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NEW HANOVER TOWNSHIP

ESTABLISHED 1741



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Dear Residents,

As the vibrant hues of summer slowly give way to cooler mornings and crisp evenings, we're thrilled to bring you our latest newsletter. With the upcoming season of change and new beginnings, "fall" into the fantastic updates enclosed, such as:

- **Fall and Winter Events:** We have several exciting events coming up, including the Fall Frolic Community Event on September 14, the Halloween Haunt on October 26, and Photos with Santa on December 7.
- **Permit Checklist:** Are you uncertain if you need to obtain a permit for upcoming projects that you're anticipating? This handy checklist represents common residential projects that require permits and is helpful to review before you get started on the project of your dreams.
- **Environmental Advisory Board:** The EAB has been working hard on the Meadows Project at Swamp Creek Park. Check out the improvements they've been making in an effort to transform grassy portions of land without the use of chemicals.

We hope this upcoming season fills you with inspiration and exciting new opportunities. Stay connected for more updates and enjoy all that fall has to offer!

Best regards,

Marie Livelsberger, Chair, Board of Supervisors

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS



Marie Livelsberger
Chair



W. Ross Snook
Vice Chair



Kurt Zebrowski
Supervisor



D. W. Boone Flint
Supervisor



Keith Youse
Supervisor

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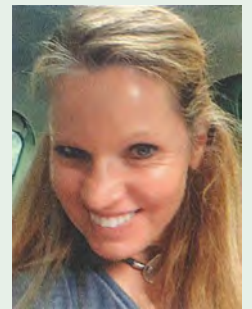
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ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES CLOSED

Labor Day – Monday, September 2
Veterans Day – Monday, November 11
Thanksgiving Day – Thursday, November 28
Christmas Eve – Tuesday, December 24
Christmas Day – Wednesday, December 25
New Year’s Eve – Tuesday, December 31

OFFICE HOURS

Monday through Thursday - 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Marie Livelsberger, Chair
W. Ross Snook, Vice Chair
Kurt Zebrowski
D. W. Boone Flint
Keith Youse, Treasurer

MEETING SCHEDULE

Board of Supervisors	First Thursday and Third Thursday (as needed) of each month
Planning Commission	Second Wednesday of each month
Municipal Authority	Third Tuesday of each month
Recreation Committee	First Wednesday of each month
Environmental Advisory Board	Second Monday of each month

All meetings are held at the Municipal Building, 2943 N. Charlotte Street, Gilbertsville, PA beginning at 6:30 PM.

STAFF DIRECTORY

Township Manager	Jamie L. Gwynn	610-323-1008 x 106	jgwynn@newhanover-pa.org
Assistant Manager	Maggie Dobbs	610-323-1008 x 103	mdobbs@newhanover-pa.org
Assistant to the Manager	Shaina Ward	610-323-1008 x 104	sward@newhanover-pa.org
Administrative Assistant	Sharon DelPorte	610-323-1008 x 101	sdelporte@newhanover-pa.org
Planning and Zoning Administrative Assistant	Joanna Vanaman	610-323-1008 x 102	jvanaman@newhanover-pa.org
Chief of Police	John Ciarllo	610-323-1008 x 208	jciarllo@newhanover-pa.org
Police - Administrative Assistant	Maryann Brennan	610-323-1008 x 201	mbrennan@newhanover-pa.org
Public Works Director	Jay Kowal	610-323-1008 x 301	jkowal@newhanover-pa.org
Authority Superintendent	Kirt Michaels	610-323-1008 x 407	kmichaels@newhanover-pa.org
Finance Director	Michele Smith	610-323-1008 x 105	msmith@newhanover-pa.org

UPCOMING PUBLIC MEETINGS

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS	
09-05-2024	6:30 PM
09-28-2024	Road Tour
10-03-2024	6:30 PM
11-07-2024	6:30 PM
12-05-2024	6:30 PM
PLANNING COMMISSION	
09-09-2024 <i>(Workshop Meeting)</i>	6:30 PM
09-11-2024	6:30 PM
10-07-2024 <i>(Workshop Meeting)</i>	6:30 PM
10-09-2024	6:30 PM
11-11-2024 <i>(Workshop Meeting)</i>	6:30 PM
11-13-2024	6:30 PM
12-11-2024	6:30 PM
MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY	
09-17-2024	6:30 PM
10-15-2024	6:30 PM
11-19-2024	6:30 PM
12-17-2024	6:30 PM

FINANCE DEPARTMENT – BUDGET SEASON

The goal of the Township budget process is to carefully evaluate the Township's financial status and present this information in a way that will facilitate understanding by Township residents and the government organization. The annual budget is prepared by the Township Manager and the Finance Director. In New Hanover Township, the budget process begins in July and ends in late November. The budget process takes about 4 months from initial planning to final approval. Each department of the township has a line-item budget that tracks every dollar spent for personnel, operating and equipment costs. Meetings are held with the Department Directors, the Township Manager, and the Finance Director to go over their budget requests. A proposed budget is drafted which then goes to the Board of Supervisors for approval. The Board of Supervisors review the budget in detail and then the budget is presented at the monthly public meeting for input and review. After the meeting, the Board of Supervisors will adopt the budget. The budget must be adopted before Dec. 31st. The Annual Budget is available to the public on the township website and at the Township Building.

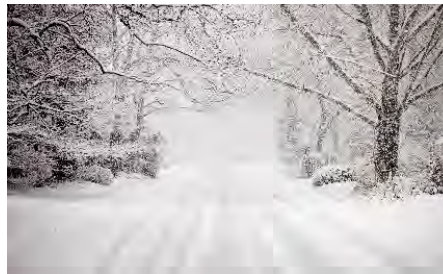


STEPS FOR THE ANNUAL BUDGET:

- Budget Development
- Budget Approval, Adoption & Implementation
- Communicating the Budget

WHAT DOES THE TOWNSHIP DO WITH YOUR TAXES?

- *Parks & Trails
- *Events & Activities
- *Snow Removal
- *Road Maintenance
- *Police Public Safety





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DO I NEED A PERMIT FOR THAT?

Check this list before you get started on the project of your dreams!

Permits are required for certain projects to ensure that construction activities follow all building code guidelines and local ordinances. This helps protect your home's integrity and safety. The following list represents common residential projects that REQUIRE permits but is not a complete list of every activity requiring a permit. Please contact the Township for specific questions regarding permit requirements for a project. Permits must be approved prior to commencement of work.

Building

- Any interior or exterior structural modifications or repairs. Includes additions or demolitions of any exterior walls and interior changes to walls, doors, windows, or creation of new rooms/bedrooms.
- NO permits are needed for residential roofing projects UNLESS it requires structural repairs or alterations.

Kitchen and Bathrooms

- Remodels that include changes to any gas or electrical components (including outlets and recessed lighting), and plumbing (like relocation or addition of sinks, showers/tubs, and dishwashers).
- Changes to layout, including addition or modification of kitchen islands or peninsulas.
- NO permits are required for replacement cabinets/ countertops that are the same size as existing.

Basement

- Full or partially finished basements that add insulation, framing/walls, ceilings, electric, and other utilities.

Electrical, Plumbing, and Mechanical

- New or relocated electric, including installation of recessed lighting, ceiling fans, and other fixtures.
- Plumbing including new supply, drain, waste, or vent lines, and replacement of hot water heaters.
- New/replacement HVAC systems, including furnaces, AC units, heat pumps, tanks, and boilers.
- Emergency generators.

Detached Garages, Sheds, and Greenhouses (Accessory Structures)

- Structures 200 ft² or smaller require Zoning permits and must meet yard setback requirements.
- Accessory structures over 200 ft² AND those that include utilities require building permit approval.

Fences

- Installation of new or replacement fencing, or any pool enclosure fencing.

Patios, Driveways, and Walkways

- Exterior improvements that add impervious cover includes pavers, concrete, asphalt, and gravel.
- Driveways that change the width of the entrance apron may also require additional roadway permits.

Decks

- New decks and deck repairs, including replacement decking, stairs, and railings.

Swimming Pools

- All above-ground (water depth of 24"+) and in-ground pools, spas, and hot tubs.
- "Temporary" above-ground pools that can be taken down each year also require permits.

Stormwater Drainage and Grading

- Installation of drainage pipes, swales, rain gardens, or other means to manage water runoff in yard areas.
- Addition of a new sump pump and/or relocation of an existing sump pump discharge line.

When in doubt, give us a call! We're happy to discuss your project and provide guidance on the permit process. Permit applications can be found online at: https://www.newhanover-pa.org/resources/documents_and_forms.php

DO NOT SOLICIT REGISTRY

Sign-up is officially open for the New Hanover Township Do Not Solicit Registry, which allows residents to prohibit solicitors or peddlers from visiting their homes during door-to-door sales. Residents can sign up online for the registry by using the QR Code or visiting: https://www.newhanover-pa.org/departments/zoning/peddler_s_license/do_not_solicit_registry.php

The purpose of the registry is to protect the health, safety, welfare, and privacy of township residents. A resident's listing on the Do Not Solicit Registry shall be effective thirty (30) days from the date of their submission to the Township. Information collected for inclusion on this registry, including the resident's name and address, is subject to public inspection pursuant to the Pennsylvania Public Records Act.

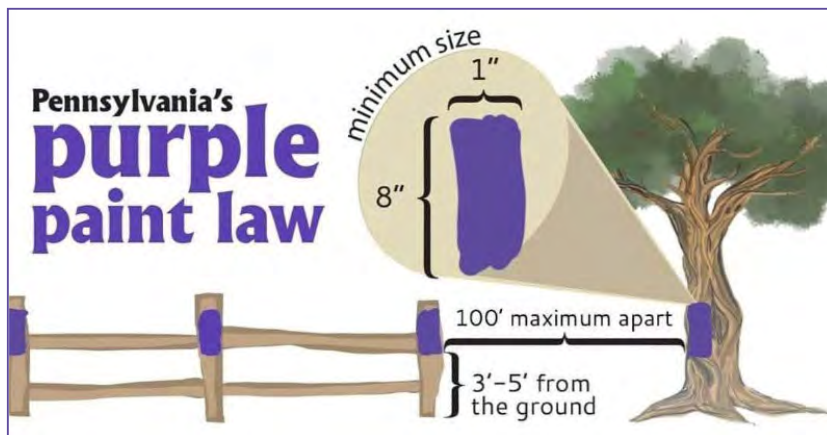




VETERAN'S RESPONSE TEAM

The New Hanover Township Police Department is proud to announce that Corporal Salvo recently became a member of the Montgomery County Veteran's Response Team (VRT). The VRT consists of law enforcement officers and other public service staff members who have served in the military and are passionate about helping their fellow veterans. This specialized team utilizes a wide variety of resources provided by local police departments, the Montgomery County Crisis Center, the Veterans Administration, and many more. They have the capabilities to assist our community vets very quickly during times of need, and there is no problem too small for them to address. Please do not hesitate to contact Corporal Salvo immediately if you or a loved one are a veteran who is experiencing hard times. Corporal Salvo served active duty with the Marine Corps from 2004 to 2008 as an infantryman, completing two overseas tours. He is a 13-year veteran of our police department, and he is also a member of the Montgomery County SWAT Western Team. He can be reached directly at (610) 327-1150 Ext. 205. Please remember to always utilize 911 for emergency situations.

PURPLE PAINT LAW



State law allows for New Hanover Township landowners the option of using purple paint, rather than signs, to post their properties and alert others that lands are private and trespassing isn't permitted.

Landowners using purple paint to post their properties are to use vertical purple lines that are at least 8 inches in length and 1 inch in width. The bottom of the mark must be no less than 3 feet or more than 5 feet from the ground. Painted marks are to be placed at locations that are readily visible to a person approaching the property and no more than 100 feet apart.

Hunters and trappers should know they might encounter purple markings on trees and that these marks are meant to define the boundary of an adjoining private property that's posted against trespassing.

The law does authorize unarmed persons to go onto private property for the sole purpose of retrieving a hunting dog.

HOMEOWNER ASSOCIATIONS IN NEW HANOVER TOWNSHIP!

We're excited to announce that New Hanover Township is now offering Homeowner Associations within the township the opportunity to hold meetings in the back half of the Township Building's meeting room FREE of charge! To view the request form and the rules for usage, please use the QR Code or visit: https://www.newhanover-pa.org/departments/hoa_meeting_room_use_application.php



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How to Avoid a Scam



Four Signs That It's a Scam

1 Scammers PRETEND to be from an organization you know.



Scammers often pretend to be contacting you on behalf of the government. They might use a real name, like the FTC, Social Security Administration, IRS, or Medicare, or make up a name that sounds official. Some pretend to be from a business you know, like a utility company, a tech company, or even a charity asking for donations.

They use technology to change the phone number that appears on your caller ID. So the name and number you see might not be real.

2 Scammers say there's a PROBLEM or a PRIZE.



They might say you're in trouble with the government. Or you owe money. Or someone in your family had an emergency. Or that there's a virus on your computer. Some scammers say there's a problem with one of your accounts and that you need to verify some information.

Others will lie and say you won money in a lottery or sweepstakes but have to pay a fee to get it.

3 Scammers PRESSURE you to act immediately.



Scammers want you to act before you have time to think. If you're on the phone, they might tell you not to hang up so you can't check out their story.

They might threaten to arrest you, sue you, take away your driver's or business license, or deport you. They might say your computer is about to be corrupted.

4 Scammers tell you to PAY in a specific way.



They often insist that you can only pay by using cryptocurrency, wiring money through a company like MoneyGram or Western Union, using a payment app, or putting money on a gift card and then giving them the numbers on the back of the card.

Some will send you a check (that will later turn out to be fake), then tell you to deposit it and send them money.

NEW HANOVER VOLUNTEER FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICES



5 individuals were honored on June 20 by the Board of Supervisors for 50 years of service with New Hanover Volunteer Fire and Rescue Services. Gary Moser, Joseph Deitz, and Carol Slater-Kline are firefighters and Joan Moyer and Betty Webster are administrative personnel. State Representative Donna Scheuren also presented them with citations from the PA House of Representatives. We thank all 5 of them for their dedication and sacrifice!

In the photo from left to right are: Marie Livelsberger (Chair, Board of Supervisors), Gary Moser, Joseph Deitz, Carol Slater-Kline, Joan Moyer, Betty Webster, and State Representative Donna Scheuren.

Ordinary People
Trained for the
Extraordinary.

There are many ways for you to get involved with New Hanover Fire & Rescue Services based off YOUR interest. Regardless of how you volunteer, you'll be a key part in keeping our community safe.

VOLUNTEER AS A:

FIREFIGHTER

Protect property and help save lives during an emergency. Learn to advance a hose line, how to position a ladder dependent on the situation, and perform search-and-rescue duties.

EMT

Administer pre-hospital medical care. Transport the sick and injured to the hospitals.

FIRE POLICE

Keep community members and responders safe by directing traffic and controlling crowds.

JUNIOR FIREFIGHTER

Gain experience by assisting with groundwork at the scene of fires. Begin fire training to prepare to become an active firefighter at 18 years old.

ADMINISTRATIVE MEMBER

Assist with vehicle maintenance, fundraising, organizing community events and more.



Fill out an inquiry form at www.MONTCOFIREFIGHTERS.org to take the next steps toward volunteering. A member of New Hanover Fire & Rescue will contact you asap.



This publication is made available through the generous advertising sponsorship of the businesses listed throughout our newsletter. We wish to encourage your patronage of these establishments; they play a substantial role in the economic vitality of our community.

PUBLIC WORKS

Leaf Season:

- Leaves are recyclable and can be composted on your property. NHT residents may also drop them off, free of charge, at Hetrick Gardens at 2620 Swamp Pike, Gilbertsville, PA 19525.

Stormwater:

- All storm drains are checked and monitored before and during storms.
- Never dump anything into storm drains and never mow grass into the streets as it will clog drains and fill road drainage swales.

Salt Assist Barrels: Barrels are located on Schultz Road, Henning Road, Eichele Road, and Deep Creek Road (by Kulp Road). These are placed to help motorists with icy hill conditions to help keep traffic moving in case a vehicle is stuck during severe weather.

Snow Removal Tips:

- It is advised to use off-street parking when snow is predicted; when you park in the driveway there's less snow to shovel.
- Do not park over storm drains so that crew can clear snow and ice to avoid flooding from melting runoff.
- Do not shovel or blow snow back into the street after it has been plowed.
- Think Safety: never approach moving snow equipment - just because you can see the driver does not mean he can see you.
- If there's a fire hydrant near your home, please adopt it and keep it clear in case of an emergency.



State Roads in the Township:

- North Charlotte Street, Big Road (Route 73), and Layfield Road (Route 663).

Montgomery County Roads in the Township:

- Swamp Pike, Snyder Road, Deep Creek Road from Kulp Road to the township line at Fisher Lane, Kulp Road from Deep Creek Road to Hill Road, and Henning Road from Deep Creek Road to Snyder Road.



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END-OF-SEASON POOL CARE

Management of Swimming Pool, Hot Tub, and Spa Water Discharges

When it's time to close your pool for the season, please follow these steps to discharge water from swimming pools, hot tubs, and spas that are disinfected using chlorine, bromine, or "salt water disinfection".

Servicing of a pool, hot tub, or spa often involves discharging all or a portion of the water or backwash water from filters, both of which may contain residual chlorine at levels that could be damaging to the environment. These waters may be considered "polluted" (i.e., "wastewater"), and must be managed to protect public health and to prevent pollution to waters such as rivers, streams, lakes, and including storm sewers. The information below provides acceptable methods of managing discharges from swimming pools, hot tubs, and spas to avoid causing pollution. Pool, hot tub, and spa water should not be allowed to directly or indirectly discharge to waters, including storm sewers.

What substances in pools, hot tubs, or spas could cause pollution?

Chlorine and/or other disinfectants are typically added in sufficient amounts to kill potentially harmful bacteria. These disinfectants also react with other organic matter such as dirt, sweat, skin cells, leaves, and organisms creating potentially harmful disinfection byproducts. Other contaminants are added from the users, such as oil and grease from natural body oils and applied lotions and sunscreens. Chemicals commonly used in maintaining these systems, such as salt, borax, algaecides, phenols, caustic, and acid solutions, can be deadly to fish and other aquatic life. Backwashing of pool filters also contributes accumulated debris. All of these chemicals and materials have the potential to cause pollution and adversely affect public health and our waters.

What are acceptable methods for managing swimming pool, hot tub, and spa waters?

NHT residents are encouraged to drain the wastewater and infiltrate it into a vegetated area or use for on-site irrigation after these guidelines are met:

1. Shut off the chlorination/chemical feed system if there is one, or stop adding chlorine and chemicals.
2. Shut off the heating system, if there is one.
3. Hold the water in the pool or hot tub to reduce the chlorine level to 0.5 mg/L or less (if applicable), and the temperature to an acceptable level (generally within 10° F of the air temperature).
4. Test frequently – the water may need to be held for 10 days or more depending on the surrounding conditions. Recirculating the water may help to speed up this process.
5. Adjust the pH, if necessary, to between 6.0 and 9.0 standard units.
6. Never drain the pool on a rainy day or if the soil is saturated.

When discharging on-site for infiltration or using the water for irrigation, ensure that:

- The water will not flow into a storm sewer or other body of water.
- The water does not run off the property. Do NOT drain water into a driveway and/or the street. Drainage should drain onto your property to the greatest extent possible and may not drain directly onto an adjoining property.
- Nuisances such as prolonged ponding, odors, and mosquito breeding conditions are prevented.
- The flow rate is slow enough to allow infiltration and does not cause erosion. *If you have a picture of a pool in your digital archive, I'd be interested in maybe incorporating that.
- Solids are captured by attaching a filter bag to the end of the discharge hose, if needed.

May water from swimming pools, hot tubs, or spas be discharged to onlot septic systems?

No. Pool water should not be discharged into or on the surface of onlot systems because the system is not designed for the additional flow and the contaminants could impact the operation.

May chemicals (e.g., strong acids or caustics) be used to clean my pool, hot tub, or spa?

Yes, as long as the wastewater is captured or collected, properly treated and disposed of, and prevented from entering waters, including storm sewers.

How should wastewater from cleaning my pool be handled, properly treated and disposed of?

Cleaning wastewaters that contain acid, caustics, or chlorine rinses used to clean pool surfaces should be treated prior to discharge. All wastewaters, but especially cleaning wastewater, must be neutralized to a pH between 6.0 and 9.0 standard units. Chlorine rinses can be dechlorinated or should stand for a period of 10 days to allow chlorine degradation to a residual of 0.5 mg/L or less prior to discharge.

What should be done with standing water that has accumulated in a pool?

Standing water, accumulated rainfall, or pool water from the previous season should be pumped from the top, but only if the chlorine residual and pH values are acceptable, to avoid disturbing solids on the pool bottom, which should not be discharged. After the water has been pumped, manually clean out the solids.

Could someone who causes pollution by discharging water from swimming pools, hot tubs, or spas be penalized?

Yes. The Township will notify property owners if illicit discharges are detected and require cessation and/or remediation of any illicit discharge. Violations could result in the assessment of penalties pursuant to the Stormwater Management Ordinance and subject to a fine of up to \$1,000 per day.

If the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection determines that the management of swimming pool, hot tub, and spa wastewaters has caused pollution to waters of the commonwealth, the responsible party could be liable for civil penalties up to \$10,000 per day under the Clean Streams Law.

PARKS AND RECREATION

New Hanover Township has many fun events scheduled. Keep an eye on our website and follow New Hanover Township Parks & Recreation on Facebook for updates.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Fall Frolic Community Event

- Saturday, September 14, (rain date September 15)
- 12:00 PM to 5:00 PM
- Hickory Park - 2140 Big Road, Gilbertsville
- **Activities:** Zip line, rock wall, Euro Bungy, pony rides (Innova Riding Stables), obstacle course, inflatable slide, toddler bounce house, mini golf, trackless train, petting zoo (Party Animals Express)
- Blue & Orange Australian cattle dog characters (1:00 - 3:00 PM)
- Live performance by Kevin Fulmer
- Wilson's Catering, Van Pelt Hot Dogs, Kona Ice, Mister Softee, fries and funnel cakes by Upper Salford Fire Company
- Vendors and Artisan Booths: Available
- Free Entry
- **Wristbands:** \$10 for full access to all activities
- **Vendor Contact:** Submit application from website to sdelporte@newhanover-pa.org or call Sharon at 610-323-1008, ext. 101



Halloween Haunt

- Saturday, October 26
- 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM
- Community Park, 2766 Gail Drive, Gilbertsville

Pictures with Santa

- Saturday, December 7
- 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM
- Township Building, 2943 N. Charlotte Street, Gilbertsville
- Santa greets pets outdoors from 12 - 12:30 PM

Recreation Committee's First Event of 2025

- February 1st
- Adult-only dinner and dance
- La Massaria at Bella Vista, 2901 Fagleysville Road, Gilbertsville



PARKS AND FIELDS

Community Parks:

- **Briar Ridge Park:** Magnolia Drive, Gilbertsville – Amenities: Small Playground
- **Hickory Park:** 2140 Big Road, Gilbertsville – Amenities: Swimming Pool, Concession Stand, Pavilion Rentals, Grills, Playground, Fishing & Gaga Ball Pit
- **Swamp Creek Park:** 3179 Reifsnnyder Road, Gilbertsville – Amenities: Model Airplane Flying, Walking Trail (.8 miles), Historical School House, Small Playground & Dog Friendly
- **NHT Community Park:** 2766 Gail Drive, Gilbertsville – Amenities: Barn Rental, Childrens' Traffic Garden, Baseball/Softball Field, Basketball Court, Disk Golf, Hockey Court, Walking Trail, Pavilion Rental, Picnic Tables, Grills, Playground & Dog Friendly
- **Pleasant Run Park:** 600 Schultz Road, Perkiomenville – Amenities: Fishing Pond & Park Benches
- **Deep Creek Park:** Deep Creek Road (North of Pleasant Run Park), Perkiomenville – Amenities: Trails, Bird Watching & Picnic Tables
- **Windlestrae Park:** 132 Chalet Road, Gilbertsville – Amenities: Small Playground

Athletic Fields:

- **Gambone Complex:** 132 Chalet Road, Gilbertsville – Amenities: Two Football Fields
- **Middle Creek:** Dotterer Road, Gilbertsville – Amenities: Baseball Field & Two Soccer Fields
- **Layfield Park:** Dotterer Road, Gilbertsville – Amenities: Three Soccer Fields

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY BOARD (EAB) HAPPENINGS

New Hanover Township's Environmental Advisory Board has been busy. If you have been to Swamp Creek Park the past few months, you may have noticed plastic tarp over parts of the grassy areas or areas previously covered that have no grass, wondering what this was all about. The Meadows Project, as it is known, is looking at ways to transform grassy portions of land without the use of chemicals. Wildflower seeds were planted after the tarps were removed. Other portions near the tarped areas were tilled only and seeded. This project has already seen results with seeds taking in the previously tarped or tilled area. Not only will the meadow project enhance the beauty of the park, but it will also assist in water management in addition to bringing in pollinating insects like bees and butterflies.

EAB has been busy with other projects including the free native tree and plant giveaway in 2023, planting of pollinator friendly plants in Swamp Creek, and monitoring of storm water erosion in Swamp Creek.

Looking forward, the EAB is compiling data from past rainfall and monitoring future rainfall totals and undertaking an initiative for storm water retention basin retrofits.

If you are interested in becoming more involved in the environmental affairs of New Hanover Township, the EAB meets the second Monday of every month at 6:30 PM in the New Hanover Township building.



Tarp Removal October 2023



Seeding March 2023



Plant Sign May 2024



Stormwater Pollution Prevention Tips


FALL 2024

MANAGING STORMWATER ON YOUR PROPERTY THIS FALL

Fall is here! And with this change in season comes cooler temperatures, shorter days, and lots of yard work to tackle. When crossing off your to-do-list this fall, it's important to remember that yard debris is a significant source of stormwater pollution.

Organic plant material like grass clippings, leaves, and shrubbery trimmings can carry pesticides and fertilizers from your yard and deposit them in local waterways. Piles of leaves and grass clippings will overload a stream's ability to process leaf litter, causing nutrient pollution and oxygen depletion. Yard debris can also clog culverts, storm drains and pipes causing flooding.

Luckily, there are some easy steps that you can take on your property to reduce pollution and improve water quality!



Do not pile leaves or other yard waste near streams or drainage areas where they can blow or wash into creeks. Use designated leaf collection bags for curbside leaf recycling.



Recycle grass clippings and their nutrients by mulching them and leaves into your lawn or piling them in your garden beds. They will add nutrients back into your lawn and provide shelter for wildlife during the winter.



Do not blow leaves or grass clippings off of your property into streets, streams, ponds or drainage swales.



Plant a native tree! Trees provide vital habitat for wildlife and absorb more stormwater than your lawn does.

LEARN MORE BY SCANNING THIS QR CODE OR VISITING OUR WEBSITE: WWW.PERKIOMENWATERSHED.ORG



HISTORICAL SOCIETY ACTIVITIES AT SWAMP CREEK PARK

The Township Historical Society maintains several interesting historic features located in Swamp Creek Park on Reifsnnyder Road. First and foremost is the one-room schoolhouse, the building with the steeple at the far end of the Park. First opened to students in 1853, the school served nearby children of the Township for a full century until the Boyertown Area School District consolidation. The Historical Society restored and maintains the schoolhouse as its headquarters, and public meetings are held there except for in the winter months.

The smaller building near the center of the park along Reifsnnyder Road is the Summer Kitchen of the Dengler family, original owners of the farm from which the park was eventually formed. Restored and maintained in its circa 1845 condition, the Summer Kitchen and adjacent garden serve to demonstrate mid-nineteenth century local Pennsylvania Dutch folk culture and domestic arts.

The kitchen garden, a smaller version of what would have been necessary to feed a hungry farming family in the mid-1800's, like its predecessors, contains four central raised beds for annual vegetable plants and interior perimeter beds containing perennial herbs and medicinal plants, and a few flowering plants. We also utilize a portion of the exterior perimeter for beans and other vining plants that use the fence palings for support.



This spring we updated the four central raised beds by enclosing them to better maintain growing conditions. To permit all-weather use of the garden we also covered the pathways with wood chips, a real improvement for visiting



need replacement, which will be a major task.

During the warmer months of the year, volunteer members of the Historical Society hold general work sessions on Fridays from 10 AM to 2 PM to maintain the facilities and the garden. Of special interest is the mid-day meal served to the volunteers. Prepared in the open hearth and wood-fired bake oven by our members, it frequently attracts park users as they pass by on the adjacent walking/biking trail. Smoke from the chimney and the wonderful aromas that accompany it are an invitation to many park visitors to stop and ask, "What's cooking?" and "Can we see inside?". Anyone interested in learning more about open hearth cooking or working with her is invited to contact Jacquelyn Daley at the number below.

Swamp Creek Park is a busy place on any day of the week and there is much to see and do there. With its well-maintained $\frac{3}{4}$ mile walking/biking trail, small playground, and a large Radio Controlled Airplane Club facility, in addition to the Historical Society facilities, it is an outdoor activity center of which the Township can be rightfully proud. If you can't make it on Fridays to visit the Schoolhouse or Summer Kitchen, arrangements can be made at other times by calling 610-326-4165 (Bob Wood for Schoolhouse) or 215-234-4119 (Bill/Jacquelyn Daley for garden and Summer Kitchen). We look forward to welcoming more visitors now that COVID-19 presents less of a health risk.

THE SNEAKY SABOTEURS OF SEWER SYSTEMS



Flushable wipes, often marketed for their convenience, have emerged as a significant source of disruption to plumbing and wastewater systems worldwide. Despite claims of biodegradability, these wipes, composed of non-biodegradable materials, stubbornly resist disintegration, leading to frequent blockages in pipes and sewers. Consequently, sewage treatment plants face overwhelming challenges, necessitating costly repairs and posing severe environmental risks.

In contrast to toilet paper, flushable wipes maintain their strength and shape when wet, exacerbating their tendency to clog pipes and cause backups. This durability challenges sewage treatment facilities, which struggle to manage the influx of non-biodegradable materials, prompting the need for expensive adaptations. Additionally, these wipes persist in the environment long after disposal, releasing harmful chemicals and microplastics that further contribute to ecological harm.

In response to this pressing issue, some communities have taken proactive measures by implementing regulations that designate wipes as "non-flushable" unless they meet stringent disintegration criteria. These initiatives aim to encourage responsible disposal practices among consumers. It's imperative for individuals to understand the genuine cost of convenience and adopt proper disposal methods to mitigate the adverse impacts of flushable wipes on infrastructure and the environment.

By refraining from the use of flushable wipes and embracing responsible disposal practices, consumers can play a vital role in minimizing the damaging effects of these products. Through collective action and awareness, we can work towards preserving the integrity of our infrastructure and safeguarding the health of our environment for future generations.

ARE YOU LOOKING FOR A FUN WAY
TO GET OUT AND GET MOVING?



Montco Trail Challenge

April 27 - December 2



Get Started Today!

1. Register yourself and any household members on the program website.
2. Print or pick up your official Montco Trail Challenge card.
3. Get out and go! Visit any of the 18 participating trails or three of your choosing as a “free space.”
4. Record your symbol and submit your findings online or return to a drop box.

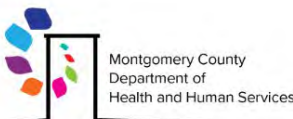


LEARN MORE OR REGISTER FOR THE 2024 TRAIL CHALLENGE
WWW.MONTGOMERYCOUNTYPA.GOV/TRAILCHALLENGE



New in 2024!

Royersford Riverfront Trail



Funding for the Community Traffic Safety Program is provided by the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation Community Traffic Safety Project Grant.

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