

LOWER GWYNEDD TOWNSHIP



New Resident Welcome Packet

Presented by the Lower Gwynedd Township Board of Supervisors

<http://www.lowergwynedd.org>



Welcome to Lower Gwynedd Township

Welcome and thank you for choosing to live in our community! We hope that you take part in the many activities and events that take place throughout the year. This information packet is provided to help make your move a little bit easier as you get adjusted to the new area. Enclosed are important phone numbers and general information about services. We hope that you find the information useful and that you keep the packet in a convenient spot for easy reference. As you settle into our beautiful Township, if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call us or access our web page at www.lowergwynedd.org. Once again, thanks for joining our community. Welcome to the most sought after address in Montgomery County!!

Sincerely,

The Board of Supervisors

Municipal Services:

The Lower Gwynedd Township Administration Building is open Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Send all correspondence to:

Lower Gwynedd Township
P.O. Box 625
1130 N. Bethlehem Pike
Spring House, PA 19477

Municipal Government:

Board of Supervisors

The board is the governing body for the Township and is comprised of five members elected to staggered six-year terms. The current Board members:

- **Edward J. Brandt:** **Chairman**
- **Ernest (Chip) Behr:** **Vice Chairman**
- Robert E. Alston, Esq.
- Kenneth Bright
- George T. Hayeck

Township Staff

All of the persons below can be reached at the Township Administration Building at 215-646-5302.

- **Township Manager:** **Larry M. Comunale**
- Assistant Manager: Charlene R. Stevens
- Administrative Assistant: Carole B. Culbreth
- Police Chief: John Scholly
- Finance Director: Karen Yeutter
- Recreation Director: Sandi Feight
- Zoning Officer: Joseph A. Zadlo
- Asst. Zoning Officer: Craig McAnally
- Building Inspector: Joseph Groarke
- Plumbing Inspector: Joseph Legreca
- Public Works Director: Robert Pierson
- Roadmaster: George Barreca

Meeting Schedules:

All meetings are held monthly at the Municipal Building, 1130 N. Bethlehem Pike, Spring House.

Board of Supervisors

1st Monday & 3rd Tuesday 7:30 p.m.

Municipal Authority (Sewer)

2nd Wednesday 7:30 p.m.

Park & Recreation Board

4th Tuesday 7:30 p.m.

Planning Commission

3rd Wednesday 7:30 p.m.

Zoning Hearing Board

2nd Thursday 7:30 p.m.

Solid Waste & Recycling Committee

* Only meet as needed

Important Ordinances & Permits:

The following ordinances and permit requirements are important to know:

- A permit is required before new owners or tenants may occupy any commercial or industrial property.
- Street numbers, at least 2.5 inches high and in a contrasting color to you background paint, must be prominently displayed on every property over or near the front door.
- Permits are required for all building construction including new homes, alterations, and additions to existing homes, basement, sheds, patios, porches and swimming pools **
- Snow, sleet and freezing rain must be cleared from sidewalks within 12 hours after snow, sleet and freezing rain stops falling.
- Residents must license dogs over 6 mos. of age. Licenses can be purchased at the courthouse or through local auto tag offices. Dogs must be under control at all times, must not be allowed to run at large, and may not cause a disturbance by continually barking. Fines are administered to those who do not curb their dog.
- Open burning is not allowed in the Township.

** For specific permit fees see our website or call the Township.

Township Millage Rate

Category	Mills	Amount
General Fund	.486	\$ 97.20
Fire Protection	.146	\$ 29.20
Fire Hydrant	.033	\$ 6.60
Recreation	.050	\$10.00
Debt Purposes	.400	\$ 80.00
TOTAL	1.115	\$ 223.00

Average Residential Tax Bill in Lower Gwynedd Township

Taxing Body	Millage	Amount
Wissahickon School District & Library	14.451	\$ 2890.20
Montgomery County	2.840	\$ 426.00
Lower Gwynedd Township	1.115	\$ 223.00
Total	18.486	\$ 3539.20

*** Based on a property assessment of \$ 200,000

Public Safety:

Police

The Lower Gwynedd Police Department is responsible for the protection of life and property within its 9 square miles. The Police Department operates under the guidelines of the Pennsylvania Second Class Township Code. Officers are dispatched through County radio. Police services are provided 24 hours a day 7 days a week. The regular business hours are 8am to 6pm Monday through Friday. Currently there are 18 sworn officers that include 2 detectives and a juvenile officer. The department specializes in areas such as DARE and CMCERT, which is an emergency response team specializing in school incidents, hostage evacuation, etc., requiring extensive tactical training.

Fire & Rescue

Two volunteer fire companies, Wissahickon and North Penn, provide fire protection to the Township. North Penn is generally responsible to protect the area west of Evans Road and Wissahickon covers the area of the Township east of Evans Road. Rescue services are provided through the Ambler Ambulance Association. The Fire Departments and Ambulance Association are always welcoming new recruits and looking for donations. Volunteer today or donate and become a part of a family dedicated to saving lives.

Wissahickon Fire Company
245 East Race Street
Ambler, PA 19002
Chief: Anthony Minio
President: Robert Gilman

North Penn Fire Company
141 South Main Street
North Wales, PA 19454
Chief: William R. Goltz
President: Tom Rebbie

Community Ambulance Association, Ambler
P.O. Box 98
1414 E. Butler Pike
Ambler, PA 19002

Schools:

Public schools and school facilities and services in Lower Gwynedd Township are provided by the Wissahickon School District. The school district's emergency closing code number is **314**.

Wissahickon School District
521 Houston Road
Ambler, PA 19002

www.lowergwynedd.org

Utilities:

Sewer

The Township maintains approximately 100 miles of sewer lines; two pump stations and five metering stations. The Lower Gwynedd Township Municipal Authority provides sanitary sewer services. Sewer usage rate is \$39.00 for the first 12,000 gallons and \$2.60 for each 1,000 gallons thereafter. Customers are billed on a quarterly basis. Billing questions can be discussed with our Sewer Billing Clerk, Joyce Baker at 215-646-5302 between regular Township hours.

Trash Collection

- The Township has a "Single Hauler" ordinance, whereby the Township contracts with one private hauler to provide service in Lower Gwynedd Township. Waste Management of Indian Valley is the Township's designated waste hauler. All new residents must contract with Waste Management.
- The standard service charge is \$23.53 per month with a 3% increase for each subsequent year of the contract.
- Trash collection is provided on a twice-weekly basis, Monday and Thursday. Recyclables are also collected on Thursdays. If a holiday falls on a Monday, trash will not be collected until the following Thursday. Lower Gwynedd residents may recycle glass, aluminum, tin and plastics #1 through #3. Newspapers and magazines may also be recycled, but should be bundled separately or placed in paper bags.

Electric & Gas

Electric and natural gas services in the Township are provided by PECO Energy Company. To set up an account you can contact PECO at 1-800-494-4000.

T.V. Cable Service

Television cable services are provided by Comcast. To set up your cable you can contact Comcast at 1-888-COMCAST or online at www.comcast.com.

Water

The North Wales Water Authority and the Ambler Borough Water Department provide the Township water services.

North Wales Water Authority
200 West Walnut
North Wales, PA
19454
215-699-4836

Ambler Borough Water Department
122 East Butler Ave
Ambler, PA
19002
215-646-1000

Lower Gwynedd Township Demographics



Population Count, 2000:	10,422
• Male	4,686
• Female	5,736
Age:	
• Under 5 years	4.9%
• 5 to 19 years	20.4%
• 20 to 34 years	10.5%
• 35 to 54 years	31.4%
• 55 to 64	10.1%
• 65 and older	22.6%
Race:	
• White	86.8%
• Black	7.8%
• Asian	5.0%
• Indian	0.1%
• Other	0.3%
Total Housing Units, 2000:	4,360
• Average Household Size	2.39
• Average Family Size	3.03
• Median Household Assessed Value	\$200,000
Median Household Income:	\$74,351
Educational Attainment:	
Population 25 years and over	
• Percent high school graduate or higher	92.7%
• Percent bachelor's degree or higher	54.7%

**All of the information is from the 2000 Census Bureau Report www.census.gov

Parks & Recreation Department:

The Townships Park & Recreation Department is responsible for the appearance and maintenance of the Townships parks and trails. This department not only handles the daily maintenance of the parks, but also is in charge of creating new and exciting recreational activities for the community. The recreation programs include Summer Camp, the Summer Concert Series, Country Picnic and seasonal programming for all ages. For more information regarding the Parks & Recreation Department contact Sandi Feight at the Township building or check out our website.

Lower Gwynedd Township Park System:

** For Park directions visit our website at www.lowergwynedd.org.

Penllyn Woods (77 acres)

- 2 Little League Baseball Fields
- 1 90' Baseball Field
- Soccer Field
- Multipurpose Field
- Picnic Pavilion
- Walking Trails

Penllyn Park

- Baseball Field
- Playground
- Picnic Pavilion
- Basketball Court
- Walking Trail 1,100 ft.

Oxford Park (8 acres)

- Softball Field
- 2 New Playground Structures, with Swings
- Picnic Pavilion
- 0.5 mile Walking Trail
- Basketball Courts
- Sand Volleyball Court
- Bocce Ball Area and Horseshoe Pit
- Shuffle Board Court

Ingersoll Park (6 acres)

- Baseball Fields

Lower Gwynedd Township Trail System:

** For trail directions visit our website at www.lowergwynedd.org

Penllyn Woods

- Soccer Field Trail is ~ 2, 262 ft.
- Cutler Baseball Trail is ~ 1,768 ft.
- Entire Trail System is ~ 1 mile

Dager Road Trail

- Cinder Portion, which extends from Wissahickon High School parking lot to Brights Lane is ~ 8/10 of a mile
- Entire Loop is ~ 2 1/3 miles

Cedar Hill Trail

- Entire Trail is ~ 9/10 of a mile

Trewellyn Reserve Trail

- Entire Trail is ~ 3,540 ft.

Trewellyn Estate Trail

- Entire Trail is ~ 5,231 ft.
- The Trewellyn Estate and Reserve Trail connect creating a total distance of ~ 2.5 miles

North Penn Oak Drive Trail

- Entire Trail is ~ ¾ of a mile

Wooded Pond Trail

- Entire Trail is ~ (don't have exact mileage yet)

Centennial Park Trail

- The Entire Loop is 4, 634 ft.
- It is a straight continuous trail to McKean Rd. and back to Lower Gwynedd Township Building.

Important Phone Numbers

<u>Police</u>	
Emergency	911
Phone (Non-Emergency)	(215) 646-5303
Fax	(215) 646-8906
<u>Fire Companies</u>	
Emergency	911
Wissahickon (Non-Emergency)	(215) 646-1266
North Penn (Non-Emergency)	(215) 699-4337
<u>Ambulance</u>	
Emergency	911
Ambler Ambulance Association (Non-Emergency)	(215) 646-6517
<u>County Health Department</u>	
Phone	(610) 278-5117
<u>Montgomery County Administration</u>	
Phone	(610) 278-3000
<u>Township Administration</u>	
Phone	(215) 646-5302
Fax	(215) 646-3357
<u>Tax Collector</u>	
Betty Lou Yost	(215) 628-3988
<u>Sewer Rates & Charges</u>	
Joyce Baker, Sewer Billing Clerk	(215) 646-5302
<u>Water Service</u>	
North Wales Water Authority	(215) 699-4836
Ambler Borough Water Dept.	(215) 646-1000
<u>Trash Collection</u>	
Waste Management of Indian Valley	1-800-328-1717
<u>Electric & Gas</u>	
PECO Energy Company	1-800-494-4000
<u>Cable Company</u>	
Comcast Phone	1-888-COMCAST
Website	http://www.comcast.com

Important Phone Numbers

<u>School District</u>	
Wissahickon	(215) 619-8000
<u>Public Library</u>	
650 Skippack Pike, Blue Bell	(215) 643-1320
209 Race Street, Ambler	(215) 646-1072
<u>Senator in General Assembly</u>	
Stewart J. Greenleaf	(215) 657-7700
<u>State Representatives (House)</u>	
Kate Harper	(610) 277-3230
Eugene F. McGill	(215) 654-1186
<u>District Justice</u>	
Judge John S. Murray III	District Court 38-1-21
	Blue Bell West
	Blue Bell, PA 19422
<u>Voter Registration</u>	
Phone	(610) 278-3280