

Lower Gwynedd Report



MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Did you know that townships are the oldest form of government in the United States? William Penn's 1681 land grant from King Charles II gave him the power to divide the land into counties and towns and by the late 1600s dozens of townships were formed in southeastern Pennsylvania. The Tenth Amendment of the United States Constitution preserved local government and left it up to the States to define those within their borders. Indeed, in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, the scope of powers, duties and responsibilities of local government are codified in the PA Township Code and extends well beyond taxes, traffic and trails. Lower Gwynedd Township is responsible for its roads and bridges, public safety and emergency services, floodplain, sewage, waste and storm water management, and recycling. Lower Gwynedd controls its own destiny through land planning and zoning and enriches its quality of life by providing leisure and recreational activities. It is the role of the Township Supervisors to adopt locally focused policies, enact ordinances, set budgets, hire employees and appoint volunteers in order to fulfill all of the aforementioned responsibilities in a fiscally responsible manner. With a combined population of 5.5 million people living in 1,454 townships, which represents 44 percent of the state's total population, local government is truly grassroots. It is a testimony to the unique American idea of elected self-government. Those who comprise your local government – supervisors, committees, and boards - are your neighbors with a shared vision of building the best community in which to live and raise a family. These are the same people you see daily; at the grocery store, at our parks, at the school bus stops and at our places of worship. The decisions made here are decisions that will impact our daily lives far more than most decisions made in the state capitol or the White House. Our local government strives to preserve Lower Gwynedd's character and fiscal integrity while building on our wonderful legacy for enjoyment by generations to come.



Cheers!
Kathleen Hunsicker, *Chair*

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Lower Gwynedd Township 4th Annual PIKE FEST

Saturday September 14
10:00 a.m. ~ 4 p.m.
Downtown Springhouse

Come celebrate all that is Lower Gwynedd Township at the 4th Annual Pike Fest featuring over 100 vendors, local businesses and restaurants. Exciting additions include more food trucks, 5K Run and a car show! Thanks to the Pike Fest Committee for their time and dedication in making this a successful event. Please patronize our sponsors who provide continued support for this annual community celebration.

1130 N. Bethlehem Pike
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Fax: 215-646-3357
www.lowergwynedd.org



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Downtown Spring House 4th Annual
PIKE FEST

Lower Gwynedd Township

Saturday, Sept. 14th
10 AM - 4 PM

N. Bethlehem Pike "Street Fest"

VENDORS • ARTISANS • LIVE MUSIC • FOOD TRUCKS
AMUSEMENTS • CLASSIC CAR DISPLAY

PIKE FEST 5k @ 8 am.
Register at Born to Run



LGPIkeFest@LowerGwynedd.Org • 215-646-5302

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

Kathleen Hunsicker, Chair

Dr. J. Richard Booth, Vice-Chair

Edward J. Brandt • Stephen J. Paccione • Mark G. Grey

Township Manager: Craig McAnally
Assistant Manager: Jamie Worman
Asst. Sec.: Carole Culbreth
Police Chief: Paul Kenny
Solicitor: James J. Garrity, Esq. Wisler, Pearlstine
Engineer: Craig Kennard, Gilmore & Associates
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Berkheimer Associates
Zoning Officer: Kenneth Amey
Asst. Zoning Officer: Craig McAnally
Building Inspector/Plan Review:
Keystone Municipal Services
Recreation Director: Sandi L. Feight
Parks Superintendent: Mitch Kulp
Real Estate Tax Collector: Betty Lou Yost
Fire Marshal: Al Comly

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 (6:30 p.m.) - 4th 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

TOWNSHIP HOLIDAYS are as follows:

September 2 (Labor Day)

October 14 (Columbus Day)

November 11 (Veterans Day)

November 28 and 29 (Thanksgiving)

December 25 (Christmas Holiday)

January 1, 2020 (New Year's Holiday)



@LowerGwyneddPA



Find our page on Facebook at
"Lower Gwynedd Township"



Staff Highlights

Wissahickon School Crossing Guard Jean Trader announced her retirement at the end of the school year. Nearly every day for fifteen years, she was a fixture in the community, helping children safely cross the street to reach all three of the schools on Houston Road. Her dedication and friendly smile will be missed.

Left to right Officer Mike Cantrell, Jean Trader, Police Chief Paul Kenny, and Officer Chris Swenson.

Nominate Citizen of the Year

Do you know someone who has served Lower Gwynedd so well that you think he or she should be Lower Gwynedd's 2019 Citizen of the Year? Last year, Roger Hillas, was chosen to receive this honor. A special selection committee will review residents' nominations and name this year's Citizen of the Year.

To make a nomination, write a one-to-two page letter describing how your nominee demonstrates a commitment to improving the quality of life in the Township. Send your nomination by September 13, 2019 to:

Carole B. Culbreth
Lower Gwynedd Township
P. O. Box 625
Spring House, PA 19477
cculbreth@lowergwynedd.org
fax: 215.646.3357

Please remember to include your name and contact information. The winner will be announced at the annual Volunteer Event and will be featured in the next issue of the Lower Gwynedd Report.

PECO Green Region Grant

Lower Gwynedd Township was awarded the PECO Green Region Grant in the amount of \$5,000.00 for the construction of a rain garden adjacent to the Penllyn Woods Community Building. The Green Region Grant Program is an initiative through PECO to support open space and environmental projects throughout its service area. The grant is funded through PECO and administered through the Natural Lands organization. Natural Lands is an organization dedicated to preserving and nurturing nature's wonders.

Lower Gwynedd is proactively planning on installing various measures to better manage the quantity and quality of stormwater runoff throughout the municipality and watershed. One of the major initiatives of our local Environmental Advisory Council (EAC) is rain gardens. As a result of this planning, the small rain garden project was identified as an opportunity to transform a typical mulch flowerbed into a rain garden and provide education and outreach on the importance of rain gardens and the role they play in stormwater management. This particular project will convert an existing mulched 323 square foot flowerbed, draining approximately 2,745 square feet of roof area, to a rain garden. The current arrangement allows for the roof runoff to discharge directly into the flowerbed through two roof drains causing a major washout following every storm event. The rain garden that is proposed will be used to solve this existing drainage problem and treat the water running off of the roof of the Penllyn Woods Park Community Building. The plan is to construct a garden and direct the downspouts into this area. Wet tolerant plants and shrubs will be installed along with Riparian Buffer seed mix and shrubs from the DEP approved plantings list. The rain garden should be completed by the end of September.

There are often misconceptions about rain gardens. Rain gardens are often touted as breeding areas for mosquitos or accused of being too small to make an impact. People often think they retain water and eventually become a wetland or a pond. The purpose of a rain garden is to collect rain water and retain it for a small period of time, one to two days. The garden allows the water to slowly infiltrate into the ground. The area is planted with native plants that include both wet and dry tolerant vegetation. The garden plantings absorb runoff, filter it through its soil, and ultimately reduces the amount of pollutants. Rain gardens can provide substantial benefits to the environment and collectively they can make a major impact on stormwater management. They are also aesthetically pleasing so it is really a win-win for everyone. The EAC plans on installing more rain gardens throughout the Township and homeowners are encouraged to do the same on their own properties. For more information on rain gardens for homeowners please visit the stormwater page of the Township website www.lowergwynedd.org. There is a manual located on this page that provides very detailed information on rain gardens for homeowners.



Lower Gwynedd is awarded the PECO Green Region Grant
 Left to Right: Michael A. Innocenzo, President & CEO PECO,
 Suzanne Ryan, Regional External Affairs Manager,
 Jamie Worman, Assistant Township Manager,
 Oliver P. Bass, President Natural Lands Trust,
 Craig McAnally, Township Manager

The Wissahickon Clean Water Partnership 2019 WRADRB Government Award

For bringing together thirteen municipalities and four wastewater treatment plant operators to collaboratively develop a comprehensive strategy to improve water quality in the Wissahickon Creek.

The Wissahickon Clean Water Partnership is comprised of thirteen municipalities and four wastewater treatment plant operators in the Wissahickon Creek watershed. The partners are working collaboratively to develop a TMDL Alternative for nutrients. The municipal participants represent over 98% of the watershed area, which provides a powerful stakeholder group that is uniquely positioned to develop a coordinated plan to improve water quality in the watershed. The project is funded in part by The William Penn Foundation through the Pennsylvania Environmental Council. Technical work is being performed by Temple University. Funding mechanisms are being developed and evaluated by the Environmental Finance Center of the University of Maryland. Additional support is being provided by the Wissahickon Valley Watershed Association and the Montgomery County Planning Commission. The City of Philadelphia Water Department is also a key participant in the effort providing technical support and important historical water quality information about the Wissahickon Creek. With encouragement from PADEP and EPA, the Partnership is preparing a comprehensive Water Quality Improvement Plan for this highly-visible urbanized watershed that will contain a long-term program to achieve significant water quality improvements through an adaptive management process.



Supervisor Mark Grey with members
 of the Wissahickon Clean Water
 Partnership

TOWNSHIP NOTICES

Lower Gwynedd Township Police Department

Police 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, trails 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.



Lower Gwynedd Police Benevolent Association

Annual Golf Outing

Monday, October 28, 2019 at Old York Road Country Club

Questions: (215) 646- 5303 ext. 348 or BRyan@lowergwynedd.org
Old York Road Country Club is located 801 Tennis Ave. Springhouse, PA 19477
Old York Rd. requires soft spikes and collared shirts, no jeans please.



Public Works Department

Township Winter Maintenance Tips

- Do not drive unless it is absolutely necessary. If a state of emergency is called, please stay off all roadways.
- When the township declares a snow emergency all parked vehicles must be removed from the road when off-street parking is available.
- Please do not place any trash or recycle containers out into the roadway during inclement winter weather.
- Remove snow, ice, and slush from sidewalks, including handicap ramps, within 24 hours after the snow has stopped falling.
- Plowing operations do not begin until after there are 2" of accumulated snow on paved surfaces.
- Clear vehicle completely of snow and ice before driving.
- Place snow from sidewalks and driveways on lawns and not in the street.
- Please inspect your mailbox before winter. If your mailbox is protruding out into the roadway and is physically struck by the plow the township will not be responsible for any damage that may occur.
- It is strictly prohibited to push snow from private property onto any township, county or state roadway.
- As the storm is ending the township will begin opening all roadways curb to curb which allows room in the event of an additional storm. Please refrain from completely clearing your driveway until the plow vehicles make the last pass along the curb.

Sump Pump and Roof Drains Connected to the Sanitary Sewer System

By Ordinance it is illegal to have a sump pumps, roof drains, or any other connection that discharges or allows storm water to enter the Township's wastewater collection system. Storm water entering the wastewater collection system has the potential to overload the system which can result in sanitary sewer backups and equipment failure. If your property has any of the above-mentioned illegal connections, Lower Gwynedd Township requests that they be disconnected from the sanitary sewer system and allowed to discharge into the lawn or into a nearby storm sewer if possible. In addition, any sanitary sewer cleanouts on your property shall be a minimum of 6 inches above grade and have the proper cap placed on them to prevent debris and water from entering the system.

Horseways



You've just moved into a new neighborhood and are taking a walk when you reach the end of the cul-de-sac and notice a gravel path leading you to another development. Perfect! You continue your walk and exploration thanks to the path provided by an easement.

In Lower Gwynedd township, we're lucky to access a network of trails used for walking, running, biking, and horseback riding. Easements make this matrix of connecting trails possible. An easement is a legal right the landowner gives others to cross their property in a designated space. You may be familiar with utility easements but groups such as the Wissahickon Valley Watershed Association and Horseways have easements specific to certain activities such as conservation, walking trails, or horseback riding. Many of these easements have existed for decades and are beneficial to our community because they provide a way for landowners to provide access to their property for recreational activities while maintaining ownership. Some landowners give permission to use their property but the advantage of an easement is that it remains as a property right if the property is sold. So, the trail that you use to walk from your cul-de-sac to your friend's house in the neighboring development does not disappear when the landowner sells the house or property. Easements even protect open space and the watershed from development that can have a negative impact on the environment or health.

Any drawbacks? Having an easement will restrict activities blocking the easement, such as building a fence. Lower Gwynedd ordinances prevent any permanent structure on an easement but since easements usually run across the back or side of a property, it doesn't present an issue. Others worry that having an easement on their property means they are liable if someone is injured while using a trail but **Pennsylvania's Recreational Use of Land and Water Act** protects landowners as it "limits landowners' liability for personal injury or property damage if they make their land available to the public for recreation," as "long as no entrance or use fee is charged...landowners do not have to keep their land safe for recreational users and have no duty to warn of dangerous conditions." There are exceptions for malicious failure to warn of danger – if you see a growing sinkhole, it would be wise to address the issue to keep your family and neighbors safe.

If you are interested in providing an easement or the township approaches you about an easement on your property, refer to the Act for more specific guidance, ask someone who has gone through the process, and consult with an attorney. Remember the general purpose of the Act is to encourage landowners to allow others onto specific areas of their property for recreation. It also supports safety in our township by giving you and your children a safe alternative to walking or riding on a busy road. And doesn't this make our township a nicer place to live?

Lynn Doerr, Horseways

Fall Leaf/Yard Waste Collection Dates:



Lower Gwynedd Township has a leaf and yard waste recycling program where our contracted hauler, Waste Management, provides curbside leaf/yard waste collection opportunities throughout the Spring and Fall. The current contract provides for eight collections dates, two in the Spring and six in the Fall. The six scheduled dates for this Fall are:

Saturdays, October 5th & October 19th

Saturdays, November 2nd & November 16th

Saturdays, December 7th and December 14th

All leaf and yard waste must be placed in biodegradable bags and there is a limit of eight bags per pick-up.

Montgomery County Recycling

Montgomery County also offers opportunities for public waste collection events. Montgomery County will host a household hazardous waste collection event from 9am-3pm on the following dates and in the following locations:

- Saturday, September 28th, 2019- Spring-Ford 9th Grade Center, 400 South Lewis Rd., Royersford
- Sunday, October 20th, 2019- Lower Merion Transfer Station, 1300 N. Woodbine Ave., Penn Valley

For additional information visit www.MontcoPARecycles.org or call the recycling hotline at 610-278-3618.

Christmas Trees

Christmas trees can be dropped off at Ingersoll Park following the holidays. The park is located at 905 Wister Avenue in Penllyn.



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

Contaminated Recycling Materials

In recent years, the quality and amount of recycling has been reduced due to contamination. Recycling carts, bins, and dumpsters get filled with non-recyclable items every day. Contamination occurs when:

- Non-recyclable materials are put into a recycle bin.
- Recyclable materials contain too much food wastes.
- Recyclable materials are put into a recycle bin in the wrong manner, for example, in a plastic bag.

Why is Contamination Bad?

When a certain percent of a batch of recycling is contaminated, the whole batch of recycling is considered unusable and thrown away. Contaminated recycling materials end up in landfills.

What Can You Do?

To avoid contaminated recycling,

- 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.
- Do not put food wastes in recycle bins. Food wastes should be put in the trash or in a compost pile.



You can recycle that?!?

Hopefully you already know that you can put many items in your Waste Management bin for weekly curbside pickup. If you're not sure you can check www.recycleoftenrecycleright.com to confirm whether something can be put in your bin. But did you know that there are items that should NOT be put in this bin, but that can still be recycled locally? Two of these items are:

Plastic films

This includes plastic shopping bags that you get at the grocery store and other retailers when you don't bring a reusable bag (which really is the best option!). But did you know that you can also recycle the overwrap on beverage container cases (like cases of water or sports drinks) or paper toiletry products like paper towels, toilet paper, etc; bread bags; dry cleaning bags; zip-top food storage bags; inflatable packing pillows (deflate them first); newspaper bags; and produce bags. Many local grocery stores (Giant and Wegman's) that pack your groceries in plastic bags have a collection bin just inside their entrance where you can deposit the plastic film material that you collect. Visit www.plasticfilmrecycling.org for more information on recycling plastic film. Please note, you should not put any sort of plastic bags in your recycling bin, even bags that you use to collect the recycling. Dump the loose recycled items into the bin, and use the bag again for the next collection. Plastic bags can tangle up and jam the sorting equipment used in the single stream recycling process.



#6 Foam

White styrofoam, usually marked with a #6 chasing arrows recycling symbol, can be dropped off at Northeast Foam Recycling, 1370 Welsh Road, North Wales (the lobby of the Northeast Fitness Solutions warehouse at the corner of Welsh Rd. and Park Dr., across from LGT's Oxford Park). This type of foam is often in shipping boxes or other boxes containing electronics or furniture to keep it from moving around inside the box. Perishable shipments like medicine and food are also frequently contained in coolers made with this type of foam. The foam must be clean and dry, should indent easily (not "bounce" back if you stick a finger into it) and snap or break if you try to bend it. Foam cannot be colored, should not be spongy, and packing peanuts are not accepted. For more information check out www.facebook.com/Northeastfoamrecycling/

For more hints to help with Reducing, Reusing, and Recycling please visit the EAC section of our website:
<https://www.lowergwynedd.org/township-government/environmental-advisory-council.aspx>

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

- **MRA Spring House Innovation Park Conditional Use & Land Development Application (#19-04CU & #19-05LD)**: Non-residential mixed-use redevelopment project; Location-727 Norristown Road; Summary-Conditional Use application is required for a number of proposed uses including a hotel, restaurant, and conference center; a Land Development application was filed simultaneously for the redevelopment of the existing buildings that will include the uses noted above, as well as office space, research and development center, fitness center/court, associated parking and required improvements. Under review.
- **Penllyn Club - 525 Gwynedd Avenue Subdivision (#19-03SUBD)**: Residential subdivision; Location: 525 Gwynedd Avenue; Applicant-Hunt Seat Association LLC; Summary-2-lot minor residential subdivision. Under review.
- **SEPTA Gwynedd Valley Train Station**: Non-residential land development project; Location-Access off of Plymouth Road; Developer-SEPTA; Summary- Paved parking lot with associated improvements including curb, sidewalk, landscaping, lightening and signage. This project is on hold.

Approved/Under Construction

- **Joell Subdivision Revision (#10-10SUBD)**: Residential subdivision/land development; Location-1112 Wissahickon Avenue; Applicant- Darryl and Geneva Joell; Summary-2-lot minor residential subdivision creating one new building lot originally submitted in 2010. Approved 5/14/19. Not yet constructed.
- **1323 Gypsy Hill Road Subdivision (#18-05SUBD)**: Residential subdivision/land development; Location-Gypsy Hill Road; Applicant-Dr. Thomas Mackell and Mary Ann Mackell; Summary-2-lot minor residential subdivision creating one new building lot. Approved 10/9/18. Not yet constructed.
- **604 Dekalb Pike (#18-02LD) "Overlook at Gwynedd Valley"**: Residential subdivision/land development; Location-Dekalb Pike; Developer- Prospect Acquisitions; Summary- Proposal for a new 17-unit townhouse development and associated improvements. Approved 9/11/18. Construction has not yet begun but demolition of the former Lynch Home is complete.
- **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. This project is currently under construction.
- **1617 School House Lane (#18-03SUBD)**: Residential subdivision; Location-School House Lane; Applicant-Jennifer Gabora; Summary- 2-lot minor residential subdivision. Approved 4/24/18. Not yet constructed.

- **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.
- **Gwynedd Mercy University (#17-09LD)**: Non-residential land development; Location-Sumneytown Pike; Summary-This is a land development project for campus improvements that will help with the interior vehicular and pedestrian traffic circulation and will also include improvements to athletic fields, lighting, and landscaping. Approved 2/27/18. The project is currently under construction.
- **Ambler Yards (#16-01LD)**: Non-residential Redevelopment Project; Location-N. Spring Garden Street; Developer: 300 Brookside Commercial LLC; Summary-This is the redevelopment of an industrial property that includes the retrofitting of existing buildings, reconfiguring the access road, modifying the parking lot, curbing, sidewalk, landscaping and lighting. Approved 11/27/17. This project is currently under construction.
- **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. When the trail connection is complete the pedestrian bridge in the rear of the property will be open to the public.

Zoning Items

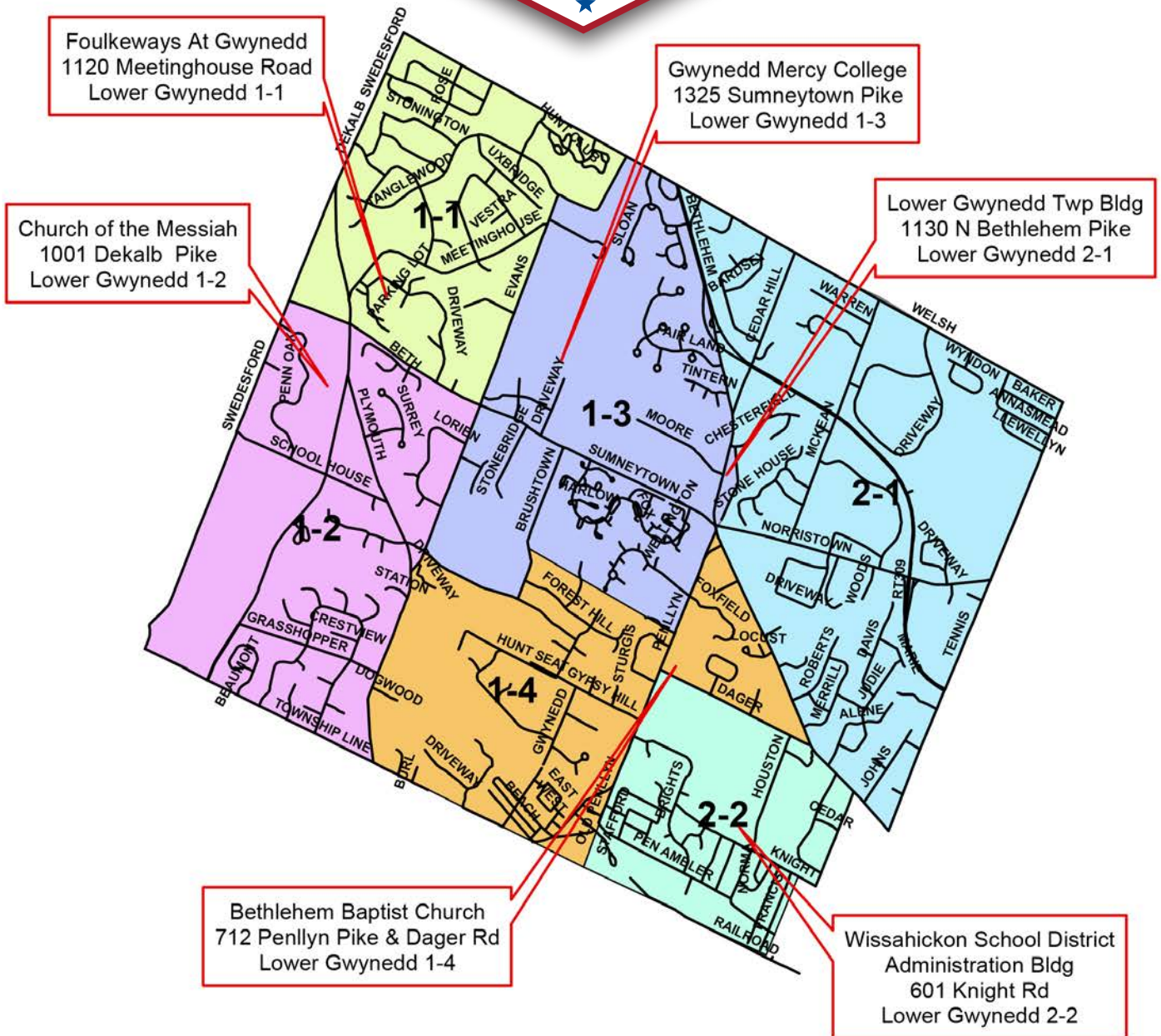
- **Foulkeways Text Amendment: Ordinance #522**: Summary: An Ordinance that rezoned parcels of ground which were zoned A- Residential to MF-3-A Multi-Family Residential. The ordinance also included revisions to the text of the MF-3-A Multi-Family Residential District. The ordinance revised density and development regulations including, but not limited to, setback requirements for residential and non-residential structures, setback requirements for parking, height limitations of different buildings, required buffers, minimum interior road widths, and maximum sizes of certain structures. Approved 5/28/19.
- **MRA Text Amendment: Ordinance #523**: Summary: Text amendment to the D1-Special Use District that permits additional uses by conditional use with specific requirements including a hotel, conference center, restaurant and catering facility. It also provides for additional permitted uses such as an accessory indoor and outdoor fitness and wellness facility, and an educational or training facility in support of a primary use. The ordinance provides additional criteria for these uses and also sets parking requirements. The full ordinance is available at the Township building. Approved 5/28/19.

VOTE

General Election:
Tuesday,
November 5, 2019

LOWER GWYNEDD
TOWNSHIP

Polling Locations



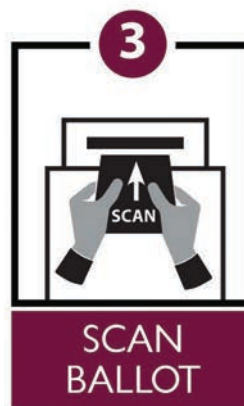
TOWNSHIP NOTICES



Montgomery County Has a New Voting System

Voter Marked Paper Ballots

Ballot Marking Device available for anyone needing assistance



Questions? • www.montcopa.org/votingsystem • 610-278-3023



New Voting System

Montgomery County has a new voter-marked paper ballot system with a verifiable paper trail that will be in place for the May 2019 primary election.

The new system will replace the electronic push-button voting machines the County purchased in 1996 which were nearing the end of their useful life. The old machines also did not meet the state mandate for counties to have a voting system with a verifiable paper trail in place for the 2020 Presidential election.

With the new system, most voters will use a pen to fill out a ballot and have an opportunity to check it for accuracy before submitting it to a scanner that tabulate the votes and keep the ballot in a secure container for audits or recounts.

Each polling place will also have an ADA touchscreen machine that can be used to select candidates. When the voter is done filling out the ballot, they can review their selections and print out a paper ballot that will be submitted to scanner for tabulation the same as the ballots filled out by hand.

Frequently Asked Questions

How do I use the new voting system?

In most cases, voters will use a pen to fill out a paper ballot and submit it to a scanning device that will tabulate the votes and deposit it into a secure container.

What if I am not capable of filling out a paper ballot?

Every poll will have a Ballot Marking Device compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)

What if I make a mistake on the ballot?

The scanner will detect blank, undervoted or overvoted ballots and ask voters if they want to correct it or cast it "as is." If a ballot is marked incorrectly, it may be exchanged for a new one.

Can people in the polling site see who I voted for?

Privacy screens will be available to fill out ballots. Manila folders will be available to maintain privacy while voters submit their ballots to the scanner.

What happens to the paper ballot after it is scanned?

It is deposited into a secure container and will be maintained for audits and recounts.



Notes from the Fire Marshal



I offer a few items that deserve your attention to help keep your family and property safe from fire.

Fire Places and Chimneys: Now is the time to prepare for Fall and Winter. Each winter, fireplaces or chimneys are found to be the source of damaging fires. This year, please consider doing the following before the heating season:

- Have your fireplace and chimney checked by a Chimney Sweep or Chimney specialist.
- Repair any cracks or damage before using the fireplace or chimney again
- Make sure the Chimney is clean. Studies have shown that one fire in a chimney will cause enough damage to require reconstruction of the chimney

Fire Alarms: Please check your fire warning systems. Well over half of all fire calls in the Township originate from automatic fire alarms, with a majority of those calls found to be false—meaning there is no explanation as to why the fire alarm went off. A couple specific considerations:

- Have your annual fire alarm system check completed. Annual service greatly reduces false system activations
- Consider changing any kitchen smoke detectors to heat detectors to reduce the possibility of a visit from your volunteers because of smoke from burned toast.

Property Identification: please make sure that you have your house number installed and clearly visible from the street. At the street, they should be at least 4 inches high, with a 1/2 inch stroke on a contrasting background. If the building is not visible from the street, put an address sign at the street to facilitate identification.

For those residents with long driveways:

- Make sure vegetation is trimmed to at least 14 feet in width, 14 feet clear height
- If you have a bridge on your property. It must be evaluated by a professional engineer with the weight limit posted at the bridge.
- If you have a gate on your driveway, it must have clearance of 14 feet to allow for fire apparatus access. The gate must open or have an emergency release for emergency access.

Open Burning is not permitted in the Township at any time. Chimeneas and other manufactured fireplaces are permitted. Any fireplace that is constructed on site requires a building permit.

Hope you had a safe and enjoyable summer. Please call the fire marshal's office at the Township if you have questions or concerns.

Wissahickon Fire Company

Fall will soon be upon us. The Wissahickon Fire Company is looking forward to completing another successful year of operation with much exciting news. Since this time last year, Wissahickon has welcomed a new fire engine—a pumper to replace a pumper that was 20 years old. We were also able to replace the apparatus apron in front of the station in Ambler, replacing concrete that was crumbling after 60 years of hard use. Concurrently, members have completed hours of training to better serve our community. Some have even been selected to serve on specialized County task forces—further broadening our capabilities to serve.

Wissahickon Fire Company is an all-volunteer organization that serves Ambler Borough and approximately 70% of Lower Gwynedd Township from stations in Ambler and at the Township Building in Spring House. In 2018, Wissahickon answered 250 calls for assistance in the Township. In total, Wissahickon answered 610 calls.

Thinking about a message to our Lower Gwynedd Township residents, several thoughts come to mind:

Financial—The Fire Company receives tax money support from the Township and from Ambler Borough, which is greatly appreciated. However, it does not cover the full cost of operation—even given our all-volunteer personnel status. Each year we send our requests for donations to the residents in our primary response area. We hope you will consider those requests favorably.

Personnel—The Fire Company is all volunteer, with over 60 volunteers currently on the Active Roster. But life intervenes and each year people grow older and retire, or their jobs take them to new locations. We are always looking for new volunteers—not just to fight fires, but help is also needed for the administrative tasks associated with operating a business (and it is a business in some respects) with a budget over a half million dollars.

Pride—The Wissahickon Fire Company is very proud of our service and operations. We are happy to have residents visit the fire stations to look around and see our operation. We want our residents to be as proud of us as we are of what we do. We are just completing a re-build of our web-site, with the goal of making our operations more open and transparent to our public.

In closing, the Wissahickon Fire Company is proud to serve Lower Gwynedd and Ambler as well as assisting our other surrounding communities when they call us. Please keep us in mind when you receive your appeal. Don't hesitate to stop and talk when you see us out around town, and consider joining us as we serve the Township.

Have a great day and a safe one.

Albert M Comly, Jr

President, Wissahickon Fire Company



Lower Gwynedd to Honor Veterans *in 6th Annual Ceremony,* **on Saturday, November 9, 2019**

Lower Gwynedd Township is pleased to announce that it will honor America's veterans with its 6th annual ceremony, on **Saturday, November 9, 2019, from 10:30 a.m. to noon.** **As a change from years prior, this year's ceremony will be held, indoors, at the Wissahickon High School Audion, located at Houston Road, in Lower Gwynedd.** As part of the 2019 ceremony, the speakers will present a wreath at Lower Gwynedd's Veterans Memorial Park, located at the intersection of Penllyn Pike and Bethlehem Pike, Spring House, home to the seven-foot high metal "Wreath of Honor" sculpture, which the Township dedicated in 2006. As in years past, the 2019 ceremony will include remarks by veterans of the Army, Marine Corp, Navy, Air Force and/or Coast Guard. Patriotic musical numbers will, again, be performed by the Wissahickon Middle School Marching Band, and the Bethlehem Baptist Church Men's Choir. Also participating will be veterans from Ambler's Daniel W. Dowling American Legion Post 769. Lower Gwynedd restaurants will provide complimentary "Taste of Lower Gwynedd" refreshments, immediately following the ceremony.

Members of the Veterans Day ceremony committee include Township veterans and other interested residents, the Township's administrative personnel and police force, the Wissahickon Fire Company and the Lower Gwynedd Business Association. All Township residents and neighbors from surrounding municipalities, as well as all veterans and their families, are invited and encouraged to attend the ceremony. Traffic at the Penllyn Pike and Bethlehem Pike intersection will be diverted during the ceremony. Free parking will be provided. In case of inclement weather, notice will be given, on Lower Gwynedd's website (<http://www.lowergwynedd.org>) that the ceremony will be moved to the Lower Gwynedd Township Building.

CONTACT: If there are questions regarding this press release, please contact Lower Gwynedd Veterans Day Committee Chairman, Bill Wanger, at 610-397-6503.



PARKS AND RECREATION

Registration

Pre-Registration is required for all program unless otherwise indicated. Registration are accepted with full payment and completed forms in-person or via mail. No phone registration are accepted. Registration forms can be downloaded from the Township website: lowergwynedd.org forms can also be faxed or emailed. We accept cash, checks (payable to Lower Gwynedd Township), and credit cards. There is a service fee for all credit card transactions. There will be a \$25 service charge on all returned checks.

Refunds: Full refunds will only be issued if the Parks & Recreation Department cancels a program. All discounted amusement and ski tickets sales are final and nonrefundable. All refunds requested by the registration that are granted will be charged a \$5 administration fee.

Cancellation Policy: Programs are subject to cancellation if there is insufficient enrollment, inclement weather or other reasonable causes.

Photo Policy: The Lower Gwynedd Township Parks & Recreation Department may take photos of program participants or park visitors. Please be aware that these photos are for department use only and may appear in future brochures, newsletters, website or flyers.

Discounted Tickets

The Parks & Recreation Department offers Discounted Ski tickets to area Ski Resorts from December through March. In addition to special fall events at local amusement parks. May through September a variety of discounted tickets are available for amusement parks. Tickets can be purchased at the Township Building Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. For a complete listing of the tickets available visit the Parks & Recreation page on the Township Website, www.lowergwynedd.org

Thursday Knitting Group



This group meets at the Penllyn Woods Community Building every Thursday afternoon (except for Holidays) from 1 p.m. – 3 p.m. If you have questions on a pattern, want to learn how to knit or crochet please join us.

Penllyn Woods Community Building

Need a place to a party, baby shower, bridal shower? Consider using the Penllyn Woods Community Building. For more information about the facility contact Sandi Feight, Recreation Director 215-646-5302.



Wellness Basics

Learn how to stay healthy during the changing seasons. Take home an Essentials Oil Wellness Roller. Share the love – bring a friend or neighbor

Date: Wednesday, October 2

Time: 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Location: Penllyn Woods Community Building

Call the Township Building to reserve your spot for this program. \$10 per person and \$15 at the door.



Nutrition Programs

By Functional Health Center

Eating Healthy on a Budget

Compare the costs of fresh and convenience foods and importance of choices, review healthy snacks and meals on the go.

Date: Wednesday October 16

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Location: Penllyn Woods Community Building

Cost: \$25 per person

Exercise and Metabolism

How much exercise is needed for health & for weight loss, review of different types of exercise and benefits of each, how to increase metabolism, what and when you should eat before and after working out.

Date: Saturday October 19

Time: 10 a.m.

Location: Penllyn Woods Community Building

Cost: \$25 per person

Vegetarian & Gluten Free Living

Review types of vegetarians, benefits of being one, and nutrients commonly depleted. Review of gluten food and gluten free foods and their effects on people ranging from skin issues to auto immune diseases.

Date: Monday November 4

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Location: Penllyn Woods Community Building

Cost: \$25 per person

PARKS AND RECREATION

Trail Dusters

Do you know where all the trails are located in the Township? Have you seen a path but not sure where it goes? Join us as we explore a trail a week. Meetings locations vary each week and upon registering for the program you will receive a list of where the group is meeting. Dates: Tuesday and Thursdays September 17 – October 24

Time: 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Location: Varies each week, participants will receive a list of walking locations upon registering for the program.

Cost: \$5 per person

Time Management for Busy Parents

Do you find yourself running against time all the time, and constantly second-guessing your work-life balance choices? Then this class is for you! During this workshop you will learn a different way to approach your relationship with time, you will discover simple techniques to improve it and you will be encouraged to take specific action steps that will have an immediate impact on your daily life.

Date: Thursday, October 3rd

Time: 6:30-8:30pm

Cost: \$25 per person (5 participants minimum)

Location: Penllyn Woods Community Building

Stress Free Holidays



The holiday are supposed to be the most wonderful time of the year, but for many of us they are the exact opposite: too much to organize, to do, too many people to please, too much food, family drama, gifts... Are you going through the holidays feeling

overwhelmed, stressed and counting the days till January comes? Do you find yourself hoping that “this year will be different” but not really knowing what to change and where to start from?

Then join me for this workshop- we will look at the holidays inside-out and you will leave with an action plan that will support you in keeping your sanity and in enjoying the most wonderful time of the year again!

Date: Thursday, October 24th

Time: 6:30-8:30pm

Cost: \$25 per person (5 participants minimum)

Location: Penllyn Woods Community Building

2020 Goals- Setting the New Year up for Success

Do you want 2020 to be THE year for you to get the job you always wanted, to improve your relationship, or get that never-achievable new year’s resolution? Come learn an easy, powerful and successful process to set your personal and professional goals in a clear and energizing way, and to stay on track during the year. Get ready to see you New Year’s Resolutions become End of the Year results!

Date: Thursday, January 16th

Time: 6:30-8:30pm

Cost: \$25 per person (5 participants minimum)

Location: Penllyn Woods Community Building

Back to Work After Having a Baby



Are you getting ready to go back to work after having a baby and worry about the changes that this is going to bring to your personal and family life?

Or did you recently go back to work and find yourself struggling with the changes that you are facing?

Come learn a successful way to deal with this transition phase in your life!

You will discover a new approach that will guide you step by step in how to chose what to change as well as how to change it.

You will be able to ask questions and learn from the questions and experience of other participants that are in your same situation.

Date: Thursday, February 20th

Time: 6:30-8:30pm

Cost: \$25 per person (5 participants minimum)

Location: Penllyn Woods Community Building

Starting Yoga After 60 (4-Week Course)

Yoga has no age limit. In fact, older adults have the most to gain by engaging in safe and mindful movement practices, relaxation, and meditation.

Learn how to customize common yoga poses for your body, even if you have an injury or health condition that requires a little extra attention. You’ll gently and safely build strength and flexibility and experience a greater sense of peace through this practice. Over time, a regular yoga practice will help you: Reduce Stress & Hypertension, Sleep Better, Improve bone health

Manage anxiety and improve mental wellbeing, Decrease pain associated with Arthritis, Fibromyalgia, and other conditions, Improve strength, mobility, and balance, Be social and fun! It’s a great way to connect with friends - and meet new people.

Dates: Thursdays October 3 – 24

Time: 11 a.m. – 12 Noon

Location: Penllyn Woods Community Building

Instructor: Christa Stebbing, Kindred Yoga

Cost: \$49 per person



PARKS AND RECREATION



photos: Anne Hall



We are pleased to tell you that our Ambler Branch has successfully moved to its temporary location at Ambler Borough Hall.



Come Visit Us at

131 Rosemary Ave.,
Ambler PA 19002
2nd Floor Borough Hall
215-646-1072

Temporary Library Hours of Operation:

Monday 10 to 8
Tuesday 9 to 4:30
Wednesday 10 to 8
Thursday 9 to 4:30
Friday 9 to 4:30

Book Drop: The book drop is located near the front entrance of the borough hall building (parking lot side).

The front entrance is on the Poplar St. side of the building.

Directions from 209 Race St. to Borough Hall: Heading west on Race Street, turn Left on Lindenwold Ave. Turn Right (at bank) onto Butler Ave. Turn Left onto Ridge Ave (past Ambler Theater at Rita's Italian Ice). Turn Right onto Poplar. Borough Hall will be on the LEFT.

The borough hall building is located at 131 Rosemary Avenue and has entrances from both Poplar Street and Rosemary Ave. Metered parking is available at the Cavalier Parking Lot, which is accessed from Butler Avenue between Spring Garden Street and Ridge Avenue. In addition to the Cavalier Lot, there are non-metered spaces on Poplar Avenue and metered spaces on Ridge and on Mattison. The SEPTA parking lot is also nearby.

We've been informed that patrons should not park in the borough parking lot because the borough needs those spaces for borough business. We apologize to any patrons who have been told that they can park in this lot. This is unfortunate, but we hope to work around it. After 4:30 PM, you may park in the borough parking lot. Between 12-2 metered parking is free in Ambler Borough.

Our temporary space at the borough hall is on the 2nd floor. Signs will direct you. It is nice, bright and very roomy! We hope that you will stop by and visit us soon.

We greatly appreciate the opportunity to stay in Ambler during the year-long renovation of our Race Street building for accessibility and expansion and we thank Ambler Borough for all their assistance as we go through the renovation.

Basketball & Tennis Court Resurfacing



Before



After



Before



After

The Township has resurfaced all basketball courts in the Township (Penllyn Park, Oxford Park and Pen-Ambler Park)

Penllyn Park Tennis and Pickle Ball Court

Celebrating 25 Years

We Saved Penllyn Woods

Saturday September 28

Noon - 4 p.m.

Penllyn Woods

Park Entrance Township Line
and Penllyn Pike



- Historic Display of how Penllyn Woods was Saved along with speakers.
- Lower Gwynedd Little League
~ Quick Ball Demonstration
- Ambler YMCA ~ Children's games and activities
- Emergency Vehicles will be on display
- Carriage Rides
- Wissahickon Valley Watershed Association will be hosting walks through the park.
- Food Trucks, DJ
- Much More

For more information 215-646-5302

PARKS AND RECREATION



3rd Annual PIKE FEST 5K

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2019
8:00 AM START

BETHLEHEM PIKE SPRINGHOUSE, PA

DESCRIPTION: Accurately measured, beautiful course through Lower Gwynedd starting and ending at **Born to Run**, 1005 N. Bethlehem Pike, Spring House, PA. Families, strollers, dogs on leash and all ages welcomed.

AWARDS: Overall male and female, plus top 3 M/F age group awards: 1st, 2nd, 3rd u15, teens, 20's, 30's, 40's, 50's, 60+.

RACE AMENITIES: 100% Soft Cotton T-Shirt, **Free Raffle**, Professional Timing, **Entertainment & DJ**.

ENTRY FEES: Pre-Registration by Sept. 10 (shirt guaranteed).

\$20 ADULTS 15 & Over. \$15 YOUTH 14 & Under

AFTER 9/10 and INCLUDING RACE DAY: (shirts not guaranteed) \$25.00 Adults 15 & Over.
\$20.00 Youth 14 & Under

ENTRY FORM

Name _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY _____

STATE _____ ZIP _____ EMAIL _____

MALE _____ FEMALE _____ DATE OF BIRTH _____ AGE ON RACE-

DAY _____ PHONE _____ **ADULT T-SHIRT SIZE:** S _____

M _____ L _____ XL _____ **YOUTH T-SHIRT SIZE** S _____ M _____ L _____ XL _____

FEE ENCLOSED \$ _____ (Checks payable to Born To Run, Inc.)

Waiver and Release: I, the undersigned (over age 18) intending to be legally bound, do hereby waive and release all rights, claims, demands and/or causes against Born To Run, Inc. and all other race sponsors for any personal injury I might sustain during the race, immediately known to me or hereafter discovered and for any and all other damages or losses which I might incur now or in the future arising from or out of my participation in this race, and on my travel to and from this race. I verify that I am physically fit and have trained sufficiently. Permission is granted to use my photograph and name for all purposes.

Signature _____ Date _____

On-Line registration: www.pretzelcitysports.com (nominal service fee applies)

Packet Pick-Up at Born To Run, 1005 N. Bethlehem Pike, Springhouse, 19477 from 10-6 on
Friday, Sept. 13

CONTACT: Hilary Goodman | (215)-641-0410 | Hgood85@aol.com

Visit www.lowergwynedd.biz for course maps and directions to the start.

Know your Medicare Options

Please join us at Lower Gwynedd Township Parks and Recreation
Penllyn Woods Building

on

Thursday October 24th
from 6:30pm to 8:00pm

During this free educational seminar you will learn:

- How Medicare works and what it covers
- How Part "D" prescription cards work and how to pick the right one for you
- The differences between Medicare supplements and Medicare Advantage plans

Have your questions answered so you can make the right choice when planning for Medicare or Medicare Advantage decisions.

Presenter: Steve Perlman, DelVal Senior Advisors,
Independent Medicare Planning Specialist

To register: Contact the Parks and Recreation Department
(suggested, note required)

Presented by DelVal Senior Advisors



MANY THANKS TO OUR NEIGHBORS AND FRIENDS, WHO HAVE SHARED THEIR TIME, LOVE, AND CARE TOWARD OUR LITTLE FAMILY.



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MORGAN LOPEZ SONY REYNOLDS
PHIL SPETH MARVIN LOPEZ
CHRISTIAN GUZMAN GERALD GLICKSTEIN



BEV COHEN VSEC



ANNA & GRACE KUO NATALIE PISZEK
CARYN REITENBAUGH TAGLIEBER FAMILY



KIM MEYERS MIMI KEPNER
PEDRIANA FAMILY DENISE & DOUG

ABBY WURSTER NIKKI KRAMER
TIM ZEPP EMILY ZINK



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*Sincerely,
Ed Piszek and crew*

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A Lifelong Resident of Lower Gwynedd

"As a realtor extremely experienced in the Lower Gwynedd area, we felt that we were able to receive insider knowledge on the market...This was a tremendous help when we were trying to feel out a home, understand price points, or gauge the competition. Her connections & experience... was invaluable...she was often a wealth of knowledge, coaching us through understanding stucco & advice on how to make functional fixes to a potential home... She was timely, organized, & thoughtful always with her communication...realistic & honest, which we so appreciated! Her advice was always right on...Her slogan is "Be served, not just sold!" & it could not be more true. Thank you Brett for everything!"

James and Esther Park

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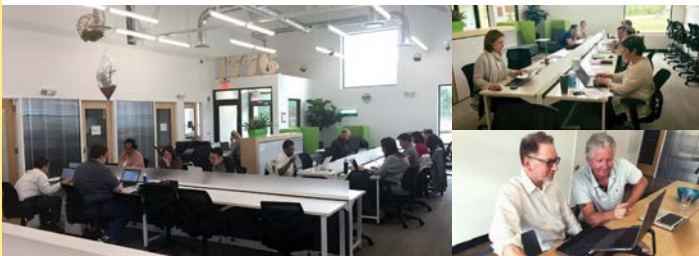
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Volume 24, Number 2 • FALL 2019

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