



Barnegat Light Taxpayers' Association

www.barnegatlighttaxpayer.org

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings to longstanding members and to new members:

Your **Barnegat Light Taxpayers' Association** had a busy and productive year in 2019. Four new Trustees, elected at the September General Meeting, joined our efforts to maintain and grow our membership. This year's hard work increased our membership to 564 households. In addition to this annual Newsletter, we communicate with you through the **BLTA** website, our Facebook group page and our electronic newsletters. We hope our timely communications on the LBI school board election, and the school building referendum were helpful.

Although all the work of our organization is done on a voluntary basis, we expect **increased costs for technology** and other means of communicating with you. Accordingly, the Board voted, without dissent, to increase yearly dues to \$25.00 per household. This continues to be one of the lowest rates on LBI. We thank you for your understanding. In addition, we thank those who made additional donations last year and encourage you to continue your generosity. It helps our good work on your behalf — the taxpayers of Barnegat Light.

Our Board is excited about 2020

- We will continue our efforts to **communicate** with you on major issues that affect Barnegat Light.
- **As a member**, you will have opportunities to **vote** on issues pertaining to you as a taxpayer through our various *Constant Contact* email communications. Make your voice heard.
- **As President**, I'm a member of the *Open Space Committee* in the Borough which brought about the purchase of the Coast Guard property. If there are any additional opportunities, we'll be the first to know.
- **As President**, I represent Barnegat Light on the *Joint Council of Taxpayer Associations*, which is Island wide. This year our focus will be on flooding. Our main speaker at the July general meeting will discuss flooding and floodplain analysis. He will also discuss what can be done to lower our rates for flood insurance and mitigate the risk of flooding. Both factors affect our property values.

We look forward to seeing you at the General meetings. We will have quality speakers who will address many pertinent concerns. **The first General meeting will be on June 20th** at the Pavilion. We also hope to see you at the annual **Wine and Cheese party on May 24th**.

We welcome you back and we welcome all new members.

Barbara Truncellito
President

Membership 2020 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 beautiful new pavilion on June 20th followed by the town-sponsored barbeque/picnic.
- **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 President sends **regular emails through Constant Contact, highlighting current issues.**
- **Members from the BLTA regularly attend Borough Council meetings** to keep both BLTA trustees and its members apprised of happenings.

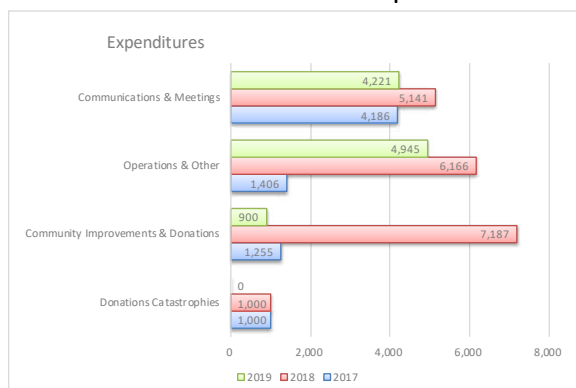
We begin our season with our annual **Wine and Cheese Party on the Sunday of Memorial Day weekend**, 4:30 to 6:30 PM at the Fire House. You will get to meet your neighbors and discuss upcoming issues for the summer. The event is also attended by the Mayor and some of the Council members. It is a nice informal beginning to the season.

All these efforts take money and time. Consequently, **we are asking that you strongly consider becoming a member or rejoining us in 2020** for a mere \$25 per household. This is a small increase in our dues, as a consequence of anticipated increases in IT and postage costs. In 2019, 46% of the Borough's homeowners were members of BLTA. This is an increase of fourteen more households over the 2019 census. 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.

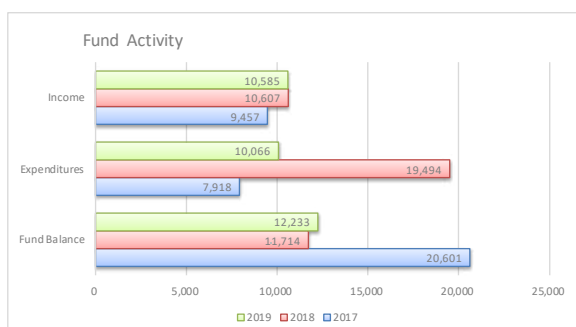
With this Newsletter, you will find a form which lists the data we have for your individual Barnegat Light address. **We are asking for your help in making sure that our data is accurate.** We would particularly appreciate having an updated e-mail address (or addresses) in order to improve our ability to communicate items or issues of importance to you on a timely basis. **We thank you for your ongoing support**, and we look forward to seeing you at our Wine and Cheese party on May 24, and our general Meetings.

BLTA Treasurer's Report Bill Chernelich

Your BLTA's income in 2019 held steady at approximately \$10,600 with individual contributions making up for one member's 2018 contribution of \$1,000. Expenditures were down approximately \$9,400 as BLTA: a) did not repeat the significant 2018 community improvements (Pavilion Benches \$5,199); b) cut back on non-Barnegat Light donations; c) did not have prior years' fees to New Jersey; and d) reduced printing and postage by relying more on electronic communications. In 2020 we plan to invest in further information technology solutions.



Analysis of Fund Activity and Expenditures



BLTA Website and Facebook Page

by Betsy Aras

Have you visited the BLTA Website today? We encourage you to do so!

barnegatlighttaxpayer.org

On our **Home Page** you will find...

- **NEWS & EVENTS** happening in and around Barnegat Light.
- A **SPECIAL EVENTS** section, alerting you to upcoming activities with deadlines!
- **TAGGED** articles can be found at the very bottom of the page – perhaps you've missed articles dealing with the local schools or Barnegat Light – find them quickly in this section!
- Our **CALENDAR** section shows you events a month at a time
- The **FOR HOMEOWNERS** section contains links to Bay and Ocean info, local attractions, Barnegat Light Borough links such as recycling rules and current budget information. You can also find access to past resident surveys, local newspapers, Ocean County links and more!
- In the **ABOUT US** section you can meet your BLTA Board, find out how to become a member, or read past meeting minutes and the by-laws.
- Ask us a question through the **CONTACT US** page



Are you a member of our FACEBOOK GROUP?

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/BLTAGroup/>

All members of the BLTA are eligible to join our **Facebook Group**!

Why join? Because in this Facebook Group we...

- Post two or three times each week
- remind members of upcoming events – including our General Meetings
- share pictures of Barnegat Light, especially during the winter months
- alert you when the website has been updated or we've sent out Constant Contact email
- share breaking news or an event prior to it getting on our website



Wine and Cheese Party

Memorial Day Sunday

May 24



4:30 to 6:30

From **Mary Ellen Foley**, *Water & Sewer*, and **Ed Wellington**, *Public Works*, Barnegat Light

This year we welcome **Stuart McGowan** as BL's new **Superintendent of Public Works and Water/Sewer**. Stuart replaces Ed Sulecki who retired after 35 years with the Borough. Stuart comes from Long Beach Township where he was the Water Department Supervisor.

The **Water/Sewer Department** key projects include: installing 6 new fire hydrants; replacing a water main and installing storm drains on E 23rd St. - homeowners will be given at least 24 hour notice when a brief shutdown/cutover to new service occurs. Trenches will settle and 23rd St will be paved in the spring; **water meter bid has been awarded** – meters expected to arrive in BL in April and be available for pickup in May; drinking water reports are complete and will be available to the public at the end of March.

The **Public Works Department** has been active maintaining infrastructure and improving our public assets to the highest standards of quality. Projects include: regrading the bay beach and the boat ramp area to minimize erosion and preserve those areas; renovating the skateboard park; and the construction of pavillion restrooms.

About Town by Dottie Reynolds

Our **Southern Ocean County Animal Shelter** is located next to recycling center in Manahawkin at 360 Haywood Road (609) 978-0127 for you to adopt or locate lost pets. For our town **TNR** (Trap, Neuter, Return) program or to foster found kittens call Dottie at (609)494-0146.

June 13 - Limited number of **beaches will open**. Pre-season badges \$30 by June 5. After June 5, \$40.

Purchase badges in borough hall or at Tennis/Beach Badge Booth located on 11th street (behind post office)

Badges can be bought this summer by **credit card on the beach**.

Beach Tram will run along at the foot of the dunes from 4th Street to 9th Street, the first guarded beach.

Beach Wheels for those with mobility problems can be reserved by calling Borough Hall.

Handicapped Access Ramps are at 9th and 29th streets. **Walkway Mobi Mats** will be on all beach entrances.

Our popular **Dog Park** requires a personal entry swipe card, renewed annually, to open the gate lock. The card is free to borough residents, \$30 for out of town dogs. A one week pass is \$15. Park hours are **8:00 a.m. to dusk**. Cards are purchased at borough hall, the beach badge/tennis booth or by application form online on Borough web page. You must show a dog license or rabies certificate to receive your card.



A **Restoration Project** is taking place by the jetty to add another more suitable and attractive area for Larry, Jack, Superman and their **Piping Plover** bird buddies to nest. **Even the birds know** Barnegat Light is a special place helping to preserve an endangered species.

Keep Our Bay Beaches Open and Clean by Dr. Rich Brodman

During the last summer season, our bay beach was closed on two occasions in late July. These closures occurred when the index bacterial species, *Enterococcus*, exceeded 104 colonies per 100 ml of sample, on two consecutive days. On the first day of an elevated colony count, a swimming advisory is posted at the bay beach, warning the public of potentially unhealthy water conditions. If bacterial colony counts remain above the acceptable limits the next day, the beach is closed (also posted at the bay beach). It will reopen when bacterial colony counts return to acceptable levels.

On both occasions in July, the bay beach was closed after heavy rainfall. It appears that the runoff from the these heavy storms resulted in contamination of the bay beach waters and the subsequent high bacterial colony counts. To further evaluate this phenomenon, the state has performed additional studies of the origin of this bacterial contamination. Through a sophisticated technique referred to as "antibiotic resistance analysis", the state has determined that dog fecal material is the source of the bacterial contamination. Even 1 gram of dog fecal material contains 23 million fecal coliform organisms.

The most effective approach to this problem, is to eliminate dog walking along the bay beach (including the kayak beach). Just cleaning up after your dog is not likely to be effective, given the high fecal counts in only 1 gram of dog waste. Dog walking on our beaches, both ocean and bay, during the summer season is prohibited by a town ordinance.

It would behoove us to make this change to protect our beaches. It is a black eye for our town to read about these closures in the local newspapers or hear about them on local radio stations. We have a dedicated dog park which is the envy of all the towns on LBI. Let's bring our dogs there, rather than the bay beaches.

For people wishing to check for bathing beach alerts, please go to the **New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection** website njbeaches.gov and click on Closing/Advisories. To view a nice summary of this topic please see the article "Dog Waste Pinpointed for Bay Beach Closure in Barnegat Light" written by Marie Scandale in the Sandpaper of August 29th 2019.

Have you wondered
by Dottie Reynolds

why Barnegat Light does not rake its beaches? Raking disrupts the sand, allowing it to blow or wash away more easily, thus depleting the dunes and leaving the shoreline vulnerable to wind and water damage. Note that it is the dunes that protected Barnegat Light from storm damage during superstorm *Sandy* in 2012.

THE JEWEL OF BARNEGAT LIGHT...

By Mary Ann Crutchlow

With invaluable aid in on-site research from

BLTA Trustee Kay McDonnell and

Karen Larson, President, Barnegat Light Historical Society



Did you know that the Barnegat Lighthouse originated with a congressional appropriation of \$6000 in 1834? In the post-Revolutionary War/War of 1812 era, and well before modern navigational instruments appeared on the scene, it became apparent that the hazards of maritime travel needed to be addressed for both commercial and military reasons. There was need for a light to guide vessels safely toward the US eastern shore and north toward New York harbor. The first lighthouse built at the northern tip of Long Beach Island was 40 feet tall and had a non-flashing fifth class light. The inadequacies of this navigational aid soon became apparent; its reach was minimal in relation to the need, and given the strong currents in the inlet, which were creating alarming erosion, it became clear that the site of this original lighthouse would soon be submerged.

In 1855 the Army Corps of Engineers was sent to assess the situation at Barnegat and to design/build a new more suitable structure. Heading up the design team was Lt. George G. Meade. (Recognize the name? Eight years later, as General Meade, he won the Battle of Gettysburg.) The 12,800 pound lens for the new lighthouse was fabricated by Henri-Lepaute of Paris, carried to New York on the ship *Arago* and was commissioned January 1, 1859. Flashing from 172 feet above sea level and lit by a kerosene powered oil lamp of 16,000 candle power, it was visible for up to 20 nautical miles. The new lighthouse was four times taller than the original and could boast of a first order lens designed by French physicist Augustine-Jean Fresnel; the Fresnel lens has been called "the invention that saved a million ships." (Bernhard, Adrienne. BBC, June 21, 2019)

Barnegat Lighthouse served the US east coast until 1927 when it was replaced as a navigational aid by the Barnegat Lightship. The original lens was then dismantled and put on display at the Coast Guard station on Staten Island. In 1934 the lens was loaned by the US government to the *Museum of Science and Industry* in Chicago, where it became a centerpiece in their display on maritime navigation.

In 1951 then New Jersey Governor Alfred Driscoll signed a bill into law creating a New Jersey state park at the site of the Barnegat lighthouse. In 1955 James C. Auchincloss, congressional representative of New Jersey's third district, convinced Secretary of Commerce Sinclair Weeks to have the original Barnegat Light lens returned from Chicago as part of the '57-'58 centennial of "Old Barney." The one thousand prisms mounted on brass frames travelled east by rail in 24 packages and were reassembled in the Barnegat Light Museum, where it remains today.

When you get a chance, ***stop by the museum on Central Avenue*** to see for yourself this marvel of the human experience, a world class jewel right here in Barnegat Light.

BLTA General Meetings

2020

Saturday, June 20

10am- At the Pavillion (followed by town picnic)

Speakers: Virginia Haines

Ocean County Board of Chosen Freeholders
and

Barnegat Light Mayor
Kirk Larson

Saturday, July 11

9:30 AM- First Aid Squad Building

Speakers:

Sean MacCotter - BLT Construction Official
*Flood Plain and Things to Mitigate Risk
to help lower Flood Insurance Cost*
and

Barnegat Light Mayor
Kirk Larson

Saturday, September 12

9:30 AM-

First Aid Squad Building

Speakers:

To be announced...

BLTA

P.O. Box 342
 Barnegat Light, NJ 08006

2019-2020**Officers**

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

Trustees

Betsy Aras
 Jack Byrnes
 Mary Ann Crutchlow
 Virginia Fitzsimons
 Philip Kahn
 Kay McDonnell

Committee Person

Patty Francfort

Little Free Library

Enjoying the books available at the **BLTA Little Free Library** in front of the post office? A larger selection of books is also available in the community room in Borough Hall.

Monday - Friday during business hours

Tennis Courts are free for players with a season beach badge, or for \$10 an hour without a badge. Passes are available at Borough Hall.

Reservations are recommended.

Check www.barnegatlight.org for more information.

Pickle Ball courts on 10th Street next to the basketball court are free 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. Training will take place June 22th - July 31 - 10am to noon. The cost of \$100 includes shirt, swim shorts and sweatshirt. **Applications** available in Borough Hall and online on the Barnegat Light website or BL BeachPatrol Facebook page at

<https://www.facebook.com/blbeachpatrol/>

Sign up for NIXLE

Get text alerts from local police and fire departments on your mobile phone.

Visit www.barnegatlight.org for more information.

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.

LBI shuttle buses will run again this summer from Barnegat Light to Holgate. Check out info at

<https://www.lbishuttle.com>

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

www.barnegatlight.org

From Kirk Larson,

Mayor of Barnegat Light

Best wishes to all our Barnegat Light taxpayers for a happy and healthy year ahead. Please join us at our monthly **Mayor and Council meetings** on the **second Wednesday of each month**. Work session starts at 4:30 pm and the meeting with an "open to the public" session starts at 5:00 pm. Share your concerns and ideas.

Get informed on the harmful effects of the proposed **wind farms** off Barnegat Light. We do not know where the cables from the towers to the land grids will be laid. Whale and dolphin navigation will be disrupted. Migrating birds will suffer high mortality since this is along the Atlantic Flyway. Our fishing industry will be seriously affected impacting our local economy.

Make your voices heard.

From Michael Spark,

Borough Council President and Finance Chairman

Thank you to all taxpayers in Barnegat Light for paying their taxes promptly. Our municipal tax collection rate was an impressive 99.6%! Once again I am working with our Mayor and Council to prepare a conservative, responsible budget which provides the needs of the town while keeping taxes low.

From Frank Mikuletzky,

Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator

To receive **NIXLE** notifications of emergencies, road conditions, power outages, etc. click on the **NIXLE** tab at www.barnegatlight.org.

To help emergency personnel find your house, display your house number prominently. Call borough hall to have your number put on a confidential list for hearing and mobility impaired persons for use in emergencies.

Consider being a fire company or first aid squad volunteer.

From Sam Alloway,

Docks and Harbors Chairperson

The municipal boat ramp is located at 10th Street and Bayview. Boat and jet ski charges are \$20/day or \$120/season. Municipal boat slips north of the ramp are rented annually from April 1 to December 1 for \$2100. Two slips are still available.



**BLTA
Dues**

**Only \$25
per household.**

**Thanks for
remembering...**