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Berkeley Heights Newsletter - February 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

Township Updates

Mayor's Corner Update

Please see Mayor Devanney's [February 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.

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. That is the sure way we will know of your issue and address it as efficiently and effectively as possible. Thank you!

Recycling Task Force

Mayor Devanney announced the creation of a Recycling Taskforce, which will explore options to bring down costs of our increased recycling budget. With new restrictive regulation recycling changes, China is no longer accepting certain materials and wants others to be cleaner. The result is a 142.9 % increase in the Township's recycling budget.

The Task Force will generate a final report of recommendations and present it to the Mayor and TC at the first meeting of the TC in July 2019, to allow the Township ample time to bid/rebid the recycling contract in advance of the existing contract end date.

The Recycling Task Force shall consist of 9 members which shall include the Mayor, Council President, 3 members of the Environmental Commission appointed by the Mayor; and 4 members of the public, who shall be residents of the Township appointed by the Mayor. Interested? Please contact Council President Alvaro Medeiros at amedeiros@bhtwp.com.

Union County Transportation Advisory Board Volunteer Needed!

Transportation enthusiasts wanted! There is 1 alternate position available on the Union County Transportation Advisory Board. Purpose of this board is to provide for a balanced transportation system which most effectively meets the economic, social, energy and environmental needs of the County and surrounding region.

This board will be the principal conduit for local and citizen input into the local transportation planning process, and to advise the Board of Chosen Freeholders on transportation issues. 1-year term, meeting every 2 months. Please contact Mayor Devanney at adevanney@bhtwp.com if interested.

Relief for Drainage Woes in the Works!

Our township engineer and DPW director have been assessing some of the worst parts of town as it relates to drainage, visiting residents' homes to get first-hand accounts of the flooding issues.

The township will soon be launching a drainage study to determine the most effective course of action to address and remediate the antiquated infrastructure that is largely contributing to the frequent flooding in some areas. Working with our waste water treatment plant director, we will assess how quickly we can get started.

Municipal Complex

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

Warren Proposed Development

There will be a public hearing and final adoption on 2 affordable housing ordinances that will set the zoning requirements for the K. Hovnanian and Premier project sites, both located on Hillcrest Road related to affordable housing, this Thursday, Feb. 28, 7pm – 9pm at the Warren Municipal Court Bldg, Susan B. Boyce Meeting Room, 44 Mountain Blvd. Berkeley Heights pushed to have several important stipulations included in these ordinance--numbers 19-07 and 19-08.

Please read a [summary of the recent filings, issues raised and court decisions](#).

Background on this issue can be found on the [Berkeley Heights Township website](#)

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 or call 1-800-216-2250) for the most up-to-date information. Read a summary of [Recycling](#)

"Do's and Don'ts".

March 2019 Recycling Dates:

- EAST: March 6, 20
- WEST: March 7, 21

Township Council Meeting Schedule

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

Upcoming Township Council meetings:

- March 5, 19
- April 2, 16

Township Council Budget meetings:

- March 4, 18
- April dates TBD

Upcoming Planning Board meetings:

- March 6, 20
- April 3, 17

Committee & Board Updates

Board of Health

Helpful updates to keep you healthy:

- It's flu season. Please remember to wash away germs by making sure to scrub hands and wrists for at least 20 seconds while washing.
- Union County's NJCEED Cancer Screening Program provides FREE breast, cervical, and colorectal cancer screening for uninsured & underinsured women, AND FREE prostate & colorectal cancer screening for uninsured & 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 6 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

Downtown Beautification Committee (DBC)

Meet The Owners: How well do you know our local business owners? The DBC believes if you know more about them and what they offer, you may want to visit their establishments. So, we are posting short interview-style bios of our town's brick-and-mortar business owners on our social media pages.

Follow Experience Berkeley Heights on Facebook and Instagram to catch the bios. If you would like us to feature your local business, please email: DBC@BHTWP.com. This campaign is ongoing and it's free to participate.

Bright Nights in Berkeley Heights: This holiday season, we encouraged land and business owners along Springfield Avenue to decorate using a uniform style of lights, large red bows, or both. Our goal was to further enhance the fun and festive holiday feel of our downtown. Bright Nights cast inviting community to brick-and-mortar shoppers in the best possible light. Participation was overwhelmingly high!

To see a list of the wonderful businesses and shopping centers that lit up our dark afternoons, visit the Experience Berkeley Heights page on Facebook or go to www.experienceBH.com.

Berkeley Heights Environmental Commission (BHEC)

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 trafficked areas of Berkeley Heights: (1) the library; (2) the police station; (3) GL High School; (4) Columbia Middle School; (5) the YMCA; and (6) Pet Supplies Plus. This requires the business or group to visit their Trex bins several times a week, collect its contents, and shuttle its contents to ACME in New Providence on a regular, continuous basis.

As a trade off 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.

Community Updates & Events

Berkeley Heights Innovation and Sustainability Alliance

Adopt-A-Park Litter Clean Up of Passaic River Park--Sunday, March 17 @ 1 - 3 p.m.

What color do you associate with St. Patrick's Day? Green of course! To celebrate being "green" on March 17 this year, please join us in an Adopt-A-Park cleanup of the parkland that's part of the Berkeley Heights section of Union County Passaic River Park, Berkeley Heights.

The clean up will occur just beyond the end of Summit Avenue, beginning at the area behind the Berkeley Heights Sewerage Authority. In addition to picking up litter, we will also pick up and move fallen sticks to create wildlife brush piles. Bags and reinforced gloves will be provided at no charge. Come on out and lend a hand to help keep Berkeley Heights green! Kids welcome!

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.

Berkeley Heights Public Library

Children Events

- **Dr. Seuss Birthday Celebration:** Saturday, March 2 at 3:00 (Ages 3 & up)
- **Paper Plate Story Times:** Tuesdays, March 5 and 19 at 9:30(Ages 3 – 5)
- **Good Tyme String Band:** Tuesday, March 12 at 10:30 (All ages welcome)
- **Baby Time:** Thursdays, March 7, 14, 21, 28 at 9:30 (Ages 0 to 24 months)
- **Leprechaun Trap:** March 4 – 17 (Stop in & Make-It Craft for all ages)
- **Leprechaun Photo Booth:** March 11 – 17

Book Club Meetings

- **The Good House by Anne Leary**-March 1 at 10:30 am
- **Flight Behavior by Barbara Kingsolver**- March 12 at 7:30 pm

The American Cancer Society's Relay for Life of Berkeley Heights, Mountainside, New Providence and Summit

The group is holding it's 2019 Kick-Off Event on March 14th from 7-8:30pm at New Providence High School Cafeteria. The theme is "Through the Years". You can learn more about Relay, how to form a team, and fundraising ideas as well as connect with past participants who can answer questions. For more information contact Margaret Illis at Margaret.illis@gmail.com.

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 if you are interested. This a small way to make a big difference!

Berkeley Heights Diversity Council Events (BHDC)

Women's History Month - March 2019: In Celebration of Women's History Month, the BHDC will continue their W.O.W. series recognizing wonderful achievements and unsung Sheroes of Berkeley Heights. Please nominate your favorite Shero via email: BHdiversity@gmail.com.

Community Suppers: The BHDC is launching Community Suppers early in 2019. 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.

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 Education Foundation

The Ed Foundation is hosting the Harlem Wizards at a fundraiser event on March 19th at 7pm at Governor Livingston High School gym. People can purchase tickets [here](#). More details will be posted on all social media sites and our website in the near future.

Berkeley Heights PTO

First Annual Berkeley Heights PTO Combined Adult Fundraiser Soiree: Please join us on on Friday, March 15, 2019 from 7:30 - 11:30 pm at the Embassy Suites for our first annual community-wide celebration fundraiser. ALL (21 and over) are welcome!

This year, the Early Childhood Center and the Elementary Schools have combined their efforts to have one big social fundraising event! Proceeds will benefit the Berkeley Heights Public Schools and their supported programs.

The evening will include music and dancing, wine and beer (open cash bar), passed hors d'oeuvres, stations and buffet style dinner as well as basket raffles and more! Admission tickets are \$75.00 per person and can be ordered online [here](#).

Raffle Tickets can also be ordered online at that link or you may purchase them at the Basket Previews - Saturday & Sunday, March 9 & 10, 10:00 am - 3:00 pm at Stop & Shop and Wednesday & Thursday, March 13 & 14, 3:00 - 8:00 pm at Delicious Heights. They can also be purchased at the event on March 15. If you have any questions please contact Angela Penna at BerkeleyHeightspto@gmail.com.

Comments? Suggestions? Please send them to: BHCommunications@bhtwp.com

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