

Lower Gwynedd Report



Message from the Chair



Danielle A. Duckett, Chair

A lot has been happening in Lower Gwynedd! I am happy to report that we have a new Township Manager. Mimi Gleason came on as the interim manager in July of 2022 and, in May of this year, she was sworn in as our Township Manager. We are so glad she decided to stay!

I am also very excited to report that the Board of Supervisors approved an ordinance that would give tax credits to firefighters and EMS volunteers who are residents of Lower Gwynedd Township. This credit can be applied to the earned income tax owed to the township. We thank these volunteers for their hard work and dedication to protecting our community.

The Board of Supervisors adopted the Historical Markers Program championed by our Historical Advisory Committee. This program was designed to highlight important aspects of Lower Gwynedd's history, increase our sense of pride, educate the public, and encourage the public to preserve our community's historic resources. If you have a subject for a historic marker, let us know!

In June we held our annual Pride flag raising ceremony to show support for our LGBTQ+ community. Students within our community spoke about the importance of raising this flag and what it signified for them. It was so wonderful to see so many members of our community come out in support of this event.

As promised, we are working on an update to our comprehensive plan. A survey has been sent out for public feedback and I encourage all residents and community members to complete the survey and attend the open house on October 26, so that your voice can be heard!

We are also embarking on a variety of other projects throughout the Township. I am happy to share that we were awarded grants for a bus shelter along Gwynedd Friends Meeting's property, a bridge replacement on Old Bethlehem Pike, as well as for updates to various traffic signals within the Township. Our engineers have completed their study on the flooding issues experienced in the Brookside and Francis Avenue neighborhoods. They have identified the problematic areas and have proposed various solutions to the public and the Board of Supervisors. We are now in the process of working through the options that will make the biggest impact on flood reduction.

You may remember that we received grant funding to create strategic plans to update our parks. I am pleased to report that, with the input of our community, we are finalizing plans for three of our parks—Ingersoll Park, Oxford Park, and Penn-Ambler Park, as well as a plan for a trail to connect the Ambler Yards complex to the Penllyn SEPTA Station. We heard you loud and clear about providing more trail connections, pickleball courts, updates to our playing fields, and adding restroom facilities in our parks, and we are doing our best to make that happen!

In addition to updating our parks, we are prioritizing other ways to encourage connections within our community. We enjoyed seeing so many friends and neighbors join us this summer for our Police Department's Community Response Unit's "Touch a Truck" and "Kona with the Cops" events, our Juneteenth Barbeque, and our Summer Concert Series at Oxford Park. We hope to see everyone again on September 23rd when we celebrate Fall Fest! We have also partnered with the Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce to revitalize our Lower Gwynedd Business Association and are very excited to create more opportunities to support our local business community.

There are many other projects in the works at the Township! In order to stay up to date on these projects and other important information, remember to sign up for email blasts at our website www.lowergwynedd.org, follow us on [twitter@LowerGwyneddPA](https://twitter.com/LowerGwyneddPA), and like us on Facebook at "Lower Gwynedd Township." Coming soon you can find us on Next Door and Instagram.

Please continue to reach out and let us know what concerns you may have, how we can help and how we can improve. Stay safe and remain healthy!

Best,
Danielle A. Duckett

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1130 N. Bethlehem Pike
P.O. Box 625
Spring House, PA 19477
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Fax: 215-646-3357
www.lowergwynedd.org



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Peter A. Urban, Jr., Funeral Director, Upper Dublin Resident

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COMPREHENSIVE PLAN-SHARE YOUR VISION FOR LOWER GWYNEDD!

Lower Gwynedd Township is in the process of drafting a new comprehensive land use plan and we want to hear from you! The plan will provide a vision and framework for the management of development in Lower Gwynedd over the next 20 years. Your opinion is important to help us understand the issues that are most important to you both in your neighborhood and on a township-wide scale. If you live, work, shop, or otherwise spend time in Lower Gwynedd, we invite you to complete the community survey, and let us know your thoughts! Please share this survey with your friends and neighbors and please join us for an open house on October 26! Links to the survey and information on the open house are included below!

You're Invited!

Lower Gwynedd Comprehensive Plan



COMMUNITY OPEN HOUSE

Lower Gwynedd Township is updating its
Comprehensive Plan and needs your input!

Please attend the Community Open House to learn about the planning
process and share your vision for the future of Lower Gwynedd.

Thursday, October 26, 2023
4:00pm - 6:00pm
Lower Gwynedd Township Building,
1130 N Bethlehem Pike



SHARE YOUR VISION FOR
LOWER GWYNEDD!

Please complete this survey.



EMAIL: Claire.Warner@montgomerycountypa.gov
CALL: (610) 292-3755



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) 646-3557

Police

Emergency: 911 | Phone: (215) 646-5303



@LowerGwyneddPA

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Danielle A. Duckett, *Chair*

Michael Twersky, *Vice-Chair*

Kathleen Hunsicker

Tessie McNeely

Janine Martin



Find our page on Facebook at "Lower Gwynedd Township"

Lower Gwynedd Staff

Township Manager: Mimi Gleason

Assistant Manager: Jamie Worman

Administrative Assistant: Michelle Farzetta

Finance Director: Melinda Haldeman

Zoning Officer: Jamie Worman

Building Inspection/Plan Review: Keystone Municipal Services

Recreation Director: Sandi L. Feight

Parks Superintendent: Mitch Kulp

Police Chief: Paul Kenny

Public Works Director: Fred Zollers

Solicitor: Neil Stein, Esq., Kaplan Stewart

Engineer: Gilmore and Associates

Traffic Engineer: McMahan, A Bowman Company

E.I.T. Merc and LST Collection: Berkheimer Associates

Tax collector: Natalie Cormier

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 and 4th Tuesday

Zoning Hearing Board (6:00 pm)..... 2nd Thursday

Planning Commission (7:00 pm)..... 3rd Wednesday

Park & Recreation (6:00 pm) 3rd Tuesday

Environmental Advisory Council (7:00 pm)..... 2nd Wednesday

Historic Committee (6:00 pm) 3rd Thursday

Human Relations Commission (7:00 pm) 1st Thursday

Deadline for Submissions:

Zoning Hearing Board

30 days prior to scheduled meeting

Planning Commission

30 days prior to scheduled meeting

UPCOMING HOLIDAYS:

September 4th (Labor Day)

October 9th (Columbus Day)

November 10th (Veterans Day)

November 23 and 24 (Thanksgiving)

December 25 (Christmas)

January 1, 2024 (New Year's Day)

Election Day

The General Election will be on Tuesday, November 7, 2023. For information regarding registration and polling locations visit montcopa.org/voterservices.

Message from our Fire Marshal

Each Fall the Fire Marshal's article in the newsletter reminds all Lower Gwynedd residents of the importance of fire safety at our homes and businesses. The usual topics are:

- No burning in the Township except for small manufacturer's devices or construction approved by the Fire Marshal's office.
- Clean chimneys and devices associated with burning. They will run more efficiently and greatly lower the risk of fire.
- Have your fire alarm and life safety systems serviced. For these to operate correctly, annual service by a qualified technician is essential. Approximately half of the fire calls in the Township are caused by some malfunction of an alarm system—either smoke/ fire alarm or carbon monoxide. If you cannot afford a smoke detector, please contact the fire marshal's office at 215-646-5302.

In this article, however, I'd also like to call attention to the men and women who are the volunteers providing fire and rescue service to Lower Gwynedd Township—whenever its needed. A simple 9-1-1 phone call and they are on their way. It happens regularly in the Township, that one of the two volunteer fire companies serving the township responds to a call. Once the emergency has been mitigated, I often ask the homeowner or business owner if they realize that this service was provided by volunteers—the answer is usually “no I did not realize that”. The fire companies servicing the township are North Penn of North Wales and Wissahickon of Ambler. Each company has a primary coverage area in the township with the demarcation line being Evans Road. These men and women not only respond when called, but they train on a weekly basis and supplement that with additional training offered at the County and State levels. Each company receives tax money from the township and the two boroughs they serve. There is also some state money for health, safety, and welfare of firefighters, but the companies still work to raise needed money through their own efforts. A new fire engine—a pumper—if purchased today costs between \$1 million and \$1.3 million. These people are truly dedicated to public service. Please think of this when they send you a fund drive letter and help them by always thinking about fire safety.

COMMUNITY RESOURCES AND CONTACTS

Community Information

Lower Gwynedd Township
1130 N. Bethlehem Pike
Spring House, PA 19477
215-646-5302

Wissahickon Valley Library
650 W. Skippack Pike
Blue Bell, Pa 19422
215-643-1320

Wissahickon Valley Library
Ambler Branch
209 Race Street
Ambler, PA 19002
215-646-1072

Wissahickon Schools

Lower Gwynedd Elementary
215-619-8100

Blue Bell Elementary
215-619-8102

Shady Grove Elementary
215-619-8106

Wissahickon Middle School
215-619-8110

Wissahickon High School
215-619-8112

Tax Collector Information

Real Estate, School, and County
Natalie Cormier, Tax Collector
P.O. Box 3042
Ambler, Pa 19002
Office Location - 428 Knight Road
Lower Gwynedd, PA 19002
267-460-1891
taxcollector@lowergwynedd.org

EIT, Local Service Tax, Business Privilege
Tax, Mercantile tax
Berkheimer Tax Administrator
Bridgeport Borough Hall
63 West 4th Street
Bridgeport, Pa 19405
1-800-360-8989

Emergency and EMS

Police (non-emergency)
1130 N. Bethlehem Pike
Spring House, Pa 19477
215-646-5303

Wissahickon Fire Company
1130 N. Bethlehem Pike
Spring House, Pa 19477
245 Race Street
Ambler, Pa 19002
215-646-1266

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

Community Ambulance Assoc. of
Ambler 1414 E. Butler Pike
Ambler, PA 19002
215-643-6517

Utility Providers

PECO Customer Care
1-800-494-4000

PECO (outage)
1-800-841-4141

North Wales Water Authority
215-699-4836

Ambler Water
215-646-1000

Bucks County Water and Sewer
215-343-2538

Comcast Xfinity Customer Service
1-800-Xfinity

Verizon Residential Customer Service
1-800-Verizon

Republic Services
215-723-0400
www.republicservices.com

PENNDOT
215-345-6060
Report a pothole 1-800-FIXROAD

County, State and Federal Offices

Congresswoman Madeline Dean
115 E. Glenside Ave #1
Glenside, PA 19038
215-884-4300

PA Senator Maria Collett
1035 Virginia Drive Suite 201
Fort Washington, PA 19034
215-368-1429

Representative Liz Hanbidge
1098 W. Skippack Pike
Blue Bell, PA 19422
610-277-3230

Representative Melissa Cerrato
605 Horsham Road
Horsham, PA 19044-1207
267-282-6695

Montgomery County Court House
2 E. Airy Street
Norristown, PA 19401
610-278-3000

Small Animal and Deer

PENNDOT clears deer carcasses from state roads. The Pennsylvania Game Commission retrieves deer from township roads. Their contact numbers are...

PA Game Commission 610-926-3136
• PENNDOT 610-275-2368

For small critters in your yard, such as foxes, skunks, and raccoons you will need to contact a local critter removal service.

TOWNSHIP NOTICES

LOWER GWYNEDD POLICE

Back to School Safety Checklist

As summer draws to a close and children start heading back to school, family life can get pretty hectic. It's important to remember – and share with your children – some key tips that will help keep them safe and healthy throughout the school

TRANSPORTATION SAFETY TIPS

Whether children walk, ride their bicycle or take the bus to school, it is extremely important that they take proper safety precautions. Here are some tips to make sure your child safely travels to school:

Walkers:

Review your family's walking safety rules and practice walking to school with your child.

- Walk on the sidewalk, if one is available; when on a street with no sidewalk, walk facing the traffic
- Before you cross the street, stop and look left, right and left again to see if cars are coming
- Make eye contact with drivers before crossing and always cross streets at crosswalks or intersections
- Stay alert and avoid distracted walking

Bike Riders:

Teach your child the rules of the road and practice riding the bike route to school with your child.

- Ride on the right side of the road, with traffic, and in a single file
- Come to a complete stop before crossing the street; walk bikes across the street
- Stay alert and avoid distracted riding
- Make sure your child always wears a properly fitted helmet and bright clothing

Bus Riders:

Teach your children school bus safety rules and practice with them.

- Go to the bus stop with your child to teach them the proper way to get on and off the bus
- Teach your children to stand 6 feet (or three giant steps) away from the curb
- If your child must cross the street in front of the bus, teach him or her to walk on the side of the road until they are 10 feet ahead of the bus; your child and the bus driver should always be able to see each other
- Get the facts on bus safety from Injury Facts following website injuryfacts.nsc.org

Driving Your Child to School:

Stay alert and avoid distracted driving.

- Obey school zone speed limits and follow your school's drop-off procedure
- Make eye contact with children who are crossing the street
- Never pass a bus loading or unloading children
- The area 10 feet around a school bus is the most dangerous for children; stop far enough back to allow them to safely enter and exit the bus



Lightning Safety

Thunder and lightning storms happen all the time. Know what to do to keep you and your family safe when storms strike!

Safety Tips

Indoor Safety

Turn off computers. Stay off corded phones, computers, and other things that put you in direct contact with electricity or plumbing. You can use a cell or cordless phone.

Do not wash your hands, bathe, shower, do laundry, or wash dishes.

Outdoor Safety

- » If you can hear thunder, you are within striking distance of lightning. Look for shelter inside a home, large building, or a hard-topped vehicle right away.
- » Do not go under trees for shelter. There is no place outside that is safe during a thunderstorm.
- » Wait at least 30 minutes after hearing the last clap of thunder before leaving your shelter.
- » Stay away from windows and doors. Stay off porches.
- » There is no safe place outside. Places with only a roof on sports fields, golf courses, and picnic areas are not safe during a lightning storm. Small sheds should not be used.
- » If a person is struck by lightning, call 9-1-1. Get medical help right away.

FAST FACTS

Lightning may strike as far as 10 miles from any rain.



NFPA Your Source for SAFETY Information
NFPA Public Education Division • 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02169

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

- **727 Norristown Road-Spring House Innovation Park (SHIP)- Building 14 Parking Lot and Electric Substation Land Development (#23-04LD)**: D-1; Location-727 Norristown Road (SHIP); Applicant-Beacon Capital Partners; Summary- Applicant proposes to construct a 1,942 square foot electrical substation and add a parking lot at Building 14 on their campus. Under review.
- **1325 Sumneytown Pike- Gwynedd Mercy University Francis M. Maguire Healthcare Innovation Center Land Development (#23-03LD)**: Institutional; Location-1325 Sumneytown Pike (GMU); Applicant-Gwynedd Mercy University; Summary- Applicant proposes to develop a 70,000 square foot two-story nursing center and associated improvements. Under review.
- **400 Houston Road Conditional Use (#23-01CU)**: C-Residential; Location- 400 Houston Road; Applicant- Thayne & Callie Gould; Summary-applicant proposes to subdivide the existing property and build a single-family residence on a newly created 32,308 sq. ft. lot that will take access off N. Spring Garden Street. The 5-unit apartment building will remain on the existing lot, which will be reduced to 25,672 sq. ft. The property is currently a lawful non-conforming lot and requires conditional use approval to permit the reduction in lot size. PC recommended approval for the conditional use application; **Pending BOS hearing.**

Approved/Under Construction

- **1345 Sumneytown Pike- Gwynedd Mercy Academy High School Building Expansion Land Development (#22-07LD)**: Institutional; Location-1345 Sumneytown Pike (GMAHS); Applicant-Gwynedd Mercy Academy High School; Summary- Proposal to expand the high school building and demo a portion of the existing building and to install other improvements including a sidewalk along the existing parking lot, walkways, and terrace area. Approved 5/9/23.
- **601 Knight Road-Turf Fields Land Development (#22-04LD)**: Institutional; Location-601 Knight Road (Wissahickon High School); Applicant-Wissahickon School District; Summary-A plan to construct new synthetic turf ball fields to replace existing grass ball fields and install associated stormwater management facilities. Approved 12/13/22-under construction.
- **1501 Cedar Hill Road Minor Subdivision (#22-02SUBD)**: Residential subdivision; Location 1501 Cedar Hill Road; Applicant-Robert & Cheryl Mastromatto; Summary-A plan to subdivide a 3.5- acre parcel into two individual lots with an area of open space. The existing dwelling and accessory building will remain on lot-1 and lot-2 will be a new building lot. Approved 3/8/23.

- **1500-1524 Cedar Hill Road Land Development (#22-05LD)**: Residential development; Location- Cedar Hill Rd.; Applicant-Jon Mayer; Summary- A plan to consolidate 3 parcels, then subsequently subdivide parcel into 7 individual single-family residential lots, remove 2 of the 3 existing dwellings maintaining one dwelling as lot #4. The lots will be accessed from individual driveways along Cedar Hill Road. Approved 6/27/23.
- **301 Norristown Road Land Development (Gwynedd Estates-ACTS) (#20-04LD)**: Multi-family residential development; Location- 301 Norristown Rd-Gwynedd Estates; Applicant-Acts; Summary- A plan to add a new skilled nursing wing at the NE corner of the site and to reconfigure the existing parking area while also adding new parking, and to add subsurface stormwater management facilities. Approved 11/17/22.
- **1612 N. Bethlehem Pike Land Development (Precision Watches & Jewelry) (#21-03LD)**: Non-residential commercial development; Location-1612 N. Bethlehem Pk; Applicant-Precision Watches & Jewelry; Summary- A commercial development that includes the construction of a 2.5-story jewelry store with associated parking and stormwater management facilities. Approved 5/24/22. Under construction.
- **St. Charles Borromeo Seminary Land Development (GMU Campus) (#21-04LD)**: Institutional land development; Location- 1325 Sumneytown Pk-GMU; Applicant-St. Charles Seminary; Summary- Proposal to consolidate two parcels within the campus and add a new college residence hall with a chapel, new student life center, and a new maintenance building. Future plans for a gym and an additional building are also shown on the plans. Additional improvements including parking facilities, access drive, landscaping, lighting and stormwater management facilities are also proposed. Approved 9/27/22. Under construction.
- **820 N. Bethlehem Pike (Goddard School) Land Development (#21-01LD)**: Redevelopment; Location-820 N. Bethlehem Pike; Applicant-Beth Pike LLC; Summary- Redevelopment of this property includes the removal of the existing Pike Diner, construction of a new daycare center and the repurposing of an existing building into a medical office along with the associated site improvements. Approved 10/12/21-Under Construction.
- **1325 Sumneytown Pike- Gwynedd Mercy University Courtyard Improvement Project (#23-02WLD)**: Institutional; Location-1325 Sumneytown Pike (GMU); Applicant-Gwynedd Mercy University; Summary-Request for a waiver of land development to construct exterior courtyard improvements. This proposal includes the removal of an existing parking lot to be replaced with a courtyard and gathering space for students, construction of new parking spaces, and ADA accessibility improvements to the entrance of Loyola Hall. Approved 7/25/23.

PARKS AND RECREATION

DOG ORDINANCE

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



§620.02 Dog regulations. [Ord. 77.

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

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

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

MEMORIAL & COMMEMORATIVE BENCHES



Please contact the Parks & Recreation Department at 215-646-5302 to inquire about a bench and setup a meeting to discuss the details.

FREE Educational Seminar
 Steve Periman from DelVal Senior Advisors will be hosting the seminar and answering any questions you have regarding Medicare Options.

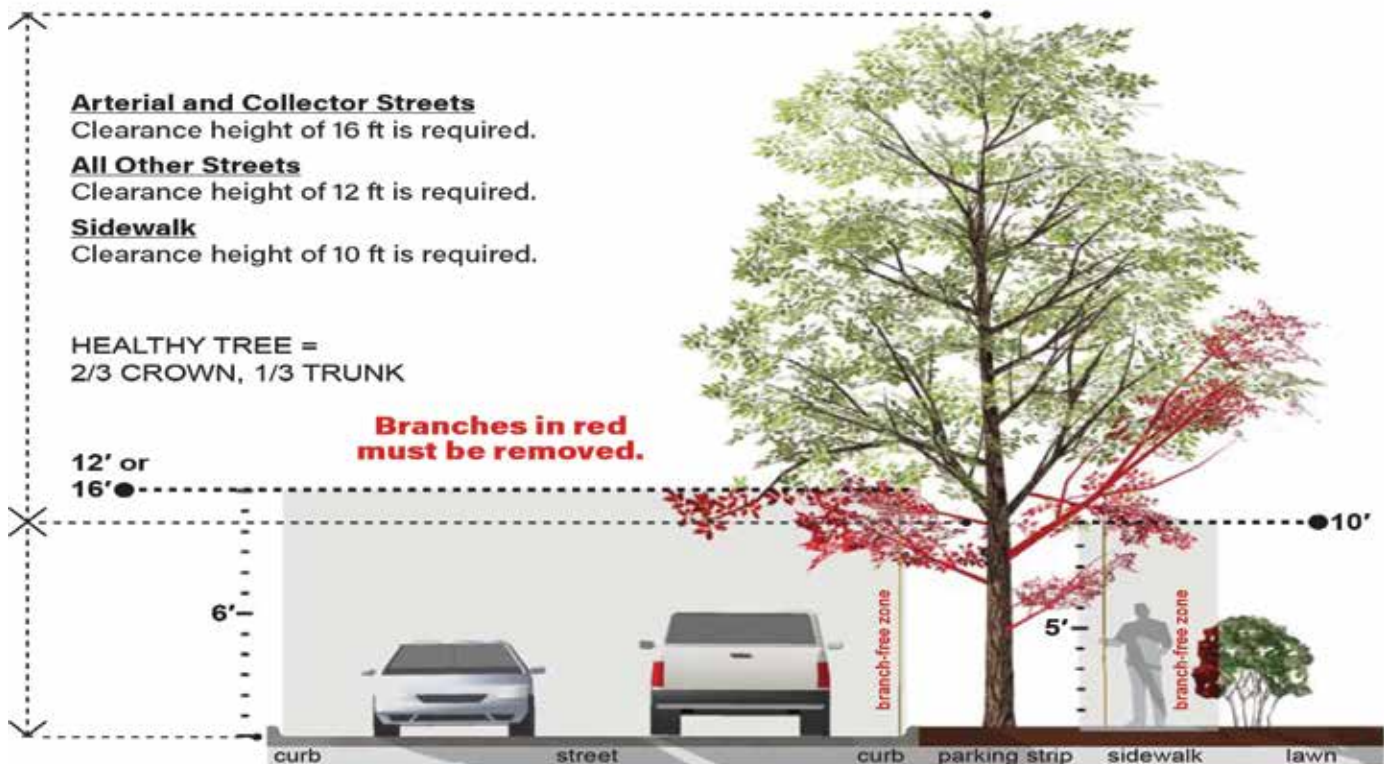
Tuesday, October 10th
 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Penllyn Woods Community Building

To register, please call 215-646-5302

Know Your Medicare Options

Mature Tree—Before Pruning



PARKS AND RECREATION



Saturday September 23

12 - 5 pm

Houston & Dager Roads

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INNOVATION PARK



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SPACE



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Lowergwynedd.org 215-646-5302



LowerGwyneddFallFest

PARKS AND RECREATION



LOWER GWYNEDD FALL TENNIS CLINICS

Sunday Clinics

Session 1: 9/10-10/15

1:00-2:00p Youth Beginner/Advanced Beginners
2:00-3:00p Youth Advanced Beginners/Intermediate
3:00-4:00p Adult All Levels

Session 2: 10/22-11/26

2:00-3:00p Youth Beginner/Advanced Beginners
3:00-4:00p Youth Advanced Beginners/Intermediate

Monday/Wednesday Clinics

Session 1: 9/6-10/2

4:30-5:30p Youth Beginner/Advanced Beginners
5:30-6:30p Youth Advanced Beginners/Intermediate

Session 2: 10/9-11/1

5:00-6:00p Youth Beginner/Intermediate

Register at

www.gwyneddtennispickleball.com

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PA 19422

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info@universalrackets.com

PARKS AND RECREATION

Trail Etiquette 101



Trails have seen an increase in use across the country since the pandemic, and our trails in Lower Gwynedd are no exception. It has been wonderful that folks are flocking to trails for recreation, but the increase in trail use has also shown us that we can do more to show kindness and care for the people (and animals) that use the trails.

In addition to Lower Gwynedd Township, there are two organizations supporting many of the trails in our township, Wissahickon Trails and Horseways. Wissahickon Trails is a nonprofit organization working to connect land, water, and people in the Wissahickon Valley. In their 63-year history they have protected nearly 1,300 acres of open space, and they manage and care for 12 nature preserves and 24 miles of trails. You may have also discovered many local trails are shared with equestrians (horseback riders). Horseways is a local non-profit that preserves and maintains area equestrian trails, many of which have existed for over 100 years. Horseways and Wissahickon Trails are long-time partners, helping maintain and improve many of our trails for us to enjoy.

But hikers and horses aren't the only trail users. You may encounter dog walkers and cyclists and understanding trail etiquette on busy trails helps keep everyone safe.

How Do We Safely Share the Trails? Right-of-Way

When it comes to the rules of the trail, equestrians almost always have

the right-of-way. Horses are the largest sized trail users we have and can be a bit skittish. Because of this, hikers, cyclists, dog walkers should give them a wide berth, speak calmly, and avoid quick movements.

Our most common users are the walkers, runners, and hikers. Dog walkers or cyclists should yield to these users. As stated above, if a pedestrian encounters an equestrian, it is usually easier and safer for the person on foot to step to the side so the horse can pass.

If you are a dog walker on the trails, Lower Gwynedd Township does have a dog leash ordinance. Leashes are also required when using Wissahickon Trails properties and Green Ribbon trail and walking in the Natural Lands' Gwynedd Preserve.

What about bikes? A cyclist should always ride to the right side of the trail and call out "On your left!" when passing a pedestrian. If the trail is too narrow, the cyclist would yield to the other trail user. Bikes are not allowed on the Green Ribbon trail or any of the equestrian trails. Cyclists are permitted on other Township Trails.

If you're not sure what to do, communicate! Talk to your fellow trail user and make sure everyone is safe and comfortable. Our trails are a wonderful local treasure and we want all visitors to have a pleasant and safe experience. For more information on local trails, check the Lower Gwynedd Township website, Wissahickon Trails <https://wissahickontrails.org/>, or Horseways <https://www.horsewayspa.org/>

You don't have to be a tax expert.

That's our job.

- ✓ Business Advisory Services
- ✓ Tax Services: Business, Individual, Estate & Trust
- ✓ Bookkeeping Services: QuickBooks® Pro Advisors

MCCUSKER ASSOCIATES 
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

Contact us for a free consultation

(215) 643-0100

421 N. Bethlehem Pike
Ambler, PA 19002
mccuskerpa.com

Public Works

Snow Removal

During Snow or Ice Events please help Township Crews by remembering the following tips:

- If possible, move your vehicle out of the street and into private driveways. This helps snowplows fully clear the road and it is less snow you have to shovel.
- During any snow emergency declared by the Township, all vehicles must be removed from the roadway.
- If possible, wait to shovel your driveway until plows have completed their final pass along the curb line or edge of pavement. A pass or two through the neighborhood does not mean the Township is finished plowing snow.
- Shovel to the right-hand side of your driveway (right side coming from your house) to reduce the amount of snow pushed back onto your driveway by the plow.
- Clear your sidewalk by shoveling and salting within 24 hours of the last evidence of precipitation.
- Do not throw snow from any sidewalk or driveway into the roadway, it is illegal and you may be cited.
- Don't pull your car onto the roadway to clear the snow from the vehicle.
- Don't place your trash and recycling receptacles in the street.
- If you have a storm water inlet in front of your property, please assist the Township in keeping it clear of snow and ice if you can. This will prevent ice from forming and reduce drainage issues when the snow begins to melt.
- If you have a fire hydrant on your property clear the snow all around the hydrant so the firefighters can more quickly connect to it. This could save lives and property.
- Please be patient during the snow removal process while the Township's plow operators work to clear the roadway.

Mailboxes

Please inspect mailboxes before the winter. Mailboxes should be at least 6 inches behind the curb line or edge of pavement and securely mounted to the post. The post should be securely mounted in the ground and the post should be checked for rot or damage at or near the base. The Township is not responsible for any damage that may occur to an improperly installed or previously damaged mailbox.

Well Wishes

Mike McCarthy

Michael "Mike" McCarthy of the Lower Gwynedd Township Public Works Department will be retiring from the Township on November 3, 2023. Mike started as a Public Works Laborer on February 4, 1991, and has most recently been the Equipment Operator for the Public Works Department. Mike has seen many changes in the township over the years including the location of the Public Works Building. When Mike started here the Public Works Building was located on Wister Road, the current location of the parking lot for the baseball fields. Congratulations to Mike and we wish him good luck with whatever he chooses to do in retirement.



SPRING HOUSE INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

Lower Gwynedd Township has been completing the planning, engineering, and construction of improvements at the intersection of Bethlehem Pike, Norristown Road and Sumneytown Pike for the past several years. The Spring House Intersection Improvement Project is funded through State Multimodal Transportation Fund (MTF) grant and township transportation impact fees collected from developers. Bethlehem Pike and Norristown Road are state owned and Sumneytown Pike is owned by Montgomery County.

Phase 1 of the intersection improvement project was completed in 2021 and included the replacement of the culvert on Sumneytown Pike to accommodate widening of the road in Phase 2. Construction is now underway for Phase 2. The improvements consist of widening on Norristown Road and Sumneytown Pike to provide additional through lanes in the eastbound and westbound directions, traffic signal improvements, concrete sidewalk, and trail modifications on the north side of Norristown Road and both sides of Sumneytown Pike, and ADA ramp upgrades for all affected ramps within the limits of work. A plan showing the improvements can be viewed at <https://www.lowergwynedd.org/media/3548/spring-house-intersection-phase-2-plan.pdf>.

Currently, construction of the Phase 2 improvements is tentatively scheduled to be completed by April 2024. The construction schedule is subject to change based on circumstances including utility coordination and of course, Mother Nature. Please understand that Lower Gwynedd Township, the contractor, and the project team, in accordance with PennDOT and Montgomery County requirements, will continue to make every effort to minimize inconvenience to the community and traveling public while the proposed improvements are constructed. Project status updates will be provided on the “Construction Corner” page of the Lower Gwynedd Township website throughout construction.

LOCAL SPOTLIGHT - BETHLEHEM BAPTIST CHURCH

In 1888 a group of nineteen faithful individuals founded the Bethlehem Baptist Church, known as the House of Bread, at the intersection of Penllyn Pike and Trewellyn Ave in Lower Gwynedd Township. The church's first pastor, Reverend Edwards, was called to serve in 1891. Following his tenure there were eight pastors to succeed him; Reverend Quann being the eighth.

The church has undergone numerous transformations and challenges, including a bombing in February of 1964. In 2006, the church relocated to its current site at the intersection of Penllyn Pike and Dager Road, encompassing a ten-acre campus that includes two homes, the Compassionate and Faith Homes, utilized for ministry purposes.

As a predominantly African American church, Bethlehem Baptist embarked on a journey several years ago to become a Christ-centered, multicultural church that welcomes individuals for all walks of life. With a strong commitment to service, the church supports an orphanage in Kenya, opens its doors to homeless families for the month of October through a partnership with Family Promise (formerly Interfaith of Ambler), and offers a food pantry for those in need. The church also collaborates with the Ambler YMCA, Lower Gwynedd Township, and the Lower Gwynedd Police Department in a variety of initiatives throughout each year to better serve the entire community.

This October the church will be celebrating its 135th church anniversary. To learn more about the celebration, please visit us at <https://bbc4christ.org/announcements/>.

Stormwater and Your Neighbors

Often the Township receives calls from residents about drainage issues on their properties that they believe may be caused by improvements on neighboring properties or changes to the areas surrounding their property. Neighbor disputes over stormwater are very common. Water does not follow property boundaries and there are often instances where water flows from one property onto another and causes damage. It is important to realize that activities on your own property can adversely affect your neighbor's property.

Heather McKean, a former instructor from Penn State Extension on water quality, suggests in an article she wrote about being a good stormwater neighbor, that you should familiarize yourself with how stormwater flows on your own property. Understanding how water enters and exits your property and determining if that flow is causing damage to an adjacent property is the first step. If you do find that there are areas of concentrated flow that could be causing damage, try redirecting that flow to vegetated areas for infiltration into the ground. There are other best management practices you can employ to mitigate the impact of runoff onto other properties, such as installing a rain garden. It's important to remember though that you cannot direct your stormwater flow onto a neighboring property. It is also important to leave natural drainage paths undisturbed when possible and remember grading and re-grading can change how water flows.

Another tip from the Penn State Extension is that if you live near a stream, pond, or stormwater drain, you can plant a riparian buffer or establish a “grow zone” along the waterbody to allow pollutants to be filtered before reaching the water. This will help prevent erosion of your property. Also, do not compost yard waste such as leaves, grass clippings, or mulch into or near a stream or stormwater drain. Clean up trash, litter, and other debris that may clog a drain or small stream that could potentially cause flooding or pollution from water run-off.

Adapted from the article “How Can I be a Good Stormwater Neighbor?” by Heather McKean, Penn State Extension (former instructor of water quality)

Lower Gwynedd's Environmental Advisory Council



The Environmental Advisory Council (EAC) is an official, appointed arm of our municipal government that advises the Board of Supervisors on environment-related concerns and initiatives, working with township staff and other township boards and committees to achieve our mission: **to educate, facilitate and promote sustainable practices within the township and the greater community through educational workshops and programs, articles and community events.** The members and associate members are Lower Gwynedd residents who volunteer their time; regular members are appointed for 3-year terms by the Board of Supervisors. Associate members and curious residents are always welcome to join us at our monthly meetings, generally on the second Wednesday.

To learn more about us and our committees and initiatives, click on the Environmental Advisory Council heading under the "Government" tab on the Township website, or contact us at: contactus@lowergwynedd.org.

EAC Event Recap

The What, Why and How to Compost event was held on June 17 from 9:00am-11:30am at the Penllyn Woods Community Center.

An enthusiastic and engaged group attended the event. Participants listened to a brief presentation followed by a question-and-answer session. After the presentation, attendees stepped outside to hear presentations from compost enthusiasts regarding 4 types of composting options that were the focus of the event: 1. Outside stationary compost bins 2. Outside tumbler composting; 3. Vermicomposting (worm composting); and 4. Community-based local curbside pick up or drop off options.

Rea Monaghan discussed the proper way to use an outside stationary composter; the what and how to compost; the ratio of greens and browns to be included; how to aerate the materials; and how to know when your compost is ready for use.

Larry Radine discussed the proper way to use an outside tumbler composter; how to care for your composter; keys to successful composting; what to compost and how to know when your compost is ready for use.

Sandra (Sady) Sweeney, Master Gardener with Penn State Extension, discussed the role of vermicomposting; what to include/not include in vermicomposting containers; storage and care of the worms; and negative impacts of releasing your worms in the wild.

Luke Natale from Back to Earth Compost discussed the variety of compost options the organization offers such as curbside pick-up of food

waste for residents, scheduled drop off locations and other services.

15 Stationary compost bins, 1 Outside tumbler composter and 5 kitchen counter collection containers were available for raffle. Visit the EAC section of the township webpage to view more information about the presentation.

Going Green Award

The Lower Gwynedd Environmental Advisory Council announces the inaugural Going Green Award and invites nominations of Township businesses, organizations, educational institutions, non-profits, and residents and other entities in Lower Gwynedd Township.



Recognize Someone for Doing Right!

This award will recognize sustainable efforts in our community related to energy, water, land, waste minimization, and community outreach. The community (business owners, residents, non-profits, etc.) is invited to nominate potential award winners—including themselves! -- by visiting <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSe1O95dhgmi7NPCc38K28dNohfhVv1ExnZI8B8wt-ILVltxA/viewform> for the application form and more details on award criteria and selection process.

Lower Gwynedd Township 2nd Annual Native Tree Giveaway

Date: Saturday, October 14, 2023

Location: Lower Gwynedd Township building, 1130 N. Bethlehem Pike, Spring House



Please visit the township website for further information and to sign-up for Lower Gwynedd Township's second "Native Tree Giveaway". Residents must sign-up and select their trees in advance. Registration opens September 14th..

Lower Gwynedd Bird Town Bird Walks

Guided bird walks are free as part of Lower Gwynedd's Bird Town program. Look for fall dates in the monthly e-news so you can mark your calendar, and sign up



**BIRD TOWN
PENNSYLVANIA**

to be notified of upcoming monthly bird walks by emailing contactus@lowergwynedd.org to receive a reminder a few days before the scheduled walks, or notification of cancellations in case of inclement weather or scheduling conflicts.

Battery & Techno-Trash Recycling

Did you know that in addition to batteries, the EAC is now also collecting Techno-Trash at our bi-monthly collections? Help us keep more items out of landfills by dropping off CD/DVD/VHS/floppy discs and tapes and their cases, charging cables and other small electronic accessories (mice, earbuds, adapters).



Visit our website for more specifics of items that can be recycled and how certain batteries need to be prepared before dropping them off: <https://www.lowergwynedd.org/government/environmental-advisory-council/battery-recycling/>



Historic Advisory Committee

Wissahickon Valley Historical Society Completes Pennsylvania Grant Work

Local historical society has completed work at the Franklinville School, financed by a grant from the PA Keystone Communities Program.

Blue Bell, Pennsylvania July 10, 2023

The Wissahickon Valley Historical Society, a partner of Lower Gwynedd Township's Historic Advisory Committee, has completed extensive repairs at its Franklinville School, and this project was financed in part by a grant from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's Keystone Communities Program. A new roof is still needed. For questions or to request a private tour of the school, please email info@WValleyHS.org.

The two-year grant provided most of the funding for improved drainage, electrical upgrades, and repairs to the front porch. It was obtained through the efforts of PA Representative Liz Hanbidge and was based on an Assessment Study by Whitpain Township. The 1858 structure, near Normandy Farm, is one of the last remaining one-room schools in the area and is furnished as a 19th-century classroom. WVHS continues fund-raising to replace the roof and make additional repairs.



Whitpain's Franklinville School, listed on the National Register of Historic Places

The Wissahickon Valley Historical Society works to promote and preserve the history and historic resources of Ambler Borough, Whitpain Township, and Lower Gwynedd Township. Its headquarters and museum are located at the 1895 Public School at 799 West Skippack Pike, Blue Bell, PA. It also owns the one-room Franklinville School. Further information is available at www.WValleyHS.org.

The Historical Markers Program

The Lower Gwynedd Township Historical Marker Program is up and running!

Historical markers recognize events, places, innovations, legends, persons or groups/organizations of historical note or significance by erecting a sign in the right of way along the road.

The signs will be relevant to Lower Gwynedd local history.

Markers can also be approved for buildings or structures that are either significantly altered or no longer standing, so long as they have appropriate historical research to justify the placement of such signage and a direct connection to Lower Gwynedd Township history.

To suggest a historical marker:

- Go to the Government section of the Township website; click on Historical Advisory Committee in the right-hand column.
- Next, click on Historical Markers at the bottom of the page. Review the guidelines, do the required research.
- Last, click on Historical Marker Application and email the required information to contactus@lowergwynedd.org. It's that easy!

Other notes from HAC

An easement template is in the works that would allow property owners to voluntarily protect aspects of their historic property (e.g. facades, landscapes, etc.) by inserting language in their deed. Look for that by the end of the year!

HAC plans to co-sponsor with the Wissahickon Valley Historical Society a history lecture in Spring 2024. If you have topics, you believe would be compelling and enjoyable to hear about, please let us know.

If you or your family has unique pictures of places in the Township, please send us a copy! We want to begin compiling images for the country's 250th anniversary in 2026. We will give you credit and recognize your family in any public presentation of the material.

Happy 325th anniversary Lower Gwynedd Township!

Republic Services

Republic Services Trash Contract Extended

The Lower Gwynedd Board of Supervisors voted to extend the current trash collection and recycling contract with Republic Services. The contract, that was set to expire on October 31, 2023, provides for a two-year extension option. The BOS voted to exercise this option as pricing through a new bid was anticipated to increase by approximately 50% for collection services this year. Instead, the extension caps increases at 3% per year. Extending the contract will keep costs down and eliminate a disruption in service for Township residents.

Fall Leaf/Yard Waste Collection Dates:

Lower Gwynedd Township has a leaf and yard waste recycling program where Republic Services provides curbside leaf/yard waste collection opportunities throughout the Spring and Fall. The confirmed dates for this **Fall are Saturdays, October 14th, October 28th, November 4th, November 18th, December 2nd, and December 16th, 2023.** All leaf and yard waste must be put in biodegradable bags and placed curbside by 6am on the day of pick-up. 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 household hazardous waste collection events, by appointment only, on the following dates and locations:

- Saturday, September 23rd, 2023- Spring-Ford 9th Grade Center, 400 S. Lewis Rd., Royersford
- Sunday, October 22nd, 2023- Lower Merion Transfer Station, 1300 N. Woodbine Ave., Penn Valley

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

Holiday Lights:

Non-working holiday lights can be dropped off at Ingersoll Park from December 1st-January 31st. Look for the green and red recycling bins and simply place your lights in the bins!

Christmas Trees:

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

Electronics Recycling & Shredding Event Totals:

Lower Gwynedd Township residents recycled 6.1 tons of electronic devices and 4.00 tons of paper during this year's recycling event!

Veterans Day Ceremony

Lower Gwynedd's Annual Veterans Day Ceremony will be held on Saturday, November 11 at Veteran's Memorial Park. More details to follow.

Friendly Reminders from the Tax Collector

Visit www.lowergwyneddtax.org in order to:

- Download copies of your paid tax bill
- Print your current tax bill
- Pay online
- Access important links and forms

October 31st is the last day to pay your 2023-2024 Wissahickon School District tax bill before the 10% penalty is added.

If paying with a check from your bank's online bill pay, please send payment at least a week in advance of deadlines. The envelopes do not have a USPS postmark and you run the risk of missing the deadline.

Attention Gwynedd Valley residents: if you remove your P.O. Box, the city needs to be updated to Ambler, PA 19002.

Interim tax bills are NOT sent to your mortgage company. If your mortgage company pays your real estate taxes, please forward interim tax bills. These are bills you may receive in addition to your two annual tax bills due to home renovations.

If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out by email (taxcollector@lowergwynedd.org) or call 267-460-1891.

Thank you, Natalie Cormier



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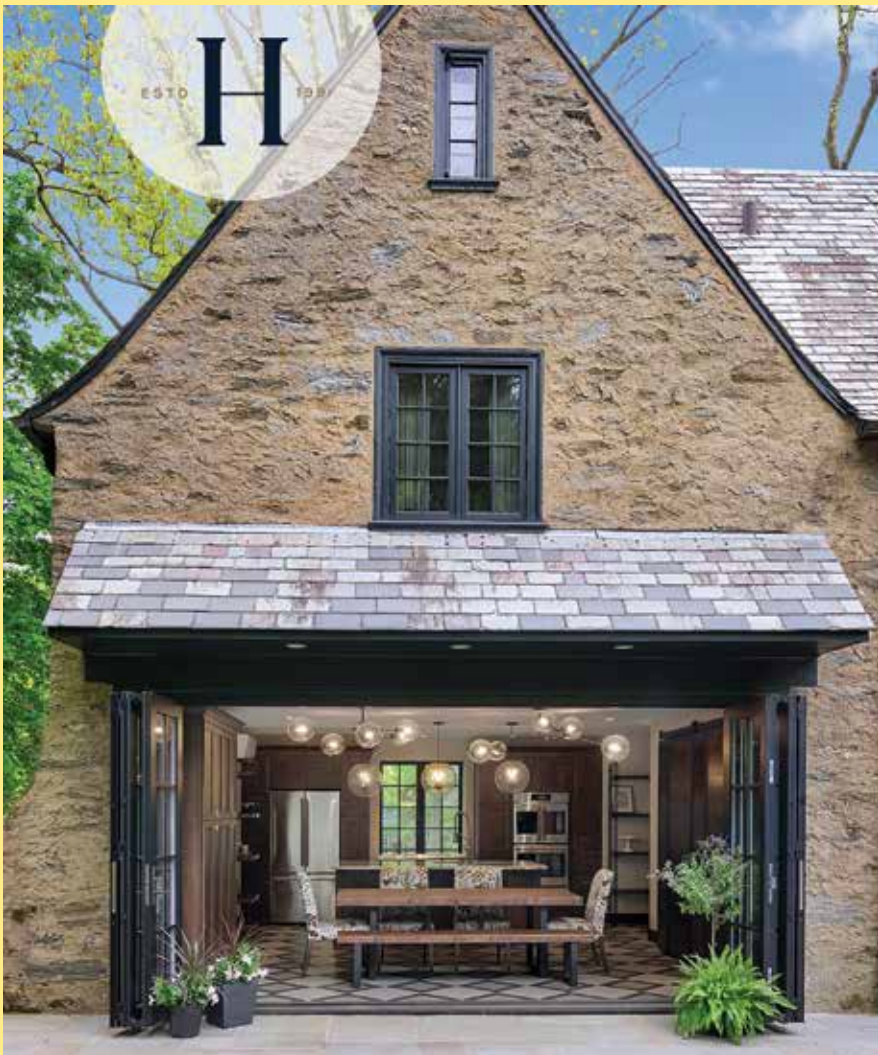
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Electronic Device Batteries & Fires

Recently there have been some notable incidents involving battery powered devices and fires determined to have been caused by a rechargeable battery—particularly Lithium-Ion Batteries. These fires are extremely intense and burn very hot igniting anything combustible nearby. The difficulty is that just about everything is now using these batteries because they are a compact and powerful energy source. We find them in tools, bikes, scooters, vacuum cleaners, laptops, cell phones and much more. E-bikes and e-scooters seem to be a particular problem, but it can happen on almost any device. Currently there are no regulations in place regarding these batteries. With most electrical devices, they are subject to testing and approval for a UL (Underwriters' Laboratories) label. That is not the case currently for these rechargeable batteries.

Recently, Township fire companies have encountered two incidents that were determined to be battery caused:

Single family residence. The owner purchased a battery for his power tools and was charging it for the first time in the garage. Battery caught fire. Fire extended from the garage to the first floor of the residence and to a mobile home trailer in the driveway adjacent to the garage before it was contained by firefighters. No injuries, but significant damage to the residence.

Single family residence. Owner had a portable vacuum cleaner hanging on a charger in a first-floor closet. Occupants in another room heard a loud pop, and upon opening the door to the closet to investigate, found the closet fully involved with fire. Fire jumped from the open door across the ceiling and was beginning to extend, even though the resident used a fire extinguisher. The resident also called 9-1-1 prior to attempting extinguishment, so the fire company arrived and limited the fire to the closet and adjacent hallway. Again, no injuries, but significant fire damage in and around the closet and smoke damage throughout the residence.

So, what can be done now—as we use more and more of these devices in our daily lives? Agencies like the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission and the Fire Department of New York have developed some good recommendations:

- Only purchase devices with UL labels on them.
- Only use the charger(s) that come with the devices. Third party devices from the internet are usually lower in cost but seem to fail more frequently.
- Take the battery out of the charger once the battery is charged. Unplug the charger when not in use. This will also help your electric bill—since chargers draw power whenever they are plugged in, charging or not.
- Do not charge these devices while you are sleeping, or not at home. Put the charger away from combustibles to slow the spread as much as possible if a failure occurs.
- Only buy batteries from the manufacturer of the device, or a reputable source. Off market, or “reconditioned” batteries are particularly problematic—prone to failure.

There is no doubt these batteries will be part of our lives for a while. We need to use them carefully to minimize problems. But when the problem occurs, evacuate immediately, then call 9-1-1. Any battery fire is extremely hot. Trying to handle a burning battery without proper equipment will not end well. Call the experts (fire company) immediately.

Lower Gwynedd Fire Companies

Support for our volunteer firefighters

Lower Gwynedd has joined neighboring municipalities in offering tax credits to residents who are active volunteers with Wissahickon Fire Company or North Penn Volunteer Fire Company. Lower Gwynedd residents who meet their respective fire company's volunteer standards are now eligible for a credit of up to \$1,000 against their Township earned income tax.

Help Our Fire Companies Help the Community

Two fire companies serve Lower Gwynedd Township: Wissahickon Fire Company and North Penn Volunteer Fire Company. Evans Road is the dividing line for their main service areas, with Wissahickon covering the area to the south and North Penn to the north. However, in larger emergencies, both companies – and potentially others as well, depending on the response needed – are likely to be on site.

Wissahickon and North Penn both remain all-volunteer, with no paid staff. They receive financial contributions from Lower Gwynedd and the other municipalities they serve, but as independent non-profit organizations, they also rely significantly on support from the community.

How you can help

DONATING: When you receive their fund drive mailings, please consider giving what you can.

VOLUNTEERING: Consider volunteering as a firefighter. The fire companies will provide the training you need, and you will feel like you're making a difference. The fire companies often need other volunteers as well; check with the fire companies if you'd like to help in other ways.

To businesses in Lower Gwynedd, consider allowing employees who are volunteer firefighters to go on calls with Wissahickon or North Penn during the day. That is the time when it is most difficult to have volunteers available to respond. Lower Gwynedd Township is among the employers that already do this.

Check out Wissahickon's (station7.org) and North Penn's (northpennfire.com) websites for more information. The fire companies thank residents and businesses for your support, and Lower Gwynedd Township thanks the fire company volunteers for their time and dedication to serving our community.



WEEKLY EVENTS

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4-9PM

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WEDNESDAY
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Lower Gwynedd Little League will be celebrating its 65th season this spring!

As the only Little League Official program in the Wissahickon School District, we welcome all players to join our league.

Boundaries include Lower Gwynedd, most of Whitpain, and portions of Upper Dublin and Worcester.

All students attending Wissahickon School District are eligible to play.

Visit LGbaseball.com for more information about our league.

Spring registration officially opens after Thanksgiving.



Quickball
4-6 years

Minor - "A"
Instructional Machine
Pitch
6-7 years

Minor - "AA"
Machine Pitch / Kid Pitch
7-8 years

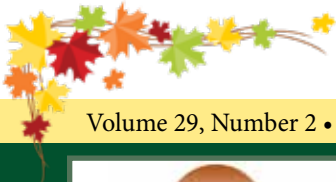
Minor - "AAA"
9-10 years

Major
11-12 years

Junior / Senior
13-14 years (Junior)
15-16 years (Senior)

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