

MARCH-APRIL HTA NEWSLETTER

Hoping everyone and your families are able to be safe and healthy at home during these very trying times.

I have started to draft this newsletter several times only to be amazed at the pace of new information. So my apologies for the length and please accept that the updates here are good as of April 5 and subject to change.

Corona Virus

Please note the following updates:

- All LBT recreational facilities have been closed to prevent unhealthy gatherings.
- The parking lot at the Preserve has also recently been closed. Access remains open to pedestrians; the Forsythe Preserve is closed for the season as of April 1.
- Beaches are still open but this will only remain possible if people act responsibly.
- Second homeowners have been requested by both state and local officials to avoid relocating to LBI. A key reason is the inability of the medical infrastructure to handle the number of people who may become ill.
- Finally, if you are alone on the Island, please let someone know so they can check in on you occasionally, especially if you start to feel unwell. Please do not wait until you are too sick; for some people this virus hits very quickly.

Short-Term Rental Ban

Due to the virus, all short-term rentals (less than 3 weeks) through May 1 have been banned. bit.ly/LBTShortTermRentalBan

Membership Renewal

We are thankful for the many members who have already renewed memberships

and made additional donations towards our special projects. If you haven't signed up yet, please do so here: bit.ly/HTAMembershipForm2020

Bay Dredging

A large project with the Army Corps and NJ DOT has been underway to clear the bay boating channels in the bay for safer boating. The Township received approval to use this sand on the beaches. This is expected to help stabilize Beach 3 (and possibly Beach 4 if quantities are sufficient). The bay sand has been tested to be safe and 90% sand. When it comes from the bay, it is wet and very dark as it contains silt. This is expected to wash away with Spring storms and tides; the Township is also mixing other beach sand in with the dredged sand. Mayor Mancini says this is an important precedent as it increases the sources for sand to replenish dunes/beaches and this is the first time since the 1962 hurricane this has been allowed.

IMPORTANT: Please be extremely careful in the area about the bay park as there is a lot of heavy equipment here transporting the dredged sand to the beach. Even though the recreational facilities are closed, make sure you kids are extra safe if they bike in this area.

Housing for Summer Employees - Long Beach Inn Motel

The Township purchased the Long Beach Inn Motel (across from the Acme) to provide affordable housing for summer employees. This will initially be used for lifeguards who are brought in from other areas and overseas. In the past, both high school and college students who worked on the Island returned to school and Fall sports in mid-August. This, among other reasons, led to the closing of some beaches due to the lack of lifeguards. You may also have had trouble getting a reservation at local restaurants even though there were empty tables due to the labor shortage.

Apartments in Mixed-Use Properties

As part of the effort to encourage affordable housing for LBI workers, an ordinance was passed to allow apartments as part of mixed-use commercial properties.

Pershing Avenue

The HTA has been working with the Township to eliminate the blowing bay sand issue which is affecting several residential properties. The Township has put up new dune fencing to reduce the problem and we will also see if additional plantings/landscaping will further improve the situation.

Warm Weather and Pests

We will be closely monitoring the effects of an unseasonably warm winter and are particularly concerned about greenhead flies and mosquitos. The HTA continues to refine the design of the greenhead traps to be more effective and we work closely with the Ocean County Mosquito Commission to increase the frequency of spraying in our community.

Please note, we are also hearing this may be a bad season for ticks in some parts of New Jersey; be sure to check your pets after walks in areas with a lot of foliage.

Water Meters

From the LBT website: Homeowners will no longer be able to pick-up meters @ 13000 Long Beach Blvd. Homeowners will have to call, email or fax information to the Water Department in advance. The Water Department will then deliver the meter to the doorstep of the home. Homeowners must be able to receive the meter at this time. We will only be able to make the sales via credit card or check until further notice. Checks will need to be picked-up at the time of the delivery and should be placed at the doorstep. Please remember to keep 6 feet of distance from our employees at all times and no physical contact. Please be patient with this process as we expect high call volume and busy delivery routes.

Phone (609) 492-6314, Fax (609) 492-1015

The deadline for purchase/installation has not changed.

Janet Road Path and Landscaping

Landscaping and a new path from Janet Road have been largely completed around the new sewer pump station.

Washover Closing of Sale

The purchase of the Washover/Wetlands property by Long Beach Township

should be concluded soon. Many thanks to Mayor Mancini and the Township for preserving this land.

5G

Verizon should complete installation of 5G wiring by early June and the Township may be one of the first communities in NJ to be wired. This could provide competition to Comcast but service features and pricing are unknown. For background: vz.to/Verizon5GInfo

Recycling Information

Updated information for 2020 can be found here: bit.ly/LBTRecycling2020

Key Dates

Dune Planting. We were going to try to do another big dune planting but with the lead time to order plants and the uncertainty about what activities will be allowed, this will probably be postponed, most likely to a new date in the Fall.

Spring Cleanup -- May 30 (tentative). We will keep this date on the calendar for now and will advise as we get closer to it.

Spring Membership Meeting – June 6 (scheduled for the Court Room in Town Hall). Again, we will keep this date on the calendar for now and will advise as we get closer to it.

Stay distanced. Stay safe. Stay healthy.

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