

RICH HERITAGE & CHARM NEW HANOVER TOWNSHIP



ESTABLISHED 1741

Dear Residents,

Welcome to the spring/summer edition of our community newsletter!

This edition is packed with information on each department within the Township and projects and happenings throughout the spring and summer.

In addition to the projects and events, we always encourage our residents to get involved and attend our meetings. We are in the final stages of completing our 2040 Comprehensive Plan which will guide the Township toward its vision for the next 20 years. Improvements planned in the near future include building renovations, collaborating with PennDOT to begin work on replacing a culvert on Route 663 near the intersection of Swamp Pike and replacement of the bridge on New Hanover Square Road and improving flooding conditions plaguing residents in certain areas of the Township.

The production of this newsletter was funded by local businesses through advertisements. Please consider shopping locally to support those who have helped us spread the news about what's happening in our community.

We look forward to the summer swim season and opening our pool facility at Hickory Park, 2140 Big Road. Season memberships as well as daily passes will be offered. Pool will be opening May 29 and closing for the season August 22, 2021. Pool hours are 12 noon to 7PM.

Enjoy your spring and summer months and feel free to contact the Township office should you need assistance or have questions.

Sincerely,

Kurt Zebrowski, Chairman

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Name: Julia Holdsworth Grade: 7

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Kathy Landis, Realtor

Office: (610) 369-3600

Cell: (610) 226-7087

klandis@gokellyrealestate.com

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THANK YOU TO THE BUSINESSES

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

Good Friday – Friday, April 2
Memorial Day – Monday, May 31
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
Charles D. Garner Jr., Vice Chairman
D. W. Boone Flint, Member
Marie Livelsberger, Treasurer
W. Ross Snook, 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 the month at 6:30PM
Environmental Advisory Board	Second Monday of the 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	bstaehle@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 and per capita taxes for Montgomery County, the Boyertown Area School District, and New Hanover Township.

In person tax collection hours for the tax year 2021 are held at the township building, visitors are asked to wear masks and comply with the CDC guidelines for social distancing.

Tax Collection hours for 2021 are as follows:

Saturday, 8-11 AM – 3/6, 3/13, 3/20, 3/27, 4/17, 4/24, and 6/26.

Wednesday, 6-9 PM – 4/6, 4/20, 4/22, 4/27, 4/29, and 12/29.

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.

Please remit your tax payments to Molly Bauer following instructions on your tax bill and mailing payments to P. O. Box 249, Gilbertsville, PA 19525.



FINANCE DEPARTMENT

The Finance Department is responsible for the recording of all revenues and for the disbursement of all funds in compliance with the annual budget. The department provides accurate financial statements to the Board of Supervisors at monthly meetings along with a detailed Bill's List. The Finance Department is responsible for the billing and collection of rebillable land development expenses and is also responsible for maintaining developer escrow accounts for all land development in the township. In addition, the Finance Director assists the Township Manager with the annual budget, maintains the fixed asset records, processes payroll, administers Township pension plans and files reports through the year. Dallas Data Systems supports the Finance Department on a monthly basis by reconciling the township bank accounts.

The Township adheres to the modified accrual basis of accounting and maintains all financial records in conformance with generally accepted accounting principles. Financial records are independently audited annually by Maillie, Certified Public Accountants, who issues audited financial statements that are available for public review via the township website.

NEW HANOVER TOWNSHIP AUTHORITY

2990 FAGLEYSVILLE ROAD, GILBERTSVILLE, PA 19525

The New Hanover Township Authority wishes to remind you that the following items should not be flushed, but should instead be thrown away with the trash or disposed of properly.

- "flushable" wipes
- medications
- paint remover
- gasoline
- paper towels
- cloth rags or towels
- grease of any kind
- paint
- varnish
- motor oil
- sump pump discharge
- storm water discharge
- feminine hygiene products of any kind
- garden supplies such as pesticides and fertilizers

To help protect your ability to flush your toilet, do not flush if it isn't toilet paper or human waste. All other miscellaneous items should be properly disposed of in the trash. Our goal is to ensure everyone has safe and adequate wastewater service.

Sewer Utility Billing Information

Sewer customers can pay their quarterly sewer bill in the following ways:

- In person at the New Hanover Township Building located at 2943 North Charlotte Street from 8:30am-4:30pm, Monday-Friday
- Online by using Xpress Bill Pay at www.xpressbillpay.com. Please be sure to have your sewer account number available when paying your quarterly sewer bill online.
- By Phone using Xpress Bill Pay at 1-800-766-2350.

There will be no service fee charged when paying your sewer bill online or by phone.

Sewer customers can sign up for paperless billing by creating an account on www.xpressbillpay.com and choosing the paperless option.

POLICE DEPARTMENT



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

Since our last newsletter Sergeant William Moyer retired from the police department after almost 37 years of service as a police officer with the department. He will, however, continue to serve as the fire chief for the township's volunteer fire department. We wish him the best of luck in his retirement!

We have also hired Officer Thomas Rosa as a part-time police officer, keeping our current total of 11 officers, though one is now part time (10 full time and 1 part time). As a reminder, the police department provides 24/7 police services to the approximately 22 square miles and countless homes and businesses that comprise New Hanover Township every single day. We can be reached at our non-emergency number at 610-327-1150 for minor issues but we ask that you simply call 9-1-1 for anything that requires a prompt police response.

As we continue to deal with the effects of the COVID-19 shutdown, we would like to remind everyone that all parks in New Hanover Township are only open from dawn to dusk. Please maintain social distancing while utilizing the parks for the safety of everyone.



Lastly, we have recently begun a (Virtual) Coffee with a Cop program with Corporal Dyas via the Zoom platform. This is an opportunity for us to connect with our residents virtually since COVID-19 restrictions make it more difficult to meet in person. It is also an opportunity for you to talk to us about various topics, be it traffic or safety concerns, questions about law enforcement in general, or essentially anything you want. These events are open to everyone, including children.

We are currently experimenting with the best day of the week and time to hold these events but we will be posting the dates and times on our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/NewHanoverPD>. For anyone who is interested but does not have a Facebook account you can contact Corporal Dyas directly at ddyas@newhanoverpolice.org or 610-327-1150 for details.

We would like to thank all of you for the outpouring of support we receive. It means a lot to us to see that we are appreciated, and we love hearing from you. Please feel free to say hi if you see us out and about. Thank you and stay safe!

Child Safety Seat Checks

Corporal Dyas is a nationally certified Child Passenger Safety Technician which enables him to teach and assist parents with installing child safety seats. Appointments for child safety seat checks can be directed to his email at ddyas@newhanoverpolice.org or by contacting the police department at 610-327-1150.

Custody/Purchase Exchange Area

Custody/Purchase Exchange Area is available in the parking lot at our station. This area is maintained under constant video surveillance and can be used by the public for child custody exchanges and/or internet purchases.

Medication Drop-off Box

The public is invited to dispose of expired, unused, unwanted prescription medications and also over the counter medications in the lobby of the station. Disposing of them in this way prevents medication from getting into the wrong hands or being discarded and eventually finding their way into our public waterways or landfill systems. The drop off box is located just inside the first door on the left side of the building under the blue police sign.



2020 CENSUS

The U.S. Census Bureau is mandated to collect a count of every person in the United States, District of Columbia, and 5 U.S. territories. The results of the 2020 Census will be used to make decisions on:

- The number of seats for each state in the House of Representatives & congressional representation
- Aids in helping decision makers determine communities needing new schools, clinics, roads, services for families, older adults and children.

- Allocations for federal funding
- Drawing of congressional and state legislative districts

United States
**Census
2020**

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, 99.98% of all housing units and addresses nationwide were accounted for in the 2020 census. The Census Bureau attributes the excellent response to the use of technology, the efforts of their staff, the census takers and field staff. The Bureau was hoping to have processed the data and have accurate state population counts by December 31, 2020.

CODE ENFORCEMENT/ZONING

The Code Enforcement/Zoning Office has two full time staff, the Director and Administrative Assistant. The main purpose of Code Enforcement/Zoning is to protect public health, safety and general welfare as they relate to the construction and occupancy of buildings and structures. Failure to obtain the required building 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 permitting violations. The following residential projects require building permits:

- Additions
- Creating habitable space in a basement, attic or attached garage
- Decks
- Accessory structures 200 square feet or greater
- Pools and hot tubs capable of holding water 24" deep or greater require a permit and must be inspected for protective barrier requirements prohibiting unauthorized access by small children
- Electrical/plumbing/mechanical additions such as piping, wiring, lighting, heating, cooling, generators and solar panels
- Installation of sump pumps, not applicable to existing sump pumps without change of discharge location

Zoning Permit only:

- Accessory structures less than 200 square feet and without a utility connection
- Fences, 6' or less in height
- Patio
- Home Occupation

No Permit Required:

- Repair or replacement of any nonstructural member
- Exterior siding and reroofing
- Replacement of windows and doors with no change in opening size
- Gutters and downspouts, without change of discharge location
- Painting, papering, tiling, carpentry, countertops and similar finish work, not including structural repairs
- Appliance replacement
- Replacement of hot water heater or furnace with the same size and type
- Repair or replacement of any sink, toilet, tub, shower or similar plumbing fixture without relocation of any drain or vanity device
- Replacement of an electrical switch or receptacle with one of the same rating
- Retaining walls less than 4' high
- Residential swings and play equipment
- Oil tank removal (tanks, 1,000 gallons and over, must be inspected by the DEP)

The above guide is not all-inclusive. All permit forms can be found on the Township's website and can be submitted via email, via fax, 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.

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Mary Kaye Rhude-Faust, Realtor®
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- Results-driven marketing strategies to sell your home
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mkrf@LNF.com

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

Looking forward to warmer weather come spring. Public Works Crews will be out preparing the parks and playgrounds for the season. Routine maintenance includes replenishing wood-carpet around the playgrounds making it safe for children to play. Weekly mowing and clean-up of debris and tree limbs. Weekly inspections are performed throughout the parks to make sure the equipment and grounds are safe at, all times.

Road Maintenance: Crews will be out repairing drainage ditches, potholes, sign repairs, paving and patch paving, crack sealing streets.

Roads are being scheduled for paving, chip seal and fog seal throughout the township as part of the 2021 Road Maintenance Program. Residents living on the roads where work will occur as part of the program will be notified by letter in advance when the maintenance is scheduled.

Tree Trimming: Tree trimming will be completed on the roads, which will be scheduled for road maintenance throughout the 2021 season.

Hazardous tree removal is in the process of being completed throughout Community Park along the disc golf course.

Capital Road Projects 2021

- **Scheduled for Chip & Seal:** Schaffer Road, Kulp Road, Hill Road, Parestis Road, Swinging Bridge Road
- **Scheduled for Fog Sealing:** Martin Drive, Weller Court, Liberty Bell Drive, Windy Hill Road, Hidden Lane, Owl Court, Breezy Court
- **Scheduled for Paving:** Church Road "73 to Reifsynder Road", Reifsynder Road, Middle Creek Road " 73 to Ludwig Road", Rosenberry Road " Swamp Pike to Romig Road"

What is Fog Sealing: Fog Seal is a coating of asphalt emulsion, recycled rubber and grit. It protects the roadway from oxidation and extends the life of the road. It binds into the surface as it dries and leaves a tough film of protection.

What is Chip and Seal: Is a process where liquid asphalt is applied to seal the roadway. Then a layer of chipped stone coated with asphalt is applied to protect the seal and help improve driver traction. Once it is applied, the chip seal protects the road from becoming brittle and losing its ability to bend and flex.

Please be courteous to the Public Works employees while they are performing maintenance on the roadways. Remember that the workers may have their backs turned to traffic, please keep a safe distance.

All projects are based upon Board of Supervisors approval and scheduling can change.

State Roads in New Hanover Township

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

Any issues or concerns with State Roads. Call: Penn Dot Maintenance @ 1-800- FIX ROAD

Montgomery County Roads in New Hanover Township

- Swamp Pike, Synder Road, Kulp Road from Deep Creek to Hill Road, Deep Creek Road from Kulp Road to Township Line at Fisher Road, Henning Road from Deep Creek to Synder Road.

Any issues or concerns with County Roads. Call: Montgomery County Roads & Bridges @ 610-278-3613



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.



PARKS AND FIELDS

Community Parks:

- **Hickory Park:** 2140 Big Road, Gilbertsville – Amenities: Swimming Pool, Concession Stand, Pavilion Rentals, Grills, Playground, Fishing & Gaga Pit
- **Swamp Creek Park:** 3179 Reifsnnyder Road, Gilbertsville – Amenities: Model Airplane Flying, Walking Trail (.8 miles), Historical School House, Small Playground & Dog Friendly
- **NHT Community Park:** 2766 Gail Drive, Gilbertsville – Amenities: Barn Rental, Baseball/Softball Field, Basketball Court, Frisbee Golf, Hockey Court, Walking Trail, Pavilion Rental, Picnic Tables, Grills & Playground
- **Pleasant Run Park:** 600 Schultz Road, Perkiomenville – Amenities: Fishing Pond & Park Benches
- **Deep Creek Park:** Deep Creek Road (North of Pleasant Run Park), Perkiomenville – Amenities: Trails, Bird Watching & Picnic Tables
- **Windlestrae Park:** 132 Chalet Road, Gilbertsville – Amenities: Small Playground
- **Briar Ridge Park:** Magnolia Drive, Gilbertsville – Amenities: Small Playground

Athletic Fields:

- **Gambone Complex:** 132 Chalet Road, Gilbertsville – Amenities: Two Football Fields
- **Middle Creek:** Dotterer Road, Gilbertsville – Amenities: Baseball Field & Two Soccer Fields
- **Layfield Park:** Dotterer Road, Gilbertsville – Amenities: Three Soccer Fields
- **Recreation Center Fields:** 2373 Hoffmansville Road, Frederick – Amenities: Three Lacrosse Fields

2021 EVENT SCHEDULE

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, many events previously scheduled throughout the year will not be offered this year. The Township is offering a Fishing Derby event which is open to children 12 years of age and younger. The event will be held on May 15 with a rain date on May 16 if necessary. Anglers may toss in their lines to catch some very hungry trout beginning at 9:00 AM with the event concluding at 11:00 AM. Prizes will be awarded for the smallest and largest fish as well as for the 1st caught and most caught. A pre-registration form including a "Waiver and Release of All Claims and Assumptions of Risk" must be signed by the parent of each child participating. ALSO stay tuned for updates as planning continues for our September Fall Frolic event.



SUMMER CAMP

The Hickory Park Summer Camp Program was run by the YMCA for New Hanover and Upper Frederick Township residents. The YMCA was fortunate to be able to provide for safety of their staff and the children to enjoy this outdoor activity last summer. The half day program was offered for children who graduated from kindergarten to sixth grade. Program is **tentatively** scheduled for June 14 to July 2nd for the first session and July 5 to July 23 for the second session. Please contact Shelly Sallade at 610 323-1008 ext. 104 for more information as program details have not been confirmed at this time.



PARK RENTALS

Park rentals are available through the first weekend in October. All rentals are available to both residents and non-residents. Rental forms will only be accepted for the current calendar year. Attendees are encouraged to practice recommendations of the CDC.

Hickory Park	Resident	Non-Resident
Pavilion 1 (Capacity 40)	\$85.00	\$135.00
Pavilion 2 (Capacity 40)	\$85.00	\$135.00
Pavilion 3 (Capacity 75)	\$135.00	\$185.00
Pavilion 4 (Capacity 40)	\$85.00	\$135.00

All pavilions at Hickory Park have a grill area, electricity and access to running water and bathrooms. You must notify the Parks and Recreation Department before your rental if you would like access to water.

Community Park

Pavilion (Capacity 40)	\$85.00	\$135.00
Indoor Facility (Capacity 125)	\$160.00	\$210.00

The Indoor Facility at Community Park has access to a bathroom and electricity.

Keep in mind all park rules and remember to be courteous to others when using park facilities:

Remember, no animals nor alcohol is permitted, keep areas free of litter. Park amenities are available to the general public. No smoking under pavilions, park in designated areas only, no open fires, fireplaces are available – wood or charcoal is not supplied, nails, staples and tacks should not be left in tables or posts.

NEW HANOVER TOWNSHIP RECREATION CENTER

Will no longer be available for rentals due to construction/renovation of the building for future use by the Police Department.

HICKORY PARK POOL

The pool was not opened during the 2020 Summer season due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Township looks forward to offering the pool for the 2021 season. No information is available at this time, please check the Township's website for pool information postings.



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 and drains into storm drains which sends it directly 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.

- 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 developments 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 to call the Township office should you have questions.



- 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.

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 in the Township parking lot each Wednesday from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM.

The bookmobile is a free full-service mobile library branch for Montgomery County residents sponsored by the Montgomery County Commissioners and local municipalities.

For the protection of persons attending the unit and the public during COVID-19, the interior of the unit is not accessible to the public for browsing materials within the unit. Absent COVID-19 restrictions, residents may browse the interior stocked with materials for all aged 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 various ways such as author, title or subject matter and include short summaries of content.

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



New Hanover Volunteer Fire and Rescue is formed from the consolidation of New Hanover Township's two volunteer fire companies to serve New Hanover Township and its surrounding communities. The main station is located at 2154 Swamp Pike while the north sub-station is located on Schulz Road. The mission is to prepare for, respond to, and operate in a safe manner to all reported emergencies, and other requests for service in New Hanover and to help our citizens and visitors deal with natural and man-made emergencies. The fire and rescue squad is comprised of volunteers, and all who are interested in volunteering their time and talent to this progressive department are invited to apply. The ranks of membership include those interested in serving as firefighters or fire police officers and those who may wish to give something back to their community by volunteering their administrative and support expertise to the fire department. No experience is required and there is no minimum time commitment to maintain membership in the NHVFR.

In the event you have questions about submitting an application for membership to New Hanover Volunteer Fire and Rescue or learning more about how you can volunteer your time to our community, you may email New Hanover Volunteer Fire and Rescue at info@newhanoverfirerescue.org. We look forward to hearing from you.

Fire Safety Tips: Prevent Kitchen Fires

Did you know that more fires start in the kitchen than in any other part of the home? Here are some tips on how to keep cooking safe for you and your family.

- Don't use the stove or oven if you are exhausted or intoxicated.
- Stay in the kitchen if you are grilling, frying or broiling food.
- Check on your food often when you simmer, bake, roast, or boil food.
- Keep oven mitts, towels, curtains, food packaging, wooden utensils, and other flammable objects away from the stove.
- Keep your children three feet or more away from the oven and stove.

If you have a grease fire, smother the fire by putting a lid over the pan and turning off the stove. Keep the pan covered until it cools down.

If you have an oven fire, turn off the heat and keep the door closed.

If you cannot safely handle the fire, just leave your home! Call 9-1-1 or your local fire department.

Source: www.nfpa.org

MONTGOMERY COUNTY AGRICULTURAL LAND PRESERVATION PROGRAM

In an effort to preserve agricultural land, Montgomery County purchases agricultural easements on productive farms in the county. When an easement is purchased by the County, the property owner retains the land, but it must remain in farming/agricultural use in perpetuity. Sale of the easement is voluntary by the farmer who may sell the land in the future, the new owner must continue farming. Funding for purchase of easements comes from both the county, state, and sometimes the municipality. The Montgomery County Commissioners allocate a certain amount of money each year to preserve farms in Montgomery County. The township may contribute funds for the purchase. Application deadline to be included is February 1. The County was pleased to have reached a milestone of preserving 10,000 acres of farmland in Montgomery County. Acreage preserved in New Hanover Township to date is 1,353.31. Preserved land provides important open spaces, scenic vistas and contributes to the Township and County's economic and sustainability efforts.





2021 Montgomery County, PA Household Hazardous Waste Drop-Off Events

By appointment only, preregistration required

DATES:

Saturday, April 24

Boyertown Middle School East
2020 Big Road, Gilbertsville

Saturday, May 1

Indian Valley Middle School
130 Maple Avenue, Harleysville

Saturday, May 8

Montgomery County Community College
Enter at 595 Cathcart Road, Blue Bell

Saturday, June 12

Temple University–Ambler Campus
Enter at 1431 E. Butler Pike, Ambler

Saturday, June 19

Abington Junior High School
Enter at 2056 Susquehanna Road, Abington

Saturday, September 25

Spring-Ford 9th Grade Center
400 South Lewis Road, Royersford

SUNDAY, October 24

Lower Merion Transfer Station
1300 N. Woodbine Avenue, Penn Valley

Free residential collection events are held outdoors. Montco residents may also attend any Household Hazardous Waste event held by Bucks, Chester, Delaware, or Philadelphia Counties.

Please do not contact the host sites, as they are not affiliated with the events.

In case of severe weather, call 610.278.3618, option 6 for event status.

Contact us at:

MontcoPARecycles.org
recycling@montcopa.org
610.278.3618



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MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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NOTE: At the present time, no notice has been received from Montgomery County regarding collection of tires or electronics as well as no notice of shredding events.

The county has partnered with “retrievr”, for collection of various items at your doorstep. Please refer to their website at <https://retrievr.com/montcopa> for details on their program.

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN – 2040

New Hanover Township is in the process of updating their 20-year comprehensive plan last adopted in 1998. The updated plan will provide a planning tool for the upcoming 20 years to year 2040. The rapid pace of development of the community has brought new demands and changes. Once a rural community, the recent development has created a change in the character of the community with increasing traffic volumes, loss of farmland, open space and wildlife habitat. The changes occurring need to be managed to provide safety and a high quality of life to meet the needs and wants of the residents. The comprehensive plan is a long-range planning tool that outlines a guide for growth and development and identifies broad-based goals and strategies for achieving the specified goals as a basis for future decision making. Updating of the plan has been a joint effort of the Township staff, Planning Commission and public responses under the purview of the Montgomery County Planning Commission which began in April of 2019. Time was allocated for discussion during monthly Planning Commission public meetings; community members attending meetings, listened and provided input as various topics were discussed. Residents also responded to a widely distributed survey listing their concerns and what they would like to see happen in the coming years. The plan provides information on current land use, demographics, housing, infrastructure, education, recreation and thoroughfares. The long-range plan addresses and provides for adaption of compatible land uses, management and preservation of natural resources, identification and preservation of historically significant land and structures and plans for infrastructure needs.



COVID-19 MITIGATION MEASURES

New Hanover Township is currently under a disaster declaration related to the COVID-19 pandemic. We are pleased to report that we have been able to maintain all Township administrative and police services during the crisis. Township offices are open to the public wearing a mask, and provisions have been made for drop-off and pick-up of information, permits and payments not necessitating admission into the building. Public meetings are held at the Township municipal building, 2943 N. Charlotte Street, Gilbertsville, PA 19525 and are limited to the number of persons allowed in accordance with CDC guidelines. Residents are required to wear masks during the meetings which are streamed live on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/NewHanoverTownship/live/>. Questions and comments can be received during meetings.

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HISTORICAL SOCIETY HAPPENINGS

Among its treasurers the Historical Society counts two mid-nineteenth century buildings that have been restored to period appearance and function: the 1853 One-Room Schoolhouse, and the circa 1845 Summer Kitchen. Both are located within the Township's Swamp Creek Park, alongside the beautifully maintained 3/4 mile walking/biking trail. Contrary to common perception, the two structures were unrelated during their period of common usage. We acquired three additional interesting historic objects since the last Township newsletter update. The first, a severely weathered 18th/early 19th century shovel, was literally unearthed from the soil between the garden and Reifsnnyder Road by a friend of the society who was searching the area with a metal detector. We are now in the process of stabilizing the artifact and a suitable display case will be built to house it. The other two items historically important to New Hanover Township are school diplomas donated by Roger Moyer after having had them professionally matted and framed for display in the Schoolhouse. A separate report will be prepared for future publication to showcase and document their special importance to the Township's history.

At the Summer Kitchen the Historical Society also maintains a mid-nineteenth century Pennsylvania Dutch demonstration kitchen garden. Much reduced in scale, the kitchen garden is only 24 feet by 24 feet, far too small to feed a hungry farming family in the 1800's. But, like its forbearers, it contains four central raised beds for annual vegetable plants and interior perimeter beds containing perennial herbs and medicinal plants, and a few flowering plants, "just for so." We also utilize a portion of the exterior perimeter for beans and other vining plants that use the fence palings for support.

While preserving the historic nature and artifacts of New Hanover Township, the principal function of the Historical Society is educational. Throughout the spring and fall seasons we welcome school groups for a day spent attending the one-room school through typical lessons and activities, playing period appropriate outdoor games, and visiting the garden. The summer kitchen is where the students get to assist with preparation of an open hearth-cooked meal and baking in the squirrel-tailed, bee-hive oven. In the fall the children get to make cider from local fruits in a hand operated cider press. Turning the cider press and hand pumping water from the hand-dug original well for the garden are much enjoyed by the youngsters and help to use up some of their excess energy.



With the COVID pandemic still dictating our inability to host group activities we continue to cancel program meetings and other special public events for the foreseeable future. However, once again we plan to maintain the demonstration kitchen garden and prepare open hearth meals on our Friday workdays. We will continue to welcome visitors to Swamp Creek Park to enter and explore the garden and the summer kitchen. However, due to the confined space of the kitchen we require the use of face masks as social distancing is not always possible. Many of the folks who regularly utilize the park are familiar with our activities and make it a point to check on the garden's progress and find out what's being prepared for the mid-day meal. For those folks who haven't visited Swamp Creek Park on Reifsnnyder Road and might not be aware of the Historical Society's various events and educational programs, we would like to extend an invitation to visit us on Friday mornings at the Summer Kitchen. Arrangements can be made to visit the Schoolhouse and the Summer Kitchen at other times by calling 610-326-4165 (Bob Wood for Schoolhouse) or 215-234-4119 (Bill/Jacquelyn Daley for garden and Summer Kitchen).





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