

RICH
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NEW HANOVER TOWNSHIP



ESTABLISHED 1741

Dear Residents,

Welcome to the Fall/Winter edition of the New Hanover Township newsletter. This edition contains much information about our staff, our office hours, holiday closings, projects, and happenings in the Township as well as updated information provided by individual departments within the Township.

We have all struggled with the COVID-19 pandemic this year. During the pandemic, the Township took a proactive approach following the steps as directed by the CDC in order to continue providing services to the public, public meetings were open to all via zoom and Facebook. We are grateful to all who put themselves in harm's way to continue to provide care for those sickened with the COVID-19 disease and also for those who continued to provide services and products to the public.

There are various bridge projects scheduled for this Fall and we ask that everyone remain patient navigating the detours which are necessary to allow for the construction to be carried out. Planning is underway for renovation projects taking place at the 2943 N. Charlotte Street building and also at the 2373 Hoffmansville Road facility. Renovations to the municipal building will provide employees ample space to carry out their daily functions as well as providing ample space to accommodate residents attending meetings; ample storage areas will be provided where documents and records can be filed in an organized manner. The former recreation building at 2373 Hoffmansville Road will be renovated for the Police Department. Services to the public will continue during these renovation projects, please extend courtesies to the employees as they continue to serve you during the renovations.

The production of this newsletter has been funded by area businesses through advertisements. Please consider patronizing the businesses who have helped to make the publication of the newsletter possible.

Feel free to contact the Township office at any time, our friendly staff will be happy to assist you.

Sincerely,

Kurt Zebrowski, Chairman Board of Supervisors

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2943 North Charlotte Street
Gilbertsville, PA 19525-9718

610.323.1008

Name: Makayla Lewis Grade: 3



- Automotive
- Marine
- Lawn / Garden
- Motorcycle
- ATV Battery
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- Medical / Wheelchair

1742 Swamp Pike, Gilbertsville, PA 19525

610-323-3296

Hours: Mon - Thur 6:30am-4:30pm • Fri 6:30am-4:00pm • Sat 8:00am-12:00pm



Kathy Landis, Realtor

Office: (610) 369-3600

Cell: (610) 226-7087

klandis@gokellyrealestate.com

www.gokellyrealestate.com



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This publication is made available through the generous advertising sponsorship of the businesses listed throughout our newsletter. We wish to encourage your patronage of these establishments; they play a substantial role in the economic vitality of our community.

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NEW HANOVER TOWNSHIP

New Hanover Township, Montgomery County
2943 North Charlotte Street, Gilbertsville, Pennsylvania 19525
Phone 610-323-1008 • Fax 610-323-5173 • Website: www.newhanover-pa.org

OFFICE HOURS

Monday through Friday - 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES CLOSED

Independence Day – Monday, July 5
Labor Day - Monday, September 6
Veterans Day – Thursday, November 11
Thanksgiving Day – Thursday, November 25
Day After Thanksgiving, Friday, November 26
Christmas Eve – Friday December 24
Christmas Day – Monday, December 27
New Year's Eve – ½ day, Friday, December 31

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Kurt Zebrowski, Chairman
D. W. Boone Flint, Member
Marie Livelsberger, Member
W. Ross Snook, Member
Gregory Maskrey, Member

MEETING SCHEDULE

Board of Supervisors	First Thursday and Fourth Monday (as needed) of each month at 6:30PM
Planning Commission	Second Wednesday of each month at 6:30PM
Sewer Authority	Third Wednesday of each month at 6:30PM
Recreation Committee	First Wednesday of each month at 6:30PM
Environmental Advisory Board	Second Monday each month at 6:30PM

All meetings are held at the Municipal Building, 2943 N. Charlotte Street, Gilbertsville, PA.

STAFF DIRECTORY

Township Manager	Jamie Gwynn	610-323-1008 x 106	jgwynn@newhanover-pa.org
Administrative Assistant	Eileen Pogany	610-323-1008 x 101	epogany@newhanover-pa.org
Administrative Assistant	Shelly Sallade	610-323-1008 x 104	ssallade@newhanover-pa.org
Chief of Police	Kevin McKeon	610-323-1008 x 208	kmckeon@newhanoverpolice.org
Public Works Director	Jay Kowal	610-323-1008 x 301	jkowal@newhanover-pa.org
Authority Superintendent	Brian Staehle	610-323-1008 x 407	bstaehele@newhanover-pa.org
Finance Director	Michele Smith	610-323-1008 x 105	msmith@newhanover-pa.org
Code Enforcement/Zoning Director	James Wozniak	610-323-1008 x 103	jwozniak@newhanover-pa.org

Molly Bauer is the elected Tax Collector for New Hanover Township. She is responsible for collecting Real Estate taxes for Montgomery County, Boyertown Area School District and New Hanover Township as well as collecting Per Capita taxes for the Township and the School District. Ms. Bauer has earned a Qualified Tax Collector status with the DCED and is a Certified Tax Collector with the Pennsylvania State Tax Collectors' Association as well as is a member of the State and Montgomery County Tax Collector Associations. All payments can be mailed to P.O. Box 249, Gilbertsville Pa 19525.

In person tax collection hours for year 2021 are held at the Township Building as follows:

9-11 am 7/10, 7/24, 8/7, 8/21, 8/28, 10/16

6-8 pm 7/15, 7/29, 8/12, 8/19, 8/24, 8/26, 8/31, 12/29

Ms. Bauer can be reached at 484-644-3123. Please see bill for details regarding due dates and payment options. You can expect County/Township Real Estate bills in the mail during the first week of March and School Real Estate and Per Capita bills during the first week of July.

BUDGET SEASON!

The annual budget season typically begins 6-8 months into the Fiscal Year. The budget process takes about six months from initial planning to final approval. Each department of the township has a line-item budget that tracks every dollar spent for personnel, operating and equipment costs. Meetings are held with the Department Directors, the Township Manager, and the Finance Director to go over their budget requests. The Township Manager drafts a proposed budget which then goes to the Board of Supervisors for approval. This process can take up to 6 months.

The Board of Supervisors review the budget in detail (during work sessions) and then hosts a public meeting for public input and review. After the meeting, the Board of Supervisors will adopt the budget. The budget must be adopted before Dec. 31st.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN

On March 11, President Biden signed a \$1.9 trillion federal coronavirus relief package, the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, into law. The package will provide \$360 billion for state and local governments, with \$13.722 billion coming to PA. New Hanover Township is projected to receive \$1,306,244 in funding. 50% of the funds will be distributed in June of 2021 and the remaining 50% in June of 2022. The township will have from June 2021 until December 31, 2024, to spend the funds. The township may use the funds for expenses in the following four categories:



1. Responding to the COVID-19 emergency or addressing its negative economic impacts.
2. Providing premium pay to eligible workers performing essential work or grants eligible to employers that have eligible workers.
3. Lost revenue replacement for the provisions of government services due to the COVID-19 emergency.
4. Make necessary investments in water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure.

BUILDING RENOVATIONS

The Board of Supervisors have approved building renovations to both the N. Charlotte Street administration building and the Recreation Center located at 2373 Hoffmansville Road, Frederick, PA. The Recreation Center will become the new home of the New Hanover Township Police Department. The renovations are estimated to be \$5,811,400 for the renovation of both buildings.

POLICE DEPARTMENT



EMERGENCY 911 • NON-EMERGENCY NUMBER 610-323-1008 (PRESS #2)

The New Hanover Township Police Department is proud to announce the promotions of two of its officers. On May 6th, 2021, at the Board of Supervisors monthly meeting, former Patrolman Michael Salvo was promoted to the rank of Corporal, and former Corporal Dekkar Dyas was promoted to the rank of Sergeant. We congratulate both officers, and we wish them well as they carry out their newly assigned duties.

The holiday season is approaching, and the department is looking forward to a safe and joyous time of year. We strongly urge residents and guests to celebrate their festivities in a responsible manner. For those who are of legal age to consume alcoholic beverages, please refrain from operating a vehicle. The New Hanover Township Police Department would also like residents to be mindful of fireworks laws and regulations. If you are unsure of the current regulations involving the use of fireworks, please contact the department and our officers will be happy to assist you.

NEW HANOVER TOWNSHIP AUTHORITY

2990 FAGLEYSVILLE ROAD, GILBERTSVILLE, PA 19525

Inflow and Infiltration (I & I) happens when storm water enters the sewer systems. Inflow is stormwater that enters the sewer system through basement sump pumps, floor and foundation drains, or roof gutter connections that are illegally connected to the sewer. Infiltration occurs when groundwater seeps into sewer pipes through cracks, leaky pipe joints or deteriorated manholes. When storm water enters the sewer systems not only does it increase the cost of operating the sewer plant, but it could overload the system which could mean costly infrastructure improvements and upgrades.

The Authority is taking steps to reduce I & I in the collection system by:

- Walking and doing visual inspections of manholes along the Authority's right of ways and low-lying areas
- Placing flow loggers in various manhole locations in our collection system to collect data on flow spikes which indicates storm water entry or illegal sump pump discharge into the collection system
- Performing slip lining repairs on sewer mains that are failing
- Televising of mains that indicate high flow issues during storm events
- Perform manhole repairs due to age and deterioration of critical infrastructure
- Said findings and repairs are being documented and the information is being added to the Township's GIS System.

Sewer customers can also help reduce I & I by detaching all connections that discharge storm water into the sanitary sewer system such as sump pumps, floor drains, etc. Thank you for your cooperation with the efforts to reduce I & I as this will help keep the wastewater treatment plant operating in the most cost-efficient way.

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN – 2040 – GREAT NEWS!

We are happy to report that review of the Township's Comprehensive Plan, previously adopted in 1998, has been completed and was adopted by the Board of Supervisors on April 1, 2021. This long range plan will serve as a guide and planning tool for the Township in the years to come and will guide the Township in its attempt to provide a safe, high quality life and to meet the needs and wants of its residents. The Township received input from the Montgomery County Planning Commission, the Township Planning Commission and the community and includes specific goals with strategies and implementation steps to achieve the goals. As the document is implemented, changes may be necessary which require changes to zoning and adoption of new ordinances. The document is a living document and the Township values citizen input since amendments can be added if warranted. We encourage and welcome you to attend all Township meetings where a period of time is designated for questions, comments, and/or concerns of the public.



CODE ENFORCEMENT/ZONING

The Code Enforcement/Zoning Office has two full time staff, the Director, and the Administrative Assistant/Building Code Official. New Hanover Township enforces the PA Uniform Construction Code and Township adopted ordinances.

Should you live in a community with a Homeowner's Association (HOA), please be aware that the covenants, conditions, and restrictions of an HOA may impose a more restricted use than is permitted under applicable Township ordinances. Please contact your Homeowners Association for approval of your proposed improvements to ensure there is no violation of any provision of your community's Declaration and other regulations enforced by the HOA. Please submit the HOA note that is on our website, www.newhanover-pa.org, with your building and zoning applications. Failure to follow the correct process may result in forced reversal of the renovation or improvement at your expense.

Stormwater is presenting a challenge to our Township. To address this, building projects with impervious coverage are reviewed for compliance with the stormwater management ordinance. If determined to need a storm water management system, a plan, along with an escrow, is then reviewed by the Township Engineer. If approved, the system must be installed, inspected, and given final approval by the engineer. An agreement is executed between the landowner and the Township and then recorded with the County. Expenses for the engineer's review, and any necessary solicitor reviews, are paid with the monies deposited in escrow. Following recording, remaining monies in escrow are returned to the property owner.

Please refer to the Township's website for a listing of residential projects which do and do not need permits. The goal of the Code Enforcement/Zoning Office is to protect public health, safety and general welfare as related to the construction and occupancy of buildings and structures. Our office has seen an increase in deck applications this year. Decks appear simple to build, but they must be able to resist lateral and uplift load. Most deck collapses result from the separation of the house and deck ledger board, allowing the deck to swing away from the house. Rail failures occur much more frequently than total deck collapse but are less dramatic and rarely reported. This is the reason for the detail required in our applications.

Failure to obtain the required permits and inspections could result in serious ramifications and costly penalties. Violations are often discovered during fire and emergency investigations or when a property is offered for sale and County tax records and Township files cannot validate the improvements. Additional permits will not be processed for a property with outstanding prior violations until the violations are abated.

All permit forms can be found on the Township's website and can be submitted via email or in-person at the township office. If you have any questions about permit requirements, please contact the Zoning Office at 610-323-1008, Extension 102 before starting any work.



BRIDGE RECONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

Bridges in the Township are subject to wear and tear not only from car and truck traffic, they are also subject to damages from storms, high water, and debris being carried by stormwater. The bridge on New Hanover Square Road is being replaced by PennDOT after it was declared unsafe following a storm and is scheduled to be completed by March 2022. Other bridges owned by Montgomery County and PennDOT scheduled for improvements/reconstruction include the Swamp Pike bridge near New Hanover Square Road beginning August 2021 and ending November/December 2021 and the Lutheran Road bridge. The PennDOT -663 Culver project will begin August 2021 and be completed by the end of year 2022; a two-month detour beginning in March of 2022 is anticipated. The County bridge at Swamp Pike by Our Place restaurant is scheduled to begin 4th quarter 2022. The bridge at Lutheran Road near Swamp Pike will be replaced but there are no details at this time. Following the UGI installation of gas lines on Swamp Pike, the County will mill and resurface Swamp Pike. Detour routes will be established as needed during the construction projects, and in these instances, we ask that you allow yourself additional travel time and be considerate of the workers.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

Leaf Season:

- Leaves are recyclable and can be composted on your property or drop them off to Hetrick Gardens @ 2620 Swamp Pike, Gilbertsville Pa, no charge for New Hanover Township Residents.

Stormwater:

- All storm drains are checked and monitored before and during storms.
- Never dump anything into storm drains and never mow grass into the streets as it will clog drains and fill road drainage swales.

Snow Removal Tips:

- Use off street parking when snow is predicted, when you park in the driveway there's less snow to shovel
- Do not park over storm drains so crew can clear snow and ice to avoid flooding from melting runoff.
- Do not shovel or snow-blow snow back into the street after it has been plowed.
- Think Safety: never approach moving snow equipment, just because you can see the driver, does not mean he can see you.
- If there's a fire hydrant near your home, please adopt it and keep it clear in case of an emergency.



New Hanover Township Public Works Department maintains over 80 miles of roadway in the township

State Roads in the Township:

- North Charlotte St, Big Road "Route 73", Layfield Road "Route 663"

Montgomery County Roads in the Township:

- Swamp Pike, Deep Creek from Kulp Road to the township line at Fisher Road, Kulp Road from Deep Creek to Hill Road, Henning Road from Deep Creek to Snyder Road, and Snyder Road.

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mkrf@LNF.com

PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Parks and Recreation Department ensures that residents can take part in leisure, entertainment and recreational activities. The Recreation Committee with the assistance of the Township staff, is responsible for planning and implementing events and programs while the Township's Public Works Department oversees park maintenance.



FALL FROLIC

September 18, 2021 Noon to 5 PM (rain date of September 19)

New Hanover Township is pleased to announce the annual fall frolic is returning to Hickory Park this year. The Recreation Committee is working hard on making this event a great day for families and friends to enjoy the park and activities. Amusement rides are being planned for children with areas of interest for adults as well. Wrist bands will be offered at \$10 each and will provide access to all amusements and games for the entire afternoon.

Food will be available from various food truck vendors. We invite you, your group, organization, or business to be a part of this community celebration. Ways to participate include volunteering or having an interactive and informative booth at the event. You may demonstrate and/or sell products and fundraise at your table; all interested vendors must submit an application and be approved by the Recreation Committee in advance and are asked to submit an application by September 1. We are also asking for financial support either by a monetary donation, by sponsorships, or by providing a basket or raffle prize.



SUMMER CAMP AT NEW HANOVER COMMUNITY PARK

The YMCA offered a summer camp for children from New Hanover and Upper Frederick Townships who graduated from kindergarten to sixth grade at the New Hanover Community Park. There were two 2-week sessions from June 28th – July 23rd from 9am – Noon and almost 40 children participated in the programs including outdoor games, sports, arts, crafts, and science experiments. There was a theme each week such as water days where the children would do water balloon toss, water relays, etc. The children had a good time, and we look forward to having it again next year.



HICKORY PARK POOL

The Hickory Park Pool opened on Memorial Day. Many families obtained memberships and took the opportunity to beat the heat by cooling off in the pool. Not only did the guests enjoy the pool and soaking up the sun, they were also able to purchase snacks such as candy, novelty ice cream, etc. from the concession stand. Four thermoplastic coated picnic tables were purchased and installed so that guests had a comfortable place to sit while enjoying their snacks. Thank you to the lifeguards, summer snack specialist and the Public Works staff for all their hard work to make the pool a success this summer.



NEW HANOVER VOLUNTEER FIRE AND RESCUE

2154 SWAMP PIKE, GILBERTSVILLE, PA 19525 (MAILING ADDRESS)
SCHULTZ ROAD, PERKIOMENVILLE, PA
EMERGENCY CALLS – 911 • NON-EMERGENCY 610 323-2424
WWW.NEWHANOVERFIRERESCUE.ORG

Fire Chief – William Moyer
Deputy Chief – Philip Agliano
President – Matt Barnes
Township Fire Marshall – William Moyer



Wireless Smoke Detectors

Technology that will greatly improve the fire safety of your home.

A common misconception occurs when a person awakes and realizes that the smoke detector is making noise and assumes that it just began to make noise when it actually began alarming as soon as the smoke began. If the home has battery powered smoke detectors (without interconnect) the fire may have been burning for a considerable time and there may be little or no time to escape. Wireless smoke detectors are battery powered and install like regular battery powered smoke detectors and transmit signals to other detectors without wires. Providing smoke detectors on each level and in each bedroom forms an effective fire alarm system that meets National Fire Protection Association requirements, detectors are recommended in each separate room and in the basement.

- Can you hear the smoke detectors making noise from anywhere in your home and while you are asleep? Additional wireless smoke detectors can be added at any time, offer the ability to include out buildings and detached garages, can be purchased at most home centers and are an ideal upgrade for older homes that do not have hardwired detectors.



SPOTTED LANTERNFLY



The spotted lanternfly continues to pose a serious threat to the PA agricultural economy as well as is a persistent backyard pest. Their feeding habits along with their sticky-sweet excretions lead to mold and harm everything from fruit trees to grapes to hops to forestry. Every Pennsylvanian needs to keep their eyes peeled for signs of this bad bug, to scrape every egg mass, and squash every bug. Lanternflies typically hatch mid-April. During the spring and early summer, experts advise destroying Spotted Lanternfly egg masses, which look gray or tan, are unevenly spread resembling smears of mortar or clay that appear on trees, stone, or other flat smooth surfaces. Simply scrape the masses off, double bag them,

and throw them in the garbage, or place them in alcohol or hand sanitizer. Additional methods of attacking the spotted lanternfly problem includes wrapping tree trunks that the insects are climbing with sticky tape, which is most effective against nymphs in the spring, but some have had success in trapping adults as well. Birds and small mammals can be protected from the sticky by caging the sticky tape with wire or fencing material wrapped around the tree. The preferred host plant for the lanternfly is the tree-of-heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*) which is an invasive plant. Pesticides could be used but only those that are registered by the Environmental Protection Agency should be used to treat any insect on your property. Home remedies should not be used since they may be unsafe to humans, pets, and plants, and could be illegal.

WHY IS STORMWATER A PROBLEM

According to the PA Department of Environmental Resources in 2016, 19,000 miles of rivers and streams were labeled as impaired for water supply, aquatic life, recreation, or fish consumption. Stormwater runoff pollution is one of the biggest reasons for the impairment. Over the past 100 years, streets, parking lots, sidewalks, and roofs have steadily increased decreasing the amount of rain that would otherwise soak into the ground. Rainwater rushes over nonporous surfaces and causes flooding in some cases then drains into storm drains which sends it directly to rivers and streams. Enormous amounts of pollution including car oil, lawn fertilizers, pesticides, pet poop, cigarette butts and sediment from construction sites have many negative impacts on streams and rivers. Unhealthy water increases public health risks as well as harms aquatic life. Fertilizers stimulate algae growth that removes oxygen from the water. Bacteria and pathogens wash into swimming areas necessitating beach closures. Debris washing into streams can choke ducks, fish, turtles, and birds while household hazardous wastes can poison aquatic life, land animals and people if polluted water is ingested. When groundwater is not infiltrated into the ground, springs and wells can go dry. Things you can do to avoid rainwater runoff on your property:

- Maintain your downspout directing the water so it can be filtered by grass and infiltrated into the soil or into a rain garden or bioretention area.
- Install a rain barrel or cistern at the roof downspout to collect roof runoff. Water collected is great for watering plants and emptying the barrel/cistern from time to time will make it ready for the next rainfall.
- Installing a dry well and directing roof runoff to an underground storage area to allow time for the water to infiltrate into the ground.
- Use of an infiltration trench which essentially is a leaky pipe in a stone/gravel filled trench which allows water to flow through the perforations into the soil.
- Create a vegetated swale which is a shallow channel planted with grass or shrubs and will slow the rate of flow and promote infiltration while filtering pollutants.
- Naturalize your lawn by planting native trees and shrubs, planting a backyard vegetable garden and/or compost pile, mow high leaving clippings on the lawn
- Riparian buffers along streams helps to keep moving water from eroding stream banks and filters runoff, trapping nutrients and pollutants.

New development proposals and building permit applications being proposed in New Hanover Township are carefully reviewed to assure they comply with Township requirements along with various other regulatory agency requirements. Feel free to research to learn more about stormwater or call the Township office should you have questions.



MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOOKMOBILE

610-278-5100 EXT. 7 • BOOKMOBILES@MCLINC.ORG • WWW.MC-NPL.ORG

The Montgomery County Bookmobile is a free full-service mobile library branch available to Montgomery County residents at the Township's parking lot each Wednesday from 11:00 AM to 5:00 PM. The bookmobile is sponsored by the Montgomery County Commissioners and local municipalities. Protection measures are being taken due to COVID-19 pandemic. Absent COVID-19 restrictions, residents can browse the vehicle interior stocked with materials for all age groups. Materials include regular and large-print books, audiobooks, magazines, music CDs, magazines, and DVDs. Requests for books and materials can be made online and reserved for pickup at a bookmobile. The website provides a number of options for reserving books by author, title or subject matter and includes short summaries of content. The bookmobile web site offers tracing of books by reader, by due date, on a list of favorites etc.

WILDFLOWER MEADOWS

It has been determined that well-implemented and managed meadows and natural landscapes are less costly to maintain and can offer substantial savings and benefits to the Township. Meadows offer a host of ecological benefits to include stormwater control, increased wildlife and pollinator habitat, reduction of air pollution and improving the health and wellness of the citizens in the surrounding areas. Properly established meadows involve several seasons and investment in time and resources. Two locations have been identified by the Township's Environmental Advisory Board. They have partnered with a local organic farmer to come up with a project to turn 15 acres of the Swamp Creek Park, which is currently high grass, into meadows planted with wildflowers. These wildflowers are pollinators and will attract butterflies, will alleviate mowing costs and will be done without the use of herbicides. An additional .3 acres at Community Park will also become meadow. Locations have been chosen and turf grass will be removed, mulch will be added, and the area seeded. Young wildflowers may stay small and low to the ground their first year, and weeds will need to be controlled during this time to allow the natural grasses and flowers to grow and mature. Once established, maintenance will be reduced. The Township hopes to educate the community so that they will understand the social and ecological benefits of a meadow project. A Boy Scout has volunteered to be involved in this project which will give him credit toward achieving Eagle Scout status. Educational signage will be provided. Natural landscapes need not be confined to parks, conservation areas or natural reserves; opportunities exist everywhere. This project is already underway with soil testing taking place. Planting will take place in late October and hopefully, will have meadows of wildflowers the following spring.



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215-672-2000 • ChevyofWarminster.com

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE DROP-OFF EVENTS

Montgomery County scheduled seven drop-off events in 2021; there are two sites remaining which are at Spring-Ford 9th Grade Center on September 25 and Lower Merion Transfer Station on Sunday, October 24, 2021. Preregistration and appointments are required by registering at www.MontcoPARecycles.org. Montco residents may also attend events held in other counties, you may contact the County 610-278.3618 for additional information. Typically schedules for each year are available late February.



YARD WASTE RECYCLING



Hetrick Gardens Helps Keep Recyclable Organic Matter Out of Landfills

New Hanover Township has contracted with M. Hetrick Enterprises, LLC which owns and operates Hetrick Gardens Landscape and Nursery Center to provide a location where residents may bring their yard waste for disposal. Township residents simply fill out a form upon the first visit to drop off yard waste, and with each drop off, sign a logbook with the type and amount of yard waste being dropped. Acceptable yard waste consists of tree and shrub trimming, Christmas trees, branches and sticks, grass clippings, weeds, and leaves. Grass clippings, weeds, and leaves are composted in windrows which are turned to redistribute moisture and heat while they break down. The end product is a nutrient-rich soil which can be added to gardens. Carbon-rich, woody debris from trees and shrubs is collected and periodically ground into mulch. After aging, mulch becomes a dark, nutrient-rich product with the following garden benefits: insulates the soil and helps plant roots maintain an even temperature and protection from frost, helps prevent soil erosion, and prevents evaporation from the soil, increasing the amount of water available to plants. Mulch fertilizes the soil as it decays, and weeds have more difficulty germinating in mulch than in soil. Though the Township contract is for NHT residents, Hetrick Gardens yard waste recycling facility is available for contractors and non-township residents upon paying a fee. For more information or to obtain a resident form, please

visit www.hetrickgardens.com or www.hetrickmulch.com, call Hetrick Gardens, 610-327-9066, or stop by during business hours, Monday-Friday 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM, Saturday 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM. Hetrick Gardens 2620 Swamp Pike, Pottstown, PA 19464.

Put a **FREEZE** on Winter Holiday Fires

Did you know?

A heat source too close to the Christmas tree causes **1 in every 4** winter fires.

As you deck the halls this season, be fire smart.

Read manufacturer's instructions for the number of light strands to connect.

Make sure your tree is **at least 3 feet away** from heat sources like fireplaces, radiators and space heaters.

Coming Soon Health Center at Pennsburg

Finding the right health care partner makes life better and healthier.
In early 2022, Lehigh Valley Health Network (LVHN) will open the Health Center at Pennsburg, offering you and your family a full spectrum of primary and specialty care right in the neighborhood.

**Your health deserves a partner, Pennsburg, and
LVHN is preparing to bring exceptional health care to you.**



LVHN.org 888-402-LVHN



Safe Winter Driving

Winter driving can be hazardous and scary, especially in northern regions that get a lot of snow and ice. Additional preparations can help make a trip safer, or help motorists deal with an emergency. This sheet provides safety information to your residents to help prevent motor vehicle injuries due to winter storms.

THE THREE P'S OF SAFE WINTER DRIVING:

PREPARE for the trip;
PROTECT yourself;
and **PREVENT** crashes on the road.

PREPARE

- **Maintain Your Car:** Check battery, tire tread, and windshield wipers, keep your windows clear, put no-freeze fluid in the washer reservoir, and check your antifreeze.
- **Have On Hand:** flashlight, jumper cables, abrasive material (sand, kitty litter, even floor mats), shovel, snow brush and ice scraper, warning devices (like flares) and blankets. For long trips, add food and water, medication and cell phone.
- **Stopped or Stalled?** Stay in your car, don't overexert, put bright markers on antenna or windows and shine dome light, and, if you run your car, clear exhaust pipe and run it just enough to stay warm.
- **Plan Your Route:** Allow plenty of time (check the weather and leave early if necessary), be familiar with the maps/ directions, and let others know your route and arrival time.

Practice Cold Weather Driving!

- During the daylight, rehearse maneuvers slowly on ice or snow in an empty lot.
- Steer into a skid.
- Know what your brakes will do: stomp on antilock brakes, pump on non-antilock brakes.
- Stopping distances are longer on water-covered ice and ice.
- Don't idle for a long time with the windows up or in an enclosed space.

PROTECT YOURSELF

- Buckle up and use child safety seats properly.
- Never place a rear-facing infant seat in front of an air bag.
- Children 12 and under are much safer in the back seat.

PREVENT CRASHES

- Drugs and alcohol never mix with driving.
- Slow down and increase distances between cars.
- Keep your eyes open for pedestrians walking in the road.
- Avoid fatigue – Get plenty of rest before the trip, stop at least every three hours, and rotate drivers if possible.
- If you are planning to drink, designate a sober driver.





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