

# HTA Monthly Newsletter – April 2020

This month we are largely addressing issues relating to the Corona Virus as a top priority.

## **Membership**

We can do more if we have more members. Please be sure your membership is current and recommend us to your Holgate neighbors. Now - more than ever - there is power in numbers. <http://bit.ly/HTAMembershipForm2020>

## **Supporting our Essential Workers and the Less Fortunate**

The HTA has worked with the Joint Council of Taxpayer Associations on LBI to combine forces and contribute funds to the neediest causes. These have been identified as meals for the staff of Southern Ocean Medical Center and support for the St. Francis Food Pantry.

The hospital donation for meal purchases will be made through purchases of food from local LBI restaurants, according to required hospital standards (individually wrapped items preferred; no catering trays).

From HTA reserve funds, we budgeted \$1,000 to be donated in two \$500 increments and the first check went out this week. We will assess the program's success and the need within the community for the second donation. Even if the virus subsides, we expect the economic damage to local families may persist for some time.

So that a separate bank account could be promptly opened and provide transparency for the transactions, we are very thankful to the Harvey Cedars Taxpayers Association for agreeing to coordinate with the Hospital Command Center and St. Francis, manage the fund, receive donations and make the disbursements.

If you want to further support this giving, please consider the following:

### *Southern Ocean Medical Center*

Please make check out to "Harvey Cedars Taxpayers Association" and specify it is for "Holgate hospital food donation". *Note: you are welcome to donate directly to the Hospital, but we cannot control that the money will go to Island restaurants.* Address:

Kathleen Ries  
c/o Harvey Cedars Taxpayers Association  
PO Box 3065  
Harvey Cedars, NJ 08008

### *St. Francis Food Pantry*

Please see their web page for more information, particularly regarding food donations. Or you can simply send a check to the HCTA as noted above and specify Holgate food pantry donation.

<https://bit.ly/StFrancisFoodPantry>

### **Emergency Placards and Beach Access**

Everyone should have received one placard per household in the mail. Please be sure this is brought with you to LBI; you must have it to walk the beaches as of this month (subject to change). <https://bit.ly/LBTPlacard>

### **Top Concerns of the Holgate Community**

Mayor Mancini asked the HTA to share the top concerns in Holgate right now. Below is the ranking from the Trustees with the consensus concerns listed from top to bottom and grouped where they may be somewhat equal. It is interesting to note that a) lower ranked items do not necessarily mean it is unimportant as this is only a relative ranking of top concerns and b) where people specifically live in Holgate has some effect on their ranking of concerns. We expect this to be true throughout the Island. Please respond to this email if you agree or think certain concerns should be highlighted as more important.

Beach conditions (ease of access, size of beach)

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Greenhead flies/mosquitos/ticks  
Beach restrictions during Covid-19  
Ability to rent this summer)  
Restrictions on island access during Covid-19  
Enforcement of Master Plan/Building codes

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Bay flooding  
Long Beach Boulevard condition  
Road safety and congestion (walkers, runners, cyclists, etc.)  
Over development  
Employment/Lack of affordable housing

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Condition of bay beach  
Return of shore rental tax  
Desire for more/better recreational areas

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Comcast service  
Garbage/Recycling pickup

I did have the chance to review the list with the Mayor. It is important to recognize that there are many areas (eg, dunes, Boulevard, Comcast, etc.) where the Township is not in control due to Federal, State or County jurisdictions. However, even in these areas the Township has found ways to positively affect the situation and will continue to work with us to keep Holgate a great place to live.

### **Boulevard Paving**

The Township is as frustrated as we are about the condition of the road but has informed us the project is expected to begin next week. On the plus side, a lot of the infrastructure that could be

replaced has been replaced. Hopefully this limits future problems like emergency gas leaks and water main breaks due to aging systems.

### **Comcast and Verizon 5G**

For those looking to “cut the cord” and stream their television programs, the sole choice of high-speed internet access may soon change. Verizon has installed 5G lines this winter and spring; they are expected to begin to sell the service by July 1. Hopefully, this will provide both price and service improvements.

### **Water Meter Update**

The revised deadline to have the meters installed is October 1. We recommend getting this done much sooner to support your local plumber and the LBI economy.

<https://bit.ly/LBTWaterMeterExtension>

### **Rooftop Cabanas/Tents**

An ordinance has been passed to limit these items to just 1 per roof. Not sure how many people this affects but wanted you to be aware of it in case it applies.

### **Garbage and Recycling**

Given concerns about virus spread, the Township will now strictly enforce the existing regulations regarding proper disposal of trash and recycling.

### **Pershing Avenue Sand**

Recent 70-80mph wind gusts blew even more sand off the bay onto Pershing Ave and a number of properties. Representing homeowner concerns, the HTA worked with the Township to quickly get the dune fencing back up as it had been removed for the bay dredging project. The Township also plans to put crushed concrete down as this will be easier to blow the sand back to the bay than other materials. While this will help somewhat, it will not permanently solve what has become a persistent issue. When we are all able to get back to LBI, the HTA will look to add plantings along parts of the fencing to further hold back blowing sand. Where sand does blow on private property, the Township will not go on private property to remove it but will allow homeowners to sweep/blow sand into the street and will then pick it up. We are also looking to contact one of the bayfront owners who has the sand blowing on/through their property.

### **Municipal Tax Unchanged**

The municipal tax rate is unchanged this year. An important caveat: issues may arise related to the virus that greatly increase Township costs (my example, additional police coverage earlier in the season)

<https://bit.ly/LBTMunicipalTax2020>

### **Beach Sand**

For the first time since 1962, the Township was able to use sand dredged from the bay for the ocean beaches. This important new precedent has served to fortify the dunes on Beach 3. Initial concerns were the muddy appearance of the sand and a slight odor. In checking this last week, the sand is looking better as it dries and is mixed with existing beach sand - and there was no odor. This will not solve the issue of the size of the beach.

**Beach 3 and 4**

Unlike Beach 2, the Township does not have Army Corps permission to push the dunes back to try to create a wider beach. And the extension of the steel jetty/groin has been delayed again due to the need for more environmental studies. Net result is the Township will continue to groom what sand is available and make diagonal paths down as long as it is safe (they usually do this closer to Memorial Day to avoid having the sand washed out with Spring storms). However, the Township is limited to what it can do to improve these beaches.

We are researching the best people to contact via a letter campaign. Initially, the thinking was to reach out to the Army Corps and we have this contact information. However, the key contact may be at the Department of Fish and Wildlife due to their requirements for additional studies.

More to come ...