

HTA December 2025 Newsletter

We hope that everyone has been able to enjoy the Christmas and Hanukkah holidays as we head into the New Year!

This month, an LBI issue suddenly emerged which bears watching. Ship Bottom is trying to pass a 3% vacation home rental tax on December 30. This is believed to result from their high bond payments relating to the construction of their new town hall. It has caused an outcry among Ship Bottom homeowners. For more information: <https://bit.ly/ShipBottomRentalTax>

Since this doesn't technically show up as an increase in the property tax rate, there is reason to believe other municipalities will be following this closely and may be interested in a similar new revenue stream.

Best wishes for a safe, healthy and prosperous 2026!

Your HTA Trustees

December Highlights

1. Beach Conditions
2. Beach Toy Boxes
3. Donations
4. Dune Fencing on the Beach
5. Seaweed on the Bay Beach
6. Holiday Lights
7. LBT Commissioners Meeting Updates
8. Relevant Township Ordinances Passed on Second Reading
9. Relevant Township Ordinances Moved on First Reading
10. Save The Dates

Updates

1. Beach Conditions

- North and south Holgate fared better than expected in past storms but there is a steep drop-off in areas within central Holgate. These entrances are barricaded so please stay away from them. As always, while the Township has been pushing sand back onto the beach this Winter during low tides, they will wait until late Spring to bulldoze new entrances; this avoids having Winter storms erode any work done before then.

2. Beach Toy Boxes

- After HTA trustee Jeff Lipman created an artful box for beach toys last summer, the question was how to extend the program over 25 beach entrances. Hand-crafting that many boxes would take too long. A new approach was needed.
- The solution appeared when Jeff looked at a plastic milk crate and realized we could simply add mass-produced signage to them and then attach the crate to the benches atop the dunes. People from Holgate have already answered his call for donations of both milk crates and toys that can be borrowed/returned by kids this summer. Many thanks to our donors and to Long Beach Township for allowing us to place the boxes on the benches.
- Note: While this program originated in other LBI communities, Holgate's effort will now be, by far, the largest on the island.

3. Donations

- The sale of Tunes by the Dunes t-shirts was a success this year and \$400 in profit was donated to ReClam the Bay. See the Sandpaper story: <https://www.thesandpaper.net/articles/tunes-by-the-dunes-t-shirt-proceeds-benefit-reclam-the-bay/>
- In response to the SurfLight's call for support in the face of unanticipated major expenses, the HTA donated \$250 to this important cultural institution.
- A new memorial plaque honoring the lives of past HTA trustee Marianne Hurley, along with her husband Mike, was commissioned by Art Levy on behalf of the Hurley-Escobedo family and the HTA, and will be installed on a memorial bench.

4. Dune Fencing on the Beach

- John Prochazka and Rand Pearsall met with LBT Commissioner Allie Meehan and Assistant Public Works Superintendent Dustin Martin to discuss if additional dune fencing would help protect the dunes and beaches. The Township explained that several things have been tried in the past and the harsh Winter storms continue to pull up any fencing. Loose fencing on the beach can create a dangerous situation which requires fast removal. However, they indicated a willingness to revisit this with us in the future and consider testing new approaches.

5. Seaweed on the Bay Beach

- In response to a member's concern, Rand asked if seaweed on the bay beach at Bond's Park could be regularly raked up by the Township. LBT replied their policy is to only rake beaches that are attended by lifeguards and this does not include Holgate. However, they noted when they have done some Holgate raking in the past, more seaweed is visible just offshore and this starts to come in with

the next tide. Please advise if you have any suggestions or ideas for this.

6. New Holiday Lights

- Thanks again to Dan Macone and Long Beach Township; the three new 6' HTA holiday lights looked fantastic this year.

7. LBT Commissioners Meeting Updates

- The Township approved \$270k, spread over 5 years, for a remote-controlled drone to aid in emergency response. The drone has the capability to fly over the beaches and drop up to two life-preservers. The cost includes the American-made drone (to be upgraded every two years), training and a storage shed.
- Commissioner Meehan noted that during bad Winter snowstorms, if you leave the light on in front of your home, Public Works will make every effort not to plow you in. Please be sure to remove your cars from the street before a storm.
- Please keep in mind there will be a significant amount of Boulevard construction over the Winter and early Spring months in Long Beach Township and Beach Haven. Nothing is planned for Holgate but allow extra travel time for detours off the Boulevard.

8. Relevant Ordinances Passed on Second Reading (Dec. 1 Meeting)

- **25-21C.** Dewatering pools/hot tubs by laying hoses across Beach Avenue and Atlantic Avenue in Brant Beach from June 16 – September 15 is prohibited. For other areas, there are already dewatering regulations on the books; these can be found in Section 180-3.D. in the Township Code (General Regulations – Dewatering).

- *Adopted ordinances in the process of being incorporated in the Township's code can be found here: <https://ecode360.com/laws/LO1479> and are also attached to the meeting agendas found under the Government section of the LBT website*

9. Relevant Ordinances Moved on First Reading

- None in December
- *First-reading ordinances can be viewed at the Clerk's office in LBT Town Hall.*

10. Save the Dates

- Commissioners Meeting: Monday, January 5

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HTA Membership

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