

Angela Lazzari

From: Debra Varnerin <davarnerin@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 10, 2025 5:22 PM
To: Angela Lazzari
Subject: Fwd: Walking Tour of Lower Columbia - New Beginnings

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Debra Varnerin** <davarnerin@gmail.com>
Date: Tue, Apr 1, 2025 at 5:58 PM
Subject: Walking Tour of Lower Columbia - New Beginnings
To: <sbhargavi@bhpsnj.org>, Bradford, Gale <gbradford@bhpsnj.org>, <bdillon@bhpsnj.org>, <tforegger@bhpsnj.org>, Natasha Joly <njoly@bhpsnj.org>, <dkhanna@bhpsnj.org>, <pstanley@bhpsnj.org>, <dtterrero@bhpsnj.org>, Dr. Kim Feltre <kfeltre@bhpsnj.org>, Hendricks, Carlos <chendricks@bhpsnj.org>, adevanney@bhtwp.com <adevanney@bhtwp.com>, Margaret Illis <millis@bhtwp.com>, Manuel Couto <mcouto@bhtwp.com>, Susan Poage <spoage@bhtwp.com>, <amoran@bhtwp.com>, John Foster <jfoster@bhtwp.com>, <bmachado@bhtwp.com>, lviana@bhtwp.com <lviana@bhtwp.com>
Cc: cgeorge@bhtwp.com <cgeorge@bhtwp.com>, [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED], Doug Caruso <[REDACTED]>, Michael D'Aquila <[REDACTED]>, edward Kingsley <[REDACTED]>

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Time: 1:00 PM

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From: **Natasha Joly** <njoly@bhpsnj.org>
Date: Wed, Apr 2, 2025 at 9:23 AM
Subject: Re: Walking Tour of Lower Columbia - New Beginnings
To: Debra Varnerin <davarnerin@gmail.com>
Cc: Dr. Kim Feltre <kfeltre@bhpsnj.org>, Gale Bradford <gbradford@bhpsnj.org>, Dipti Khanna <dkhanna@bhpsnj.org>

Good morning.

Board members are bcc'ed.

First, before any walking tours (photo ops and favorable TapInto to follow) organized by the township, there are written agreements that need to be finalized in less than 60 days for the lease to remain in force. The Board has yet to see any drafts from our attorney.

Second, as a resident and Board member, I would like to see a well advertised official acknowledgement and apology for the township's actions. Perhaps then I could put the past behind us.

As a reminder, the township "welcomed" our new Superintendent with an ultimatum letter only 2 weeks into her job, locked out children from the tennis courts under a false pretense of an insurance issue, manipulated town residents by the lockout, created an "emergency" so that community members / PAL families flooded our emails, had your attorney send threatening emails to the District and Board to force a vote on the lease at the March 18th Board meeting.

This walking tour feels like another political maneuver to mitigate the damage to the township's image.

I would also caution Board members on attending this tour prior to checking with our attorney due to potential OPMA violation.

Note: These are my personal thoughts and opinions as an individual and do not represent the opinion of the Berkeley Heights Board of Education.

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From: John Foster <jfoster@bhtwp.com>
Date: Wed, Apr 2, 2025 at 9:58 AM
Subject: Re: Walking Tour of Lower Columbia - New Beginnings
To: Debra Varnerin <davarnerin@gmail.com>

Debbie,
Thanks for the invite. Unfortunately I am not available. I know you will give a great presentation. I know you have put your heart and soul into this and this is a great idea to "break the ice". I appreciate all you have done to get this off the ground.
Thank you,
John

On April 1, 2025 5:58:35 PM Debra Varnerin <davarnerin@gmail.com> wrote:

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From: Debra Varnerin <davarnerin@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 10, 2025 5:24 PM
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From: Manuel Couto <mcouto@bhtwp.com>
Date: Wed, Apr 2, 2025 at 10:41 AM
Subject: Re: Walking Tour of Lower Columbia - New Beginnings
To: Liza Viana <lviana@bhtwp.com>, Debra Varnerin <davarnerin@gmail.com>, sbhargavi@bhpsnj.org <sbhargavi@bhpsnj.org>, gbradford@bhpsnj.org <gbradford@bhpsnj.org>, bdillon@bhpsnj.org <bdillon@bhpsnj.org>, tforegger@bhpsnj.org <tforegger@bhpsnj.org>, Natasha Joly <njoly@bhpsnj.org>, dkhanna@bhpsnj.org <dkhanna@bhpsnj.org>, pstanley@bhpsnj.org <pstanley@bhpsnj.org>, dtterrero@bhpsnj.org <dtterrero@bhpsnj.org>, Dr. Kim Feltre <kfeltre@bhpsnj.org>, Hendricks, Carlos <chendricks@bhpsnj.org>, Angie Devanney <adevanney@bhtwp.com>, Margaret Illis <millis@bhtwp.com>, Susan Poage <spoage@bhtwp.com>, Andrew Moran <amoran@bhtwp.com>, John Foster <jfoster@bhtwp.com>, Bill Machado <bmachado@bhtwp.com>
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See you there.. as a resident.

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone
[Get Outlook for Android](#)

From: Liza Viana <lviana@bhtwp.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 2, 2025 9:23:41 AM
To: Debra Varnerin <davarnerin@gmail.com>; sbhargavi@bhpsnj.org <sbhargavi@bhpsnj.org>; gbradford@bhpsnj.org <gbradford@bhpsnj.org>; bdillon@bhpsnj.org <bdillon@bhpsnj.org>; tforegger@bhpsnj.org <tforegger@bhpsnj.org>; Natasha Joly <njoly@bhpsnj.org>; dkhanna@bhpsnj.org <dkhanna@bhpsnj.org>; pstanley@bhpsnj.org <pstanley@bhpsnj.org>; dtterrero@bhpsnj.org <dtterrero@bhpsnj.org>; Dr. Kim Feltre <kfeltre@bhpsnj.org>; Hendricks, Carlos <chendricks@bhpsnj.org>; Angie Devanney <adevanney@bhtwp.com>; Margaret Illis <millis@bhtwp.com>; Manuel Couto <mcouto@bhtwp.com>; Susan Poage <spoage@bhtwp.com>; Andrew Moran <amoran@bhtwp.com>; John Foster <jfoster@bhtwp.com>; Bill Machado <bmachado@bhtwp.com>
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Date: Wed, Apr 2, 2025 at 1:14 PM
Subject: Re: Walking Tour of Lower Columbia - New Beginnings
To: Natasha Joly <njoly@bhpsnj.org>
Cc: Dr. Kim Feltre <kfeltre@bhpsnj.org>, Gale Bradford <gbradford@bhpsnj.org>, Dipti Khanna <dkhanna@bhpsnj.org>, <tforegger@bhpsnj.org>, <sbhargavi@bhpsnj.org>, <dterrero@bhpsnj.org>, <bdillon@bhpsnj.org>, <pstanley@bhpsnj.org>

Natasha,

There is no hidden agenda in my invitation to hear about the improvements in Lower Columbia. No photos, no TAPinto, just an opportunity to start over and get to know each other. I understand how you feel and up until a few years ago my response would have been the same as yours—to continue to fight and be divisive. It's not easy to practice forgiveness and it took me a very long time to find the inner peace that allows me to forgive. Feeling hurt or angry is understandable but holding on to grudges or slights won't do you or the community any good. Forgiveness doesn't just benefit the person you forgive, it will do more for you.

There is a little over a month before the tour and I truly hope you are able to move beyond your anger and find peace. A very wise woman (Carolyn George) used to tell me "anger is the devil stealing your happiness. Don't let him win". Don't let him win!

I hope to see you on May 10th

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