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## **Berkeley Heights Newsletter - March 2019**

Welcome to the Berkeley Heights Newsletter, created by the Berkeley Heights Communications Committee to provide residents with an easy way to learn about what's happening in town. Watch for it in your inbox ([sign up here](#)) or pick up a paper copy at Town Hall, the Library or at Senior meetings.

Comments? Suggestions? Please send them to: [BHCommunications@bhtwp.com](mailto:BHCommunications@bhtwp.com)

## **Township Updates**

### **New Website**

On Tuesday, March 26, Berkeley Heights Township launched Phase One of its new [website](#), with a new name: BerkeleyHeights.gov, designed to give residents easier access to Township information and services. Created by the Berkeley Heights Communications Committee working closely with Township employees, the new website offers a modern, resident-focused design that is easily accessible via mobile.

Residents will immediately benefit from a new search function that makes it easier to find information site-wide, including content contained in agendas and meeting minutes. Phase One also includes a new calendar that residents can set to show only the types of events they're interested in and receive notifications for--everything from the Township's Memorial Day parade to Town Council, Zoning Board, and Environmental Commission meetings.

The Committee will schedule training sessions for interested residents to learn more about the new website and ask any questions they may have about the new notifications and account set-up features among others.

### **Mayor's Corner Update**

Please see Mayor Devanney's [March Update](#) in TAPinto Berkeley Heights. **Mayor's Corner** is a new column written by Mayor Devanney as one of the avenues the administration uses to communicate directly with Township residents. She welcomes feedback and ideas for improving our town; please feel free to email her directly at [adevanney@bhtwp.com](mailto:adevanney@bhtwp.com).

### **Message from the Township Administrator**

Pothole you want to report? Downed trees in a street? Something else that needs the Township's attention? PLEASE report issues [here](#). Those submissions get funneled to the proper department head so they can attend to them. Please set up an account on the website before you report an issue, so the Township has a record of who reported the

concern (for follow up). Only basic information is required (Name, Address, Email) and your information will not be shared in ANY way!

### **Pay Your Taxes Without Lifting a Finger**

The Township now offers you the ability to pay your quarterly taxes through a pre-authorized electronic payment system. In the same way many residents may have utility payments, mortgage payments or credit-card payments automatically deducted from their accounts electronically, you soon can have withdrawals taken from their checking, savings, or money market accounts. The only requirement is for you to fill out the "Authorization Agreement for Pre-Authorized payments through the Automated Clearing House (ACH)" form. This form is available on our website at the link [here](#) or can be picked up at the Tax Collector's Office, located at 29 Park Avenue, Berkeley Heights. Residents can learn more [here](#).

### **Bulk Pickup**

The Township is going out to bid for a vendor for bulk pickup this year. The bid opening will be on April 10th; the Township will choose the lowest, responsible bidder. The contract with the selected vendor will be on the agenda for approval at the April 23 Council meeting. [More info](#) on dates and logistics will be advertised as soon we get them; pickup is tentatively scheduled for the latter part of May.

### **e-Waste and Styrofoam Recycling**

DPW is enabling residents to dispose of electronics and Styrofoam in an environmentally responsible way. On April 6th from 9 am to 12 pm, please bring your electronics and #6 Styrofoam, along with your driver's license to the DPW garage, located on Berkeley Avenue, off of Park Avenue near the construction of the municipal complex, behind Town Hall.

### **Spring Chipping Program**

Beginning April 8, the Township will start its Spring chipping program. This program is for yard branch clean up only and is not intended to be used as a tree disposal program. Please see more details and the schedule [here](#). Please contact DPW with any questions prior to putting out your branches at 908-464-2700, ext. 2123.

### **Municipal Complex**

[Please check here](#) for regular weekly updates and photos.

### **Recycling Schedule**

REMINDER: ***The Township is now divided into two sections for recycling pickup.*** Snyder Avenue/Horseshoe Road is the dividing line between the East and West sides of Berkeley Heights.

**Pickup will occur every other Wednesday for streets East of Snyder Ave (toward Summit) and every other Thursday for streets West of Snyder Avenue (toward Warren).** Both sides of Snyder and Horseshoe will be picked up on Wednesdays.

[Full 2019 schedule with East & West dates is online.](#)

Specific questions can be sent directly to Giordano at ([service@gogreengiordano.com](mailto:service@gogreengiordano.com) or call 800-216-2250) for the most up-to-date information. Read a summary of [Recycling "Do's and Don'ts"](#).

**April 2019 Recycling Dates:**

- EAST: April 3, 17
- WEST: April 4, 18

### **Township Council Meeting Schedule**

Township Council meetings take place at Town Hall (29 Park Avenue) at 7 pm.

#### ***Upcoming Township Council meetings:***

- April 2, 23
- May 7, 21

#### ***Upcoming Planning Board meetings:***

- April 3, 17
- May 1, 15

## **Committee & Board Updates**

### **Peppertown Park Committee**

**Art For The Park**--The Peppertown Park Committee will be hosting a fundraiser for the redevelopment of [Peppertown Park](#) on Saturday, May 11th, 2019 from 12pm to 5pm at Columbia Middle School.

Come experience Berkeley Heights and support our beautiful Peppertown Park renewal project while you meet top artistic talent, view their artwork, and socialize with others in our amazing community. Children can participate in the interactive art garden where they can paint a birdhouse, create sand art, spin art, fingerprint canvas art, face painting, rock painting, and more!

New Jersey Artists both amateur and professional, 18 years of age and older, are invited to display and sell their art AND keep 100% of their profits! Artists can register at <https://www.entrythingy.com/www.peppertownpark.com>

All who attend are welcome to contribute their artistic expression on our collaborative community canvas. Adding to the day will be delicious food, 50/50 raffle, art auctions and live art demonstrations.

### **Berkeley Heights Environmental Commission (BHEC)**

#### **Clean Up of Passaic River Park is a Huge Success**

On St. Patrick's Day, residents turned out to "go green" by collecting litter along the Passaic River in Passaic River Park. Community members - young and old - participated. The event, sponsored by the Berkeley Heights Innovation and Sustainability Alliance (Sustainable Berkeley Heights) was a huge success, with residents collecting 11 bags of trash, nine bags of garbage, piles of construction materials, and a heap of other trash. For pictures and to read more about this clean up, please visit [TapInto](#).

#### **Everything and the Kitchen Sink found at Clean Up of Snyder Avenue and Snyder Avenue Park**

There is truth to the saying that you find everything and the kitchen sink during a litter cleanup event. On Sunday, March 24, residents gathered at Snyder Avenue Park and cleaned up the street area from the park to the Bank of America building, on both sides of the road. The children who participated found all sorts of interesting objects cast aside in the woods adjacent to the turf field. Adults who ventured to the Passaic River tributary picked up bottles, papers, cigarette butts, and, yes, a kitchen sink that had been thrown into the waterway. In total, the group gathered 84.3 pounds of trash and 44.0 pounds of

recyclables, for a whopping total of 138.3 pounds of litter collected. This event was a collaborative effort among Val's Valiants, the Berkeley Heights Innovation and Sustainability Alliance (Sustainable Berkeley Heights), the Berkeley Heights Environmental Commission, and the Berkeley Heights Downtown Beautification Committee.

### **Join Us Sunday, April 7 from 2-4 p.m. to Clean Up on Watchung Way**

If you weren't able to make the two clean ups in March - and even if you were! - please come join Val's Valiants, the Berkeley Heights Innovation and Sustainability Alliance (Sustainable Berkeley Heights), the Berkeley Heights Environmental Commission, and the Berkeley Heights Downtown Beautification Committee to clean up the street and wooded area along Watchung Way, between Horseshoe Road and the long driveway leading up to Runnells Center for Rehabilitation and Healthcare. Bags and gloves will be provided. Just bring yourself (and wear jeans and appropriate footwear!).

### **Adopt a Trex Bin**

The BHEC is seeking interested local businesses or other organizations to "adopt" a Trex bin for thin film plastics collection at one of the following six existing Trex bin locations in high traffic areas of Berkeley Heights: (1) the library; (2) the police station; (3) Governor Livingston High School; (4) Columbia Middle School; (5) the YMCA; and (6) Pet Supplies Plus. The business or group will be required to visit their Trex bins several times a week, collect the contents, and transport the contents to ACME in New Providence on a regular, continuous basis.

As a tradeoff for adopting a Trex bin, the BHEC will allow these businesses or groups the opportunity to use their adopted Trex bin as advertising space for their business or organization. To date, residents have contributed over 3,500 pounds of thin film plastics to these bins. Please contact the BHEC by completing the form at <http://bh-ec.org/> if you or your business is interested in this opportunity.

### **Board of Health**

Helpful updates to keep you healthy:

- Union County's NJCEED Cancer Screening Program provides FREE breast, cervical, and colorectal cancer screening for uninsured and underinsured women, AND FREE prostate and colorectal cancer screening for uninsured and underinsured men. Call a participating provider to determine if you qualify, and to make an appointment. In Elizabeth - Trinitas Regional Medical Center at 908-994-8244, and Neighborhood Health Services Corp at 908-355-4459. In Plainfield - Neighborhood Health Services Corp at 908-753-6401.
- Learn to Control Your Diabetes - Free six-week workshop at the Kenilworth Public Library (48 Boulevard, Kenilworth) on April 25, May 2, 9, 16, 23, 30. Register by calling Jarmaine Williams at 732-955-8168

## **Community Updates & Events**

### **Berkeley Heights Community Pool - Berkeley Heights YMCA**

The YMCA has been working to reach agreements with the following neighboring pools to ensure all BH residents who are looking for a home pool this summer have one; the Berkeley Heights Community Pool will not be open until the Summer of 2020. Here are a few updates:

[Berkeley Swim Club](#) – Bond fee will be waived for BHCP members!!! Membership info and applications available here: <https://www.berkeleyswimclub.com/Membership-Info>

[Mountainside Community Pool](#) - Berkeley Heights residents are offered memberships at the residents' rates as the Berkeley Heights pool is undergoing renovations this summer.

[Please check here](#) for more info on alternate pools for the 2019 swim season.

### **Senior Club Update (Ages 55+)**

Please join the "Seniors" at their weekly meetings - Tuesdays at 10:30am at Mount Carmel (56 River Road). All welcome, working or retired. Everyone 55 and over is invited and encouraged to attend our meetings, 2019 trips and loads of parties.

Berkeley Heights has a 22-passenger senior bus equipped with a wheelchair lift. Three days a week it picks up seniors who want to run errands along Springfield Avenue or attend Senior Club meetings and other social events run by the Senior Club each month. [Here](#) is the link to where you can find the online schedule. For information on senior activities, trips or clubs, please contact Joan Luciano at 908.665.9604 or email [grandmaluciano@gmail.com](mailto:grandmaluciano@gmail.com).

### **Berkeley Heights Public Library**

#### **April Events**

- **Paper Plate Story Times (Ages 3-5)**
  - Tuesdays, April 2 and 16 from 9:30 am to 10 am
- **Toy Time Stories (Ages 3-5)**
  - Tuesdays, April 23, 30 from 9:30 am to 10 am
- **Good Tyme String Band (All ages)**
  - Tuesday, April 9 from 10:30 to 11 am
- **Baby Time (Ages 0-24 months)**
  - Thursdays, April 4, 11, 18, 25 from 9:30 am to 10 am
- **Lego Play (Ages 4 and up)**
  - Wednesday, April 17 from 2:30 pm to 3:30 pm
- **Magic Show By Amazing & Amusing Mark Zacharia (All ages)**
  - Thursday, April 18 from 3pm to 3:45 pm
- **Poem in Your Pocket Day to celebrate National Poetry Month**
  - Thursday, April 18
- **Earth Day Drop-in Craft (All ages)**
  - Monday, April 22 from 2pm to 8pm
- **Drop-In Craft: Envelope Bunnies (All ages)**
  - April 8-20

### **The Junior League of Summit**

The group is looking for residents or organizations in Berkeley Heights that would have insight to the needs of our community and would like to be part of a discussion as to how local non-profits can both help each other and serve those in need.

The commitment is only two meetings per year and to be part of an ongoing dialogue on how to make our community a better place. Please contact Susan Poage at [spoage@bhtwp.com](mailto:spoage@bhtwp.com) if you are interested. This a small way to make a big difference!

### **Berkeley Heights Diversity Council Events (BHDC)**

**Community Suppers:** The BHDC launched Community Suppers earlier this year. Turning our words into action, we encourage residents to host Berkeley Heights

Community Suppers. These Suppers bring together small groups of friends, in a casual and safe space to intentionally discuss local and national happenings, and how we can build a stronger community together. To learn more about Community Suppers, please like the [BHDC Facebook page](#) or email [BHdiversity@gmail.com](mailto:BHdiversity@gmail.com).

**BHDC Members and Volunteer Opportunities** - The BHDC is looking for volunteers and new members who may be interested in hosting a Community Supper, planning an event and/or becoming an active participant in events and spreading the message of diversity and inclusion for all in Berkeley Heights.

### **Berkeley Heights Board of Education**

#### **Full Day Kindergarten (FDK)**

Interim Superintendent of Schools Richard Noonan introduced a presentation on full-day kindergarten at the March 14 school board meeting. To see the complete slide presentation, visit the school district [website here](#). The School Board is considering a FDK pilot program for 20 children in each of two classes in the 2020-2021 school year and possibly implementing FDK for all Kindergarten students in the 2021-2022 school year. In the meantime, the New Jersey State legislature is looking at making FDK mandatory.

#### **School Taxes to Rise 2.63%**

On March 14, residents were told that the tentative Board of Education budget for the 2019-2020 school year is \$51,039,288 -- \$1,302,387 higher than the previous year's budget. For the owner of the average home in the township, the school tax portion of their property tax bill will go up \$189 this year, the equivalent of \$15.75 a month. The budget does not include funding for the proposed updating of the media centers or the full-day kindergarten program discussed earlier in the meeting. A copy of the slide presentation can be found on the school district's website [here](#).

For questions about FDK or the school budget, please reach out to the Board of Education Secretary, Mrs. Donna Felezzola, at [dfelezzola@bhpsnj.org](mailto:dfelezzola@bhpsnj.org)

### **Berkeley Heights PTO**

#### **2019 Highlander Band Basket Raffle**

The GL Band Parent Organization is hosting a raffle on Friday, April 5 from 6:30pm-8:30pm. Entrance fee of \$15 includes tickets, dessert and drink! Email [glmarchingband@gmail.com](mailto:glmarchingband@gmail.com) for more information or visit [www.highlanderband.org](http://www.highlanderband.org).

### **Mount Carmel Society of Berkeley Heights**

Breakfast with the Easter Bunny will be held on Sunday, April 14 from 8am-1pm at 65 River Road. A full breakfast will be served and there will also be an Easter egg hunt! Tickets are available at [MtCarmel.ticketbud.com](http://MtCarmel.ticketbud.com) or at the door.

### **18th Annual Mother's Day 5K**

Wharton Institute for the Performing Arts will be hosting the 18th Annual Mother's Day 5K will be held on Sunday, May 12th from 8am-10:30am at Memorial Field in Berkeley Heights. For more information, visit [WhartonArts.org](http://WhartonArts.org).

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