



# Barnegat Light Taxpayers' Association

[www.barnegatlighttaxpayer.org](http://www.barnegatlighttaxpayer.org)

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

### **Greetings,**

This 2018 Winter Newsletter is full of interesting articles and timely items of interest. There are many new and exciting things occurring in Barnegat Light at the time of this writing. Some notable matters that were achieved in 2017 and upcoming changes for 2018 are:

### **In 2017:**

- Our membership for 2017 reached an all-time high of 544. We have 800 active email addresses for members and nonmembers. The number of registered voters who are members stands at 49.6 percent.
- Our web site underwent a complete overhaul with a new, clean, fresh and easier to navigate format and if you have not visited the site lately, please go to and bookmark: [www.barnegatlighttaxpayer.org](http://www.barnegatlighttaxpayer.org).
- With the parking ban on Central Avenue more people have been riding their bikes to the beach. The addition of our BLTA purchased bike racks were heavily used all summer.
- 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.
- The Board voted unanimously to help our fellow citizens in Puerto Rico, who were devastated by Hurricanes. A \$1,000.00 donation was made to the Archbishop of San Juan, a Franciscan Friar.
- We added to the Little Free Library, with a Children's box this year. This take-a-book/leave-a-book deposit is located outside the Post Office on 10<sup>th</sup> street. Its contents are updated all year long and it has been a huge success with heavy usage in the summer months

### **In 2018:**

- 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.
- Board members continue to attend Borough Council Meetings and maintain a good deal of communication with the Council as we all strive for better things in our town.
- Our Speaker Series for our 3 General Meetings is starting to take shape. We hope to have informative, interesting and timely topics covered. We will email you and post flyers around town announcing our speakers.
- Our 2018 General Meetings will be held at the First Aid squad building on 10<sup>th</sup> Street. We are investigating having our July meeting at the new Pavilion. If the Board decides to do this, we will make that announcement in plenty of time. Watch for an announcement this summer.
- The 2018 survey theme for this year is "Obtaining current information about Barnegat Light" and our survey will be conducted on-line using Survey Monkey or you can fill it out and mail it back with your membership form and check. More information is in the Newsletter.
- Your Board of Trustees will be hosting a Wine & Cheese "Meet and Greet the officers of the BLTA"; more information is included inside.
- And finally, a very special Thank You, to all of our First Responders, our behind the scenes Public Works staff and especially to the ladies in the Borough office who make this special place run efficiently. When you visit the Borough office, please say Hello and Thank You to Brenda, Kathy, Elaine and Ashley, as they never hear that enough.

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](mailto:tennysonjm@verizon.net)

Thank you, John Tennyson, President of the ***Barnegat Light Taxpayers' Association***.

## Membership 2018 by Ed Ebenbach

At the *Barnegat Light Taxpayer's Association* (BLTA) we start each year off with the opening of another Membership campaign. We believe that one of the best ways to anticipate the coming Spring and Summer is to join or rejoin 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. And you know we also have some fun at those meetings!
- In addition to our **website**, we offer a BLTA members-only **Facebook page** 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 our **annual survey**. The survey results are collated and analyzed and then presented to BLTA members, and shared with Borough officials. This year you will be able to complete the survey on-line (if we have your e-mail address) or manually - your choice.
- Our BLTA President sends **regular e-mails highlighting current issues**
- And **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 2018**, again for a mere \$20. In 2017, 45% of the Borough's homeowners were members of BLTA, and 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.

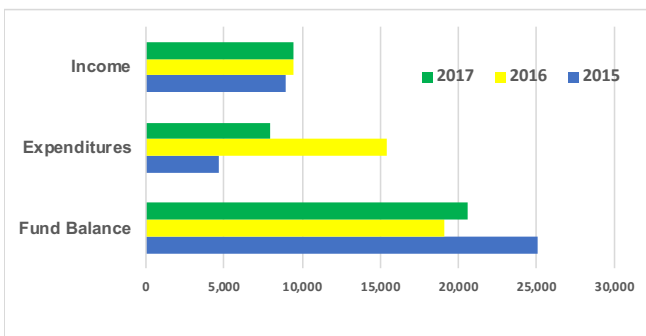
With this Newsletter you will find a form which lists out the data we have for your individual Barnegat Light address, and we are asking for your help in making sure that our data is accurate. We would particularly appreciate having an updated e-mail address (or addresses) in order to improve our ability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

We **thank you** for your ongoing support, and look forward to seeing you at our 2018 meetings.

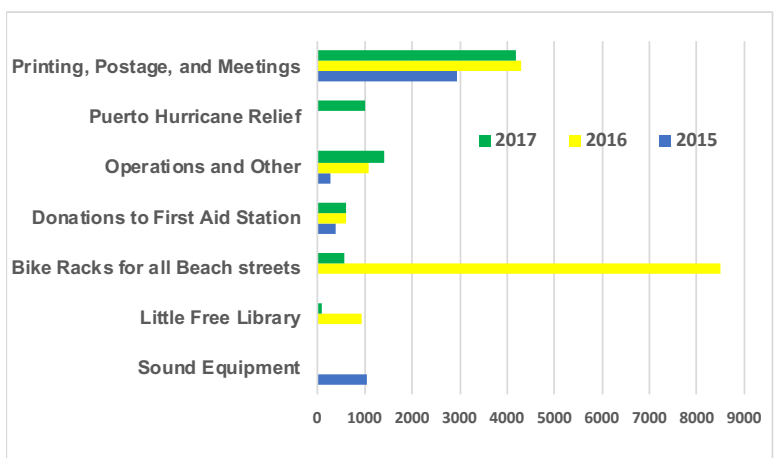
The **Barnegat Light Junior Lifeguard in Training (LIT)** Program for all 10 to 15 year old youths interested in learning water safety skills and/or being a future lifeguard. Two three-week sessions are held 10:00-12:00 Monday through Friday mornings from 6/25-7/13 and 7/16-8/3. The cost of \$100 includes shirt, swim shorts and sweatshirt. If enrolling in both sessions, the second session is \$75, without new clothing. Applications are available online on the BL webpage, documents, LIT site, or BLBP Facebook or BL beach patrol.

## BLTA Treasurer's Report Bill Chernelich

Fund Activity for 2017, 2016 and 2015



Analysis of Expenditures for 2017, 2016 and 2015



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## *About Town* by Dottie Reynolds

**Mayor and Council Meetings** are open to the public the second Wednesday of each month in Borough Hall on East 7<sup>th</sup> Street. Work session caucus starts at 4:30 p.m. followed by our regular meeting at 5:00 p.m. You are welcome to voice your comments and concerns during the public session held at every meeting.

### **Messages from your Mayor and Council:**

#### **Kirk Larson, Mayor**

Best wishes for a happy, healthy and successful 2018 to our taxpayers! We look forward to another wonderful year in Barnegat Light.

We thank **George Warr** for his many years as a dedicated councilman in Barnegat Light. George is now enjoying retirement in Florida. **Michael Spark** is the new **Finance Committee Chairman** and was reelected as **Council President**. We welcome **Mary Ellen Foley** as the newly elected councilwoman who will replace Michael as the chair of the **Water/ Sewer Committee**.

**An update on fishing in BL:** Commercial fishing looks promising this year. East Coast Fishery preservation efforts have been rewarded as commercial quotas have increased over last year. Concern this season surrounds our recreational fishing as a result of the new administration changes in our NJ state government. Hopefully rumors of more DEP regulations will not impede the recreational fishing, a major part of life in BL.

#### **Michael Spark, Council President and Chairman of Finance**

Thank you to all taxpayers in Barnegat Light for paying their taxes promptly, which resulted in a municipal tax collection rate of 99.7%... Outstanding! I am working with the Mayor and Council to prepare a responsible budget for the 2018 year.

#### **Mary Ellen Foley, Chairperson of Water Sewer**

First, let's thank the Borough employees who assisted residents and businesses during the recent water main breaks. Extreme cold weather combined with severe wind chills caused some water mains to burst. Thanks to our Borough office personnel that managed the details and notified those affected, and thanks to the DPW employees who responded to the breaks at all hours...job well done!

Barnegat Light will be deploying our first wireless water meters at approximately 77 commercial accounts starting next month. This manageable number of meters will allow us to understand the software, evaluate the meter's performance, and assess the interface with the team that is monitoring our BL accounts.

In addition to tracking actual water usage, the water meters will also let us know if a property has a sudden surge of water intake which might exist if a pipe, dishwasher line or washing machine hose has burst. This way the Borough can notify the homeowner and/or turn off the water before too much damage is done.

Residential meters will follow the commercial deployment. All residents are asked to PLEASE find and mark your water meter. If you cannot find it, the DPW will mark the street where our records indicate the water line enters your property, and you will be required to hire a plumber or other professional to find your meter.

Unlike other towns on LBI, Barnegat Light will not charge homeowners for the new meters – the costs will be covered by the Borough. So far two alternatives are under consideration for situations where wireless is an impossibility. Details to follow as we evaluate the potential solutions.

#### **Ed Wellington, Chairman of Docks and Harbors**

Three major bayside projects that will see completion in 2018: new Borough boat slip docks, dredging of our BL channel from the 10<sup>th</sup> St ramp to the 7<sup>th</sup> St bulkhead, and the new Pavilion.

First, the complete replacement of the boat slips with commercial grade floating docks and fingers. The slips

*Continued ...*

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## *About Town* by Dottie Reynolds Continued...

are currently under construction at the manufacturer, with delivery expected during the month of February and installation in early April to be available for the coming season.

Second, the long-awaited dredging project for the Barnegat Light Channel at the boat slips and liveries was successfully completed in December, allowing for safe navigation for our recreational boaters.

And finally, construction of the Pavilion project on the Bayview Avenue property between 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> streets is well underway, with completion of Phase 1 expected by May. Our summer concerts are going to be held at the Pavilion, and plans are being developed to construct bathrooms on the site later in the year. "Port-a-johns" will be available starting in the spring.

### **Frank Mikuletzky, Chairman of Public Safety**

A reminder to sign up for **NIXLE** to receive notifications of emergencies, road conditions, power outages, etc. Add your name by clicking the **NIXLE** tab on the Barnegat Light website. Also, call borough hall with your house number to be put on a **confidential list for hearing or mobility impaired persons** for use in emergencies. Be sure your house number is displayed prominently to be easily seen by emergency personnel. Volunteers are needed on the first aid squad and volunteer fire company. Consider joining.

### **Scott Sharpless, Chairman of Public Works**

Plans are in the works for a new skateboard park to be built on the current location.

**Kudos** to DPW workers that worked 24+ hour schedules to clear BL streets of snow!

**Recycling and Garbage pickup schedules** and recycling decals for cans are available in Borough Hall. Recyclables cannot be disposed of in plastic bags. No plastic caps on water bottles.

### **Dottie Reynolds, Chairperson of Beaches and Parks**

Beaches are scheduled to open Saturday June 9<sup>th</sup> on a limited number of guarded beaches and June 16<sup>th</sup> on all beaches! **Beach badge prices** remain the same as last year - preseason \$30.00/badge until June 9<sup>th</sup>; after June 9<sup>th</sup> season badges are \$40. Badges can be purchased at the Tennis/Beach Badge Booth located on 11<sup>th</sup> Street behind old borough hall or off-season at Borough Hall. An additional \$1.00 is charged 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 4<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> 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 by calling borough hall. **Handicapped access ramps** are located at 9<sup>th</sup> and 29th streets.

**Tennis Courts** are free for players with a season beach badge, or for \$10 an hour without badges.- 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. More details at Borough Hall. The **Pickle Ball** court on 10<sup>th</sup> Street adjacent to the basketball court is free with a season beach badge.

Our **dog park** requires a personal entry swipe card, renewed annually, to open the gate lock. A dog license or rabies certificate must be shown to receive a card. The card is free to borough residents, \$30 for out of town dogs. A one week pass is \$15. An orange tag is supplied for your dog's collar. Parks 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..

**Stray cats** visiting your yard? Borough participates in the **Trap, Neuter, Return program (TNR)** the most effective and humane way to reduce the stray/feral cat population. Call the TNR hotline (609) 339-9453 for help or to volunteer as a kitten foster.

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## *Living Year-round in Barnegat Light*

by  
Philip Kahn

Buying my house in Barnegat Light in January 2016 fulfilled a long-time dream. I had come down for childhood vacations, starting in 1967. As much as I loved being “in Barnegat”, I always felt sad leaving. It was a true “happy place.” It occurred to me that if I ever had the wherewithal (financially and otherwise) to not have to leave—to live “in Barnegat” year-round—I would do it.

So, I did. And what has it been like? Well, as everybody will tell you, it’s really quiet in the off-season. There are times when you’ll see no cars on the road in either direction. You pass an active household intermittently. If you are looking for nightlife, you might want to look elsewhere.



Sure, it’s all that—but it’s a lot more. The beauty of Barnegat Light remains all year round. The sunsets are different than in the summer, but no less picturesque as the sun’s light angles from the south and creates a long, arching glow travelling low across the sky. That afternoon light reflects beautifully on the beach and the shoreline.

And, while it’s comparatively quiet, there is a strong year-round community here. As everyone knows, Barnegat Light has a significant commercial fishing and scalloping industry. There are always people biking and running, passing on almost every street at least two or three active full-time residences. Judging from the weekend increase in both cars and people, a lot of non-residents seem to come down throughout the year. The regular visit to the post office always finds people picking up their mail, checking the Little Free Library box, and catching up.

There is also a lot more to do on the island in the off-season than one might expect. Events going on in the various island communities include holiday parades that get a great and festive turnout. Many businesses in Barnegat Light and nearby towns are open year-round. Mainland shopping becomes easier with traffic lights off and speed limits up.

I thought that meeting people would be a challenge. Instead, one of the nicest parts of my experience as a full-time Barnegat Light resident has been the friendships that my wife and I have been able to make here. We have wonderful neighbors on our street. Staff at Kubel's made us feel welcome right away, and we have met so many interesting and friendly people, including local business owners and many “true” lifelong islanders. Through those friendships, my wife and I were lucky enough to have been invited on the fishing boat of a local renowned commercial fisherman participating in the yearly “Blessing of the Fleet,” a thrilling experience.

The “stay connected” features offered by modern technology comprise, I think, an important factor that mitigates against any isolation that one might otherwise feel coming from, say, a city to a quiet off-season island community. Personally, technology allows me to work remotely 3-4 days out of the week without leaving “home.”

When I, and later, my wife (we were married at the Surf City Yacht Club in October 2017) made the commitment to live in Barnegat Light full-time, I wondered if I would embrace the “sea change.” I can say, after a couple of years, that when I travel back up to New York City for work or some other reason, I can’t wait to get back “home”—which is now Barnegat Light.

**BLTA 2018 General Meetings**

9:30 AM

**June 9 - July 14 - September 15**

First Aid Squad Building, 10th Street

**Mark your calendar!**

**The popular LBI shuttle buses will run again this summer from Barnegat Light to Holgate. Schedule available on the LBI Shuttle app.**

**Website Redesign 2018**

Check it out -

[www.barnegatlighttaxpayer.org](http://www.barnegatlighttaxpayer.org)

For up to date information on subjects of particular interest to you, the homeowners in Barnegat Light.

**News Tab:** for links to latest area news and events**Homeowners Tab:** Homeowner Information, Resident Survey, Local and Administrative, Bay and Ocean, Things to Do**Meeting and Membership Information Tabs:**

Including printable Membersip form

FRIDGE CARD



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

[www.barnegatlight.org](http://www.barnegatlight.org)**Bay Beach Facelift**

by Rich Brodman

The Barnegat Light Bay Beach, which has been a real gem for our families who have young children, will be getting some much needed sprucing up this spring. At the last Beaches and Parks Committee meeting in October, the bay beach received a lot of attention. Upgrades will include grading to improve drainage, new sand, new gravel for the parking lot and a good spring cleaning. We all look forward to this, for the enjoyment of our children and grandchildren.

**Mark Your Calendar!**

**Wine and Cheese  
Saturday, June 16  
5 to 7 PM**

**Where? Fireman's Hall**

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

**Let's celebrate our great little town!****Sign up for Nixle alerts.**

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

[local.nixle.com/register/](http://local.nixle.com/register/)

**Join the Barnegat Light Summer Work Force** of beach badge checkers, booth attendants, public works employees, tram drivers, boat ramp attendants and lifeguards. Call Borough Hall for an application (609) 494-9196.

*Photo courtesy of Rich Brodman*