

Lower Gwynedd Report



MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Township's Message - Fall 2020



Mark G. Grey, Chairman

2020 sure has been a trying year for everyone; I hope all the citizens, employees, business owners and anyone working in Lower Gwynedd Township remains safe and healthy. The Township remains in good financial shape in spite of the COVID-19 virus. Although some capital projects were placed on the back-burner for future considerations, many projects have started or will begin by the end of 2020.

A few items that most of you will see while walking, driving or riding bicycles through the town include:

- Route 202 project (currently underway for a 6-year project) to improve traffic patterns along the corridor. Please find PennDOT's information on this project at www.US202.com.
- Phase I of the intersection improvement at the Sumneytown Pike/Bethlehem Pike/Norristown Road/Pennlyn Blue Bell Pike will begin shortly. This Phase is to widen the culvert along Sumneytown Pike down towards this intersection. This will make way for Phase II to improve that intersection for better traffic flow.
- Street Light Program to be finalized by year end 2020. All the township owned street lights will be upgraded to LED through the Regional Streetlight Procurement Program administered by the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission. This will improve the performance and quality of the 157 street lights in the Township with longer life expectancy and cost savings in the future.
- The Township has partnered with the MRA Group to obtain a "National Fitness Campaign and 2019 Healthy Cities Grant" which will provide an outdoor fitness court constructed on the campus of Spring House Innovation Park (SHIP) at 727 Norristown Road and open to the public. Look for information on the opening of this in November 2020.

Our current Trash Contract will expire on October 31, 2020. The Township recently went out to bid and awarded, at our September 22, 2020 Meeting, a new three-year contract to the lowest bidder, Republic Services, Inc. The new service will start on November 1, 2020. More information on billing and service will be sent out to all the customers in the Township.

In order to keep yourselves up-to-date with important information, please remember to sign-up for email blasts at our website www.lowergwynedd.org, follow us on Twitter @LowerGwyneddPA, and Like Us on Facebook at "Lower Gwynedd Township".

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1130 N. Bethlehem Pike
 P.O. Box 625
 Spring House, PA 19477
 Phone: 215-646-5302
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www.lowergwynedd.org



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PAST SUPERVISORS BOOTH AND PACCIONE

We would like to give our heartfelt thank you to Supervisors Dr. J. Richard Booth and Stephen Paccione whose terms ended on December 31, 2019. They have spent countless hours during many evening meetings helping to make Lower Gwynedd Township a great community.

LAND DEVELOPMENT & SUBDIVISION UPDATE

Below is a summary of the various land development and subdivision projects currently being reviewed, approved, or under construction within Lower Gwynedd Township at the time of this publication.

PRELIMINARY REVIEW

- **Sisters of Mercy Subdivision (#20-03LD):** Non-residential subdivision; Location: 1345 Sumneytown Pike; Applicant: Sisters of Mercy; *Summary: 2-lot minor subdivision of a property owned by the Sisters of Mercy with the land to be conveyed to the Gwynedd Mercy Academy High School; Under review.*
- **Acts-Skilled Nursing Facility Building (#20-04LD):** Residential development; Location: 301 Norristown Road (Gwynedd Estates); Applicant: ACTS; *Summary: New residential 2-story skilled nursing building with 40 beds to be added to the Gwynedd Estates site; Under review.*

APPROVED/UNDER CONSTRUCTION

- **Foulkeways at Gwynedd-Residential "S" Unit Expansion Land Development (#19-06LD):** Residential development; Location: 1120 Meetinghouse Rd.; Applicant-Foulkeways at Gwynedd; *Summary: Consolidate 5 parcels and construct 4 new residential buildings that will add 7 residential living units; associated improvements including sidewalk and trail re-alignment, and stormwater management facilities; Approved 8/25/2020.*
- **Janssen Pharmaceutical Parking Lot Expansion Land Development (#20-01):** Non-residential land development proposing three new parking areas, realignment of loop road and concrete walkways and the installation of associated stormwater management facilities. *Approved 9/22/2020.*
- **Feller/Gleit Lot Line Change (#20-02LL):** A residential lot line adjustment; Location: 1321 Gypsy Hill Rd & 811 Brushtown Rd. *Approved 7/28/2020.*
- **Hunt Seat Associates Subdivision (#19-08SUBD):** Residential Subdivision; Location: Hunt Seat Dr.; Applicant: Hunt Seat Associates LLC (Guidi Homes); *Summary: 3-lot residential subdivision of a lot recently created through the Penllyn Club Subdivision (525 Gwynedd Ave Sub), applicant proposes a single-family dwelling on each lot with individual driveways taking access from Hunt Seat Dr.; Approved 6/23/2020*
- **Spring House Court Subdivision (#19-07SUBD):** Residential Subdivision; Location: 1217 N. Bethlehem Pike; Applicant-Pat Sparango; *Summary: 3-lot residential subdivision and land development where applicant proposes to construct three townhomes with a common private driveway and associated improvements; Approved 3/10/2020.*
- **604 Dekalb Pike (#18-02LD) "Overlook at Gwynedd Valley":** Residential subdivision/land development; Location-Dekalb Pike; Developer- Prospect Acquisitions; *Summary- 17-unit residential townhouse development and associated improvements. Approved 9/11/18; Currently under construction*
- **1325 Gypsy Hill Road Subdivision (#18-01SUBD):** Residential subdivision/land development; Location-Gypsy Hill Road; Developer-DeSantis Homes; *Summary- 7-Lot single-family residential subdivision/land development project on 9.5 acres off of Gypsy Hill Road; Approved 6/26/18; Currently under construction*
- **1617 School House Lane (#18-03SUBD):** Residential subdivision; Location-School House Lane; Developer- Sal Paone; *Summary- 2-lot minor residential subdivision; Approved 4/24/18; Construction on lot one has started.*
- **Gwynedd Walk (#17-03LD):** Mixed-Use Development; Location-537-601 N. Bethlehem Pike; Developer: Pete Penna; *Summary-This is a mixed-use development with a 23-unit residential townhouse community and a 7,500 square foot building for commercial/retail use; Approved 3/6/18; The project is currently under construction, tenants have moved into commercial space.*
- **The Carriages at Lower Gwynedd (#14-12LD):** Residential Development; Location-Penllyn Pike; Developer: 4 Couzzins LLC; *Summary- This is an 11-unit residential townhome development currently under construction; Approved 2/4/15; Trail connection complete*

VOTE 2020

**VOTE IN THE
GENERAL ELECTION:
NOVEMBER 3, 2020**

FOR INFORMATION
REGARDING VOTING IN THE
GENERAL ELECTION GO TO
montcopa.org/voterservices

TOWNSHIP NOTICES

LOWER GWYNEDD TOWNSHIP

1130 N. Bethlehem Pike, P. O. Box 625, Spring House, PA 19477
www.lowergwynedd.org

Administration

Phone: (215) 646-5302
Fax: (215) 646-3357

Police

Emergency: 911
Phone: (215) 646-5303

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Mark G. Grey, Chairman
Danielle A. Duckett, Vice-Chairman
Edward J. Brandt
Kathleen Hunsicker
Tessie McNeely

Township Manager: Craig McAnally
Assistant Manager: Jamie Worman
Asst. Sec.: Carole Culbreth
Police Chief: Paul Kenny
Public Works Director: Fred Zollers
Solicitor: Neil Stein, Esq., Kaplan Stewart
Engineer: Jim Hersh, Gilmore & Associates
Zoning Officer: Kenneth Amey
E.I.T.; B.P.; Merc. & LST Collection:
Berkheimer Associates
Fire Marshal: Al Comly
Building Inspector/Plan Review:
Keystone Municipal Services
Recreation Director: Sandi L. Feight
Parks Superintendent: Mitch Kulp

LOWER GWYNEDD TOWNSHIP MEETING SCHEDULE

All meetings to be held in the Administrative Office at
1130 North Bethlehem Pike, Spring House

NOTE: Generally meetings are as follows except when holidays conflict:

Board of Supervisors (7:00 pm) – 2nd & 4th Tuesday

Zoning Hearing Board (7:00 p.m.) - 2nd Thursday

Planning Commission (7:00 p.m.) - 3rd Wednesday

Park & Recreation (6:00 p.m.) - 3rd Tuesday

Environmental Advisory Council (7:00 p.m.) – 2nd Wednesday

Deadline for Submissions:

Zoning Hearing Board

30 days prior to scheduled meeting

Planning Commission

30 days prior to scheduled meeting

UPCOMING TOWNSHIP HOLIDAYS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

October 12 (*Columbus Day*)

November 11 (*Veterans Day*)

November 26 & 27 (*Thanksgiving Holiday*)

December 25 (*Christmas Day*)

January 1 (*New Year's Day*)



Find our page on Facebook at
"Lower Gwynedd Township"



STAY IN TOUCH AND REGISTER TO RECEIVE EMAIL ALERTS

Township residents can register their email address to be notified when news items or alerts are posted on the website. Just visit the Township website at www.lowergwynedd.org and click the Email Alerts icon at the top of the page to register. Take the time today and register on the website and you can begin receiving alerts.

TOWNSHIP NOTICES

LOWER GWYNEDD TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

Hello Neighbors:

We hope you and your families are safe and remain safe throughout the COVID 19 pandemic. Thank you for continuing to abide by CDC regulations. Lives have changed dramatically due to COVID 19 as many have lost their jobs and/or are balancing childcare, education and working from home.

As such, many may be working on checking off that never-ending “to do” list for home and yard projects in addition to what is already on their plate. More people are ordering via curbside pick-up and delivery, which results in the use of more plastic, more paper bags, more pizza boxes, etc. Some residents might be purging items located in attics, basements and clothes closets. So, what does one do with all of the excess trash and materials? *Knowing how to recycle correctly and donate non-perishable items is key!*



Refer to the following links and three basic rules below for additional recycling information:

- Waste Management of Montgomery County: <https://www.wm.com/us/en>
- Montgomery County Planning Commission Montgomery County Recycling: <https://www.montcopa.org/637/Recycling-Information>
- Some recycling actions make a bigger impact than others. Please remember these three basic rules the next time you recycle (<https://www.wm.com/us/en/recycle-right>)
 - Recycle clean bottles, cans, paper and cardboard.
 - Keep food and liquid out of your recycling.
 - No loose plastic bags and no bagged recyclables.
- Republic Services: <https://recyclingsimplified.com/recycling-basics/>

Recycling of Foam

Recyclable foam includes, for example, Styrofoam packaging used for electronics. Smaller Styrofoam peanuts and food containers are not accepted for recycling. Please refer to the following Facebook link for more information pertaining to a local facility collecting foam.

- <https://www.facebook.com/Northeastfoamrecycling/>
- Recycling of Materials that are Commonly Not Recyclable: <https://www.weaversway.coop/shuttle-online/2018/09/terracycle-update>
- Recycling of Gently-used Items:
 - <https://www.gogreendrop.com>
 - <https://www.habitat.org/restores>
 - <https://www.nike.com/help/a/recycle-shoes>
 - <http://atrscorp.com/>
 - <https://libertythriftstores.com/locations/montgomeryville/>

Composting Food Scraps and Yard Waste:

Food scraps and yard waste make up a significant amount of what we throw away on a regular basis. Composting these items reduces what goes into landfills where they take up space, break down and release methane, a dangerous greenhouse gas.

Composted food and yard waste can be used in flower beds and vegetable gardens to provide nutrients to growing plants. Implementing composting practices is a great way to reduce what goes into the landfill while providing you with a wonderful resource to utilize in your yard!

- <https://www.bhg.com/gardening/yard/compost/how-to-compost/>
- <https://www.epa.gov/recycle/composting-home>
- https://www.pennlive.com/gardening/2016/10/how_to_compost_your_yard_waste.html

Lower Gwynedd Township Recycling Programs

If you are a resident of Lower Gwynedd Township, you can recycle batteries at the Township building. The Township, through the EAC, is paying for a service that recycles batteries in an environmentally responsible manner.

The Township also offers a medicine take back program to safely dispose of most types of unneeded or expired prescription and over the counter medicines. This program is available to Lower Gwynedd Township residents.

Please view the Lower Gwynedd Township Environmental Advisory Council (EAC) website for additional information: <https://www.lowergwynedd.org/township-government/environmental-advisory-council.aspx>



Welcome

NEW PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR

Lower Gwynedd Township welcomes Fred Zollers as the new Public Works Director. Fred has worked for the Borough of Hatboro as Public Works Superintendent and has over twenty-one years' experience.

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

DO YOU NEED HELP AND DON'T KNOW WHERE TO START?

HOURS

**8:00 AM - 4:30 PM
Monday - Friday**

PHONE

610-278-3522

Navicates are able to assist by phone or email to maintain everyone's safety at this time.

www.montcopa.org/communityconnections

WE CAN HELP LINK YOU TO RESOURCES:

- Services for seniors
- Mental health services
- Employment
- Child care
- Food
- *And more!*



Montgomery County Board of Commissioners
Valerie A. Arkoosh, MD, MPH, Chair
Kenneth E. Lawrence, Jr. Vice Chair
Joseph C. Gale, Commissioner



Montgomery County
Office of Community Connections



Do you need help and don't know where to start? Community Connections can help you navigate the human services system, better understand what resources and services are available to you, and make referrals to organizations and programs that best address your needs. We can help link you to resources focused on services for seniors, mental health, drug and alcohol, employment, childcare, housing, food, and so much more.

To speak to a Navicate, call **610-278-3522** Monday through Friday from 8am to 4:30pm or visit www.montcopa.org/CommunityConnections for more information.

RECYCLING NEWS

Recycling is Required

Municipal and state regulations require that residents, commercial establishments and non-residential establishments recycle all recyclable materials. Commonly recycled materials include:

- Paper – newspaper, office/copy paper, glossy paper, color paper, cardboard, junk mail, phone books, cereal/cracker boxes
- Plastic – bottles and jugs No. 1-7
- Glass – clear, green and brown containers
- Metal – aluminum, steel, tin, and bimetal cans and containers

You should check with your hauler for a complete list of acceptable recyclable materials.

Are Things Really Being Recycled?

This question often comes up. People are concerned that not all of the materials they put in their recycle bin are recycled. Their concern is that some end up in landfills. This leads some to minimize their recycling efforts. According to several major waste management firms in Montgomery County, all of the acceptable recycled materials listed above are being recycled. You should continue to recycle all of the items listed above.

Things You Should Not Put into Your Recycle Bin

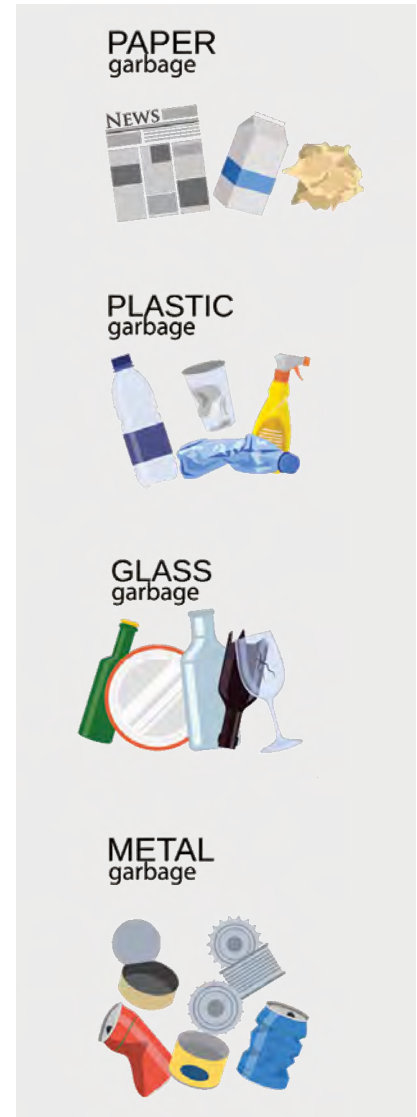
Here is a list of things that cannot be recycled and should not be put into your recycle bin:

- Foam containers and cups, even if they have a recycle symbol on them,
- Cups coated with wax or plastic such as soda cups,
- Plastic bags such as grocery store bags (You can often take these bags back to the grocery store)
- Flexible packaging such as chip bags or juice pouches,
- Plastic wrap,
- Container caps,
- Diapers, yes, some people throw soiled diapers into their recycle bins.

Avoid Contamination of Recycling Materials with Food or Liquids

Materials contaminated with food or liquid cannot be recycled. Here is what you should do:

- Check that the material is recyclable. Look for the recycle symbol on items.
- Rinse jars, bottles, and cans that have visible residue in them. A quick rinse is usually adequate.
- Throw away heavily soiled items.



RECYCLING OLD GADGETS

With potential new tech or gadgets on the horizon, you may be wondering “What do I do with my old device?” Before you pitch it in the trash, we’ve listed everything you need to know about recycling electronics, including donating or selling your old cellphones, laptops, and other devices.

What to do with old cellphones, laptops and other electronic devices <https://www.allconnect.com/blog/what-to-do-with-old-cell-phones-and-laptops>

Courtesy of Allconnect.com



HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE 2020 MONTGOMERY COUNTY PA RESIDENTIAL EVENTS By Appointment Only, Preregistration is Required

Saturday, September 26

Spring-Ford 9th Grade Center
400 South Lewis Rd., Royersford
Registration Link:

[9-26-2020 Royersford HHW Event at eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/9-26-2020-Royersford-HHW-Event)

Saturday, October 3

Boyertown Middle School East
2020 Big Rd., Gilbertsville
Registration Link:

[10-3-2020 Gilbertsville HHW Event at eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/10-3-2020-Gilbertsville-HHW-Event)

Sunday, October 11

Indian Valley Middle School
130 Maple Ave., Harleysville
Registration Link:

[10-11-2020 Harleysville HHW Event at eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/10-11-2020-Harleysville-HHW-Event)

Sunday, October 25

Lower Merion Transfer Station
1300 N. Woodbine Ave., Penn Valley
Registration Link:

[10-25-2020 Pennvalley HHW Event at eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/10-25-2020-Pennvalley-HHW-Event)

Saturday, October 31

Abington Junior High School
Enter at 2056 Susquehanna Rd., Abington
Registration Link:

[10-31-2020 Abington HHW Event at eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/10-31-2020-Abington-HHW-Event)

Saturday, November 7

Temple University-Ambler Campus
Enter at 1431 E. Butler Pike, Ambler
Registration Link:

[11-7-2020 Ambler HHW Event at eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/11-7-2020-Ambler-HHW-Event)

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

For additional information and in case of severe weather:

Please visit MontcoPARecycles.org, email recycling@montcopa.org, or call the recycling line at 610.278.3618. 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.



Follow us on Facebook at
[MontgomeryCountyRecycling](https://www.facebook.com/MontgomeryCountyRecycling).



MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Valerie A. Arkoosh, MD, MPH, *Chair* • Kenneth E. Lawrence, Jr., *Vice Chair* • Joseph C. Gale, *Commissioner*

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION INFORMATION

COVID-19 GUIDELINES

- Montgomery County events are following state guidelines and public health restrictions.
- Events may only take place during the state's green pandemic phase. Events are CANCELED if Montco is in the state's yellow or red phase as per state requirements.
- Materials must be in the trunk of the car or bed of the truck.
- If you need your gas can or container returned, please tape a note to it stating that you want to keep it.
- You must stay in your car and wear a mask while in the event site.
- You may arrive any time within your registered appointment window.
- Please print out your ticket if possible and place it on your dashboard.
- If you cannot attend the event, please cancel your appointment, as others may be waiting for an opening.

ACCEPTABLE MATERIALS

PAINT PRODUCTS	OUTDOOR PRODUCTS	AUTOMOTIVE PRODUCTS	HOUSEHOLD PRODUCTS	HOUSEHOLD OTHER
Turpentine	Swimming Pool Chemicals	Grease & Rust Solvents	Drain Openers	Acids, Caustics, Solvents
Paint Thinners	Weed Killers	Fuel Additives	Rug Cleaners	Flammables
Strippers & Removers	Septic Tank Degreasers	Carburetor Cleaners	Wood & Metal Cleaners	Oxidizers
Oil-Based Paints	Asphalt Sealers	Transmission/Brake Fluid	Mothballs/Flakes	Reactives
Stains, Varnish	Caulking Compounds	Antifreeze	Adhesives/Solvents	Lead
Shellac	Joint Compound	Car(lead-acid), Truck, Motorcycle, Marine, Batteries	Rechargeable batteries, Lithium, Ni-Cad, Button, Lead Acid	Mercury (Thermostats & Thermometers)
Other Solvent-Based Paint Products	Roof Cements	Gas, Oil, Gas Oil Mixture	Spot Removers Dry Cleaning Fluid	Fluorescent Tubes, Ballast, and CFLs
Wallpaper Cement	MINI Propane Tanks	Road Flares	Fire Extinguishers	Aerosols
Spray Paint	Pesticide		Kerosene	Electric Oil-filled Heaters

UNACCEPTABLE MATERIALS

Explosives & Ammunition	Electronics/Televisions	Asbestos	Appliances/White Goods
Infectious or Medical Waste	BBQ-Sized Propane Tanks (leave at local exchange sites)	Radioactive Waste	Freon/Refrigerants
Tires	Helium, Welding Gas, Oxygen, CO 2 Cylinders	Unidentified Waste	25- or 50-Gallon Drums
Latex Paint* (Water-Based)	Marine Flares	Alkaline Batteries (Trash)	Smoke Detectors

* Take off lid, dry out paint, discard can without lid; or pour paint into plastic bag with absorbent material (clay based kitty litter, saw dust, rags) place bag and can without lid, in trash. Paint hardener can also be purchased at hardware stores.

DROP OFF GUIDELINES

- MATERIALS MUST BE IN THE TRUNK OR BED OF VEHICLE AND WILL NOT BE COLLECTED FROM PASSENGER COMPARTMENT TO MAINTAIN SOCIAL DISTANCING. The only thing in your trunk should be waste for removal.
- Event workers will unload your materials so please remain in your vehicle with your windows up.
- BUSINESSES AND CONTRACTORS WILL BE TURNED AWAY, no commercial/industrial waste accepted.
- Bring all substances in original containers with labels. Items must be identifiable. Do not mix materials.
- Tighten lids on all containers. If containers are leaking, pack in larger container with newspaper to soak up leaks.
- Maximum amount accepted is 25 gallons or 220 pounds. No 25- or 50-gallon drums.
- There are no permanent drop off locations in the region for household hazardous waste, only the listed collections.

STREAMBANK STABILIZATION AND IMPACTS ON STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

In 2017, Lower Gwynedd Township submitted a Pollution Reduction Plan (PRP) to the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP), which was required under the individual MS4 permit for municipalities with waterbodies that have a TMDL. After a lengthy review process the PRP received approval in 2020. One of the projects proposed in the plan is a streambank restoration project. The project would repair eroded streambanks within the Willow Run tributary to the Wissahickon Creek. The project stream segment is located off of Old Bethlehem Pike directly behind the Lower Gwynedd Township Municipal Building. The scope of this project would include the stabilization and enhancement of approximately 300 linear feet of stream (both sides) from 100 feet upstream of the Old Bethlehem Pike bridge and 200 feet downstream.



The Wissahickon Creek suffers from what is known as the “urban creek syndrome”, which means it has flashy floods, elevated concentrations of pollutants, impaired habitat and reduced species biodiversity due to suburban development. This project will re-establish and stabilize the bank and restore the area to its natural function. The project will also help control erosion in the future and protect the streambank. We also anticipate that the restoration and enhancement will reduce the amount of sediment and other pollutants from entering the stream and improve water quality throughout the watershed. This project overall seeks to improve the integrity of the streambank and protect it against erosion from flash flooding during storm events. The project will also help reduce sedimentation and nutrient loading in the Wissahickon Creek, which is an impaired waterway.

The Wissahickon Creek TMDL Assessment states that “the largest contributors of sediment are in-stream sources attributed to streambank erosion. Urbanization and paving of large areas of the watershed result in dramatic increases in stormwater runoff, which lead to periodic high flows that directly cause the erosion of streambanks, contributing silt to the shallow creek bottom. These sources are extremely difficult to pinpoint, measure, and control, but they are currently the leading cause of siltation in the Wissahickon Creek basin.”

The Lower Gwynedd Township Board of Supervisors authorized staff to submit a grant application to the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development Water Restoration and Protection Program to seek funding for the streambank stabilization and enhancement project. Applications were due July 31, 2020 and grant award announcements are anticipated by year end.





New Three-Year Waste and Recycling Contract

(starting November 1, 2020 through October 31, 2023)

Year 1 - \$28.19/mo; Year 2 - \$29.18/mo; Year 3 - \$30.20/mo

- **Low Volume:** \$18/mo + \$3.00 per 30-gallon Bag or tag
- **Bulk Items:** one (1) included per month; \$75 per item over one (1)
- **Grass Clippings in excess of four (4) bags per pick-up:** \$3.0 per bag
- **Leaf and Yard Waste in excess of eight (8) bags per pick-up:** \$3.00 per bag

MONTCO 20/40 GRANT AWARD

Lower Gwynedd Township was awarded the Montco 20/40 grant in the amount of \$200,000.00 for the Bethlehem Pike Pedestrian Improvement Project, which is part of an older revitalization effort that was started more than a decade ago. This effort was known as the Bethlehem Pike Beautification Project and was a comprehensive, multi-phased revitalization plan to establish Spring House as the Township's "Town Center" by transforming the pike into a walkable shopping district. Lower Gwynedd was awarded the MONTCO 20/40 Grant for a sidewalk connection project that includes the installation of two pedestrian bridges.

Specifically, the pedestrian improvements will stretch from Springwood Lane to slightly before Sheble Lane on the east side of Bethlehem Pike; and along the Spring House Woods Homeowner's Association property up to Locust Lane on the west side of Bethlehem Pike. Concrete curb and sidewalk will be installed along this corridor and will tie into existing improvements, ADA/PennDot compliant ramps will also be installed, as well as, two 40-foot span pedestrian bridges over the creek and pond. These improvements will complete a critical connection along this stretch of roadway. *We hope to begin this project in 2021.*

FROM THE TAX COLLECTOR OFFICE

Lower Gwynedd Township wholeheartedly thanks Betty Lou Yost, Lower Gwynedd Township Real Estate Tax Collector, for serving Lower Gwynedd residents for over thirty years. Betty Lou has decided to step down as our Tax Collector. The community respects Betty Lou for the outstanding service she has always provided our residents over the years. She has always gone out of her way to personally answer their tax questions.

We honor Betty Lou Yost for her integrity and wish her well in the future.

FROM THE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Driving in Flooded Waters

As if 2020 hasn't presented enough challenges for our community, heavy rains and tropical storms present another obstacle for us to overcome. While traveling your local roadways, you may encounter traffic barricades or orange safety cones blocking your route of travel. Please know that they are placed across the road with your safety in mind, and not simply to inconvenience your planned route of travel. Flooded roadways can present dangers, both easily seen as well as potentially hidden. Ignoring a closed roadway and risking the traverse could result in unnecessary catastrophe.

A flooded roadway may suddenly be covered in debris or hazards that may otherwise not be present. Rushing water may undermine the stability of a road by washing away the substructure, quickly resulting in a buckling roadway or sink holes. Even a mere six (6) inches of water may reach the undercarriage of a vehicle, rendering it immobile if the exhaust floods. Surprisingly, many cars float in water, regardless of the condition of the tires. If you should encounter a roadway that is closed during a storm, please turn around to avoid the potential of an unnecessary emergency.

If you encounter a roadway covered in still water but can see the roadway and painted lines, drive slowly down the center of the roadway where the water will be the shallowest. Please take turns and alternate with other cars. Most important, please take your time and drive extra cautiously, no faster than 5 miles per hour. If water is rushing across the street, please DO NOT attempt to cross over moving water. Instead, don't panic, simply turn around and find an alternate route. And in the case of emergency, always remember to call 9-1-1.



image collected from Google.com

Detective Beth J Sanborn, DPA #4536

School Resource Officer

Lower Gwynedd Police

Wissahickon School District

(215) 646-5303 x-321 (police), (215) 619-8000 x-8053 (school)

WHEN YOU'RE WASHING YOUR CAR IN THE DRIVEWAY, REMEMBER YOU'RE NOT JUST WASHING YOUR CAR IN THE DRIVEWAY.



All the soap, scum, and oily grit runs along the curb. Then into the storm drain and directly into our lakes, streams and into coastal waters including the Chesapeake Bay. And that causes pollution which is unhealthy for fish. So how do you avoid this whole mess? Easy. Wash your car on grass or gravel instead of the street. Or better yet, take it to a car wash where the water gets treated and recycled.

If you have questions regarding storm water, please contact your municipality or Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection's Regional Office. For general questions, you may also contact DEP's Bureau of Water Management at (717) 772-5661 or visit www.dep.state.pa.us. Thanks to the Washington State Water Consortium for permission to adapt and use this poster.

NOTES FROM THE FIRE MARSHAL—FALL 2020

Last Fall I wrote about the importance of preparing for winter by checking fireplaces and chimneys, getting fire alarm and carbon monoxide detection systems inspected and, if needed, repaired. These items remain true and deserve your attention.

This year, however, we are faced with an additional burden of COVID 19 as we look forward to going back inside to our closed spaces. Maintenance of fire systems becomes even more important, now that we are spending more time at home. We must recognize that more intensive use of anything leads to a need for more maintenance. Cleaning fans, kitchen exhausts and ovens are needed more frequently. Proper cleaning, service and maintenance also reduces false alarms or unnecessary calls to the fire companies.

Your township emergency responders—fire and EMS—have received the most updated information related to the virus. As volunteers, the firefighters are your neighbors and friends. They are dealing with the same issues and concerns, but continue to provide the emergency services when you need them. Anything you can do to help the emergency services will be greatly appreciated—remembering they are here to served our community when our community needs that help.



All of this comes back to:

- Check and clean your chimneys and fireplaces
- Check and service your fire alarm system (this should be done annually, regardless)
- Make sure your house number is cleanly visible from the roadway (4-inch-high, ½ inch stroke numbers on contrasting background is the minimum)
- If you have a long driveway, make sure that the vegetation has been cleared to at least 12 feet wide at the roadway and with an overhead clearance of 14 feet.
- If you have contractors working in your house performing cleaning, special sanitation, painting or other tasks that create dust or mists, make sure they cover the detectors and notify your alarm company to put the system on “Test” while they are working.
- If you have a private bridge leading to your residence, it is required that the weight limit be posted at the bridge. Consult a civil or structural engineer to get this information if you have not done it. Unposted bridges are a hazard for fire apparatus and can seriously delay a fire response.

Please be safe and follow safe practices. If there is any way the Lower Gwynedd Fire Marshal’s Office can be of assistance—please call the township. We are here to serve.

FIRE COMPANIES CONTACT INFORMATION:



Wissahickon Fire Company
245 E. Race Street
Ambler, PA 19002
Office: (215) 646-1266



North Penn Volunteer Fire Company
141 S. Main Street
North Wales, PA 19454
Office: (215) 699-4337

In case of emergency, please call 911

PARKS AND RECREATION

Featured Fall Photo



PARKS AND RECREATION

DOG ORDINANCE

Just a reminder that Lower Gwynedd Township has an ordinance that specifies letting dogs run loose without a leash is prohibited. All dogs must be on a leash of no more than ten feet when on streets, public grounds or property (see ordinance below). This includes all parks and ball fields.

§ 620.02 Dog regulations.

[Ord. 77. Passed 8-17-1964; Ord. 407. Passed 2-18-2003]

(a) Dogs at Large Prohibited. [Amended 8-23-2016 by Ord. No. 509]

- (1) As used in this Section 620.02, the term “at large” shall refer to any dog that is not restrained by the dog’s owner or keeper with a leash having a length of not more than 10 feet.
- (2) It shall be unlawful for the owner or keeper of any dog, licensed or unlicensed, to permit such dog to run at large over the streets, public grounds or property, or upon the private property of anyone other than the owner or person having custody of the dog or of the property of anyone who has consented to the dog being at large on their property. The owner or keeper of the dog must be of appropriate age and discretion to properly control the actions of the dog.



MEMORIAL & COMMEMORATIVE BENCHES

Memorial and Commemorative benches are placed throughout the parks and trails. Location for new bench donations can be chosen through the Parks & Recreation Department. The engraving on the bench is of the donor’s choice and must be approved by the Township. To inquire about a new bench Parks & Recreation Department at 215-646-5302 and setup a meeting to discuss the details.



Holiday Recycling and Tree Drop off

After the Holidays have passed instead of throwing away your Tree, you can drop it off at Ingersoll Park parking lot, Wister Ave and Penllyn Pike. The Parks & Recreation Department will use the mulched trees in the Trail System.

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE WEBSITE

With the new design of the Township Website residents can register their email address and when news items or announcements are posted on the website concerns, Board of Supervisor Meetings, Events, Informative articles residents will be notified. On the home screen of the Township Website if you scroll to the bottom of the page you will see a News and Announcements section, click on the Subscribe to begin registering. Take the time today and register on the website and you can begin receiving announcements.

CLICK HERE



PARKS AND RECREATION

Lower Gwynedd Township TRAIL IDENTIFICATION

This year has seen a greater use of 25 miles of trails in Lower Gwynedd Township.

We have had many people inquiring as to the white posts located on the trails. The Township in 2011 developed an identification system for the trails. All Township owned and maintained trails are marked and labeled.

The system was developed based on the trail name and then broken into numerical sections. The trail “initials” were used to identify the trails. Each section of the trail was broken down into numbered sections so that a responding service team could quickly determine the best location to access the trail. This identification system was then distributed through all the Emergency Service Departments and the Montgomery County Dispatch to be placed in their computer system so that any agency responding to an emergency could easily be directed to a location.

These posts are easily identifiable, located along the trail sections and contrast to their surroundings. The Trail Identification System can not only be used for Emergency situations but for maintenance as well. If a tree has fallen or there is a hazard, trail users can report the specific trail and section by phoning the Township. The Township also has trail head signs at the entrance to each trail section those sign indicated the Trail Name and Trail Location. Twice a year the Township staff preform an audit on the marker to ensure they have not been vandalized, damaged or removed.





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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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brett.dillon@comcast.net (email)



A Lifelong Resident of Lower Gwynedd

"We highly recommend Brett Dillon as the realtor to work with when selling your home. Brett is intelligent, sensitive to the seller's concerns, and experienced in the local market. Brett really knows and appreciates the neighborhood of our house and was excellent in highlighting for potential buyers the unique qualities of our house. Brett was sensitive to the stresses selling our house caused and responded positively to all issues that arose. She ably recommended professional window washers, floor and carpeting specialists, and painters. Brett really knows and cares about what she is doing and all the people involved in the sales transaction. Our house sold quickly and I know that Brett is the person that made it all happen."

Marilyn and David Bonner
Woodbridge Meadow Lower Gwynedd

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