospective new members, and family members (kids too).
Come meet your trustees and officers.

BLTA General Meeting
Saturday, **June 22**
10am
Where? The new Pavillion
Followed by: Town-wide picnic
Sponsored by:
Barnegat Light Borough Council

Come help us celebrate our great little town!

BLTA Update on The Pavilion

These are the financial statistics to date.

- The original price of the property was \$3.1 million
- Current owed on the property is \$1,995,000.00
- Annual pay down \$285,000.00
- 2018 Open Space Levy \$100,630.54
- The Open Space account is \$613,185.98

The popular LBI shuttle buses will run again this summer from Barnegat Light to Holgate.

Get your **LBI Shuttle App** today.

For **Recycling and other Borough related issues** check the Borough of Barnegat Light website at:
www.barnegatlight.org