

Committee Meeting – August 17, 2009
MAYOR’S REPORT

TAX BILLS:

The 2009 tax bills will be mailed out this week. While the state requires a 25 day window in which to pay tax bills, the Township will allow a greater period of time for residents to pay their tax bills. Tax bills for the 3rd quarter will be due by Friday, September 25th. In addition, the official overall Township tax rate for Barnegat decreased by 4/10 tenths of a cent. The tax rate for 2009 will be 1.627 down from 1.631 in 2008.

COAH MEDIATION TEAM:

On tonight’s agenda, we will be appointing a state mandated COAH Mediation Team in response to the three objections filed with the state regarding the Township’s Affordable Housing plan. This team consisting of myself, the planning board chairman, the administrator and our COAH attorney, will negotiate on behalf of the Township in conjunction with the mediation process which again is required by the state.

BARNEGAT YOUTH FOOTBALL LEAGUE:

The Deputy Mayor, Administrator and I met last week with members of the BYFL to sign the recent agreement for use of the Lower Shore field. Final preparation of the new sod field, parking lot, lighting and the renovated concession trailer, now dubbed “The Cub House”, should be completed by the end of the month. I want to thank our administrator, public works, water and sewer, Bill Clarke and all of the football league volunteers (especially Victor Suriano) for the tremendous amount of effort that has gone into this project. It is indeed a true partnership that has paid huge dividends for the Township.

DAY ON THE BAY:

Yesterday was the 7th Day on the Bay for people with special needs held at Sherer’s Marina. With temperatures hovering around 90 degrees, the volunteers still catered to nearly 80 participants taking advantage of the 12 boats and captains that donated their time for this very special event. My thanks to the many other volunteers that helped to coordinate, participate and donate their time and money time after time for these community events.

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I would also like to add that during yesterday’s event, one of the participating boats discovered a young fawn that was stranded in a lagoon. A Barnegat resident and owner of Nature’s Rescue, Sharon Ragonese, was contacted and along with help from the boaters, the fawn was plucked from the water and transported Woodruff Cedar Run Wildlife Refuge in Medford later unharmed.

COX HOUSE REPAIRS:

In a recent newspaper article, Committeeman Moran was quoted saying that the Township has spent \$500,000 on repairs to the Cox House. While I sincerely wish that was true and we had that kind of money available for the Cox House, it is so far from the truth that I wanted to correct him here tonight. In the past 5 years, the Township has only spent approximately \$125,000 on the Cox House repairs and upkeep. I think we all agree that it is important that accurate information be presented to the media in order to prevent any unnecessary concern on the part of the general public. Misinformation serves no purpose except to create undue turmoil and anguish in a community that is working very hard to do what is right and move forward. Hopefully, a correction will be forth coming.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Every Thursday and now through October – The Jersey Fresh Farmer’s Market in the Municipal lot next to the Gazebo Park which now features free bluegrass music in the Gazebo.

Saturday, August 29th- Flea Market at the Barnegat Dock sponsored by the Historical Society.

Sunday, August 30th – A KICK OFF grand opening celebration of the Jr. Bengals football season will be held at Lower Shore Field from noon on.

Saturday, September 5th - Pinewood Estates Ladies Auxiliary - Huge Flea Market Labor Day Blow Out Sale. 6 foot tables are \$15 to rent and are open to Crafters, Vendors and any one having items to sell. Drinks and snacks will be available to purchase from the Ladies Auxiliary. For information or table reservations, please call Candice 609-713-1474 or Frank 609-597-6211 - Rain or Shine - Inside and outside spaces available

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Saturday, September 12th - Pirate's Day runs from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM at Gazebo Park, Route 9 and East Bay Avenue with fireworks at the dock at sunset.

Saturday, October 3, 2009 – 100th Anniversary celebration of the Barnegat Volunteer Fire Company.

For more information on these and other events in Barnegat, visit our website at www.barnegat.net.

Jeffrey M. Melchiondo
Mayor, Barnegat Township