



## Message from the Mayor:

The Township Committee unanimously supported the sale of the wastewater system in last November's referendum for a host of reasons. Chief among them were environmental concerns, efficiencies of operation and, most of all, cost to our residents. Through a series of town hall meetings, outreach to community organizations and homeowners' associations, mailers and regularly scheduled Township Committee meetings, the Committee ensured residents were educated on the issues and could make an informed decision.

Had the referendum passed, sewer rates would've gone up a total of 9.7 percent over the next five years and after that the BPU would have to approve any rate increases. (As a point of reference, water rate increases have averaged 2 percent per annum over the last 20 years.) As a result of the no vote, the Township Committee had no choice but to implement a capital improvement plan that had been outlined in detail at the aforementioned meetings. While state referendums must wait a statutory period before bringing the same issue before voters, municipal referendums have no such requirement.

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## Chief Naga Takes the Reins at the Long Hill Police Department



Chief Ahmed Naga takes the oath of office as the Chief of Police of the Long Hill Police Department, administered by Township Clerk Debbie Brooks, as his wife and daughters look on.

Police Chief Ahmed Naga formally had the "officer in charge" label removed from his title at his swearing in ceremony at Town Hall on Aug. 1. Chief Naga replaced Chief Michael Mazzeo, who retired in February. Chief Naga has been with LHPD since 2003, when he joined the force from the William Paterson University Police Department as a patrolman. He later was named a sergeant and then lieutenant before taking over as officer in charge – or acting-chief – in February.

"It was an honor," the chief said about the swearing in ceremony. "This is the top accomplishment you can achieve in policing." His other accomplishments while with the LHPD included investigating several significant cases, working for the Morris County Prosecutor's Office on a narcotics investigation for six-months and assisting the prosecutor's office in the translation of Arabic when needed (the chief is of Egyptian heritage).

Chief Naga believes in community policing, with a strong emphasis on interaction and collaboration with the residents of the community.

"There shouldn't be a separation between the community and the police officers," he told the *Echoes-Sentinel* in an earlier interview. "We are here for the residents. They do support us and they do fund our positions and they should get what they're paying for."

Toward that end Chief Naga plans to introduce or re-implement several initiatives, including a program in which specific officers are assigned to individual neighborhoods to establish the presence of a familiar face; an anonymous public survey available online or in hard copy; and Operation Good Morning, which allows the police to monitor elderly residents via phone calls and visit their homes should they not be heard from.

"The direction of this agency is going to be about professionalism, being compassionate and understanding our residents, where they're coming from and what it's like to be in their shoes," he told the *Echoes-Sentinel*.

Chief Naga is married to his wife of 17 years and they have three daughters. In addition to spending time with his family, he enjoys being on the water, boating and fishing.

# Administrator's Corner

Following is an update on projects and issues that impact our residents:

## Valley Road Bridge

The two-lane bridge on Valley Road between Long Hill and Bernards is slated for improvements, courtesy of Morris County, the North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority and the New Jersey Department of Transportation. The bridge is nearly 90 years old, structurally deficient and in need of major rehabilitation. The project currently is in the concept development stage and it will be approximately four years before the work begins. Residents interested in the project can find out more information at [www.valleyroadbridgenj.com](http://www.valleyroadbridgenj.com).

## PSE&G Project

PSE&G has begun the Roseland-Pleasant Valley electric transmission reliability project. The purpose of the project is to strengthen the electric transmission system for customers by replacing older facilities between Roseland and Hopewell. Existing lattice towers, most of which were built between the 1920s and 1960s, have reached their end of life and are scheduled to be replaced with new steel structures. This project is taking place in 17 municipalities, including Long Hill. Preliminary work has already begun yet construction of the new towers will not begin until 2021 and should be completed in 2023. Residents who live near the PSE&G right of way where the towers will be replaced already have received

notices from the company and there will be public outreach sessions early next year. Residents who have questions about the project may call the Information Line at 1.888.378.0788.

## Train Station Parking Permits

2019 Train Station Parking Permits for the Gillette, Stirling and Millington stations will be sold beginning on Monday, December 3, 2018, at 8:30 a.m. in the Courtroom/Committee Meeting Room at Township Hall located at 915 Valley Road, Gillette. Permit holders for the Gillette station are permitted to park at any of the three train stations; Stirling permit holders can park at Stirling or Millington stations; and Millington permit holders can only park at the Millington Station. Please note that a parking permit does not guarantee a space on any given day and that parking permits are non-transferrable and non-refundable. 2019 Application forms will be available toward the end of November. Residents may download the application form or view the fee schedule by visiting our website, [www.longhillnj.gov](http://www.longhillnj.gov).

Nancy Malool - Township Administrator  
[administrator@longhillnj.gov](mailto:administrator@longhillnj.gov)

## Public Safety

### Alert LongHill

Have you registered? Make local emergency alerts – Alert LongHill – part of your plan. September is National Preparedness Month.

Alert LongHill is our new emergency notification program for the community. In order to continue to receive emergency alerts from Long Hill Township, residents who previously participated in the Citizen Alerts need to complete a new registration for the Alert LongHill program. Part of a wider Alert Morris countywide system, Alert LongHill provides residents with the ability to receive emergency notifications on their devices, including email, text, phone or social media.

Alert LongHill also includes the new Smart911 system, which allows you to provide first responders with key information about you, your family and your home, including number of residents in your home, pets, medical information and emergency contacts.

Register today; make this a priority as part of your emergency preparedness plans. Visit the Township website at [www.longhillnj.gov](http://www.longhillnj.gov) and click on the Alert LongHill logo. Register so we can reach you!

Shayne Daly - Emergency Management Coordinator  
[sdaly@longhillpolice.us](mailto:sdaly@longhillpolice.us)

## Dept. of Public Works

Our Department of Public Works had a busy summer and residents should notice smoother roads throughout town, as we repaved 10 streets – Church Rd., Highland Ave., Home St., Lower Outlook Rd., Midvale Ave., Passaic Ave., Riverview Rd., Skyline Dr. and Stone House Rd. We also did a lot of tree trimming and took down dead trees in rights of way.

Our fall activities will include replacement of Belgium blocks throughout town that were damaged by storms and milling and filling of potholes.

We continue to offer monthly curbside collection of electronics, TVs, scrap metal and appliances on the last full week of every month. Please call us at 908.647.0070 in advance of the collection to schedule a pickup.

We also have a recycling drop-off center located off Valley Road in Stirling for Township residents. See the Public Works page of the Township website for hours and items that can be dropped off. And remember, this spring we started recycling used cooking oil. Residents can drop off used cooking oil in the container at the Public Works facility.

Al Gallo – Director of Public Works  
[roads@longhillnj.gov](mailto:roads@longhillnj.gov)

# Recreation

## **FALL into Recreation!**

As our children head back to school our fall sports programs “swing” into action.

Fall field hockey programs through the Recreation Department begin in September for middle school kids in the Watchung Hills-sending district towns. There will be a game or two on the turf field at Kantor Park most Sunday afternoons. There also will be plenty of soccer games in the park this fall.

In October, our basketball programs will start up. Travel basketball try-outs for grades 4-8 will begin the first week in October. Recreation basketball programs for kids, grades 1-8, will start in November. Registration will open on or before Sept. 30.

We hope to have an Adult Open Play Basketball program on Thursday nights starting Oct. 18. Interest has been dwindling and if we don't get enough registrations by Oct. 17 we will have to withdraw the program. So please don't wait until the last minute to sign up if you are interested. Registration for this program is open now on Community Pass.

Our gentle yoga programs will continue with yoga instructor Lisa Atkins at the Old Millington Schoolhouse on Thursdays. In addition, this fall on Mondays we're offering a new yoga class, Mindful Yoga, which combines yoga with meditation. Tennis lessons for children and adults continue with Skyline Tennis at Kantor Park.

Looking for ways to enjoy the fall foliage in Long Hill? Take a walk/hike through Hicks' Tract. This 59-acre park has



*2017 Halloween Parade*

several different trails all blazed by our local Boy Scout troops. Also, don't forget we have the beautiful Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge right in our back yard. Encompassing more than 7,700 acres, the refuge has more than 240 species of birds and many different mammals, reptiles, fish and amphibians. This past spring, as part of an Eagle Scout Project, Carter Rosen of Gillette refurbished the river trail at Kantor Park. The entrance is at the south end of the parking lot at Town Hall and it winds alongside the river. It's not a long trail but it's very pretty.

Mark your calendars for our Annual Halloween Parade, which will be held Sunday, October 21, at 3 p.m. at Kantor Park. This is a FREE event for all Long Hill residents.

Lisa Scanlon – Director, Parks & Recreation  
recreation@longhillnj.gov

## Hometown Heroes to Fly Over Long Hill

Banners honoring U.S. military veterans may soon be flying over Main Avenue. Resident Barbara Grillo, chair of the Long Hill Township Promotion and Enhancement Committee, with support from other committee members, has started a push to raise funds to bring the nationally popular Hometown Heroes Banner Program to Long Hill.

The Hometown Heroes Banner Program pays tribute to the brave men and women who are serving, have served or have given their life to our country in the United States Armed Forces. For several years now, Hometown Heroes banners have been honoring veterans in towns and cities across the nation, including locally in Berkeley Heights, New Providence and Summit.

Typically, each banner features a photo of the veteran being honored, his or her name and branch and years served. Long Hill banners may also include a sponsor name.

An LLC was formed to allow for fundraising for the Hometown Heroes banners. To date donors have contributed approximately \$4,000. Residents interested in supporting this effort or honoring a local veteran can mail their donations to the Long Hill Township Promotion and Enhancement Committee LLC at 104 Magna Drive, Gillette NJ 07933. For questions and additional information, please contact Barbara by email at [beg51@aol.com](mailto:beg51@aol.com).



*This is a sample of a Hometown Heroes banner.*

## Mayor's Message

*(continued)*

On a different matter, some concern has been expressed about the timing of issuance of Township tax bills. The municipal budget, the portion of the tax bill that the Township Committee controls, was passed in May. Tax bills cannot be sent out until the state has passed its budget and in turn the county and local school boards finalize their respective budgets. This year additional delay was caused by an increase in school funding from the state for the regional high school.

As always, residents with questions are strongly encouraged to reach out to me or any member of the Township Committee. Have a wonderful fall.

Guy Piserchia - Mayor

## Events Around the Township

### **Weekly Yoga Classes**

Historic Millington School House Building  
Monday and Thursday Mornings • 10:30 am-11:30 am  
*New this fall* – **Mindful Yoga** Mondays  
**Gentle Yoga** Thursdays

### **Concert at the Library ~ Girls Like Us**

Saturday, October 13 • 1:00 pm  
Diane and Gerard Barros perform the music of Carole King,  
Joni Mitchell and Carly Simon.

### **The Legend of Sleepy Hollow with Ichabod Crane**

Sunday, October 21 • 4:00 pm • Long Hill Library  
With luck, no one who visits the Long Hill Library on Oct. 21  
will lose their head when Actor Neill Hartley performs this  
one-man show and brings Ichabod Crane back to life to tell  
his legendary tale.

### **Annual Halloween Parade at the Park**

Sunday, October 21 • 3:00 pm • Kantor Park (rain date October 28)  
Costume contest, prizes and giveaways for all participants.  
Fun and Free for all Long Hill residents (all ages)

### **FORCE Tiger Tracks 5K Race Trick or Trot!**

Saturday, October 28 • 7:30 am • Central School  
Get Spooky! Special awards for costumes! Proceeds benefit  
Long Hill K-8 schools enrichment programs.

### **Fall Basketball Programs**

Travel Basketball tryouts Saturdays in October, grades 4-8  
REC Basketball starts November, grades 1-8  
Adults 18 & over Coed Open Play Thursday nights

### **The Mentalist ~ Live**

Sunday, Nov 4 • 2:00 pm • Long Hill Library  
Out of your Mind! The Mentalist will challenge your notions of  
reality with stunning displays of unexplained phenomena. This  
will be a fun and unique evening! Join us for mindreading,  
thought control, mind over matter... and MORE! You will be  
amazed!

### **Town Hall Holiday Closings**

Columbus Day – Monday, October 8  
Veterans Day – Monday, November 12  
Thanksgiving – Thursday, November 22  
Friday, November 23

### **Election Day**

Tuesday, November 6  
Come out and vote! Polls are open 6:00 am-8:00 pm

### **Visit the Township website for a complete listing of:**

Important community announcements, Committee meeting  
schedule, Recreation program information and more,  
[www.longhillnj.gov](http://www.longhillnj.gov)