from the Mayor’s desk

Dear Friends and Neighbors:

I cannot believe that 2017 has come to an end and the New Year has greeted us with a blustery and snowy beginning. I have received much feedback about these newsletters that I send to you and I appreciate your kind thoughts and comments. When I first had the honor of being elected your Mayor, I promised to keep you informed and to be available for your thoughts and questions. With your continued support, I will do so in the future, thank you.

As we take a look back over 2017, it has been quite a busy year! During this time we saw continued road projects completed with the paving of Douglas Road from Liberty Corner to the south and have petitioned the New Jersey Department of Transportation, working with our neighboring municipality of Bernards Township, to obtain a grant to pave an additional portion of Douglas Road to the north which both municipalities share. Paving and drainage improvements to Ludlow Avenue have been designed by our Borough Engineer and the project is expected to commence this spring. Remember, paving is the highest infrastructure cost a municipality has and we are always trying to obtain grants and state aid to assist us with these projects.

The Visiting Nurse Association of Somerset Hills held two successful rummage sales this past year and the Borough of Far Hills is proud to assist them in continuing their good work throughout our communities. A new event, the Essex Horse Trials debuted in Far Hills in June and was very well received. This family oriented event included a car show, food court, vendor village and, not to mention, the prestigious equestrian qualifying events. Be sure to mark your calendars as the Essex Horse Trials will be held June 23-24, 2018. The annual Far Hills Race is held each October and this year was met with pleasant weather attracting more than 35,000 people. The Race is scheduled for October 20, 2018 and provides support to many charities in our area. Each of these events takes much planning and preparation and I want to thank Chief Michael DeCarolis and our great Police Department for their contribution in keeping safety and order a priority during these events.

The Borough has just completed a sidewalk improvement project, providing new concrete walkways throughout the Borough. In addition, adjacent to the J. Malcolm Belcher Fairgrounds, old decaying and unsafe trees were trimmed or removed as necessary and new trees will be planted in the spring. With this in mind, I would like to introduce our “Adopt a Tree” program which offers donors the opportunity to dedicate a tree to commemorate an event or person in their life. Another way the Borough is going green and making a positive impact on our community is through our Clean Communities Initiative. If you or your children, either with their school or

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individually, would like to form a clean community group, please contact our Borough Clerk Dorothy Hicks. This will be a great way to keep Far Hills clean, become involved in the community, be acknowledged by the Borough Council and be something important on the child’s resume. Also, while walking around the Borough, if you see an empty water bottle or a piece of paper, pick it up and discard it. A small act to be sure, but together it makes a huge difference. Also, a reminder to our dog owners to please be conscientious and clean up appropriately after your pet. It is important that everyone adheres to the leash and clean-up laws while walking their four legged friends at our fairgrounds, so that the facility can be enjoyed equally by all residents.

I would like to highlight our Municipal Court which is held every other Tuesday. Our new judge, Judge Mark S. Adler is doing very well working with Court Administrator Marjorie Freeman and Deputy Administrator Brenda Zimmerman, who have been an integral part of our court system for many years and make it streamlined and profitable for our Borough. I thank each of them for their continued service to the Borough of Far Hills.

This past year has also been met with sadness, as a member of our Far Hills Family, Claudia Dunn passed away in December. Claudia who had recently retired, worked as an Administrative Assistant for the Borough for nearly ten years and will be greatly missed. In November, we also mourned the passing of Edmond P. Rochat Jr., who served as Mayor of Far Hills from 1974-1978.

I would like to thank everyone who was able to attend our Veterans Day Ceremony this past November, and while smaller than the Memorial Day Parade, is equally important. Please contact our Borough Clerk Dorothy Hicks for details on how to participate in either event this year. In addition to the above, I and the Borough Council, as well as our Planning Board and Board of Health continue to work very hard on the ongoing issues of COAH compliance and will continue to monitor changes at the state government level and how that will affect all municipalities. Infrastructure improvements are also planned for the municipal building with a new roof to be installed in the spring.

In conclusion, Far Hills continues to be in very good stead with regard to its financial condition and quality of life issues and, as always, I and the Borough Council will continue to put your best interests first. Finally, may you and your families know only health and happiness in the New Year. As always, I can be reached at the municipal building at 908.234.0611.

Thank you and God Bless America.

Paul J. Vallone, MD
Mayor
Borough of Far Hills
FREE RABIES CLINIC

Available to Somerset County residents. Vaccinations for both dogs and cats
Saturday, January 13, 2018 from 10 am to 12 pm. No appointment necessary.
- Bedminster Township DPW Garage - Miller Lane, Bedminster NJ
  For additional information, contact 908.212.7000 ext. 427
- Bernards Township Public Works Garage - 277 S. Maple Avenue, Basking Ridge NJ
  For additional information, contact 908.204.3066

2018 RECYCLING SCHEDULES

Residents should have received the 2018 Recycling Schedules in the mail. Additional schedules are available at
the Borough of Far Hills Municipal building. Included with the Recycling Schedule is a how-to guide which
has important information for the bi-monthly pick-ups. Please keep the schedule handy and refer to it often.
Additional information can be obtained at www.co.somerset.nj.us/recycle or by calling 732.469.3363

CHRISTMAS TREE RECYCLING

The Somerset County Park Commission will accept Christmas trees until January 31, 2018 at either of
these locations from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm, seven days a week:
- North Branch Park, 355 Milltown Road, Bridgewater
- Colonial Park, 156 Mettlers Road, Franklin Township, Somerset

For more information about Christmas tree recycling, call 732.873.2459 ext. 21

LICENSING YOUR PET CAN SAVE ITS LIFE

A license identifies and protects your pet in case it becomes lost. You are re-
quired to renew your license annually and to keep your license updated when
you move and/or your pet is given away, lost, stolen or is deceased. A license is
not only a requirement, but it provides the following benefits:
- A license tells everyone that your pet is not a homeless stray.
- When licensed, found pets can be quickly reunited with their owner.
- Your license is proof that your pet has been vaccinated against rabies.

In order for a dog license or cat certificate to be issued, the owner must present proof that a licensed veteri-
narian has vaccinated the dog/cat against rabies. New Jersey State law requires that all rabies certificates
must be valid through November 1st of the license year.

If you have any question or need additional information, please call 908.234.0611 x10. A 2018 Pet License
Application has been included with this newsletter for your convenience.

REGISTER YOUR ALARM SYSTEM

Both residential and commercial alarm systems must be registered annually with the Far Hills
Police Department. An informational letter and registration form are included with this
newsletter for your convenience. Kindly remit your payment of $20.00, made payable to the
Borough of Far Hills, along with your completed registration to: Chief Michael DeCarolis,
Far Hills Police Department, 6 Prospect Street, Far Hills, NJ 07931
KEEP FIRE HYDRANTS CLEAR OF SNOW

When it is cold and snowy outside, you most likely will want to spend most of your time indoors. However, it’s important to keep an eye on what’s happening outside too. Winter weather can create fire safety hazards, such as ice and heavy snowfall that can obstruct fire hydrants. You can help reduce the risk by keeping fire hydrants accessible and clear of ice and snow. In an emergency, seconds count.

HELP PROTECT OUR WATER QUALITY

Storm water runoff is water from rain or melting snow that does not soak into the ground. It flows from rooftops, over paved areas, bare soil, and sloped lawns. Municipal storm sewer systems, storm drain inlets, pipes and ditches collect storm water runoff and convey it directly to local bodies of water.

THINGS YOU CAN DO TO PROTECT OUR WATER QUALITY

- Never dump anything down storm drains
- Use fertilizer sparingly, sweep up any excess from driveways, sidewalks and roads
- Pick up after your pet
- Direct downspouts onto grassy areas away from paved surfaces
- Check vehicles for leaks
- Wash vehicles on grass instead of on the driveway, or take your car to the car wash

HAVE A HAPPY AND HEALTHY NEW YEAR!