



Barnegat Light Taxpayers' Association

www.barnegatlighttaxpayer.org

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings. We hope you're safe and doing well.

2020 was quite a year for so many people. That said, the community on LBI came together. It was most difficult for small businesses. Yet, so many were supported through the generosity of neighbors. Perhaps it's a small respite from a difficult world but this community has always come forward during tough times. 2020 was no different. In particular, your participation in the JCTA COVID-19 fund was a respite for so many people in need. Congratulations.

We're looking forward to this new year. 2021 holds promise. We are optimistically planning events. The Pavilion seems to be the most logical place to meet as it's outside, roomy and pleasant. We'll be notifying you as plans become concrete.

We decided to offer the opportunity to join or renew membership by conventional mail (with a check) or online on our website where you may pay with PayPal or credit card. This offer was sent in February via a Constant Contacts email. Some of you are very generous and add donations as well. We are grateful.

We've been busy over the winter attending Borough Council, Planning Board, and School Board meetings. The results are reflected in the minutes of the monthly Trustee meetings and posted on the website. Please feel free to email us with any questions or concerns and we will do our best to get you the answers you request.

We're continuing our monthly communication to you via **email**. Please join us on **Facebook**, and on the new **website**.

Barbara Truncellito, President
Barnegat Light Taxpayers' Association

BLTA
P.O. Box 342
Barnegat Light, NJ 08006

2020-2021

Officers

President: Barbara Truncellito
Vice President: Rich Brodman
Secretary: Tom Zesk
Treasurer: William Chernelich

Trustees

Betsy Aras
Jack Byrnes
Mary Ann Crutchlow
Philip Kahn
Kay McDonnell

Committee Person

Patty Francfort

Visit the BLTA Little Free Library in front of the post office for leisure reading choices.

Membership 2021 by Dr. Rich Brodman

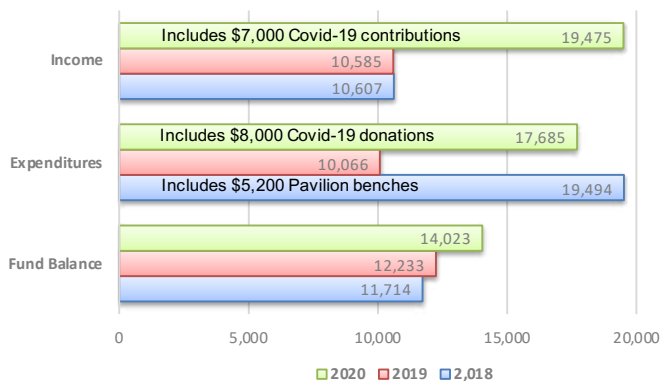
This was certainly a challenging year. All our general meetings as well as our Meet and Greet Wine and Cheese were cancelled because of the pandemic. Despite this, we continued to communicate on a regular basis via our Newsletter. The pandemic did hinder our membership drive as we often enroll new members at our general meetings and Wine and Cheese event. Even so, our membership was still robust with only a 4% decline.

We are going to try to be creative in finding ways to resume more normal activities. This would include holding general meetings outside at the pavilion and, possibly, also our wine and cheese event. We all miss being together and an outdoor venue will likely be quite safe, especially by June.

Our dues are \$25 per household. This contrasts with many other taxpayer organizations that request dues for each member of a household. We have decided to offer membership renewal both through a conventional mailing which can be returned with a check and an online option (at our website) allowing payment with PayPal or a credit card. This should make renewing easier and does bring us soundly into the 21st century.

We hope to provide interesting speakers for our general meetings. There are a lot of recent, evolving issues here in Barnegat Light ranging from offshore windmills to the expanding coyote problem. In addition to guest speakers, our mayor also attends each meeting and fields questions from the audience. *Please join with us.* We think that the experience will well be worth your 25-dollar investment.

Fund Activity



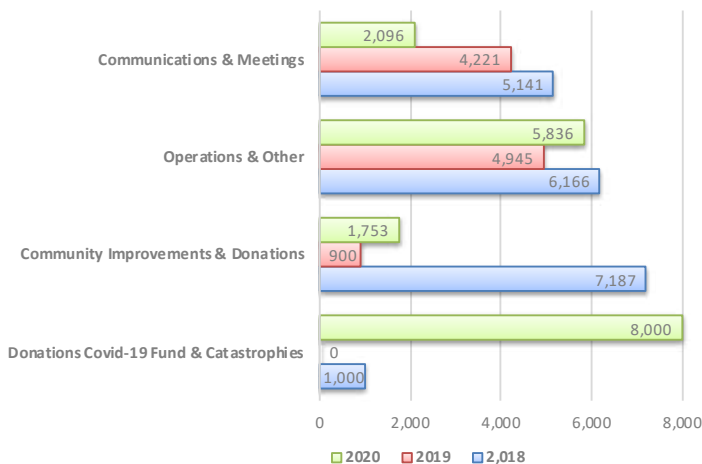
Treasurer's Report

by Bill Chernelich

Analysis of Fund Activity and Expenditures

Your BLTA's Dues and Contributions in 2020 increased by \$1,900 compared to 2019, principally from higher membership fees. Most notably, several members contributed a total of \$7,000 to the JCTA's Covid-19 Fund for staff meals at Southern Ocean Hospital and for the St. Francis food pantry. BLTA added \$1,000 to this effort, bringing our total support to \$8,000, highest on LBI. Our expenditures, excluding this \$8,000, were down by \$400. This reflects \$1,000 not spent on General Meetings which was offset by more donations to local first responder organizations, as well as a decrease in Printing & Postage expenses, offset by higher IT costs.

Expenditures



The Incredible Ecological Niche of Barnegat Light

By Dr. Rich Brodman



My wife and I left our winter stay in Florida in late March last year, a bit earlier than usual, because of the developing pandemic. We were eager to shelter at our home in Barnegat Light, closer to our family and in a familiar, less densely populated area. We both have been involved in ecological issues on LBI, but this last spring and summer exposed us to an array of amazing events in Barnegat Light.

In early May, my neighbor informed us that a baby **seal** had washed up on the beach near 26th Street. The seal was alive but appeared injured with a swelling about the right jaw. We contacted the *Marine Mammal Stranding Center* (MMSC), which came out to retrieve her an hour later but needed our help to carry her off the beach. We coaxed the baby seal into a mesh hammock-like structure and over the dunes we went. I called the MMSC over the next week to check on her and was told that she was improving. She was to be released in Sandy Hook the end of May to resume her northern migration.

Later in May we were on the 26th Street beach with our family and socially distanced friends when we noticed a series of spouts or blows not far off the beach. Then, to our amazement, two **humpback whales** breached, accompanied by a school of **dolphins**. Social distancing went out the window, as everybody rushed to the water's edge pointing and shouting for about a half hour. I have included a stock photo, as the process of breaching happened too quickly to photograph.



In April we had the return of Ebb and Flo, our resident monogamous **Osprey** couple, who had wintered in Central/South America. Here to start a new family, they quickly established their nest on the perch on the bay at 24th Street. Flo then produced three healthy eggs three days apart in late April. After a 36 day incubation period, the eggs hatched in a sequential fashion. The baby birds fledged (obtained feathers and learned to fly) over the next eight weeks. Once the fledglings learned to fish and sustain themselves, the family departed for their return to Central/South America. The parents will return in the spring to the same nest, but the fledglings will spend an extra year in the Southern Hemisphere to mature and hone their fishing skills. For those interested, this whole process can be viewed on **YouTube** at the **Barnegat Light Osprey Cam**.

The final late spring event was the return of the **Diamond Back terrapins**. A prized source of turtle meat consumed here in the United States and exported to Europe in the early 20th century, they were hunted almost to extinction until the onset of the Great Depression, after which the market for these terrapins disappeared. They have been variably classified as an endangered species or a "species of concern." In the late spring and early summer females come out of the bay to lay and bury eggs in sandy areas, where they become easy prey for crows, foxes, and raccoons. A volunteer organization here in Barnegat Light (*The Terrapin Nesting Project*) will come, when called, to dig up the cache of eggs and relocate them to a protected enclosure for safe incubation, which lasts from 60 to 85 days. If you should see a female laying her eggs, it is best to let her be. Once she completes her task, the area of the cache should be covered up with a bucket (supplied in a few locations in Barnegat Light) and a volunteer to retrieve the cache of eggs should be notified at 215-495-2431. Later into the summer after the eggs have hatched and the baby terrapins have reached adequate size they are released back into the bay.

This early fall, we wanted to visit the new freshwater pond by the lighthouse which was created as a habitat for nesting **Piping Plovers**. We had no expectations of seeing these elusive birds, as this was not their nesting season. We mounted the small dunes and to our surprise came upon a pair of **swans** that had settled into this nicely secluded area.

With the pandemic in place and limited social activities, one comes to a much better appreciation of one's environment. These natural events are truly remarkable and do occur every spring and summer.

There is much to be thankful for in the privilege of living here in Barnegat Light.



From Mayor Kirk Larson

What will the year 2021 bring to the taxpayers of Barnegat Light? We are hoping good health, success for our businesses and the opportunity for everyone to enjoy the good life in Barnegat Light. **Join us on the second Wednesday of each month** in Borough Hall on East 7th Street. Work session caucus starts at 4:30 p.m. followed by our regular meeting at 5:00 p.m. We like to hear from you during the open public session and keep you informed on local issues.

In my opinion, for Barnegat Light, as a community relying in great part on our prosperous fishing industry, and on our beautiful oceanfront with its unobstructed, magnificent view of the horizon, the harmful effects of the proposed wind farms off the coast would have a huge negative impact on our local economy. Wind farms disrupt fishing, marine mammal navigation and kill thousands of birds. Little attention has been focused on the environmental and visual impact of wind farms versus their limited benefit. Environmentalists who care about wildlife and marine life need to weigh the harm versus the small benefit. In addition there will be a huge increase in your energy costs.

From Mary Ellen Foley -Water/Sewer

The 2020 water meter rollout was very successful thanks to leadership of the Water & Sewer Superintendent, Stuart McGowan, and the cooperation of his crew, our residents and their plumbers. Out of approximately 1400 meters ordered, only 13 are outstanding, most attributed to empty lots or new construction.

BL also successfully acquired and deployed the equipment to do all the programming for the water meters, thus eliminating the need for dependence on Stafford Township to automatically read the meters. The equipment is installed on our water tower. Commercial meters are already being read.

The deadline for water meter activation has been moved to June 15, 2021 to accommodate seasonal homeowners. New fee data will be collected from July 1, 2021, with the expectation that our finance team will establish new water/sewer rates for 2022. Water usage up 25% year over year in the 4th quarter.

New water main was installed on E 23rd St with new water service to all homes. An updated treatment process was installed and is running on all wells. A new automated system for control of water tower, wells and sewer completed and online. (Staff alerted on cell phones; can address issues remotely.)

Thanks again to all residents for your cooperation! Any questions, please leave me a message either at Borough Hall (609)494-9196 or on my cell (908)510-2318.

From Ed Wellington -Public Works

The Barnegat Light Public Works team has responsibility for maintaining borough property and public resources. In addition to maintaining buildings and grounds this past year, we have completed a number of projects that have enhanced our town.

First, the new restrooms at the Pavilion were completed in time for the concert season, the recreation area on 10th St. was reconfigured to include 3 pickleball courts, with complete resurfacing of the courts. The tennis courts were re-surfaced and the skateboard park was completely renovated with new rolling surfaces along with resurfacing the macadam.

The inside of the annex building has been renovated to upgrade the municipal court which is returning from LBT to Barnegat Light.

With the donation of a local house that was going to be demolished, we are currently converting that house into a new lifeguard house to support our seasonal lifeguards. This project is currently under construction and will be completed this season.

Also, on that property a new lifeguard equipment storage facility was constructed to make room in the public works yard for the upgraded water system.

We're happy to announce that with the recommendation of the recreation committee, we will be completely renovating and upgrading the equipment in the children's playground located adjacent to the tennis courts.

And, finally, we will be replacing the old fence along the perimeter of the public works buildings.

Our summer season starts Saturday, **June 12th**, with the opening of a limited number of beaches.

Purchase your \$30 preseason badges by June 5th. After June 5th season badges are \$40. Purchase badges now with a credit card on the VIPLY app on your phone. Badges will be sold starting in May at the Tennis/Beach Badge Booth at 11th Street behind the post office.

While other areas of the island suffered severe beach erosion during the recent northeaster, sand actually built upon most of our beaches. Due to the protection provided by **our beautiful dunes**, only the mast area suffered a small amount of erosion.

It will be easier for you to get on and off the beach this year. **Mobi Mats** will be installed at beach entrances. The mats were ordered with the Community Grant money we were awarded last year.

Didn't know what street you were at when you walked along the beachfront? New **numbered signs** matching the beach signs have been placed on the beaches.

On your way off the beach please deposit your **trash and recycling** in the proper cans. As with household trash, plastic bottle caps must go into the trash and NO plastic bags in recycling.

The **Beach Tram** runs along the foot of the dunes from 4th Street to the first guarded beach (9th Street) from 10am to 5pm. Tram stops for lunch hour, 1-2. If you have mobility problems, **handicapped access ramps and parking spaces** are located at the 9th and 29th Street beach street ends. **Beach wheels** may be reserved by calling Borough Hall.

Our **Bay Beach** is located at **25th Street**. Due to **drainage improvements by public works** there were **no beach closures due to water quality issues last year**. **Always clean up dog litter**. No matter your location it washes down the street sewer and drains into the bay.

Calling beach loving birds:

The Restoration Area by the jetty adds a safer area for **endangered Piping Plover** and other beach nesting birds to nest. Hopefully we will have a more successful nesting season than last year when we were down to two pairs. Please **do not bring dogs** near the area to disrupt the birds.

The **Barnegat Light Junior Lifeguard in Training (LIT)** Program is under discussion, depending on what precautions may be necessary for Covid-19. Information will be available online **Barnegat Light webpage** LIT site, or BLBP Facebook. Applications will be mailed to participants from past years.

Visit our 10th Street Children's Playground. Your children will love the new equipment.

Enjoy the resurfaced Tennis Courts - free with a season beach badge- \$10 an hour without a badge. Check out the two special tennis passes at Borough Hall or Barnegat Light website.

Pickle Ball courts on 10th Street next to the basketball court are free with a season beach badge.

Dog Park personal entry swipe card free to all borough homeowners; \$30 for out of town dogs. Get entry cards at beach badge/tennis booth or by application form online at the Borough website. You must show a dog license or rabies certificate to receive your card.

Cats and Kittens. For our Trap, Neuter, Vaccinate, Return (**TNR**) program or for found kittens call Dottie (609) 494-0146. To adopt or locate lost pets, call our **Southern Ocean County Animal Shelter** (609) 978-0127. LBI police answer injured animal and lost pet calls.

Visit the **Barnegat Light website** (www.barnegatlight.org)
for **NIXLE** emergency notifications signup and other information.

BLTA Website and Facebook Page

by Betsy Aras



Are you visiting the [BLTA Website](#) often?

Our website was rehailed in late 2020 and is now more of a resource for both homeowners and visitors – we hope you have seen the changes and are using it to your full advantage. We will continue to add information and links so be sure you've bookmarked the page for quick access! If you have suggestions for links to be added to our website, let us know through the [contact page](#).

Are you a member of the [BLTA Facebook Group](#)?

Paid members of the BLTA and their families are eligible to join our Facebook Group! Why join?

Because in this Facebook Group we...

- Try to post information two or three times each week!
- Remind members of upcoming events – including our General Meetings.
- Share pictures of Barnegat Light!
- Alert you when the website has been updated or we've sent out a Constant Contact email.
- Share breaking news or an event prior to getting it on our website.

Note: This Facebook Group is not intended as a conversational back and forth between BLTA members – it's meant to be an informational service to our members. Posts from Barnegat Light Taxpayer Association members with pertinent information are welcome but are subject to approval at the discretion of the BLTA Board.



PO Box 342
Barnegat Light, NJ 08006