

Holgate Taxpayer Monthly Newsletter – May 2020

Concern and confusion continue to be hallmarks of the pandemic. In a time of great stress, let's all remember to show extra consideration to family members, neighbors, workers and even strangers.

There are many areas where politely agreeing to disagree is the best policy, as is giving extra space to those who, for whatever reason, choose not to comply with government rulings and recommendations. Please make an extra effort to defuse, not escalate, bad situations.

Seasonal businesses face many challenges and this summer will be worse than any time in our recent history. Let's also all look to find new ways to support local Island businesses, from buying gift cards, to ordering take-out at non-peak times, to adding a little extra to your normal tipping, etc. Don't expect perfection but if something is not right with your purchase, ask to speak with the manager or owner; all evidence thus far is they are bending over backwards to make things right.

Our goal should be to emerge from this crisis healthy and safe on an individual level, along with united and caring on a community level. This will require extra thoughtfulness – and patience - on everyone's part.

Important Township Updates

- Tax payments: Deadlines still in effect; no delayed payments
- Traffic Lights: Will turn on May 18
- Short-term rental: Ban still in effect until June 1
- Beach access: No placards required, badges required as of June 1
- Badge shack: Open as of May 9; no daily passes will be sold - only weekly and seasonal badge; seasonal discount thru June 15
- Dogs on beach: Until May 15th; must be on leash
- Restaurants: Can open for takeout; outdoor (and possibly indoor) dining, subject to CDC guidelines and local ordinances
- Retail stores: Township working on plans similar to restaurants

- Preservation: 22-acre tract purchase has closed; now owned by Ocean County and Long Beach Township; area renamed as “Clam Cove Reserve”
- Trash and Recycling: Township drop-off center now open weekends 8am-12pm; summer pick-up schedule in effect this week. Ask family members and renters to get the Recycle Coach app for their phones or to visit the Township website: <https://bit.ly/LBTRecycling2020>
- Boulevard: Contractor repaving trenches/damaged areas relating to construction by Memorial Day
- Town Hall: Will remain locked to visitors until June
- Testing: Antibody tests are available through Lab Corps/Quest but require a doctor’s order
- Water Meters: Revised deadline for installation is October 1. Please get this done much sooner to support your local plumber and the LBI economy. <https://bit.ly/LBTWaterMeterExtension>

NOTE: All re-opening policies pending possibility of second surge and public compliance. Weekend of May 2-3 reportedly witnessed a great deal of non-compliance.

Membership

Thanks to many of you, we are trending ahead of last year. Please be sure your membership is current and recommend us to your Holgate neighbors. <http://bit.ly/HTAMembershipForm2020>

Supporting Essential Workers and the Less Fortunate

As reported in the last newsletter, the HTA combined forces with LBI’s Joint Council of Taxpayer Associations to support Southern Ocean Medical Center and the St. Francis Food Pantry.

Hospital donations are made through purchases exclusively from local LBI restaurants.

From HTA reserve funds, we have dispensed the first \$500 and are prepared to make a second \$500 donation. Even if the virus subsides, we expect the economic damage to local families and employees will persist.

We remain thankful to the Harvey Cedars Taxpayers Association for coordinating with the Hospital Command Center and St. Francis, managing the fund, receiving donations, and making disbursements.

We sincerely thank Holgate residents who have already made personal donations. Individual contributions can be made as follows:

St. Francis Food Pantry

Please see their web page for more information, particularly regarding food donations. Or you can simply send a check payable to the HCTA noting "Holgate SF Food Pantry donation".

<https://bit.ly/StFrancisFoodPantry>

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

Beach 3 and 4 Status

Key considerations:

- Township does not have Army Corps permission to push these dunes back to try to create a wider beach.
- Extension of the steel jetty ("terminal groin") has been delayed, due to the need for additional environmental studies.

- Township is working with Stockton University to provide the studies.
- Township will continue to groom what sand is available and make diagonal paths down as long as it is safe (usually done closer to Memorial Day to avoid having sand wash out with Spring storms).
- Given the different jurisdictions, Township is limited to what it can do to improve these beaches.

Admittedly, this is of great concern to many people in Holgate. And it is unclear if there is any effective way to provide public pressure. However, here are key contacts for you to write and ask them to take action. This action could come in a number of forms:

- Fast-track completion of environmental studies, to the degree this is even possible as some studies are time-based
- Subsequent approval of steel jetty extension as currently planned; it is possible studies may indicate a need for revised plans
- Permission for Township to push the dunes back and/or adjust the dune slope to create wider beaches in some areas
- Commitment for Army Corps to return no later than 2022 to replenish and adjust the design

If you decide to write, you must be respectful. Nothing will hurt our cause more than alienating these officials with rudeness.

Department of Fish and Wildlife Service – Steel Jetty/Terminal Groin

Virginia Rettig

Refuge Manager

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Army Corps -- Steel Jetty/Terminal Groin

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U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Philadelphia District; Regulatory Branch
Wanamaker Building
100 Penn Square East
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19107-3390

Email: James.N.Boyer@usace.army.mil

Army Corps - Dune

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You may also want to write to your Congressional representative for both LBI and your permanent residence and push for continued funding of the project. Your effort may be a critical factor given the astounding increase in national and state debt right now. If you need their contact info: <https://bit.ly/FindDCRepresentative>