

APRIL

Wantage Township Newsletter

2016

Mayor: Ron Bassani
Committeeman: Bill Gaechter

Deputy Mayor: Jon Morris
Administrator: Jim Doherty

MAYOR'S MESSAGE

My fellow citizens of Wantage Township, I hope this newsletter finds you well and ready for Spring. As in the past, in my capacity as Mayor, I want to take this opportunity to reach out to each of you and thank you for the continued confidence you have placed in myself, Deputy Mayor Jon Morris, and Committeeman Bill Gaechter.

We are honored to represent you in our continued efforts to manage the well-being of Wantage Township. Please feel confident that we continuously strive to do our best as we migrate today's economic challenges and plan for the future of Wantage.

Some Highlights:

2016 Budget—Once again, as we finalize our Budget for this year, it appears we will be able to roll out a budget with zero per cent increase. This comes as a result of your Committee working hard to find even more ways to do more with less. We have expanded our shared services with other municipalities, aggressively negotiated for services where we could and contracted services where applicable to save taxpayer dollars. At the same time, we look to "buy local" in an effort to support our local commercial base. I ask that you look to do the same whenever possible.

Open Space Committee—I am also a member of the Open Space Committee. For those who may not know, the Open Space Committee is responsible to utilize appropriated monies in an effort to secure properties that would allow our Township to remain rural as well as expand our parks and recreation programs. Recently, with the help of a Green Acres grant we received totaling near \$500,000 from the State, this Committee now has over \$1,000,000 in funds to utilize toward keeping Wantage the rural township we know and cherish. We are currently in discussions surrounding several parcels and with luck, we will have good news to announce later this year as we achieve our goals.

Land Use Board—The Land Use Board has revisited our Master Plan for the continued and future growth of Wantage. Our desire is to manage commercial growth, bringing in businesses which equate to jobs and rateables into defined areas of our Township (Wantage Economic Development zone.) Controlled growth will allow us to maintain our farmlands and keep Wantage rural.

Get involved—The greatest challenge we face as your Committee is not what you may think. It is not taxes, the budget, maintaining our over 120 miles of roads or individual complaints. It is simply, "apathy." Please get involved in your township. Start by visiting our Township's website (wantagetwp.com) to know what is going on in Wantage. Keep informed by coming to scheduled meetings, all posted on our website. Take advantage of the recreation and activities we offer to our citizens.

I want to help you should the need arise. I always can be reached via email at rbassani@wantagetwp-nj.org or through our website. I look forward to continuing to serve the needs of our township and to representing the citizens of Wantage Township. Thank you for taking the time to read this message.

Ron Bassani, Mayor, Wantage Township

TRIMMING TREES/BUSHES ON PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY

From time to time, the Township must trim hedges, bushes, tree branches, shrubbery and other forms of landscaping planted along the public right of way. If you have trees or bushes planted along the public right of way, and you do not want the Township to trim them, for fear that we may damage the plant or tree, please contact the Administrator's office at 973-875-7192. We will have a member of the Public Works Department come out and explain our needs, and if it is necessary to improve sight distance, we will allow you the opportunity to trim and prune the plants yourself, in a way that you find acceptable and will at the same time meet the needs of the public for safety along the roads. Please work with us on this issue! If we do not hear from you, and the public's safety is being compromised by sight distance problems, we will take appropriate action to prune and trim the branches and shrubs. Take a pro-active stance now to protect your curb-side landscaping, if you think this will be a problem or issue for you.

ANNUAL BULKY WASTE COLLECTION PROGRAM

The 2016 Clean Up of bulky waste for residences in Wantage Township will take place during the first two full weeks in June. Property Owners who purchase a Bulky Waste Sticker from the Wantage Town Hall will be permitted to place up to 500 pounds of bulky items for collection at curbside. Items must be placed at curbside on the evening prior to the week's collection for your area of town. Materials may include household appliances (commonly referred to as white goods), couches, tables, chairs, mattresses, bedsprings, etc. No household garbage, recyclable material, clothing, building materials, brush/leaves/grass, hazardous materials or tires will be collected. A Bulky Waste Sticker may be obtained from the Wantage Tax Collector's office, at a cost of \$30, for each household in Wantage. Proof of residency may be required at the time of purchase. If you are not sure which week to place your bulky waste out for collection, call us at 973-875-7192 and we will let you know. Collection will take place no earlier than 7:00 a.m., and no later than 4:00 p.m. on any given day. **Tickets go on sale as of Monday, May 2, 2016.** If you live on a street located to the east of State Highway Route 23, the collection of bulky waste will take place from Monday, June 6 — Saturday, June 11. If you live on a street located to the west of State Highway Route 23, the collection of bulky waste will take place during the week of Monday, June 13 — Saturday, June 18.



AN OPEN LETTER FROM THE MAYOR: Stormwater Management and Local Ordinances

Dear Fellow Wantage Township Resident:

Pollution on streets, parking lots and lawns can affect our drinking water supplies and the lakes our children play in. Fertilizer, oil, pesticides, detergents, pet waste, grass clippings: You name it and it ends up in our water. Stormwater pollution is one of New Jersey's greatest threats to clean and plentiful water, and that's why we all need to do something about it. By sharing the responsibility and making small, easy changes in our daily lives, we can keep common pollutants out of Stormwater. It all adds up to cleaner water, and it saves the high cost of cleaning up once it's dirty. As part of New Jersey's initiative to keep our water clean and plentiful and to meet federal requirements, Wantage Township has adopted ordinances and other rules prohibiting various activities that contribute to Stormwater pollution. Breaking these rules can result in fines or other penalties.

Don't litter: Wantage Township has a Litter Ordinance in place! Place litter in trash receptacles.

Recycle. Recycle. Recycle! You can read the Township ordinances for Litter control and Recycling requirements on the Wantage Township website at www.wantagewp.com.

Help Keep Wantage Clean – And make a Buck While You're At It! Through the Wantage Township Clean Communities program, you can organize and participate in community cleanups, and receive cash through the Township's Clean Communities Grant for doing so! Contact Christine Von Oesen at Wantage Township Municipal Building, 973-875-7192, and we will set you up with our Clean Communities Coordinator.

Dispose of yard waste properly: Use leaves and grass clippings as a resource for compost. Use a mulching mower that recycles grass clippings into the lawn.

Clean up after your pet: Remember to pick up and properly dispose of pet waste dropped on public property or other people's property. Remember to use newspaper, bags or pooper-scoopers to pick up wastes. Dispose of the wrapped pet waste in the trash or unwrapped in a toilet. Never discard pet waste in a storm drain.

Don't feed wildlife: Do not feed wildlife in public areas.

Contact information: For more information on stormwater related topics, visit www.cleanwater.nj.org. Additional information is also available at U. S. Environmental Protection Agency Web sites www.epa.gov/npdes/stormwater or www.epa.gov/nps. New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, Division of Water Quality, Bureau of Non-point Pollution Control, Municipal Stormwater Regulation Program (609) 633-7021.

Together, we can make a difference and protect our future. Thank you!

Ron Bassani, Mayor

RENEW YOUR COMMITMENT TO RECYCLE!

WHAT CAN WE DO?

RECYCLE JUNK MAIL!

Please join us in a very simple course of action that we believe will greatly increase our recycling rate: recycle paper products, especially junk mail — it's a very simple way to "go green."

DID YOU FORGET TO RENEW YOUR DOG LICENSE ?

If your dog has been spayed or neutered, the dog license fee is \$10.00, plus late fees. If your dog has not been spayed or neutered, the fee is \$14.00, plus late fees. Late Fees of \$2 per month, per dog, apply if you did not renew your dog license before 02/01/16. Please make checks payable to Wantage Township. If your dog has been spayed or neutered, include this proof with your application. You Must Also Include Proof of Rabies Vaccination. If your dog's rabies shot expires before November 1, 2016, you must get your dog a new rabies shot before you can apply for your 2016 dog license. You may obtain your dog license either by mail or in person at the Wantage Township Municipal Building, 888 State Highway Route 23, Wantage, NJ. If you have any questions, call us at 973-875-7192.

RABIES CLINIC: APRIL 15, 2016 FROM 6—8 P.M. at Wantage Town Hall, 888 Route 23. Bring proof of previous rabies vaccination if this is not your animal's first rabies inoculation. Dogs must be on leash; cats must be in carriers.

WANTAGE TOWNSHIP RECREATION

JOIN US FOR THE FOLLOWING EVENTS AT WOODBOURNE VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK:



WANTAGE DAY

June 18, 2016



5 K RACE

September 17, 2016



CAR & BIKE SHOW

October 9, 2016

YANKS VS. RAYS BUS TRIP TO YANKEE STADIUM April 24, 2016—

if interested, call Town Hall at 973-875-7192 and ask for Arlene.

WANTAGE TOWNSHIP CLEAN COMMUNITIES PROGRAM: "ADOPT A ROAD"

In return for organizing a roadside litter pickup in Wantage Township, your group can earn \$10.00 per hour, per person. Gloves, litterbags and safety vests will be provided. The participants in your organization will be developing civic pride in performing a valuable community service. This hands-on experience will help them understand the negative impact of litter on our environment.

1. Choose a date and time for your litter pick up. Allow 1-2 hours for your clean up.
2. Choose a road or call Ken Karnas at 973-875-5316 for suggestions.
3. Call Ken to notify him of your planned clean up, and to obtain safety vests, gloves, and bags.
4. Every participant must wear a safety vest and gloves. Conduct a safety meeting with all participants before starting the cleanup.
5. Clean-ups should be conducted in good weather and during daylight hours.
6. Arrange for adults to accompany and supervise. Stress safety!
7. One adult should be at the front of the clean-up line. Another adult should be at the end of the line.
8. Stay on one side of the road, facing oncoming traffic. Stay out of the roadway.
9. Only adults should handle sharp objects, such as broken glass.
10. Call Ken after the cleanup at 973-875-5316 to arrange pick up of gloves, litter bags and safety vests. You must return gloves, vests, and unused bags. (If possible, wash gloves before returning.)
11. After the clean up, recycle all recyclables, discard trash, and make a note of the location of large items you came across. Recycle as much as possible.
12. Dispose of trash appropriately. For especially large clean-ups, trash may be taken to the landfill. Reimbursement will be given for tipping fees upon submission of receipt.
13. If you'd like, submit a photo of your group and a short caption to the New Jersey Herald.
14. Keep track of the number of participants and the number of hours worked. Also, keep record of the approximate number of bags of garbage collected.
15. This report on the success of the clean up will be used by Ken to arrange for a contribution to your group, calculated at \$10.00 per person, per hour.

Township of Wantage
888 Route 23
Wantage, NJ 07461

STD MAIL
US POSTAGE PAID
FRANKLIN, NJ
PERMIT NO. 321

RESIDENT - WANTAGE TOWNSHIP

Wantage, NJ 07461