



## SENIOR COALITION of BERKELEY TOWNSHIP

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SCofBT.org

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### SENIOR COALITION OF BERKELEY TOWNSHIP

September 5, 2024

### MINUTES

#### Call to Order:

- The meeting was called to order at 10:00 am by President Signorile.

#### Pledge of Allegiance and Moment of Silence:

- All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence for the families of the 9/11 victims, our military and first responders.

Thank you, Holiday City West, for hosting today's meeting. Everyone wished Mike a very happy and blessed birthday.

#### Roll Call:

**PRESENT:** President Mike Signorile, Secretary/Treasurer Judi Pakay, Past Presidents: Pete Albietz, Barbara Egner, Karen Heck, Marietta Kobus, Terry LaCausi. Associations: HC Berkeley, HC Carefree, Holiday City West, Holiday Heights, SRP East, SRP North, SRP West, SRP Westerly and Sonata Bay. Absent; Vice President Vince DeChiaro. Guests: Mayor John Bachionne, Councilwoman Sophia Gingrich, BT Administrator Scott Tirella, Confidential Secretary Stacy Georgaklis and Director Public Works, Shawn Thomas.

CONTACT INFORMATION FOR MAYOR BACCHIONE	
Confidential Secretary to the Mayor	Stacy Georgaklis 732-244-2400 x 1203 <a href="mailto:sgeorgaklis@berkeleymunicipal.org">sgeorgaklis@berkeleymunicipal.org</a>

**Acceptance of the Minutes:** The Minutes from our June 6, 2024, Coalition meeting were distributed to all members prior to the meeting. No additions or corrections were received. Motion and seconded to approve the minutes. Minutes stand as read.

**Acceptance of the June Financial Report:** The Financial Report ending 6/1/2024 was submitted to all Coalition members prior to the meeting. Being no additions or corrections motion was made to accept and seconded. The June Financial Report is filed. NOTE: There was no meeting during July and August. Also, there were no expenses during those months.

#### Financial Report as of August 31, 2024:

Opening Balance	\$3,846.58
Interest Earned	\$ _____.11
	\$3,846.66
No Expenses	\$ _____.00
Ending Balance as of 8/31/24	<u>\$3,846.69</u>

**Guest Speakers:**

Mayor John Bacchione and Shawn Thomas, Department of Public Works:

**Robo Cans:**

- Implementing the Robo Can system will save the township \$1.4 million dollars.
- Out of 32 Ocean County municipalities, Berkeley Township is one of the few not on robo can pick up.
- There are 3 different sizes. Residents will have a choice of size preference: 95-gallon, 65 gallon or 34 gallon. Residents not using the robo cans will be assessed a fine.
- Each address will get one garbage and one recycle robo can for free. Additional cans will be available at a nominal cost.
- Loose plastic bags are no longer acceptable. All garbage must be placed in a receptacle. You can place your usual garbage in the containers. No hazardous waste. Bulk pick up will remain the same (the day after garbage pick-up). Contact Public Works to schedule. Leaf pick up will remain the same. Residents pay for bulk pick-up. Leaves should be in paper bags. Associations will be given additional cans.
- Contractor debris, carpeting, etc. will not be picked up. They must dispose of it themselves.
- The back loader trucks have been converted. Robo cans should be placed at them edge of the apron of the driveway for easy access by the truck.
- Trucks will require only one person. The other two will be reassigned. No one will lose their jobs. Eliminating the back loader will also cut down on employee accidents and insurance claims.
- Disabled medical exemptions starting in January 2025 the Department of Public Works will require a new doctor's note for continuation of their garage pick up.
- SRP East voiced concern Their streets are narrow and residents park on the street.
- SRP Westerly voiced concern. Regular garbage cans are 32 gallon. Using a bigger can may make it difficult for elderly to bring it to the curb. Mayor Bacchione commented that they will address each situation as they arise.
- A target start date has not been determined. Residents will be notified in advance of start date.

**Holiday Pick-up:** The garbage was not picked up due to the holiday. The mayor was questioned as to why associations were not notified? Mayor's response: Communities were asked to robo call their residents that due to the holiday collection would be delayed one day. There are 6 zones in Holiday City/Silver Ridge with 16 trucks. Monday holidays, the garbage is always delayed by one day.

**Town Hall Meetings:** Please call Stacy in my office to schedule a Town Hall meeting. We will come out and explain the robo can program as well as provide township updates. I know we are scheduled at SRP North in October. Mike reinforced the importance of these meetings.

**President's Report**

**NJ Property Tax Webinar:** NJAAW is sponsoring an overview on the Senior Freeze and the Anchor Program this Monday, September 9<sup>th</sup> at 2:00. Registration is required. Flyer was previously distributed.

- Handouts from the online seminar are posted on our website. SCofBT.us

**HR-7084 – You Earned It! You Keep It!** No action has been taken. It appears that this legislation will go nowhere. Has a total of 12 sponsors.

**S2930 – OPRA (Open Permit Request Act):**

- This bill makes various changes to the law governing access to government records, commonly known as the open public records act. The bill appropriates funds to assist local public agencies in moving public records online, where members of the public can search for such documents.
- Under the bill, records custodians are directed to withhold or redact records which include personal identifying information, information which the custodian has reason to believe would result in identity theft, and indecent or graphic images or video footage without prior written consent from the subject of the images or video footage.
- The bill makes it a disorderly persons offense to make public indecent or graphic images or video footage obtained through a public record request, without the prior written consent of the subject of the image or video footage.
- This bill revises the structure and membership of the Government Records Council and provides a salary to each of its members.
- The bill also modifies several fees which may be charged by the custodian for certain records requests; makes the award of attorney's fees in a dispute over access to a government record discretionary unless the public agency is found to have unreasonably denied access, acted in bad faith, or knowingly and willfully violated the law; and shifts responsibility for fines and penalties awarded as the result of an improper denial of a request for a public record from the custodian to the public agency that employs the custodian.
- The bill creates an extended timeline for records custodians to respond to requests from "commercial requestors" who intend to use the record to generate a profit. The bill authorizes a custodian to charge a special service fee to a commercial requestor who would like to receive the record in seven business days instead of 14 business days.
- This bill requires the Administrative Office of the Courts, on behalf of the Superior Court, to provide the Government Records Council with a report of all cases related to the open public records act at the end of each court year.

**Veterans Building – Hooper Avenue Update:** As of today, no grand opening date has been set. We will keep you updated as information is received. Mike would like to see as many of our residents, especially our veterans, attend the grand opening. In addition to benefits our veterans are already receiving at Brick or West Orange, this facility will provide additional state of the art benefits, parking will be better and our veterans will no longer need go to West Orange or Brick.

**Veterans Village :**

- Tunnels2Towers representatives met with the BT Council and Planning Board to discuss building a Veterans Village on Sloops Creek Road, Bayville. Both the Council and the Planning Board approved the project. In addition to the 24 comfort homes there will be a 99-unit apartment complex. The first floor will house 24/7 on-site support. Veterans must be homeless to qualify for an apartment or a smart home. 30% of their veterans pay will go toward rent.

- This is not a PILOT Program. The Program is fully funded.

(Information below is provided for background purpose. This was not discussed in meeting.) The Tunnel 2 Towers Foundation builds mortgage-free *smart homes* for our most catastrophically injured veterans and first responders. Each home is designed to address the unique needs of each individual. *Smart homes* host a myriad of features such as automated doors and lighting, wider halls and doorways, special showers to accommodate wheelchairs, automatic door openers, cabinets, counters, and stove tops that can be raised and lowered, back-up generators, and central heating and air conditioning systems that can be controlled by tablets. These homes help our most severely injured veterans and first responders to reclaim their day-to-day independence.)

#### Underage Ownership:

- In a matter of first impression, the New Jersey Appellate Division recently ruled that a municipal ordinance restricting ownership in age-restricted communities to individuals over the age of 55 is invalid on the grounds that it violates, and is preempted by, the federal Fair Housing Act and the New Jersey Law Against Discrimination.
- Berkeley Township is writing a revision to their Ordinance to modify it in accordance with the court's decision.
- You need to follow HOPA's 80/20 very carefully.
- Communities have made exception for children purchasing a property for a relative. In most cases the parents who are over 55 should be on the deed.

#### Older American Act:

- The government is cutting funding to many programs that seniors benefit from.
- Fulfill Meals on Wheels is one of these programs. To date there are over 200 residents on the waiting list. For some of our seniors this is the only meal they have each day.
- We will receive turkeys for Thanksgiving.
- Other programs the government is looking to cut are nursing assistance, medical and transportation.
- Ocean County is one of New Jersey's largest voting blocks. We need to contact our congressmen to vote against these cuts. Let our voices be heard.

Congressman Chris Smith	
Ocean County 33 Washington Street P.O. Box 728 Toms River, NJ 08754 Tel.: (732) 504-0567	Washington, D.C. Office 2373 Rayburn HOB Washington, D.C. 20515 Tel.: (202) 225-3765
Congressman Jeff Van Drew	
Northfield Office 1001 Tilton Road Suite 101 Northfield, NJ 08225 Phone: <a href="tel:6096255008">(609) 625-5008</a>	Washington, DC Office 2447 Rayburn HOB Washington, DC 20515 Phone: <a href="tel:2022256572">(202) 225-6572</a>

### **Vice President's Report – Given by Judi Pakay**

Vince is unable to be here today. His wife Pauline is having dental surgery. Vince wishes everyone a productive rest of the year.

### **Secretary's Report – Judi Pakay**

**Due to the time, Judi tabled her report until next month.**

**Two Requests:** 1) New and current Coalition Members please be sure you sign in and provide all information. You will be added to our communication list. If you do not receive these minutes email Judi your name, association, telephone number and email address. 2) Please refrain from talking among yourselves, it makes it hard for others to hear the speaker. Thank you.

### **ADR Updates – Barbara Egner:**

- Please do not give Barbara's contact information to residents requesting ADR. 1) The association ADR Coordinator should obtain two dates and times all parties involved are available. 2) The coordinator should contact Barbara with that information. 3) Barbara will arrange for a mediator and pass that information on to the association's ADR coordinator.
- We have 14 trained ADR Mediators. Over the summer we performed 19 ADR mediations.

### **AARP Certification Update – Bob Mattson:**

- Bob obtained his Safe Driving Certification. Once he completes one shadow of another certified instructor, he will be able to teach the class.
- AARP is looking for volunteers for many of their services.

### **Open Discussion**

#### **Silver Ridge Park East:**

Deer Population: Mayor Bachionne provided the following update:

- Since there was a great opposition of using bow and arrow to thin the herds the project was abandoned. All suggestions made for our area were not acceptable due to the lack of a large enough safe area to conduct the thinning.
- Sterilization was too expensive (\$750 per buck). They need to be sterilized annually. It also does not solve the over-population problem.
- It was suggested to increase or stagger the hours of the Animal Control personnel. Residents wait to feed the deer after 4:00 because they are aware that AC closes at 4:00.
- Mark C., Code Enforcement: Put a written complaint into Code Enforcement or Animal Control. We will investigate. But you need to eliminate the source: Stop feeding the wildlife.
- You can send pictures or videos of violators and send them to Animal Control or Code Enforcement. They will investigate and fine the violators. The fine is \$250.
- Mike commented that he sat in the meetings in which deer thinning was discussed. On this side of Route 9, hunters are allowed to bag one deer. On the other side, there is no limit.
- Signs have been placed throughout the neighborhoods warning "Do Not Feed the Deer." Fine will be imposed on violators.
- New construction in Manchester is driving the deer to our neighborhoods.
- Bob, Holiday City West. Create a resolution to your governing document stating you will be responsible for surveillance and legal fees. One homeowner was videoed for 4 days. Her fine w/legal fees was \$3,600.

- Berkeley Township also has a Do Not Feed the Wildlife Ordinance.

### **Scam Alert! Holiday City South:**

- Grapevine Pro Roofing: Soliciting. Mike turned it over to the police.
- Many contractors do not know that we are Berkeley Township, and not Toms River. When a contractor comes to your door always ask for the township permit to solicit. If it is not a Berkeley Township permit, or they cannot produce a permit, turn them away.
- “No Soliciting” door signs are available at Town Hall.

### **Rentals: SRP North:**

- The North is in the process of increasing ownership from one year to two years. Question is anyone doing more than two years? Mike, HC South just increased theirs to 3 years. HC South also included a percentage of the number of homes that can be rented.
- To make it stick , get the residents to vote on it and make it a part of your deed restrictions. It cannot be made by bylaws.
- SRP North: recently we were approached if we would allow a 54-year-old 100% disabled vet to rent in our community. Our attorney advised that it is up to our Board if we want to make the exception.

### **Trustee Elections:**

- Effective 4/1/24 term limits were eliminated from the Radburn Law. Associations are to go by their governing documents. You must be in good standing and then you follow your bylaws.
- Discussion took place among the different associations. Bottom line, check with your attorney when you are in doubt. Radburn is continuously changing.

### **Parking over the Bridge: Holiday Heights:**

- Carol H. asked what the possibilities of the vacant property are immediately over the bridge being made into a senior parking lot. The property in question is owned by the State. The beach is owned by Berkeley Township. BT maintains the beach properties.
- There have been several conversations of Seaside leaving Berkeley Township and merging with Toms River Township. Seaside is a good tax benefit for Berkeley Township.
- Seaside is building a hotel.

### **ShopRite in Bayville:**

- Question was asked if the ShopRite in Bayville is closing and moving to the new complex that will be built on Rt 9, Beachwood? Councilwoman Gingrich: there has been no talk about the Bayville ShopRite closing or moving to the new complex.

**Adjournment:** Meeting was adjourned at 12:15pm.

Our next meeting will be held on October 3, 2024 – Silver Ridge Park Westerly

Respectfully submitted,

*Judi Pakay*

Secretary/Treasurer

## Attachments

- Property Tax Relief Information
- 2025 Schedule of Meetings



## Senior Coalition of Berkeley Township

**2025**

**Start Time: 10:00 a.m.**

<b>Date of Meeting</b>	<b>Location of Meeting</b>	<b>Telephone/Fax Numbers</b>	<b>Number Of Homes</b>
<b>JANUARY 2</b>	<b>HOLIDAY HEIGHTS</b> 96 Prince Charles Drive E/M: Admin@HolidayHeights.com	Phone: 732-244-8686 Fax: 732-244-1447	1415
<b>FEBRUARY 6</b>	<b>SILVER RIDGE PARK NORTH</b> 101 Westport Drive E/M: SilverRidgeParkNorth@gmail.com	Phone: 732-286-4868 Fax: 732-286-4833	779
<b>MARCH 6</b>	<b>HOLIDAY CITY CAREFREE</b> 98 Bananier Drive E/M: HolidayCityCarefree@aol.com	Phone: 732-349-1050 Fax: 732-818-1215	1614
<b>APRIL 3</b>	<b>SILVER RIDGE PARK WEST</b> 145 Westbrook Drive E/M: SilverRidgeParkWest@gmail.com	Phone: 732-244-1484 Fax: 732-244-1084	1141
<b>MAY 1</b>	<b>HOLIDAY CITY AT BERKELEY</b> 631 Jamaica Blvd. E/M: HolidayCity@comcast.net	Phone: 732-341-5707 Fax: 732-286-6557	3236
<b>JUNE 5</b>	<b>SILVER RIDGE PARK EAST</b> 979 Edgebrook Drive North E/M: SilverRidgeParkEast@comcast.net	Phone: 732-505-1081 Fax: 732-505-3223	605
<b>JULY/AUGUST</b>	<b>NO MEETING</b>		
<b>SEPTEMBER 4</b>	<b>HOLIDAY CITY WEST</b> 45 Cabrillo Blvd E/M: HcwClubhouse@comcast.net	Phone: 732-240-4422 Fax: 732-240-3615	1812
<b>OCTOBER 2</b>	<b>SILVER RIDGE PARK WESTERLY</b> 39 Millbrook Drive E/M: SRPWesterlyhoa.org	Phone: 732-341-6153 Fax: 732-914-9852	659
<b>NOVEMBER 6</b>	<b>HOLIDAY CITY SOUTH</b> 139 Santiago Drive E/M: Admin@hcsnj.org	Phone: 732-341-8900 Fax: 732-341-8742	2359
<b>DECEMBER 4</b>	<b>HOLIDAY PARTY</b>		
	<b>SONATA BAY</b> 5 Wharfside Way, Bayville E/M: <a href="mailto:Shakey1948@Aol.com">Shakey1948@Aol.com</a>	Phone: 732-269-8278 Fax: 732-269-1272  <b>Total Number of Homes</b>	312  <b>14,029</b>



# NJ Property Tax Relief Programs

Monday, September 9, 2pm  
via Zoom



## New Jersey has the highest property taxes in the country.

For those who qualify, it also has five programs that offer rebates, including Anchor and Senior Freeze. By September, many residents will have received Anchor notices in the mail. As to Senior Freeze, new changes to the eligibility requirements, mean that even more homeowners will now be able to receive this rebate

Please join Ellen Steinberg, Director of Senior Citizens Council and Peter Humphreys, Editor of Senior News, its publication, as they review the various programs. Learn about the benefits, differences and how to qualify and apply for all of New Jersey's property tax relief programs. Also get a preview of the proposed Stay NJ

<b>Senior Freeze</b>	The <b>Senior Freeze</b> establishes a base year for eligibility, and then reimburses eligible residents for any property tax increases after that year. New legislation recently increased the income limit for the program to <b>\$150,000</b> , and eliminated the requirement that an applicant must be a NJ resident for 10 consecutive years to be eligible
<b>ANCHOR</b>	The <b>ANCHOR</b> program (Affordable New Jersey Communities for Homeowners and Renters) offers property tax relief to New Jersey residents who own or rent property in New Jersey as their main home and meet certain income limits.

*Senior Citizens Council is a non-profit organization, founded over 50 years ago, to assist older adults. Over the last four years, Ellen and Peter have been giving property tax relief presentations to senior groups throughout the state.*

This event is free but registration is required:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAuf-2oqj8tGtE7jMjU3jSDwkziHkL3GGSI>

Or at our events page on [www.njaaw.org](http://www.njaaw.org)