

# NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

## Project Updates and Occurrences

### **1. Bimini Drive – Speed Control**

- I met with Lieutenant Ryan Roth who is in-charge Traffic and Safety; there are a number of things that will be used to control the speed limit on Bimini Drive. Now that the weather is permitting, you will start to see what the Lieutenant and I agreed on. It won't stop drivers from speeding but they should make things better than what they are now.

### **2. Deer Population – Control**

- I met with BTPD Lieutenant Detective Peter La Rocca who is in-charge of Controlling the Deer Population along with Detective Shawn Bowens who is assigned to our area for Neighborhood Watch issues in regards to controlling the deer population. I also contacted various agencies including the Division of Fish and Wildlife; the Fish and Game Council; Animal Control and did extensive research on what we can do to control the deer population in the most humane way. A joint coalition meeting with our five Holiday City and four Silver Ridge Park communities, along with representatives from the organizations I mentioned, is scheduled for May 5<sup>th</sup> at Holiday City South. I will inform you of our findings and plan of action.

### **3. Informational Board**

- After doing the legwork to purchase and install a lighted computerized LED Informational Board that can be erected by our clubhouse, I'm waiting final approval from our Board of Directors to appropriate the funds from our wish list fund. The informational board will be the same or similar to that of what Holiday City at Berkeley has on the corner of Jamaica Boulevard and Barbados Drive.

### **4. Drug Activity**

- We now have a detective, Mike Tier, who is also the Township Coordinator for Emergency Management – OEM, assigned to our area

to address all drug activity issues inclusive of the sale and use of drugs.

**5. Township Snow Plowing and Removal**

- I held and facilitated a joint meeting on March 9<sup>th</sup> between our Mayor Carmen Amato; the Berkeley Township Administrator John Camera, Emergency Management Coordinator Mike Tier; Mike Walsh from Turfmasters; and our Board of Directors in regards to the Townships handling of snow removal and plowing. A summation of this meeting will be published in the Gazette.

**6. OEM – Office of Emergency Management**

- I was and I am the contact person for the OEM – Emergency Management in our community. I will be working with Mike Tier who as I said the coordinator for Emergency Management and Civil Defense for Berkeley Township.

**7. Signs**

- Now that the weather is getting better, the Township will begin installing metal signs as promised. This will include “See Something Say Something”; “Neighborhood Watch”; “Hide Your Things – Lock Your Car – Take Your Keys”; and “Deer” warning signs.

You will also see additional Flashing Solar Stop Signs and Flashing Solar Speed Limit Signs where warranted.

**8. Speed Limit and Stop Signs**

- Where needed, the Township will be adding Speed Limit signs and Stop signs on street corners that don’t have signs

**9. Street Address Signs**

- The Township will once again begin replacing faded and small lettered non-reflective corner street address signs with larger letter more reflective street address signs.

**10. Replacement of Street Address Signs**

- Several street address signs will be replaced that were either spelt wrong or designated incorrectly.

### **11. Re-Paving of Roadways and Streets**

- I will be meeting with our Mayor to see if we can have some of our Carefree' roads and streets re-paved as I believe none were done last year. Be mindful, that the Township has a budget and a schedule for re-paving of streets and roadways, and that Berkeley Township encompasses more than Holiday City and Silver Ridge Park. Berkeley Township includes Bayville and several surrounding towns.

### **12. House Fire – Santa Fe Court**

- On March 1<sup>st</sup>, there was a fire on Santa Fe Court. I have been in contact with the Fire Marshal/Official Fred Mitchell. The fire is still under investigation. I will inform you of the results of the investigation when I receive them.

### **13. Verizon – Suspicious Individuals and Activity**

- On February 28<sup>th</sup>, two individuals wearing vests were observed in our community for knocking on doors and ringing doorbells in the dark hours of the night – 7:15 to 8:00 pm – saying that they were from Verizon and were doing a survey. This occurred on different streets over several days. To make this brief, I received quite a few calls from residents informing me of these suspicious people.

I instructed the residents to call the police and I followed each call with a phone call to the police as well. The police responded each time but did not find anyone on the first two days.

I sent out a bulletin on my Neighborhood Watch E-mail list and on three of the Facebook sites I'm a member of including my Facebook site, the Holiday City Carefree Neighborhood Watch, informing residents of what was occurring and to call the police if they saw any suspicious people going door to door or if they were approached by anyone at their residents.

On March 3<sup>rd</sup>, the police were dispatched and confronted these individuals. Turns out that these individuals were in fact employees of Verizon having the proper identification and permits.

I want to thank our residents for making the calls to the BTPD; to the Clubhouse; and to me. In a joint effort, we addressed the suspicious

activity and individuals; validated their legitimacy; and insured that are community remains safe.

Fortunately, these individuals were legitimate Verizon employees. They could have been criminals – scam artists, thieves, or deranged individuals looking to harm or rob our residents.

I appreciate the collective effort of our residents and thank you and the community for coming together to address this incident as you did.

#### **14.No Solicitation**

- I have been in contact with our Mayor; the Township; the Clerks' Office; Town Council; the BTPD and our HOA Clubhouse/Board of Directors regarding door-to-door solicitation – what times licensed and permitted solicitors may knock on doors. As of today, the time frame is 9:00 am to 7:00 pm. I feel that a 10:00 am to 4:00 or 5:00 pm favoring the 4:00 pm cut off time.

We are not a “No Solicitation” community as some residents believe. There is a Township Code that defines the "Law". I cannot account for what people say nor do; I can only account for what I say and do. We can all wish for our own desires but it takes hard work; good argument; and substantiation to make change. My initial desire is to have “No Solicitation” ... but that probably won't pass.

I have finalized a resolution to change the present code (law) and have submitted it to the Township that I believe is more favorable to the residents of Berkeley Township than what is the present code (law), and more importantly, to our senior communities and Holiday City Carefree. I will make public the resolution I submitted via what avenues I have available.

I will be asking the Board of Directors and the Residents of Holiday City Carefree to pass an amendment to our Trilogy declaring Holiday City Carefree a “No Solicitation” community. An amendment to our Trilogy does not make “no solicitation” a law that is enforceable with the Township and the Berkeley Police Department; but, is enforceable within the Homeowners Association. I will look further into pursuing this matter and advise you accordingly.

If you differ with me, you can always take the time and effort to propose your own or remain satisfied with the existing law as is the right of every resident of Berkeley Township. I will update you as things progress.

### **15. Neighborhood Watch Meeting**

- There will be a Neighborhood Watch Meeting in our auditorium from 1:00 pm to 2:00 pm on **Thursday March 24<sup>th</sup>**. Guest speakers will be Mayor Carmen Amato; Councilwoman Sophia Gingrich; newly appointed Chief of Police Kevin Santucci; Detective Lieutenant Peter La Rocca, and Ocean County Sheriff Michael Mastronardy. I have asked our guest speakers to talk about things that are occurring in our senior communities and those things that affect our senior residents.

After each guest speaks, you will be afforded the opportunity to ask questions regarding the safety and security of our community or for them to elaborate on a program or project they have spoken about. I will facilitate the question and answer period for each guest so that there is order. Cake and coffee will be served after the meeting.

### **16. Neighborhood Watch**

- There are residents who cannot make our regular Shareholders Meeting that are held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month at 1:00 pm and there are new residents living in our community that are unaware that we have a Neighborhood Watch Program that I chair.
- My Neighborhood Watch Meetings are the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the month from 1:00 pm to 2:00 pm for the months of March; May and September. We try to schedule meetings that the majority of our residents want and can attend.
- The next Neighborhood Watch Meeting following our March 24<sup>th</sup> meeting will be on Thursday May 26<sup>th</sup> from 1:00 pm to 2:00 pm. There won't be another Neighborhood Watch Meeting until September. The September meeting will be the last Neighborhood Watch Meeting for the year.

- If you wish to be on my Neighborhood Watch E-mail List which is only for Neighborhood Watch issues, you can e-mail me at [jrpalmerson@outlook.com](mailto:jrpalmerson@outlook.com).
- If you wish to be a member of my Facebook site, Holiday City Carefree Neighborhood Watch, and you are a Carefree' resident, send me a request to join.

*Joseph R. Palmerson*

March 7, 2022