



Barnegat Light Taxpayers' Association

www.barnegatlighttaxpayer.org

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings,

This Winter 2016 Newsletter is full of interesting articles and timely items of interest. Your Board of Trustees has been working diligently on your behalf, representing you in all things that occur in Barnegat Light.

Some notable matters that we have achieved in 2015 and upcoming changes for 2016 are:

In 2015:

- A new sound system was purchased for our general meetings.
- Our first ever Survey was distributed with our Membership Drive and Newsletter.
- The Survey results were shared with all members, Borough Council and are on our web site.
- Emails have been more forthcoming regarding local events, a direct result of your input on the survey.
- The attendance at our General Meetings was at an all-time high. The speakers were informative and enlightening on subjects that are of importance to all residents.
- We conducted an email survey regarding smoking on the beach. 291 people responded. The results are listed on our web site. We shared our results with the Borough Council and they appreciated our providing the feedback.

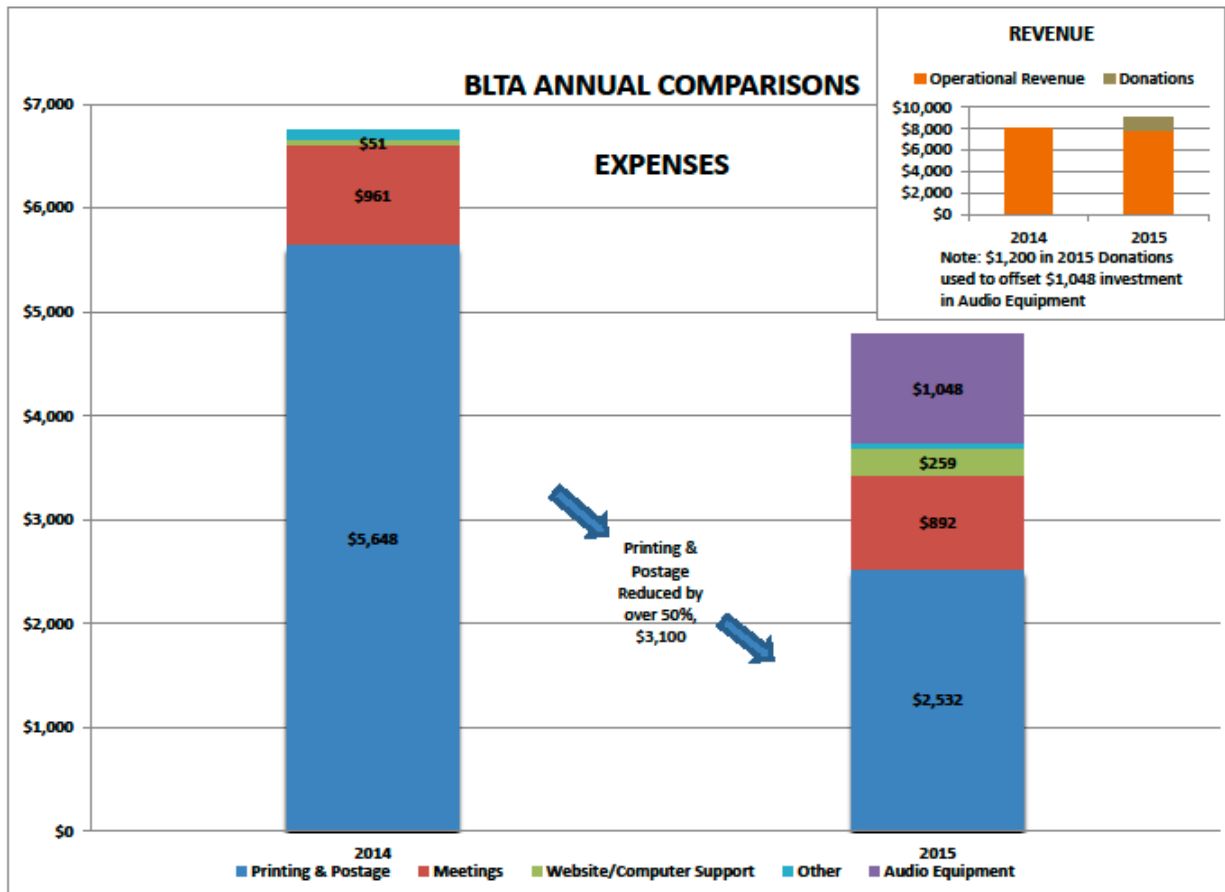
In 2016:

- The survey also prompted us to move our May General Meeting in 2016, to June, where we hope to have a greater number of members attend.
- Enclosed in this newsletter is our 2016 Survey. Please take the time to fill out the form and mail it back with your \$20.00 dues payment.
- The 2016 Survey answers will form the themes of each of our 3 General Meetings. Our Speaker Series will then be built around those themes.
- Recognizing that too much sun is not good for you, we will move all of our 2016 General Meetings to the First Aid Squad Building on 10th Street.
- As part of our desire to increase our membership, we have elevated the quality of our Newsletter and we hope you find it interesting and informative.
- We have also invested heavily in our Web Site www.barnegatlighttaxpayer.org and now have one of the best taxpayer websites on LBI. Please check this site out, as it's updated daily.
- We have attempted to communicate more frequently with you, via email and hope that you find it both interesting and helpful. As items of interest come up we will continue to notify you on a timely basis.

The Board and I hope to see you at one of our General Meetings this summer. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have a concern. If you would like to contact me, my email is: tennysonjm@verizon.net

Something that continues to amaze me is how passionate people are about Barnegat Light. There is a real sense that members of our community and its leaders, want to do what is right for our town and residents. We share that passion and will continue to advocate for you in a fair, balanced and transparent way.

Thank you, John Tennyson



Your First Aid Squad by Alan Thomas



The **Barnegat Light First Aid Squad** was founded in 1952 with a mission statement of “providing the best care to our patients both on arrival and during transport.” This is as true today as it was 63 years ago.

The squad responds to an average of 400 calls per year, and duties consist of responses, transporting patients, lift assists, and covering, when needed, for our neighboring communities.

Though the personnel of the **BLFAS** are members of the community who volunteer their time and expertise, there are significant costs incurred in the implementation of a fully equipped response system. Sources of funding for equipment and building maintenance include the Borough of Barnegat Light, as well as North Beach, Harvey Cedars, Loveladies and High Bar Harbor, as BLFAS services all of those areas. Additional monies are raised through fundraisers, as well as donations, primarily from homeowners.

The **BLFAS** would welcome any new applicants interested in volunteering as EMTs (Emergency Medical Technicians), either trained or willing to train through a provided course of study. There is a special need in the off-season, as many of the squad volunteers are not in Barnegat Light during the winter months.

About Town *by Dottie Reynolds*

Barnegat Light Mayor and Council Meetings in 2016 will be held the second Wednesday of each month in Borough Hall on East 7th Street. Work session caucus starts at 4:30 p.m with the regular meeting at 5:00 p.m. An open public session is held at every meeting when you are welcome to voice your comments and concerns.

New Faces and Familiar Faces in new positions: Who's Who in Borough Hall.



With the retirement of Gail Wetmore, who is thanked for her many years of service, we welcome Brenda Kuhn, who is our new Acting Municipal Clerk while she completes her certification as Municipal Clerk. Brenda will continue in her familiar role as tax collector. Elaine Tollison, who greets you as you enter borough hall, is now Administrative Clerk/Tax Clerk and Planning Board and Open Space Secretary. Kathy Guerrero, also in the front office, is the new Deputy Municipal Clerk/Tax Clerk and Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator and Recycling Coordinator. Ashley Darmon, replaced Paula Bastian as Assistant Treasurer. Paula left last year for a position in Eagleswood Township. Kathleen Flanagan remains our part time Chief Financial Officer and Payroll Clerk. We will all miss Al Oros (Big Al) in the Building Department. Al retired after many years and Jeffrey Washburn (Sponge) is now the Zoning/Construction Officer and Code Enforcement Officer. Working with him is Carol Kaye, the new Building Department Clerk.

Garbage pickups remain on Monday and Thursday and recycling pickup on scheduled Wednesdays. A recycling schedule and directory is available at Borough Hall. **PLEASE RECYCLE.** Recycling benefits the town with revenue from the sale of recyclables by the county and lower landfill solid waste tipping fees and - it is the law.

The Mayor and Council are discussing plans to assess water use charges by **water meters** to replace charging by number of spigots in your home.

The popular **LBI Shuttle Buses** will start running again later in the spring and summer from Barnegat Light to Holgate as a free service on the island.

The recent storm "Jonas" proved once again the value and importance of maintaining the **dune system** in Barnegat Light. Extensive damage did occur to beaches on other parts of the island.

New wooden walkways are being built and installed by public works from 23rd street north at **beach entrances** to replace walkways which have been in disrepair. From 24th street south, where the dunes are still building, a more flexible walkway is needed to adjust to the changing height and contour of the dunes. Until recent years, entrances at the south end of town were plowed out each spring making the paths flat and considerably lower than the dune on each side. This created a breach at the end of each street where the ocean could break through to the street and damage homes. In this past storm the ocean did wash over the entire beach, over the mounds created by the snow fencing and started up the dunes, illustrating the value of elevating the entrance paths. A plan is being developed for entrances at the south end.

We will continue the "**Welcome to Your Beach Walkway Fund**" for "Happy Feet, Flip Floppin' to the Beach." For each donation of \$135.00, which is more than matched by the town, an 8 foot section of Epi roll-up walkway will be placed to extend the walkway of your choice closer to the beachfront. Donors are listed on each street end.

Beaches will open Saturday June 11th on a limited number of beaches and June 18th on all beaches. Beaches will remain open through Labor Day and for a possible two weeks following.

Life guard tryouts will be held on Saturday June 4th.
Call borough hall at (609) 494-9196
to request an application.



About Town by Dottie Reynolds (Continued...)

Preseason Beach Badge prices will be \$30.00 until June 10th; after June 10th season badges are \$40, weekly:\$22, daily:\$5 and seniors: \$12 (over 65, must be purchased by the senior). Badges can be purchased at the Tennis/Beach Badge Booth located on 11th Street behind old borough hall or off-season at Borough Hall. There is an additional \$1.00 charge per badge for the convenience of purchasing a badge on the beach and as an incentive benefitting the badge checkers.

During the season when the beaches are open, the **Beach Tram** will be running along the foot of the dunes from 4th to 9th street to pick up beachgoers and take them to the guarded 9th-10th street beach. Hours are 10:00 to 1:00 and 2:00 to 5:00. Beach badges are necessary.

Beach Wheels for those with mobility problems can be reserved in summer by calling borough hall. The chairs have wide balloon tires for easier pushing in the sand. Handicapped access ramps are located at 9th and 29th streets.

The Barnegat Light Junior Lifeguard in Training (LIT) Program is offered to all 10 to 15 year old youths interested in learning water safety skills and/or being a future lifeguard. Interested participants will compete against participants in their age group from other towns in Island LIT competitions. Sessions will be held 10:00-12:00 Monday through Friday mornings from June 27th to July 15th and July 21st to August 12th. In each session the guards will train 75 LIT participants. The cost of \$100 includes a shirt, swim shorts and sweatshirt. If enrolling in both sessions, the second session is \$75, without new clothing. Applications are mailed out in February.

Call borough hall at (609) 494-9196 to request an application. Sessions fill up quickly.

Our **tennis courts** are in beautiful condition. A choice of two tennis court passes are available: \$80 for 10 court hours with reservation preference, and a \$75 season pass for a designated firm time and additional reservation preference. Take advantage of this opportunity. More details at Borough Hall.

Our **Dog Park and Baseball Field** provide another opportunity for the enjoyment of residents and tourists. Please respect others when using the field. At the dog park all dogs must be licensed, and sociable.

Please leave the park as clean, or cleaner, than you found it so that we can continue to offer this opportunity for you and your dog.

Lost or Found a dog or cat? Want to add a new best friend to your family? Barnegat Light is serviced by Stafford Animal Control, (609) 597-1000 and the Southern Ocean County Animal Shelter (609) 978-0127 located at 360 Haywood Road, Manahawkin and open 7 days a week except holidays, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. on Wednesdays.

The Borough participates in the **Trap, Neuter, Return program (TNR)** which has been proven world wide to be the most effective and humane way to control of stray/feral cats. Call (609) 207-9036 to reach a program volunteer or email LbiTnr@hotmail.com for spay/neuter information about outdoor community cats or to be a short term kitten foster so they can be rescued..

Thanks to all the outstanding volunteers in Barnegat Light, too numerous to name, who provide us with emergency services and are members of the many volunteer organizations that make this such a special place!



Report of the Committee on Open Space by Barbara Truncellito

The Borough of Barnegat Light has secured a bid to purchase the Coast Guard property for a sum of \$3.1 million dollars. At the time of this newsletter, the Bond had not yet been secured. That said, the Open Space tax, which was voted on in November 2008, has a fund of close to \$700,000 dollars. Part of this money will be used for the down payment and some will be used to tear down the current structures on the property. The amount accrued annually is approximately \$100,000 and this money will be used to pay back the loan. Any additional funding needed will be discussed and handled by the Borough Council.

The BLTA attended both Open Space and Borough Council meetings. Since, the purchase is made with Open Space funding the property will remain as open space. There are lots of ideas being discussed regarding the end use of the property, and we invite you to contribute your idea(s) by filling out our our enclosed survey. No final decisions have been made.

For up to date information on Open Space issues be sure to check the BLTA website at:
www.barnegatlighttaxpayer.org

Membership by Ed Ebenbach

Now that we've begun 2016, we are certain that you are also looking ahead with anticipation to Spring and Summer when we will again be able to fully enjoy Barnegat Light and the many attractions which it holds. At the **Barnegat Light Taxpayers' Association (BLTA)** we start each new year off with the opening of another Membership campaign. So let us quickly say that one of the best ways to anticipate the Spring and Summer that is coming is to join or rejoin BLTA.

BLTA's most important objective is to keep you apprised of 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:

- In season we hold three, well attended public meetings where your voice can be heard, and where you can exchange views with fellow community members and often the Mayor of Barnegat Light. We've even been known to have some fun at those meetings!
- We maintain a website loaded with information about Barnegat Light and postings of news of interest at www.barnegatlighttaxpayer.org
- We offer you the opportunity to express your opinion on matters of interest to the Barnegat Light community through a simple annual survey. The survey results are collated and analyzed and then presented first to BLTA members, and as appropriate also to Borough officials. We also use those results to guide us as we plan the programs for our public meetings.
- Our BLTA President sends regular e-mails highlighting then current issues
- We send occasional e-mails informing you of upcoming meetings, or to solicit your opinions on topics of interest
- And several members from BLTA regularly attend Borough Council meetings to keep both BLTA and its members apprised of happenings.

All of these efforts take money and time, and consequently, we are asking that you strongly consider becoming a member or rejoining us in 2016, for a mere \$20. In 2014 and 2015, fully 40% of the Borough's homeowners were members of BLTA, but we would like to reach 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 currently on record re: your individual Barnegat Light address(es), and 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. Right below the data you will also find the short, simple survey described above.


Your opinions on the matters raised by the **survey** would be much appreciated, and space has been left for you to add other items that you feel should be addressed.

Thank you for your past support and membership. We look forward to seeing you at one of our Meetings in 2016.

Little Free Library



Coming soon
to
10th Street

 **Become part of the project!**

Email Mary Ann Crutchlow (macrutch@gmail.com) to add your name to the committee list. Both year round and seasonal residents will be needed. Once the box has been installed, the LFL Committee will be in charge of book selection, rotation, and box supervision.

What is a Little Free Library?

It's a "take a book, return a book" gathering place where neighbors share their favorite literature and stories. In its most basic form, a Little Free Library is a box full of books where anybody may stop by and pick up a book (or two) and bring back another book to share.

All cost and maintenance will be handled by the
Barnegat Light Taxpayers' Association
Plans call for box installation in the spring.

Visit Your Website

Kimberly Patterson

www.barnegatlighttaxpayer.org

Great look...

Easy to navigate...

More active this year than ever...

Thanks to all of you, the number of online users visiting the BLTA website increased from 87 in December, 2014, to 303 in December, 2015, with the high point at 1784 in May as the summer season approached..

In 2016 we want to hear from you!

Our goal is to keep our website fresh – current as well as informative. You'll find news and a load of great information and tips that will come in handy. In addition to the BLTA Meeting and Membership Information, other noteworthy items you can find on the BLTA site include,

On the **Homeowners** tab:

- Current news and information
- BLTA newsletters – most recent and archived
- Things to Do – fun stuff in Barnegat Light
- Local and Administrative Info
- links to newspapers, government websites, borough and local government, School Board Info, environmental websites, LBI Shuttle

If there is anything that you would like to see on the site, please let us know – send us a note by visiting the website contact page:

<http://barnegatlighttaxpayer.org/contact-us-2/>

BLTA General Meeting Dates

Mark your calendar...

June 18, 9:30am

July 16, 10 am - light lunch following

September 17, 9:30am

All meetings will be held at the Barnegat Light First Aid Squad building on 10th Street.

BLTA

P.O. Box 342

Barnegat Light, NJ 08006

2015-2016

Officers

President: John Tennyson

Vice President: Ed Ebenbach

Secretary: Kimberly Patterson

Treasurer: Bruce Allen

Trustees

William Chnelich

Mary Ann Crutchlow

Alan Thomas

Barbara Truncellito

Ex Officio

Steve Danatos

Sarah Lambert

Richard Malacrea

Steve Rabbit

Dottie Reynolds

Mary T. Schwartz

Scott Sharpless