

HTA February 2026 Newsletter

Brrrrrr! Please see the important information below about our freezing conditions and your house. And if you are on the Island now, please run your water constantly (pencil-width trickle while wind chills are very low) to help prevent our infrastructure from freezing.

Thank you for the great response to our January newsletter. If you haven't already done so, please renew your membership today:

1. Renew your membership this weekend
at: <https://www.holgatetaxpayers.org/web/membership/>
2. If you have a new neighbor, please encourage them to join

Your \$25 tax-deductible, annual dues and additional donations will ensure we can continue to provide free Thursday night summer concerts, dune preservation, beach clean-ups, BBQs, and critical Township updates.

Stay warm – just a few more months until we can play in the sand again.

Your HTA Trustees

February Highlights

1. Beach Conditions
2. Deep Freeze Precautions
3. Snow Plows and Driveways
4. Regional School Tax Update
5. NJ REAL Regulation (Correction)
6. Support Beach Haven Fire Company (Serves Holgate)
7. LBT Commissioners Meeting Updates

8. Relevant Township Ordinances Passed on Second Reading
9. Relevant Township Ordinances Moved on First Reading
10. Reminders
11. Save The Dates

Updates

1. Beach Conditions

- No work is being done on the beaches as our DPW personnel have been busy driving the plows and attending to frozen pipes. In addition, the sand may be frozen or underneath several inches of ice. Sand bulldozing is expected to continue as the weather improves.

2. Deep Freeze Precautions

- While few could have foreseen the extent of these sub-freezing temperatures, there are things all homeowners can do to avoid expensive home repairs due to busted water pipes:
 - Even new construction is no guarantee your pipes are safe.
 - Ideally, unoccupied homes should be winterized with water blown out of all pipes and the water service shut off at the street.
 - For occupied homes, check with your plumber first. But you can run a trickle of water (about a pencil width) from the highest point in your house. This may also keep the underground water line to your house (which the homeowner is responsible for) from freezing. Keep your homes heated, possibly even higher than normal given our sub-zero wind chills.
 - The most vulnerable area may be the pipe that comes out of the ground and into your house in either your garage or crawl

space. Heat tape can help keep this pipe from freezing and all visible piping in unheated spaces should be insulated in some way.

- Subscribe to the Township's water usage tracking service: <https://longbeachtwpnj.watersmart.com> Only 25% of Township homes have signed up.
- Install digital thermostats that are connected to your wi-fi. These tell you your power is on or off while reporting the temperature inside your home.

3. Snow Plows and Driveways

- During the last storm, 30 snow removal vehicles were dispatched by the Township, beginning at 6:30 am and running continuously until 11:30 pm.
- If your car was in the driveway, the crews try not to plow you in. All cars must be removed from the roadway.
- However, notching out the entrance of the driveway at the street only happens after all the main plowing has been accomplished, which usually takes at least 48 hours. This includes first making sure fire hydrants are clear and easily accessible.
- The Township advised that before the next major storm, their weather alert will include a phone number that inhabited homes can call to request the notching out of your driveway. A house with lights on will no longer be considered inhabited.

4. Regional School Tax Update

- Please be sure to read the recent Sandpaper article about this important subject: <https://www.thesandpaper.net/pageview/viewer/2026-02-04#page=23>

5. NJ REAL Regulation (Correction)

- Our understanding that this will have little impact in Long Beach Township is now believed to have been in error. If you are planning new construction or major renovation, please check with your architect or the Township Construction Office to determine what effect the regulation may have on your project.

6. Support Beach Haven Fire Company (Serves Holgate)

- Delicious roast turkey, buttered mashed potatoes, gravy, green beans, savory stuffing, cranberry sauce, rolls and a slice of cake – the Beach Haven Fire Company’s 109th annual Turkey Dinner gets underway on Saturday, February 14. The meal will be served at the Fire Hall at 100 S. Bay Avenue in Beach Haven from noon to 8pm. Tickets are \$25 and can be paid for at the door. You may take out or dine at the Hall where Beach Haven School children have created colorful table decorations and delightful watercolor paintings. All proceeds help the Beach Haven Fire Company purchase much-needed fire-fighting equipment, training and much more.

7. LBT Commissioners Meeting Updates

- With sub-zero wind chills and overnight water main breaks, some water main repairs and shut-offs may not occur until the next morning for the safety of the workers.
- Please respect our Township employees. There have been disturbing reports of verbal abuse of LBT workers, especially during the recent storms. The Mayor has advised that people harassing LBT staff may be charged accordingly.

8. Relevant Ordinances Passed on Second Reading

- **26-01** This is an annually required ordinance titled “An Ordinance Fixing and Determining the Annual Salaries, Designating Holidays and Providing for Overtime Compensation of Certain Officers and Employees of the Township of Long Beach, County of Ocean, New Jersey.”
- *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

- **26-02** This ordinance is proposed annually and allows the Township to increase next year's budget by up to 1% above the state cap of 2.5%. This is pro forma as the Township has not exceeded the state cap in the past.
- *First-reading ordinances can be viewed at the Clerk’s office in LBT Town Hall.*

10. Reminders

- LBT Required Rental Home Registration: Annual registration is required for all rental property owners in Long Beach Township. Rental properties must register and pay the \$100 fee within 30 days of starting or renewing your liability insurance policy. <https://www.longbeachtownship.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/2025-Business-and-Rental-application-updated.pdf>

- Required Fire Marshall Inspection for Rental Homes: **Annual fire inspections are required** for all properties **rented seasonally**. To remain in compliance, please complete the inspection application online at: [oceancountyfiremarshal.com](https://www.oceancountyfiremarshal.com). Once the application is **submitted**, you will receive a **confirmation email**. After the application is received, the Marshall's office will contact you to schedule the inspection.

11. Save the Dates

- LBT Municipal Building Closed: February 9 and 16
- Beach Haven Fire Department Turkey Dinner, February 14 (noon – 8pm)
- Commissioners Meeting: Monday, March 2, 4pm
- Town-wide Yard Sales: May 23 and July 4
- HTA Spring Membership Meeting: June 6, 1pm (Marine Field Station on Osborn)
- HTA Fall Member BBQ: Saturday, September 5 (note: *this is Labor Day Saturday*)

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HTA Membership

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