

Denise Brand (Tierney)

Hometown: I grew up in Old Bridge, New Jersey coming down to the beach and enjoying all that the shore experience has to offer my whole life.

Currently Reside: When we're not here on LBI we reside in a home in Bergen County NJ. As we love being here during all seasons however, our plan is to be full timers very soon.

Holgate Address: I currently live at 50 Tebco Terrace here in wonderful Holgate in a house on the bay with my husband Brian. Actually, we love Holgate so much we own 2 homes here, 28 Tebco as well. We're here year round almost full time since my husband and I have both now retired. That being said, it's allowed us more time to get more involved in lots of local projects and do volunteer work.

How long you have been coming to/living in Holgate: I discovered LBI in my teens and have been enjoying the island ever since. First as a renter and now for the last 18 years as a home owner.

Why you chose to live in Holgate: Of all the towns we could have chose early on to either rent in and then buy, Holgate was the only town we considered. While the entire island is lovely, there is a family and community vibe that Holgate strongly provides. We love this end of the island because of its narrow topography that allows you to go from the bay to the beach in just minutes. You can easily enjoy the sunrises and sunsets everyday and it's safer for the kids to have to cross only two lanes of much less congested traffic here compared to the more northern towns. Holgate is a very active health conscious and fit conscientious end of the island seeing most days joggers, bicyclist and walkers on the Boulevard. There's also a serenity that comes along with living in Holgate. Being an avid gardener and nature lover, I like that Holgate still has wetlands surrounding its many neighborhoods as well as having the Forsythe Nature Preserve in our town. Holgate provides year round spectacular sights and sounds of all types of birds (egrets, ducks, swallows, doves etc), turtles and this year in particular rabbits. You name it, we have them. If they don't stop and lay their eggs at our house they at least stop for a nibble and a drink. While every thing you could need or want is only a bike ride away, we enjoy a more quiet daily lifestyle in Holgate, with the accessibility of all the action within minutes.

Dates serving as HTA trustee: I was honored early last year to have been asked to fill an open trustee seat on the HTA and have been proudly serving the community since. Not only while on the board, but beforehand as well. HTA Committees I serve on are, Dune planting, Holgate Clam, Membership recruitment, and Marketing.

Holgate/HTA volunteer activities both as a resident and now a Trustee :

1. Reimagined and redesigned the "Welcome to Holgate" sign. Was involved start to finish. Repositioned and repainted it, had flower box built, picked out and planted flowers (watered for 4 months to establish), added solar lights for nighttime exposure and donated \$2,000 to HTA for costs.
2. Worked for 2 ½ years with the Tebco Terrace neighborhood, attending Land Use Board hearings, holding meetings with builders and neighbors to get the best proposed project built at the Holgate Marina, that would be in keeping with the Town's Master Plan and the unique essence that only Holgate has and tries so hard to hold on to.
3. Went to each Holgate beach entrance this Spring, cleaned them out, took pictures and made copious notes of what was needed for the future dune planting project.
4. Attended numerous seminars and did research speaking with landscapers as to what would be best planted at beach entrances.
5. Worked with Mike Pagnotta and others, at his new Holgate development to help preserve and save native plants to be repurposed at beach entrances, rather than have them destroyed for new homes. Replanted saved plants at beach entrances. Secured Mike's commitment to provide manpower to help with future dune planting as well.
6. Voluntarily Watered every day, newly professionally installed Tebco beach entrance plantings for 4 months to keep alive while being established.
7. Developed a recycling flyer to be distributed to the HTA members, for better Holgate recycling efforts for both the homeowner and renters.

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8. Volunteered for town wide Holgate spring cleanup.
9. Volunteered for Forsythe Spring cleanup.
10. Attended all HTA meetings, including "Special Reason" meetings that were called.
11. Saved HTA money by suggesting we look into PayPal discount for Non-profit status.
12. Saved HTA money by reminding all to use Tax exempt status for all purchases.
13. Held meetings with different plumbers to get comparative pricing and group discount packages to offer to Holgate residents for installation of new water meters.
14. Volunteered to grill at last Falls annual HTA BBQ.
15. Volunteered to help clean "ReClam the Bay's" nursery beds.
16. Worked with artist, "ReClam the Bay" and other trustees to get Holgate's "Clam" painted and readied for display at Forsythe's parking lot and to help conceptualize it's base while educating the Holgate residents and public in general about it's environmental purpose. (Clam yet to be unveiled)
17. Designed 4 conceptual ideas for educating the Holgate residents and renters about flyboxes, preserving dune grass and safety while walking and biking and presented to HTA for discussion.

Why I want to be an HTA trustee: I'd like to think in my short time while being a trustee, I've demonstrated that I am worthy of the position by the accomplishments I've listed above both to you the members and to the members I serve with on the HTA board. To that end, I'd like to remain a trustee and continue to serve the community I live in having more time than ever now being retired to do so! Although it is just me asking to return on the board, my husband gets very involved in helping me out on many of the various projects I undertake as well. Think of it as two for the price of one! Lol

How I feel the HTA has performed on behalf of Holgate:

I feel the current members that serve on the HTA are a very cohesive great group of caring residents. We all work well together and get a lot accomplished. It's a creative group with lots of ideas on how to improve everyday living in Holgate. Everyone on the HTA steps up and contributes their tireless efforts, knowledge and time on a volunteer basis. I'd like to see all in the group on the HTA board stay together for a while longer and to continue to accomplish even greater things.

What should be the HTA's top 3 priorities in the next year: For the future, I'd like to see the HTA membership continue to grow as there is strength in numbers. I'd like to see the residents of Holgate have an even greater voice and presence in Long Beach Township in general and for the HTA to continue to support the needs of its people in anyway we can. I'd like to see the HTA board inspire all residents by example to give back to the community in any way, large or small, in any way they can. My wish is that the HTA officers will continue to work with the current trustees as a group to continue to come up with fresh and innovative ideas for the betterment of our community and to help improve our beloved Holgate in every way possible.