

Lower Gwynedd Report



Message from the Board of Supervisors Township's Message - Spring 2021



Mark G. Grey, Chairman

Lower Gwynedd Township has worked extremely hard to overcome the many obstacles that have been thrust upon us over the past year and we remain optimistic for succeeding any challenges that may lie ahead of us in 2021.

Some of the accomplishments achieved in 2020 are listed below:

- We were able to pave and overlay 4.15 miles of roadways throughout the Township;
- Purchased land next to Ingersoll Field for an expansion of the playing fields;
- Maintained over 105 Acres of open space, parkland and playing fields
- Maintained over 30 miles of Township owned trails;
- Upgraded the AV Equipment in the Township Meeting Room;

Unfortunately, some projects were delayed by the manufacturer, contractor and/or weather but scheduled to be completed by 1st Quarter 2021 or the time you read this newsletter:

- The Street Light Program has been delayed by the manufacturer but working towards completion soon;
- Phase I of the Intersection Improvement Project was delayed by the contractor and weather but should be completed by the time this newsletter arrives in your mailboxes;
- The new Pedestrian Bridge over the stream at Welsh Road and Llanfair Road was delayed by the manufacturer, working towards an install in March.

The 2021 Budget was approved without a tax increase which reflects additional projects that we look forward to enhancing the quality of life for the residents. Some highlighted projects are listed below:

- Start of an updated Comprehensive Plan for the Township. This is an 18-month project that will provide guidelines for future land use, potential growth and development throughout the Township;
- Upgrades to Parks and Open Space through enhancements to parking lots, playing surfaces, signs and water fountains;
- Police will incorporate radar speed display signs throughout the community;
- Several roadways will be paved or overlaid in 2021 in accordance with our schedule;
- Partnering with Ambler Borough Water Department in seeking a Military Municipal and Municipal Authority Grant to upgrade one of their wells in 2022 that supplies water to Lower Gwynedd residents.

The Lower Gwynedd Township Board of Supervisors would like to thank all those who responded to the Communications Survey.

The Township is looking to form two additional Volunteer Commissions, a Historic Commission and a Communication Commission. If interested, please complete a volunteer application which can be found on our website www.lowergwynedd.org.

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". Please Stay Safe, Be Happy and Remain Healthy!

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TOWNSHIP NOTICES

LOWER GWYNEDD REMEMBERS RESIDENTS WHO LOST THEIR LIVES TO COVID-19



On Tuesday, January 19, 2021, the Board of Supervisors remembered 38 Lower Gwynedd residents who lost their lives to COVID-19. The memorial was part of a nationwide tribute to those who have died from COVID-19. The Board placed 38 candles along Bethlehem Pike outside the Township Building.

WATER QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PLAN

The Wissahickon Partnership continues to make progress in developing a Water Quality Improvement Plan (WQIP) for the Wissahickon watershed. The WQIP will put in place a series of collaborative measures to improve water quality throughout the watershed. Wissahickon Trails is working with the Partnership and actively supports the comprehensive program described in the WQIP. The Partnership is coordinating its efforts with the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection and the Environmental Protection Agency as approval by these agencies is a prerequisite to implementation of the WQIP.



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Lower Gwynedd Township gratefully acknowledges the generosity and support of the businesses and individuals who have placed advertisements in our newsletter. This newsletter has been designed and printed at no cost to you, our residents.

We encourage you to patronize these businesses as they play a vital role in the economic stability of our community.

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

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Recreation Director: Sandi L. Feight
Parks Superintendent: Mitch Kulp
Real Estate Tax Collector: Linda Sacks

LOWER GWYNEDD TOWNSHIP MEETING SCHEDULE

All meeting information will be placed on the Township Website
www.lowergwynedd.org prior to the scheduled meeting

NOTE: Generally meetings are as follows except when holidays conflict:
Board of Supervisors (7:00 pm) – 2nd & 4th Tuesday
Zoning Hearing Board (6:00 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:

April 2 (*Good Friday*)

May 31 (*Memorial Day*)

July 5 (*Independence Day*)

September 6 (*Labor Day*)



@LowerGwyneddPA



Find our page on Facebook at
"Lower Gwynedd Township"



STAY IN TOUCH AND REGISTER TO RECEIVE LOGIN/CREATE ACCOUNT

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 Login/Create Account 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



VOTE IN THE PRIMARY ELECTION: MAY 18, 2021 – FOR INFORMATION REGARDING VOTING IN THE PRIMARY ELECTION GO TO montcopa.org/voterservices.

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

- **1500-1524 Cedar Hill Road Land Development (#20-06LD)**: Residential development; Location- Cedar Hill Rd.; Applicant-Jon Mayer; Summary- Consolidate 3 parcels, remove existing structures, and then subdivide combined parcels into 12 individual single-family residential lots under a cluster option available through conditional use. The lots will be accessed from three private drives off of Cedar Hill Rd. Sidewalk along Cedar Hill Rd, stormwater management facilities, and open space areas are included with the proposed plan; Under review.
- **301 Norristown Road Land Development (Gwynedd Estates-ACTS) (#20-04)**: Multi-Family residential development; Location- 301 Norristown Rd-Gwynedd Estates; Applicant-Acts; Summary- Addition of a new skilled nursing wing at the NE corner of the site and a reconfiguration of existing parking area while also adding new parking; subsurface stormwater management facilities proposed; Under review.

APPROVED/UNDER CONSTRUCTION

- **1345 Sumneytown Pike Minor Subdivision (#20-03)**: Residential/Non-residential minor two lot subdivision; Location-1345 Sumneytown Pike & Evans Rd; Applicant-Sisters of Mercy; Summary- Lot 1 approximately 2.18 acres to include portion of site at corner of Sumneytown Pk and Evans Rd, 2-story dwelling, detached garage, and some of the existing parking; Lot 2 approximately 42 acres to include existing school building, athletic fields, and remaining parking lot; no new development proposed at this time; Approved 10/27/20.
- **Janssen Pharmaceutical Parking Lot Expansion Land Development (#20-01)**: Non-residential land development; Location-1400 McKean Rd; Applicant- Janssen Research & Development; Summary- proposing three new parking areas consisting of 275 parking spaces, realignment of loop road and concrete walkways and the installation of associated stormwater management facilities. 9/22/20.
- **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 6 residential living units; associated improvements including sidewalk and trail re-alignment, and stormwater management facilities; Approved 8/25/20.
- **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.

POND ICE SURFACES ARE NEVER SAFE!



The Township restricts ice skating and walking on iced surfaces in the Winter on any open body of water. The Township further restricts swimming and boating in the Spring, Summer and Fall. Please supervise children at all times around pond and creek areas.

SPRING LEAF/YARD WASTE COLLECTION DATES:

Lower Gwynedd Township has a leaf and yard waste recycling program where our contracted hauler, Republic Services, 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 two scheduled dates for this Spring are:

- **Saturday, April 10th, 2021**
- **Saturday, May 8th, 2021**

All leaf and yard waste must be put in biodegradable bags and placed curbside by 6:00 a.m.



BCWSA PAYMENT OPTIONS

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Pay Online is your secure, simple and paperless way to pay bills.

Direct debit with your checking or savings account are available.

New Billing Portal Coming!!

BCWSA is pleased to announce that a new, modern, billing portal is just around the corner. The eCARE portal is being retired shortly. Unfortunately, the accounts can't be migrated accurately, so it's been decided that it's better to start fresh. The new portal will have many new, modern, and hopefully more efficient service request, account review, and payment options. This significant change should be activated in the upcoming few weeks. Please stay tuned for more information!!

View all of these options at <https://www.bcwsa.net/bill-options/>

Prefer snail mail? Mail your payment and bill stub to either of these two addresses:

Automated lock box:

BCWSA
PO BOX 3895
Lancaster, PA 17604-3895

Administrative offices:

BCWSA
1275 Almshouse Road
Warrington, PA 18976

Pay by Phone

Call BCWSA at 215-343-2538 x190 to pay your bill by using our automated system.

Pay Near Me is another option. You can pay cash at CVS or 7-ELEVEN. A \$2.49 convenience fee will be added. Visit www.paynearme.com for a list of participating stores near you.

TOWNSHIP NOTICES

NEW TOWNSHIP WEBSITE!

We gave the Township website a little refresh! Take a look and while you're at it, sign up for our email blasts! You'll receive all of the latest information and updates from the Township directly to your inbox!

<https://www.lowergwynedd.org/login/create-account/>

If you already have an account, go through the forgot password procedure to reset your account and customize your notifications. The updated website is a great place to visit to obtain important information about what's happening in your Township! Be sure to check it out.



Lower Gwynedd Message

Lower Gwynedd Remembers Residents Who Lost Their Lives To COVID-19

Updated January 22, 2021

[View Lower Gwynedd Message >](#)



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RECYCLING NEWS: NOT ALL TYPES OF RECYCLING WERE CREATED EQUAL (BUT THEY ARE ALL IMPORTANT)

Many people wonder what happens to the materials that they place in their recycling bin. There are three main types of recycling that post-consumer materials can undergo. Each has specific advantages and end products.

Primary recycling, often referred to as “closed loop recycling”, is when recyclable materials are mechanically processed to create a product that serves a similar function. For example, a post-consumer plastic bottle can be mechanically processed to create a new plastic bottle. This bottle has similar strength and performance characteristics as the original bottle. Some materials, such as aluminum and glass, can be recycled in this closed loop system an infinite amount of times. No matter how many times these materials are recycled; their material quality will not decrease. A glass bottle made with glass that has been recycled 20 times will perform just as well as a bottle made of new glass.

The quality of other materials, such as paper and plastic, decreases each time they are recycled. The strength of paper comes from the tangling of pulp fibers. Each time a paper product is recycled, these fibers become shorter, until they become so short they are unable to be used to create new paper. The EPA estimates that paper can be recycled a maximum of five to seven times. Plastic recycling fares worse. The polymers that make up plastics also are shortened each time the material is recycled, and it is estimated that plastic can only be recycled one to two times before the quality of the material is diminished.

This is where **secondary recycling** comes in. Secondary recycling is still a mechanical recycling process, but it uses recycled materials to make a new product. This new product typically does not have the same physical demands as the original product and is often less recyclable. Despite the decrease in recyclability, this is an important process to minimize the use of virgin resources and to help divert less recyclable materials such as plastic from landfills. An example of secondary recycling is plastic bottles being turned into polyester.

The third type of recycling is tertiary recycling. In **tertiary recycling**, recycled materials are used as a feedstock in a process to create chemicals and fuels. These chemicals can then be used to create new materials. This type of recycling typically uses the most energy, costs more, and can have the same negative environmental impacts of producing brand new materials. The benefits are reducing waste that is landfilled and minimizing new resources that are used to create chemicals. An example of tertiary recycling is the glycolysis of PET plastic into diols and dimethyl terephthalate to make virgin PET plastic.

Municipal and state regulations require that residents, commercial establishments and non-residential establishments recycle all recyclable materials. Commonly recycled materials include paper, plastic, glass and metal. You should check with your hauler for a complete list of acceptable recyclable materials.

KEEP YOUR SOIL AT HOME

Believe it or not, one of the biggest threats to our water quality is plain old dirt washing into our rivers from lawns, roads, driveways, and construction sites. The top soil is an important resource for your yard. However, when the soil is lost through erosion it becomes a pollutant called “sediment.” Water flowing from your yard during rain or snow melt carries sediment, and the other pollutants that attach to sediments, to our local streams.

What’s Wrong with Sediment?

Sediment clouds and reduces sunlight for stream plants that provide habitat and oxygen for fish. Sediments fill in the spaces between rocks in stream bottoms and take away fish habitat and habitat for other critters that live on the bottom. Sediment also carries other pollutants such as nutrients, oil, and grease. Excess nutrients in water lead to nuisance algae growth.

Signs of Erosion Include:

- Exposed tree roots, stones, and rocks
- Formation of small gullies
- Buildup of soil in low areas
- Widening or deepening stream channels

What can you do to prevent erosion?

1. Seed or mulch any bare soil on your property. Plant roots guard soil from rain drops and prevent erosion.
2. Choose native plants that thrive in our climate. Native plants can grow deeper roots systems that protect soil from erosion. Check with a local nursery for information.
3. Cover gardens with mulch or leaves over winter to protect plants and reduce erosion when snow melts.
4. If you observe erosion at construction sites, contact Township Administration at 215-646-5302.

For more information, please visit the Township’s Stormwater Management webpage at:
<https://www.lowergwynedd.org/information/stormwater-management/>



FROM THE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Unmanned Aircraft System Drone Program

Thanks to a generous donation by the Salwen family, the Lower Gwynedd Township Police Department is pleased to announce the creation of its own Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) Drone Program. Two of our officers have participated in training on the utilization of our department UAS drone and have completed their FAA Part 107 pilots' certification. The mission of the Lower Gwynedd Police UAS Drone Program is to provide airborne support to police and emergency operations in a safe, responsible, and transparent manner, for the purpose of increasing the safety and security of citizens.



Officer Christopher Swenson with the new drone.



2021 ROAD PROGRAM

Lower Gwynedd is scheduled to repair and repave or resurface the following roads this summer:

- Brushtown Road
- John Rotelle Drive
- Lloyd Road
- Warren Road
- Gypsy Hill (Plymouth Road to cul-de-sac)
- Gypsy Hill Circle
- Latchstring Lane
- Surrey Drive
- Wyndon



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

By appointment only, preregistration required

DATES:

Saturday, April 24

Boyertown Middle School East
2020 Big Road, Gilbertsville

Saturday, May 1

Indian Valley Middle School
130 Maple Avenue, Harleysville

Saturday, May 8

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

Saturday, June 12

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

Saturday, June 19

Abington Junior High School
Enter at 2056 Susquehanna Road, Abington

Saturday, September 25

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

SUNDAY, October 24

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

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

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

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

Contact us at:

MontcoPARecycles.org
recycling@montcopa.org
610.278.3618



Register at www.MontcoPARecycles.org



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MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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

COVID-19 SAFETY GUIDELINES

- Montgomery County events are following state guidelines and public health restrictions.
- Events may be cancelled based on the status of the pandemic as per state requirements.
- Materials must be in the trunk of the car or bed of the truck or SUV. Leave items at home that are not for the event.
- 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 (or write your name and appointment time on a piece of paper) and place it on your dashboard.
- If you cannot attend the event, please cancel your appointment through www.eventbrite.com or by contacting recycling@montcopa.org, 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, No BBQ Tanks	Road Flares, No Marine 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, Prescription Drugs	BBQ-Sized Propane Tanks (leave at local exchange sites)	Radioactive Waste	Freon/Refrigerants
Tires	Helium Tanks	Unidentified Waste	25- or 50-Gallon Drums
Latex Paint* (Water-Based)	Gas Cylinders	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

- NO TVs, electronics, or appliances will be accepted.
- 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.

Environmental Advisory Council

THE IMPACTS OF FOOD WASTE

Did you know that the United States is the global leader in food waste? An astonishing 30-40% or 40 million tons of food end up in landfills every year! Food is the largest component taking up space inside US landfills.

But why does the US waste so much food when there are so many individuals and families living with food insecurities? There are many factors that explain this trend. Food in the United States is abundant and less expensive than in other countries. These factors can contribute to the lack of appreciation of food.

More than 80 percent of Americans discard quality, consumable food because they misunderstand labels on the packaging. Expiration labels on food state things such as “sell by,” “best before,” and “use by,” which can be confusing. Many people simply throw away the food based on these labels.

People may overestimate the amount of food they need which often results in food being thrown into the garbage. Likewise, many people order take-out food but they might not consider eating leftovers.

Wasting food has detrimental environmental consequences because an enormous amount of water and energy is used to produce food. Food waste in landfills generates greenhouse gases, such as methane, carbon dioxide and chlorofluorocarbons, which contribute to global warming and climate change.

Several states are taking action to curtail food waste and increase food recovery. Legislators in California, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Vermont have passed laws that restrict the amount of food waste going to landfills.

Efforts are filtering into US school systems too, for example Maine and Rhode Island have introduced legislation to reduce the amount of food waste in schools. On a national level, the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) set a goal in 2015 to reduce food waste by half by 2030.

- Here are some simple actions individuals can take to preserve food:
- Freeze food that can't be eaten immediately
 - Donate food to food pantries or give leftovers to those in need
 - Plan meals and only include needed ingredients on your shopping list
 - Fruit and vegetables with blemishes taste the same and usually cost less. Simply cut out the blemished area.

Sources:

<https://www.rts.com/resources/guides/food-waste-america/>

<https://www.epa.gov/recycle/reducing-wasted-food-home>

<https://www.usda.gov/foodwaste/faqs>

<https://www.epa.gov/sustainable-management-food/united-states-2030-food-loss-and-waste-reduction-goal>

TREE CITY USA DESIGNATION

The Lower Gwynedd Environmental Advisory Council (EAC) is working towards obtaining a Tree City USA designation! Tree City USA is a nationwide movement that provides the framework necessary for communities to manage and expand their effort

to enhance their public tree inventory. For more information on Tree City USA go to <https://www.arboday.org/programs/treecityusa/index-become.cfm>.

NATIVE POLLINATOR DEMONSTRATION GARDEN

Township residents may notice a colorful new addition to the Community Center at Penllyn Woods Park. In October 2020, the Lower Gwynedd Environmental Advisory Council (EAC) installed a new pollinator garden directly in front of the building. The garden is filled with native, pollinator-friendly plants. Stop by, check out the garden and learn how to design and install a pollinator garden at your home.

- **Choose native plants**-they share a long evolutionary history with our local pollinators.
- **Select a variety of plants**- different bloom times provide pollinators with food all season long.
- **Avoid modern hybrids**- often pollinators can't locate nectar or pollen through the numerous and showy petals.
- **Plant close together and in drifts**- this helps pollinators locate the plants.
- **Save garden cleanup for the spring**- many pollinators overwinter in hollow stems, attached to plants or in leaf litter.

Here are two websites to help you get started:

<https://extension.psu.edu/planting-pollinator-friendly-gardens>

<https://www.pollinator.org/guides>



Environmental Advisory Council

RADON IN THE HOME



An estimated 40% of Pennsylvania homes have higher levels of radon than national safety standards, due to the state's geology. However, residents can perform a simple test to detect this gas. Radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer with about 21,000 deaths per year.

Radon is an odorless, colorless radioactive gas that occurs naturally from the breakdown of uranium in soil and rocks and enters homes through cracks in the foundation or other openings. High levels of radon tend to be found in basements, but the gas can be found anywhere in the home.

Simple radon test kits are inexpensive and available at home improvement and hardware stores. There is a fee required for test results using these kits.

Use your test kit in the lowest lived-in area of your home. Follow the directions enclosed with the test kit and expose the test for the number of days specified. Complete the required information, seal the test kit, and mail the kit immediately to the lab.

Contact the following numbers if you have questions:

Radon Hotline: 800-237-2366

Phone: 717-783-3594

PFOS AND DRINKING WATER

PFOAs are part of a family of chemicals known as Perfluorinated Compounds (PFCs). PFCs are man-made compounds and not naturally found in the environment. This group includes Perfluorooctanoic Acid (PFOA) and Perfluorooctanesulfonic Acid (PFOS) as well as numerous other polyfluoroalkyl substances.

These materials have been used for many years in firefighting foams, coatings, cleaning products, lubricants, microwave popcorn coatings, fast food containers, non-stick cookware, plastic food storage containers, cosmetics, and personal care products.

Drinking water can be a source of exposure in communities where these chemicals have contaminated water supplies. Such contamination is typically localized and associated with a specific facility, for example:

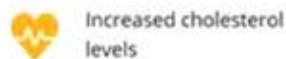
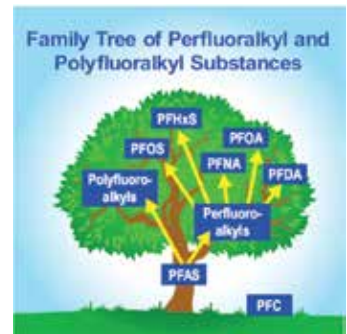
An industrial facility where PFAS were produced or used to manufacture other products, or

Locations where firefighting foam was used such as oil refineries, airfields or other training facilities for firefighters.

PFAS What You Need To Know: <https://www.lowergwynedd.org/media/2340/pfas-what-you-need-to-know.pdf>

Research involving humans suggests high levels of certain PFAS may lead to the following:

What are the health effects of PFAS? - <https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/pfas/health-effects/index.html>



Increased cholesterol levels



Changes in liver enzymes



Small decreases in infant birth weights



Decreased vaccine response in children



Increased risk of high blood pressure or pre-eclampsia in pregnant women



Increased risk of kidney or testicular cancer

These unregulated compounds are not included on either the US-EPA's or PA-DEP's Safe Drinking Water Act Primary or Secondary listing of contaminants. However, the EPA has established, a US-EPA Health Advisory Level of 70 ppt (parts per trillion) for PFOA + PFOS to ensure protection of the public.

A Health Advisor Level is set to provide Americans, including our most sensitive populations children, pregnant women, and the immunocompromised with a margin of protection from a lifetime of exposure to PFOA and PFOS in drinking the water over their lifetime.

View The EPA Fact Sheet PFOA & PFOS Drinking Water Health Advisory - <https://www.lowergwynedd.org/media/2339/view-the-epa-fact-sheet-pfoa-pfos-drinking-water-health-advisory.pdf>

NOTES FROM THE FIRE MARSHAL—SPRING 2021

The last year has been challenging for all of us. We now look forward to Spring with the hope that we will be able to get together and enjoy gatherings as we once did. As we do this, we need to continue to act safely. Here are a couple reminders:

- Outdoor fire pits, chimeneas and other similar manufactured products are allowed, with proper separation from combustibles. Building a campfire (larger than 3 feet by 3 feet by 3 feet in height) in the backyard is not one of the allowable burning choices, although special permission can be granted through the Fire Marshal's Office for a ceremonial event.
- No burning of trash, garden waste or any similar material is allowed in Lower Gwynedd Township. This is appropriate environmentally and respects each of our neighbors in addition to being a good fire safety practice. Smokey fires are not conducive to outdoor entertaining and don't make good neighbors.
- Use of barbeques on combustible decks is not a good practice. It is a code violation for all but single-family residences. Use of Barbeques on a porch or in a garage is a dangerous practice due to the potential for carbon monoxide poisoning.
- The use of tents larger than 20 feet by 20 feet, even temporarily, requires a permit from the Township. Even in smaller tents, the use of BBQs and other ignition sources requires care to avoid a fire.

Additionally, we send the usual message that all systems require maintenance to operate correctly, for example:

- Fire Alarm systems should be inspected. Smoke detector batteries, if you have them, should be replaced. Better solution is to purchase the up-to-date detectors with the 10-year lithium batteries—then you can just check operation and avoid the annual battery changes.
- CO Detectors also need to be inspected. Old detectors (more than 3-5 years old) must be replaced to properly provide coverage.
- Chimneys and heating stoves need to be checked and cleaned. Use the Spring and Summer to complete this so they will be ready for next Winter.
- Check and make sure your house number is visible from the street.
- Fire Hydrants—if hydrant is located on your property, make sure it is cleared of bush and shrubs at least 4 feet on all sides.
- Driveways—if you have a long drive from the street, clear brush above and each side to allow apparatus access (12 feet wide, 14 feet high). Please contact the Fire Marshal's Office if you have a private bridge or gate to confirm that apparatus can access your residence.

Be safe and enjoy the coming seasons.

TO ALL FIRST RESPONDERS:

Thank you for all your hard work. Putting your life on the line to help those in need is very brave, and Lower Gwynedd is very thankful to have you. We are so very grateful for everything you are doing to support our community! You are our heroes! Stay strong and safe!



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

Registration

Pre-Registration is required for all programs unless otherwise indicated. Registrations 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.

Trail Walking

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. Meeting locations vary each week and upon registering for the program you will receive a list of where the group is meeting.

Dates: Monday and Wednesdays, April 12 – May 19

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



Lower Gwynedd Township TRAIL IDENTIFICATION

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



We have had many people inquiring as to the 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 signs indicate the Trail Name and Trail Location. Twice a year the Township staff perform an audit on the marker to ensure they have not been vandalized, damaged or removed.

Know your Medicare Options

Please join the Lower Gwynedd Parks and Recreation On
Zoom!

Tuesday May 18th
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 Sandi Feight at the Parks and Recreation Department. sfeight@lowergwynedd.org

Registration is Required

Presented by DelVal Senior Advisors





Lower Gwynedd Township E-Waste Recycling Day & Paper Shredding Event May 15th, 2021 8am-12pm

Lower Gwynedd Township is partnering with SAMR, Inc. and Shred-It for a **Community Recycling Day!** We will be accepting **PAPER** and **ELECTRONICS** (anything with a plug or battery) at **no cost** to you.

What: Lower Gwynedd Township Residential E-Cycle & Shredding Event

Where: Lower Gwynedd Township Municipal Building Parking Lot
1130 N. Bethlehem Pike, Spring House, PA 19477

When: May 15, 2021- 8:00 AM-12:00 PM (earlier if full capacity is reached)

Questions: Contact

Jamie Worman, Lower Gwynedd Township

Phone: (215) 646-5302 or jworman@lowergwynedd.org

Acceptable items: electronics-Anything with a plug! Ex. laptops, computers, fax machines, telecommunications equipment, Christmas lights, etc. & PAPER.



****This service is for Township residents only, proof of residency required to access the site. COVID-19 safety precautions will be in place during the event. Residents must remain in their vehicles at all times. Items to be recycled or shredded must be placed in the trunk, pick-up truck bed, or a small trailer. Employees will remove these items from your vehicle when you arrive. Items will only be collected during the event time. Items cannot be delivered before or after the event!! Excessive amounts of paper and/or electronics may be turned away at the Township's discretion.**

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