

Committee Meeting – October 6, 2008
MAYOR’S REPORT

THE PINELANDS COMMISSION:

This evening I would like to welcome Executive Director John Stokes & Special Projects Director, David Kutner from the NJ Pinelands Commission. The Commission along with NJ Forest Fire Service Warden, Maris Gabliks, will give a presentation on their “Fire Safety Initiative” aimed at reducing the risk of wildfires in both Stafford & Barnegat Townships.

EMERGENCY EVACUATION PLAN:

I would like to mention a recent handout being circulated around Barnegat that both the administrator and I found to be disturbing and needed to be addressed. A claim was made that Barnegat needs to “Develop Emergency Evacuation Plan that handles the growth of the community”. We did not want this statement to cause undo public alarm and felt that a response was necessary to assure our residents that Barnegat does indeed have a very comprehensive Emergency Operations Plan in the event of any and all possible scenarios, be it fire, flood, hurricane or nuclear radiological incident. This plan includes an extensive evacuation plan to be carried out by our Police and other emergency operation teams. The administrator has with him tonight a copy of our Emergency Operations Plan which has been endorsed by the Ocean County OEM and approved by the NJ State Police OEM. This plan has been reviewed, updated and approved on April 1st of this year. It is revised annually to include ALL additional homes, businesses and schools within Barnegat Township. Our OEM along with the police, fire, first aid, public works, code enforcement and school district members meet on a regular basis for training, mock exercises and annual certification to ensure that our plan will provide the utmost in safety and security of all of our residents should the need arise.

It is important to stress while Township Committee meetings are not the place for politics, when a campaign makes a false statement that can cause undue public panic and concern, it must be addressed to assure our residents that comprehensive, ongoing plans are in place to handle any emergency that could impact the residents of Barnegat.

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MIRAGE WATER BILLS:

The quarterly water/sewer bills were mailed out last week and many of the Mirage residents have questions about their bill. This the first quarterly billing that includes the usage of the irrigation system in the homes built by K. Hovnanian. While I, Mr. Breeden and the tax office have been explaining the billing to a number of the residents individually, we will be at the Mirage Clubhouse this Wednesday @ 3 PM to address the issue with the homeowners.

APWA AWARD:

I’m happy to announce that our administrator, Dave Breeden, was the recipient of the American Public Works Association’s annual Public Official award of excellence. Dave has done a great job with our public works department since joining us here in Barnegat and certainly deserves this recognition. Dave will be receiving his award at a special breakfast meeting in November during the New Jersey League of Municipality’s annual conference in Atlantic City. Congratulations Dave!

BOOK SALE:

The Barnegat Branch of the Ocean County library is holding its annual book sale this week. The dates are; Oct.8 Wednesday & Oct.9 Thursday, 10am - 4:45pm and Oct.10 Friday 10am -5pm. This is the largest book sale of the year and is sponsored by the Friends of the Barnegat Library.

Jeffrey M. Melchiondo
Mayor, Barnegat Township