

HTA April 2024 Newsletter

With warmer weather comes continued Causeway construction but this will be paused on May 18 for the Summer. Be sure to check traffic conditions if you need to be on/off the Island at a specific time.

On behalf of your HTA Board, thank you to the members who have already joined and donated in 2024. For everyone else, your prompt renewal will ensure continued delivery of our newsletters and other breaking news communications: <https://bit.ly/HTAMembership2024>

Have a new neighbor? Please encourage them to join the HTA!

April Highlights

1. Beach Conditions
2. Dune Planting
3. LBT Budget
4. Wind Farm Update
5. Police Chief Transitions
6. LBT 125th Anniversary Celebration
7. Water Usage Tracking
8. Japanese Black Pines
9. Relevant Township Ordinances Passed on Second Reading
10. Relevant Township Ordinances Moved on First Reading
11. Save the Dates

Updates

1. Beach Conditions

- The Township continues to bulldoze sand back up to the dunes during blow-out tides. However, we should not expect normal beach access at many entrances until much later in the Spring as future storms would undo much of the Township's work.
- Sand has been naturally returning on the northern Holgate beaches and hopefully some of this will migrate to the south too.
- LBI continues to be first on the Army Corps list for replenishment projects. They are expected to start from the north end of LBI and is not anticipated to interfere with the summer season in Holgate.

2. Dune Planting

- Our planting date is set for the morning of Saturday, May 18. Please save the date and we will update you soon with more specific information.
- **Important:**
 - It is critical that we have people who can regularly water when it does not rain. Otherwise the plants get stressed and can die. It can be a great short-term job for teens (we can compensate or provide credit for community service).
 - We only plant where we have water and we only have 2 entrances with water as of today. If you are an oceanfront owner *who lives next to a beach entrance*, please respond to this email to volunteer access to your water. We need to water for 4-6 weeks to get roots established before summer. We can reimburse the cost of the water.

3. LBT Budget

- Commissioner Lattanzi announced that the LBT 2024 budget is ready. Even with an increase of \$1.1mm over last year, the LBT municipal tax rate is “essentially flat” at \$.20 per \$100 of assessed value. He stated that the Township was able to maintain the same municipal rate, in spite of significant cost increases (trash services; state-required expenditures), due to increased revenue from assessments and interest income. He noted that tax rates for Ocean County and the Southern Regional School District are \$.41 and \$.21, respectively, per/\$100 of assessed value.

4. Wind Farm Update

- The latest Offshore Wind Round-up (#22) has been posted to the membership section on the HTA website. Note: The public comment period for the Draft Environmental Impact Study *ends on May 2nd*. Please see the link in the Round-up if you wish to comment.

5. Police Chief Transitions

- Retiring Chief Kevin Mahon was celebrated in a proclamation read by Mayor Mancini, who noted the retiring chief’s many promotions and accomplishments over his 30 years of service in the LBT police department.

- Captain Edward Bernhard will be promoted to Chief of Police. He accepted the mayor's good wishes and Chief Mahon's praise for his outstanding contributions to the department during his career.

6. LBT 125th Anniversary Celebration

- Long Beach Township is celebrating its 125th Anniversary on May 25 at Bayview Park from 5-9pm. Free activities for kids and families: Bounce houses, face painting, photo booth, and alpacas! Live music – 5-7pm (Allison Stella) and 7-9pm (The Pickles). Food and drink (beer, wine, soda, and water) will be for sale. Fireworks sponsored by Fantasy Island start around 9pm.

7. Water Usage Tracking

- Track your water usage by going to the longbeachtwpnj.watersmart to get started. You'll need your water/sewer account number to complete the sign-up and you can also find that on the LBT website. Click [HERE](#) to access water/sewer account information and then search your name.

8. Japanese Black Pines

- Due to a disease which is starting to kill the non-native black pines on LBI, LBT will begin to remove all black pines along beach accesses and in areas where LBT maintains an easement (*includes residential properties*). The pines will be replaced with native plants (e.g., bayberries, beach plums). This program is expected to start on the north end of the Township and then move south.

9. Relevant Ordinance Passed on Second Reading

- 24-09C This ordinance requires oceanfront homeowners to roll up and safely store their beach access walkways by November 2. Rollover beach access walkways are only permitted April 1 – November 1. **The Township will more aggressively enforce this in 2024.**
- *Adopted ordinances in the process of being incorporated in the Township's code can be found here:* <https://ecode360.com/laws/LO1479>

10. Relevant Ordinances Moved on First Reading

- 24-10C Clarifies regulations regarding the maintenance and repair of water mains and related pipes and fixtures on private easements: Property owners located on the easement own the water main and all related fixtures from curb stop onto the property and are responsible for the repair, maintenance and replacement of water mains and related fixtures. The proposed ordinance also includes conditions that must be met by a developer who wishes to build a major subdivision on a private easement in order for the Township to be responsible for the maintenance of the water main (not the adjacent fixtures). The property owners on the easement would be responsible for the initial design, supervision and installation of water mains and related fixtures on these sites, however.
- 24-12C Revises the set-back required for entryway roofs, roof decks, mechanical systems and roof deck structures. Also clarifies regulations regarding bike usage on beaches, i.e., except as authorized in Article III of this ordinance, no vehicles, motorcycles and scooters would be allowed on the beach at any time although bicycles (including electric and e-bikes) would be permitted between Oct 1 – May 14.
- *First-reading ordinances are not currently available due to revisions being made to the LBT website.*

11. Save the Dates

- Next Commissioners Meeting is Monday, May 6 at 4pm in the LBT Courtroom
- HTA Dune Planting, Saturday, May 18 (morning)
- HTA Spring Clean-up, Saturday, May 25 (morning)
- First Town-wide Yard Sale, Saturday, May 25 (permit required)
- HTA Spring Membership Meeting, Saturday, June 8, 10:00am; Marine Field Station
- Second Town-wide Yard Sale Saturday, June 29 (permit required)