

Lower Gwynedd Report



Message from the Chair



Danielle A. Duckett, Chair

Happy New Year. I am happy to share that a lot has happened in Lower Gwynedd this last quarter! Our committees have been actively meeting and engaging with the community. With the passing of our Anti-discrimination Ordinance, we established our newest committee, our Human Relations Commission, who have been working hard to establish programming and outreach within the community. Our Historic Committee, which we established last year, has also been evaluating the historic properties in Lower Gwynedd and beginning a process of formally marking the rich history that makes our community so great.

As planning has been one of my top priorities, I am pleased to share that we have embarked upon the process of updating our comprehensive plan. The committee has been meeting to identify priorities and will be looking for a lot of input from residents. Please be on the lookout for public meetings where your input will be integral to planning for the future of our Township.

Our Police Department’s Community Response Unit (CRU) has been engaging with the community regularly. They have visited and provided training to our senior centers, provided hot chocolate and assistance to the MLK peace walk, collected food for the Mattie Dixon community cupboard, and are hoping that any and all homeowners associations know that they can reach out if they would like information presented to their residential community.

We have received multiple grants, including over a million dollars to assist with developing a plan for a public works facility and over seventy-five thousand dollars to create a strategic plan to update and renovate our parks. We are grateful for our partnerships with Senator Collett and Representative Hanbidge in obtaining this funding.

We also passed a budget with no tax increase and a strong focus on planning and a firm outline of capital projects for upcoming years.

Our Inaugural Fall Fest was a wild success and filled with fun for the entire family. We couldn’t have ordered a better day. We are so happy to be able to host such a wonderful event to celebrate our residents, local businesses, and community partners. We will have our Fall Fest again on Houston Road in the Wissahickon School District Complex. Please mark your calendars and save Saturday, September 23rd!

To stay up-to-date with important information, remember to sign-up for email blasts at our website www.lowergwynedd.org, follow us on Twitter @ LowerGwyneddPA, and like us on Facebook at “Lower Gwynedd Township.”

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

Best,
Danielle A. Duckett
Chair

INDEX

E-Waste Recycling Day & Paper Shredding Event	3
Comprehensive Plan Revision	3
Lower Gwynedd Township Contact Directory	4
Messages from our Fire Marshal.....	5
Spring House (Phase 2) Intersection Project	5
Local Spotlight.....	5
Lower Gwynedd Police Department.....	6
Land Development & Subdivision Update	7
Spring Yard Waste Collection Dates.....	7
Parks and Recreation	8-11
Public Works.....	12
Stormwater Management	12
Why is Reducing Food Waste Important?	13
Lower Gwynedd’s Environmental Advisory Council	14
Historic Advisory Committee	15
Lower Gwynedd Township Human Relations Commission	16

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Urban

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Peter "Skip" Urban, Supervisor, Lower Gwynedd Resident
Peter A. Urban, Jr., Funeral Director, Upper Dublin Resident



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Spring House, Pa 19477-0244

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PA LIC# 6172





Lower Gwynedd Township
E-Waste Recycling Day & Paper Shredding Event
April 1st, 2023 8am-12pm

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

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

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

WHEN: April 1, 2023- 8:00 AM-12:00 PM (earlier if full capacity is reached)

QUESTIONS: Contact Jamie Worman, Lower Gwynedd Township, Phone: (215) 646-5302 or
jworman@lowergwynedd.org

**ACCEPTABLE ITEMS: ELECTRONICS-ANYTHING WITH A PLUG! EX. LAPTOPS, COMPUTERS, FAX
MACHINES, TELECOMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT, CHRISTMAS LIGHTS, ETC. & PAPER.**

*****This service is for Township residents only, proof of residency required to access the site. Residents must remain in their vehicles at all times. Items to be recycled or shredded must be placed in the trunk, pick-up truck bed, or a small trailer. Employees will remove these items from your vehicle when you arrive. Items will only be collected during the event time. Items cannot be delivered before or after the event!! Excessive amounts of paper and/or electronics may be turned away at the Township's discretion. We cannot start the event early so please do not park or enter the parking lot prior to the 8:00 a.m. start time.***

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN REVISION

Lower Gwynedd Township officially began the process of revising the Comprehensive Plan in January with the official kick-off meeting held January 30th, 2023. Township staff is working directly with the Montgomery County Planning Commission team and will be assisted by a steering committee made up of Township volunteers. A comprehensive plan is a long-range planning document that outlines future growth and development for a municipality. The plans usually provide a planning frame of twenty years into the future to understand the community's evolving needs. Through extensive public engagement, a community vision is established that guides the plan's recommendations. Individual recommendations and implementation strategies are proposed to comply with and advance the community's goals and vision for the future. A new plan will incorporate recommendations and elements from previous plans as well as new ideas. It will be a resource to understand the community's natural resources, transportation network, and land use patterns. The plan will serve as a vision for the future of the township to guide policy decisions and resource allocations. The plan will take approximately 20-24 months to complete and adopt. We're looking forward to the residents of the Township participating in this process. We will be launching a public outreach campaign and will solicit feedback from our residents so that the plan is sure to capture what is important to the people who live, work and play in Lower Gwynedd!

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"

Township Manager: Mimi Gleason, Interim
Assistant Manager: Jamie Worman
Administrative Assistant: Michelle Farzetta
Police Chief: Paul Kenny
Public Works Director: Fred Zollers
Solicitor: Neil Stein, Esq., Kaplan Stewart
Engineer: Jim Hersh, Gilmore & Associates
Zoning Officer: Keystone Municipal
E.I.T.; Merc and LST Collection:
 Berkheimer Associates
Fire Marshal: Al Comly
Building Inspector/Plan Review:
 Keystone Municipal Services
Recreation Director: Sandi L. Feight
Parks Superintendent: Mitch Kulp
Real Estate 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 & 4th Wednesday (March)
 2nd and 4th Tuesday (April-December)
 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 Advisory 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

Election Day

Tuesday, May 16th

For Information Regarding Voting go to
montcopa.org/voterservices

UPCOMING TOWNSHIP

HOLIDAYS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

April 7th (Good Friday)
 May 29th (Memorial Day)
 June 19th (Juneteenth)
 July 3rd - July 4th (Independence Day)
 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)

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

Lower Gwynedd Township (Administration)215.646.5302
 Lower Gwynedd Township Police Department215.646.5303
 Lower Gwynedd Tax Collector
 (Real Estate, School, County).....267.460.1891
 Berkheimer Tax Administrator1.800.360.8989
 (EIT, Local Services Tax, Business Privilege Tax, Mercantile Tax)
 Congresswoman Madeleine Dean.....215.884.4300
 PA Senator Maria Collett.....215.368.1429
 PA Representative Melissa Cerrato717.772.1999
 PA Representative Liz Hanbidge610.277.3230
 Montgomery County610.287.3000
 Bucks County Water & Sewer.....215.343.2538
 PECO Customer Care.....1.800.494.4000
 To report an odor, a leak or other gas emergency1.800.841.4141
 Comcast Xfinity Customer Service.....1.800.XFINITY
 Verizon Residential Customer Service1.800.VERIZON
 PennDOT215.345-6060
 (Call in potholes).....1-800-FixRoad

Wissahickon Fire Company215.646.1266
 North Penn Volunteer Fire Company215.699.4337
 Community Ambulance Association of Ambler.....215.643.6517
Wissahickon School District
 Lower Gwynedd Elementary School215.619.8100
 Blue Bell Elementary215.619.8102
 Shady Grove Elementary215.619.8106
 Wissahickon Middle School.....215.619.8110
 Wissahickon High School215.619.8112
 Wissahickon Valley Library215.643.1320
 Wissahickon Valley Library (Ambler Branch)215.646.1072

The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation clears deer carcasses from State roads while the Pennsylvania Game Commission retrieves them from Township roads. Contact info below:

PennDOT1.800.FIXRoad
 PA Game Commission (Southeast Regional Office)610.926.3136



STAY IN TOUCH AND REGISTER TO RECEIVE E-NOTIFICATIONS

Township residents can register their email address to be notified when news items or alerts are posted on the website. Just visit the Township website at www.lowergwynedd.org and click the Login/Create Account icon at the top of the page to register. Take the time today and register on the website and you can begin receiving alerts.

MESSAGES FROM OUR FIRE MARSHAL

Spring will again be upon us very shortly. Each time I write for the newsletter, my goal is to send the message about being safe in all our activities. Before getting to my usual reminders about how to be fire safe, I have another message to communicate. The fire companies that serve the Township—Wissahickon and North Penn—are both all-volunteer fire companies. They are comprised of friends and neighbors who leave whatever they are doing to respond when the fire company is dispatched. I'm sometimes surprised at the reaction of our neighbors when the fire company responds to a call and I tell those neighbors that these responders are fully volunteer. Each company sends out fund solicitations to help them fund their operations—please think of them when you are considering a donation. And better yet, drop by one of the fire stations on Monday nights when they train and see what they do on the Township's behalf—or consider joining them in their efforts to serve the Township.

Here are a couple reminders regarding fire safety:

- Outdoor fire pits, chimenias and other similar manufactured products are allowed, with proper separation from combustibles. Building a campfire (larger than 3 feet by 3 feet by 3 feet in height) in the backyard is not one of the allowable burning choices, although special permission can be granted through the Fire Marshal's Office for a ceremonial event.
- No burning of trash, garden waste or any similar material is allowed in Lower Gwynedd Township. This is appropriate environmentally and respects each of our neighbors in addition to being a good fire safety practice. Smokey fires are not conducive to outdoor entertaining and don't make good neighbors.
- Use of barbeques on combustible decks is not a good practice. It is a code violation for all but single-family residences. Use of Barbeques on a porch or in a garage is a dangerous practice due to the potential for carbon monoxide poisoning.
- The use of tents larger than 20 feet by 20 feet, even temporarily, requires a permit from the Township. Even in smaller tents, the use of BBQs and other ignition sources requires care to avoid a fire. Additionally, we send the usual message that all systems require maintenance to operate correctly, for example:
 - Fire Alarm systems should be inspected. Smoke detector batteries, if you have them, should be replaced. Better solution is to purchase the up-to-date detectors with the 10-year lithium batteries—then you can just check operation and avoid the annual battery changes.
 - CO Detectors also need to be inspected. Old detectors (more than 3-5 years old) must be replaced to properly provide coverage.
 - Chimneys and heating stoves need to be checked and cleaned. Use the Spring and Summer to complete this so they will be ready for next Winter.
 - Check and make sure your house number is visible from the street.
 - Fire Hydrants—if hydrant is located on your property, make sure it is cleared of bush and shrubs at least 4 feet on all sides.
 - Driveways—if you have a long drive from the street, clear brush above and each side to allow apparatus access (16 feet wide, 14 feet high). Please contact the Fire Marshal's Office if you have a private bridge or gate to confirm that apparatus can access your residence.

SPRING HOUSE (PHASE 2) INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

The Spring House Intersection Improvement Project continues to move forward. In December of 2022 the Board of Supervisors approved McMahan, a Bowman company (McMahan), the Township Traffic Engineers, as the Construction and Inspection Managers of the project. They also authorized McMahan to move forward with the bid package preparation and advertisement for the improvement project. The intersection project is being funded in part through a PennDOT Multi-Modal Transportation Fund Grant and includes roadway improvements to be located at the intersection of Sumneytown Pike/Norristown Road (SR 2052). The roadway construction generally includes widening on Norristown Road (SR 2052) and Sumneytown Pike (County) to provide additional through lanes in the eastbound and westbound directions, traffic signal improvements, concrete sidewalk and bituminous trail modifications on the north side of Norristown Road and both sides of Sumneytown Pike, ADA ramp upgrades for all affected ramps within

the limits of work, and stormwater control measures/drainage system upgrades. Utility relocations are also included in the project. The proposed work is within PennDOT, Montgomery County, or Lower Gwynedd Township right-of-way and/or temporary construction easements. Phase 1 of the project completed in 2021 included the widening of the culvert on Sumneytown Pike. Project construction is anticipated to occur April – December 2023. Lower Gwynedd Township, and the project team, in accordance with PennDOT and Montgomery County requirements, will make every effort to minimize inconvenience to the community and traveling public while the proposed improvements are constructed. Advance notice of the construction schedule, once established, will be communicated to the property owners within the limits of work. Regular project information updates will be posted on the Lower Gwynedd Township website during the project construction.

LOCAL SPOTLIGHT

Kanna for All (KFA) is a nonprofit organization founded in 2022 with the mission to build the foundation of lifelong health and well-being, through community-based fitness, for the youth who need it most.

KFA provides scholarships to youth who otherwise can't afford fitness classes, which we run for kids as young as 3 and up to teenagers, at Kanna Fitness in Ambler. Kids are welcome to try out a class before applying by reaching out to steph@kanna.fit! Scholarship applications are available online or KFA can provide paper copies. KFA is also looking to work with local youth groups. If you are interested in learning more, please contact us at kfastrong@gmail.com.

<https://kanna.fit/kfa/> • 267-405-3451



LOWER GWYNEDD POLICE

Lower Gwynedd Township Police Community Response Unit

The 2022 Year in Review

As you all may be aware, the Police Department started a Community Response Unit. Sgt Michael Rogge and Officer William Henry (Townie) are the Officers assigned to this Unit. The Unit started in July with a Kona with Cops event and a second one in August. The officers moved full-time into their role in September.

Since starting, the Unit has handled traffic complaints, given Community presentations on scams, attended Lower Gwynedd Elementary trunk or treat event, partnered with the Spring House Giant for Cider with cops, and food drive for the Mattie Dixon food cupboard (1000 pounds collected) and attended the Ambler Borough Christmas Parade.

What is Coming in 2023

We will be utilizing a new website called Crimewatch. This website will streamline communication and engagement with the community. This website will have programs for the community to register for, ie: safe cam, extra patrol, car seat checks, and many more.

We will continue with the events from 2022 and add a few more for 2023. We are partnering with the Lower Gwynedd Parks and Recreation Department for an Easter Egg hunt. We would like to establish an annual event for the community, so we will be doing Touch-A-Truck. Touch-A-Truck is an outdoor family-friendly event designed to allow children to explore and interact with vehicles of all shapes and sizes.

We are always looking for community input. If you have any suggestions or would like to volunteer at one of our events, please contact us at lgpdcr@lowergwynedd.org.



Lower Gwynedd Police
Community Response Unit

TOUCH A TRUCK

SEE - TOUCH - EXPLORE - HONK

May 20, 2023 11 am - 2 pm

****Sensory friendly (no noise) 11 am - 12pm
for Adults/Children with special needs****

1201 Sunneytown Pike (Old Siemen's Property)

The poster features a colorful illustration of various vehicles including a fire truck, a garbage truck, a cement mixer, a bulldozer, an excavator, a dump truck, and a police car, all on a winding road with traffic cones. A group of diverse children is shown in the top right corner.



Kayin Nix and Staff

Police Academy Graduate

The Lower Gwynedd Township Board of Supervisors and Staff would like to congratulate Kayin Nix who graduated from the Montgomery County Police Academy in December. Kayin joined the Lower Gwynedd Police Department last year but was required to complete the 24-week training program before reporting for active duty.

Congratulations, Kayin!

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

- **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. Under review.
- **541 Station Lane-Ward/Ivory Lot Line Adjustment (#22-08LL):** A-Residential; Location- 541 Plymouth Road (address 541 Station Lane); Applicant-Jessica & Joseph Ward; Summary-applicant proposes the lot line adjustment of two residential parcels to convey 0.17 acres from lot 1 to lot 2. There is no construction proposed. Under review.

Approved/Under Construction

- **601 Knight Road-Waiver of Land Development (#22-03WLD):** 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.
- **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. PC recommended approval 10/19/22; BOS approval pending.
- **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. PC recommended approval 11/16/22. BOS approval pending.

- **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. The plan was recommended for preliminary/final approval to the Board of Supervisors. Approved 9/27/22. Under construction.
- **820 N. Bethlehem Pike (Goddard School) Land Development (#21-01LD):** Non-residential redevelopment; Location-820 N. Bethlehem Pike; Applicant-Beth Pike LLC; Summary- A non-residential redevelopment of this property that will include 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.



SPRING YARD WASTE COLLECTION DATES

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

Saturday, April 8th, 2023
Saturday, May 13th, 2023

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



PARKS AND RECREATION

Registration

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

Refunds: Full refunds will only be issued if the Parks & Recreation Department cancels a program. All refunds requested by the registration that are granted will be charged a \$5 administration fee.

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

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

New Interactive Digital Parks & Trails Map

Our Township is home to over 25 miles of non-continuous trails. Since the pandemic, trail use has increased tremendously. We have created a trail map through Google Maps that residents can now access on their mobile devices. The map indicates the location of all the trails, trail distance, parking areas, trail surfacing, and contains photos at trailheads and trail junctions. The Township will update the map as information changes or new information becomes available.

There is a tutorial on the website as to how to use the map. Using the navigation technology through Google Maps allows residents to have a clearer understanding of their location and orientation as to the direction they are walking. In addition to the tutorial, there is a complete listing of the trail names associated with the trail marking system. *If you have any questions regarding the map, please contact the Parks & Recreation Department at 215-646-5302.*

DOG ORDINANCE

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

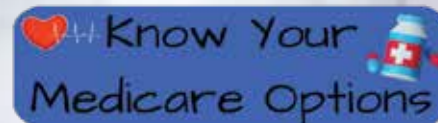
FREE Educational Seminar

Steve Perlman from Del Val Senior Advisors will be hosting the seminar and answering any questions you have regarding Medicare Options.



**Tuesday, May 16th
6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Penllyn Woods Community Building**

To register, please call 215-646-5302



PARKS AND RECREATION

Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 1st
10 am - 11 am
Penllyn Woods

- 10:00-10:15 am - 0-3 years old
- 10:15-10:30 am - 4-7 years old
- 10:30-10:45 am - 8+ years old

EASTER

PLEASE BRING YOUR OWN BASKET!!

SCIENCE EXPLORERS

Summer 2023 Camps

Jr. Investigative Team
Ages: 4-6 years
Week of July 24 - July 28
9:00 a.m. - 12 p.m. (Half Day)
Penllyn Woods
Community Building

Far Out Space Academy
Week of August 7-11
Ages: 7-11 years
9:00 a.m. - 12 p.m. (Half Day)
9:00 - 4:00 p.m. (Full Day)

Register Through www.scienceexplorers.com

Penllyn Woods Community Building

Looking for a great location to have a family gathering, celebrations, parties, baby shower, bridal shower? Reserve the space at the Penllyn Woods Community Building. For more information about the facilities and other pavilion options check the township webpage or contact the Parks & Recreation Department at 215-646-5302.

SPRING HAS SPRUNG!

Don't forget, you can reserve the pavilions in the parks!

-Birthday parties - Family gatherings - Showers - Etc.

Resident- \$40 up to 4 hours
Non Resident- \$75 up to 4 hours

For more information or to reserve a date & time please visit our website, lowergwynedd.org
Click on Parks & Rec link under Departments or Call 215-646-5302

SAVE THE DATE

LOWER GWYNEDD Fall Fest

09-23-23
HOUSTON ROAD

MUSIC | FOOD
AMUSEMENTS AND MORE
QUESTIONS?
CONTACT 215-646-5302 OR
SFEIGHT@LOWERGWYNEDD.ORG

PARKS AND RECREATION



LOWER GWYNEDD PICKLEBALL CLINICS

Saturday Pickleball Clinics

Session 1: March 18th - April 22nd
 12:00-1:30p Beginner Clinic
 1:30-3:00p Beginner/Intermediate Clinic
 3:00-4:30p Intermediate/Advanced Intermediate Clinic

Session 2: April 29th - June 3rd
 9:30-11:00a Beginner Clinic
 11:00-12:30p Beginner/Intermediate Clinic
 12:30-2:00p Intermediate/Advanced Intermediate Clinic

Thursday Pickleball Clinics

Session 1: April 13th - May 18th
 3:30-5:00p Beginner Clinic
 5:00-6:30p Intermediate Clinic

Session 2: June 1st - July 6th
 5:00-6:30p Beginner Clinic
 6:30-8:00p Intermediate Clinic

Oxford Park

Limited slots available. Adults 18+
 Instruction from PPR certified pros

Register at
www.gwyneddtennispickleball.com

CONTACT US:
 484-263-0960
info@universalrackets.com



LOWER GWYNEDD TENNIS PROGRAMMING

Sunday Junior and Adult Tennis Clinics

Session 1: 3/5-4/2
 Session 2: 4/16-5/21
 Session 3: 5/28-6/25

1-2p Youth Beginner/Advanced Beginners
 2-3p Youth Advanced Beginners/Intermediates
 3-4p Adults (all levels)

Monday/Wednesday Junior and Adult Tennis Clinics

Session 1: 4/17-5/17

4:30-5:30p Youth Beginner/Advanced Beginners
 5:30-6:30p Youth Advanced Beginners/Intermediates
 6:30-7:30p Adults

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Summer Concert Series
 OXFORD PARK
 WEDNESDAYS, JUNE 21ST - JULY 19TH
 7 - 8 PM

Full list of bands will be available on our website

PARKS AND RECREATION

Parks & Recreation SUMMER CAMP 2023

Location: Penllyn Woods

Time: 9 AM - 3 PM

Age: 6 (or completed Kindergarten) - 12



- \$150 first resident child per wk.
- \$125 each add'l resident child per wk.
- \$175 first *non-resident* child per wk.
- \$160 each *add'l non-resident* child per wk.



Camp will run every week starting Monday, June 19th, and conclude on Friday, August 11th



When registering you must indicate what weeks you are registering for



****Should there be a lack of participants, we will need to cancel. All monies will be refunded****

Any questions, or for more information, please call - 215-646-5302

SUMMER CAMP EMPLOYMENT

Lower Gwynedd Township is accepting applications for Summer Camp program. All applicants must have their clearance checks completed prior to their hiring. Employment Application can be found on the Lower Gwynedd Township website. Camp Counselors (paid position) must be 15 years of age or older.

Public Works

PennDOT Roads and Montgomery County Roads

The following roads are the responsibility of PennDOT or Montgomery County.

PennDOT Roads

Dekalb Pike
Norristown Road
Welsh Road

Plymouth Road between
Train tracks and Township Line Road
Evans Road
Gypsy Hill Road
Penn Ambler Road
Tennis Avenue
309 Expressway

Montgomery County Roads

Sumneytown Pike
Penllyn Pike
Plymouth Rd between Dekalb
and Train Tracks

Roads Project for 2023

Mill and Overlay

Township Line Road from Plymouth
to end School House Lane -
Swedesford Road to Dekalb Pike
Brights Lane

Alternate Roadways

School House Lane – Dekalb Pike
to Plymouth

Gwynedd Ave- Gypsy Hill to Gate at
railroad

Ultra-thin bond wearing course

Cindy Circle
Brights Circle
Knight Circle
Knight Road -Brights to Buckley

Buckley Road
Buckley Circle
Beaumont Place

Alternate Roadways

Pennbrooke Lane
Parsons Lane

Township Welcomes New Public Works Employees



Dennis Gravinese

Dennis Gravinese comes to us from Norristown Stormwater Authority and has over 6 years of Public Works Experience. He lives in East Norriton where is a member of Harmonville Fire Company No.1. Dennis has an Associate's Degree in Applied Science/Fire Science and has joined

Wissahickon Fire Company to further serve the residents of Lower Gwynedd.



Joe Gordon

Joe Gordon most recently worked as a concrete finisher before joining our Public Works Department. Joe grew up in Ambler and is currently Assistant Chief at Upper Gwynedd Township Fire Department. Joe also is a member of Wissahickon Fire Company serving the residents of Lower Gwynedd.

Stormwater Management

The Wissahickon Clean Watershed Partnership Update

The Wissahickon Creek meanders through the suburbs of Philadelphia, flowing through 15 municipalities across Montgomery County and Philadelphia County. The majority of Lower Gwynedd Township lies within the Wissahickon Watershed. Many residents do not realize that the entire main stem of the Wissahickon and most of its tributaries are impaired. This impairment determination, made by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) means that pollution has hindered the creek's use for drinking water supplies, fishing, recreation or the aquatic life that call the waterways home.

As you may be aware, in 2016, in response to new proposed regulations, 13 municipalities, including Lower Gwynedd Township, and 4 wastewater treatment plants joined together to form a coalition called the Wissahickon Clean Water Partnership, recognizing that collaborating at a watershed-wide scale is the best approach to improving the health of the Wissahickon Creek. This team of stakeholders has been working on a "Water Quality Improvement Plan" referred to as the WQIP. The plan is an adaptive, flexible management plan that will help our community improve water quality and habitat in the Wissahickon Watershed through continual incorporation of new data and information, and identification of opportunities and actions to positively impact the watershed over time. The plan is our roadmap for the future, helping to identify and prioritize projects, policies, and collaborative programs where efficiencies can be gained by working together. It includes a framework to assess the effectiveness of the plan and ensure regular evidence-based updates.

Stormwater best management practices (BMPs) are devices and actions that improve or prevent the pollution and/or flooding resulting from stormwater runoff. Over 60 projects throughout the watershed have been identified that will mitigate stormwater impacts and participating municipalities have committed to evaluate the adoption of stronger local policies. Wastewater treatment plants have also committed to optimizing their operations to further reduce nutrient loads to the Creek. The WQIP calls for educational outreach designed to raise awareness of the partnerships efforts and its importance to participating communities. Annual tracking of progress through monitoring the implemented BMPs and reporting methods are also included in the WQIP. The partnership continues to work through revisions to the plan through feedback received from the regulatory agencies. Efforts to reach a final approved plan are ongoing.

WHY IS REDUCING FOOD WASTE IMPORTANT? (STATISTICS)*



Created by Dairy Free Design from Nisus Project

Big Picture

- 31% of available food at the retail and consumer level went uneaten or 133 billion pounds, representing \$162 billion or 141 trillion calories.
- Up to 40% of all food produced goes uneaten in the US. That is equivalent to \$165 billion each year and 20lbs of food per person per month.



Created by Karibell Novosencovskout from Nisus Project

Where Does Food Waste Occur?

- 85% of food waste occurs downstream in consumer-facing businesses and homes.
- 50% of seafood, 48% of vegetables, 38% of grains, 22% of meat, and 20% of milk gets tossed.



Created by Arthur Orban from Nisus Project

Cost Impact

- The average American family of 4 spends \$1,600 a year on food that goes uneaten.
- Americans spent more annually on wasted food than on vehicle gasoline (\$1,250); apparel (\$1,207); household heating and electricity (\$1,149); property taxes (\$1,046); and household maintenance, repairs, and insurance (\$936) for the average single-person household in 2017.



Created by kovaneeed.com from Nisus Project

Environmental Impacts

- In the US alone, the production of lost or wasted food generates the equivalent of 37 million cars' worth of GHG emissions.
- In a landfill, food waste creates methane, a greenhouse gas 28 times more potent than CO₂.
- Composting food waste avoids the production of greenhouse gas emissions in a landfill and actually stores and restores carbon in the soil.
- According to the US EPA's WARM model, 1 ton of food waste generates 1190 lbs. of CO₂e GHG emission in a landfill while composting can remove 397 lbs. CO₂e/ton.
- Food waste globally is responsible for 3.3 gigatons of CO₂e annually which if regarded as a country would be the third-largest emitting country after the US and China.



Created by Pham Thanh Lin from Nisus Project

Hunger Impact

- Reducing food loss and waste by just 15% could feed more than 25 million people a year.



Created by Pham Boep from Nisus Project

Wasted Resources

- Getting food to our table consumes 10% of total US energy, 50% of US land, and 80% of US freshwater.
- Food that is never eaten in the US consumes 21% of all freshwater, 18% of cropland, 19% of all fertilizer, and 21% of landfill volume.
- Food waste contributes to the wasting of fresh water. Every pound of beef thrown out sends to the landfill the equivalent amount of fresh water as 370 minutes of the shower being run — 104 minutes for every pound of chicken, 5 min for every tomato, 42 min for every pound of bananas, and 122 min for every pound of cheese.



Created by Abdulrahman Frazier from Nisus Project

Landfill Impacts

- Food waste is the single largest component taking up space inside US landfills (21%).

* Adapted from the City of Rochester, NY, Food Waste Education Outreach Program.

Lower Gwynedd's Environmental Advisory Council



What is the EAC?

The Lower Gwynedd Township Environmental Advisory Council has a mission to educate, facilitate and promote sustainable practices within Lower Gwynedd Township and the greater community through educational workshops and programs, articles, and community events.

We are Lower Gwynedd Township residents dedicated to ensuring a greater quality of life for our community through educational outreach, involvement, and best practices. We are always looking for new associate members who have an interest in helping with our mission. Please visit the township webpage for dates of our upcoming public meetings and plan to join us to learn more.

April is Earth Month!

While the EAC counts every day as Earth Day, we also want to bring attention to the special emphasis the international community assigns to April 22nd each year. We will be scheduling several activities throughout the month of April that promote good stewardship of our local environment. Among these are the Storm Drain Labeling activity on April 1st and a Route 309 ramp clean up on April 15th. (One of Earth Day's big initiatives this year is The Great Global Cleanup.) By the time you read this article, we will be ready to publicize other initiatives that are in planning, including efforts to reduce food waste (look for details on home composting workshops) and promote healthy native landscapes (watch for information on native plantings, bird walks and the fall tree giveaway).

Native Tree Giveaway

Lower Gwynedd Township's first annual Native Tree Giveaway, held on October 1, 2022, was a huge success. 200 residents received one of eight native trees to plant on their property last fall, helping us to increase our tree canopy, which has many benefits locally and globally. Visit <https://bit.ly/LGT-tree-giveaway> for more information about these benefits. Our next tree giveaway will be held again in early fall, the ideal time to plant trees. Registration for trees will open in early September. Keep an eye out for emails and a postcard announcing the details about how you can reserve your tree for 2023.

If you received a tree last fall, please be sure to keep it watered this summer if we have any prolonged periods of dryness. Newly planted trees should receive a deep soaking from rain or the hose once a week for their first summer.

Stream Crossing Signage

For hundreds of years, the residents of Lower Gwynedd depended upon various streams and creeks to support the local economy. Streams powered mills and workshops, and sustained crops and livestock. Over the years, roads and bridges were built over the streams, and their importance and names were literally buried. While no longer needed for commerce, these streams still contribute to the quality of our local environment, supporting plants and wildlife, and moderating the effects of rainfall and runoff (think flooding!).

The most well-known local creek is of course the Wissahickon, which starts near



Montgomery Mall and ends where it flows into the Schuylkill River in Fairmount Park. There are three streams that feed the Wissahickon completely within the township borders: Penllyn Creek, Trewellyn Creek, and Willow Run. In addition, Rose Valley and Park Creeks also run through portions of Lower Gwynedd.

The EAC conducted a survey of all the stream crossings in the township and found 53 locations where public roads cross over different streams. As a first step to improved environmental awareness, new signage was put in place last month at the 15 most prominent locations, along Bethlehem, Penllyn, and Sumneytown Pikes, and several smaller roads. You may have noticed the new signage that shows the name of the stream as well as a note that it "flows to the Wissahickon". This is a reminder that even though you may be a mile away from it, what happens at the small streams (litter, spills, overuse of chemicals) eventually ends up in the Wissahickon and the water supply. More signs will be going up in 2023, and the EAC will work with neighboring townships to expand the signs throughout the watershed. Keep an eye out as you drive around, and you'll be amazed how intertwined our community is with the Wissahickon.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THESE UPCOMING EAC EVENTS

Protect Water Quality by Marking a Storm Drain - Volunteers Needed!

How YOU can help protect water quality in the Wissahickon Creek Watershed!

Please join the Lower Gwynedd Township Environmental Advisory Council on Saturday, April 1, 2023 from 9:00am - 11:30am to conduct a storm drain marking event in the Brights Lane and Meadowcreek Circle neighborhoods. Residents of these neighborhoods are encouraged to participate, but all are welcome! More information and the volunteer sign-up are available here: <https://bit.ly/EACStormwater>. We hope to see you in April!



BIRD TOWN PENNSYLVANIA

Bird Town Bird Walks

Mark your calendar for the 3rd Friday of most months, and plan to join us at various parks throughout the township as we take leisurely walks in search of the sights and sounds of our local avian visitors. To be added to the bird walk notification list for reminders or updates in case of any changes, please send an email to: lgteac+birdtown@gmail.com.

Upcoming walks:

- March 17th, 8:30 am - Penllyn Woods
- April 21st, 8:30 am - Oxford Park
- May 19th, 8:30 am - Penllyn Woods
- June 16th, 8:30 am - Treweryn Farm Trail Park

Battery Recycling Dates for 2023:

March 11, May 13, July 15, Sept 9, Nov 11

Visit <https://bit.ly/LGTEACBatteries> for details on what batteries are accepted for recycling and how to properly prepare certain types.

Historic Advisory Committee

Did you know that our township celebrates a milestone this year? It's our 325th anniversary!

It's an ideal time for our Historic Advisory Committee to begin our first full year advocating for our historic resources and celebrating with everyone the amazing place (and places!) we call home.

The Board of Supervisors officially approved the Committee in Summer 2022. As a permanent advisory committee (as opposed to ad-hoc), we are looking to develop both short-term and long-term plans and tools that support and bolster our local historic places, communities, and landscapes.

Among our charges from the Board: review and make recommendation concerning existing and proposed historical preservation ordinances; create or enhance a media database of historic properties in the Township; educate the public and highlight historic neighborhoods; identify historical resources and recommend plans and programs to the Township for the promotion and preservation and conservation of historical resources; make recommendations as to the possible use of historic properties owned or maintained by the Township.

To that end, the Committee (along with leadership from the Wissahickon Valley Historical Society) toured the Ingersoll-Claytor House last fall. This property on Old Bethlehem Pike south of the township building sits along the Willow Run, which feeds into the Wissahickon Creek. The house is a 3-story, 6-bay stone home with a cellar that houses a natural spring for which it is believed the Spring House area was named. A barn with a semi-legible date stone is also on the property. The inscriptions "1783" and the initials "E.C." suggest it was placed by Ezekiel Cleaver (1729-1785) or his son Ellis Cleaver (1758-1829), whose descendants owned the property until the 1880s. In 2000, descendants of the Ingersoll family sold the property for development. After a public outcry, the township purchased the tract containing the Ingersoll House and barn for \$468,990.



The goal of the tour was to inspect the space and build a list of recommendations for the Board to best utilize this important site. Could it be a public-use property and/or park? Could we rent it out for weddings? Could we generate revenue by rehabilitating a portion of it into a small office or co-work space or collaboration hub? Could it become a home again? Lots of exciting ideas are on the table! Preservation of both the home and barn is a priority: it is a historical property, certainly, and our citizens have a significant financial investment in it. Extreme options, such as destruction, have been ruled out, in part because environmental remediation costs alone could reach six figures (not to mention township citizens taking more than a half million-dollar loss on the property itself).

In late spring, we will also consider ideas for another township-owned historic property, the Gwynedd School (formerly McCormick House), near the Ingersoll Ball Park at Wister Ave. & Old Penllyn Pike. We welcome your ideas, too.

Lots of exciting work ahead, including creating historical markers to make people aware of our history, identifying and documenting more historic places, and sharing our fellow residents' historical finds through e-newsletters and the township's Facebook page. Tell us about the history that makes your corner of the township special so we can share it with others!

LOWER GWYNEDD TOWNSHIP HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

The Lower Gwynedd Township Human Relations Commission (HRC) was launched in December 2022. The HRC is a new 5-member commission established by the 2022 adoption of the Anti-Discrimination Ordinance, which prohibits discrimination in housing, commercial property, employment, and public accommodations, outlines procedures for filing a claim, and provides definitions and penalties. The HRC shall have jurisdiction over unlawful discriminatory acts committed within the Township and will not only serve to uphold rights, but to educate the community. You may view the Anti-Discrimination Ordinance at <https://www.lowergwynedd.org/media/3205/anti-discrimination-ordinance-website.pdf>. The commission can be reached at HRC@lowergwynedd.org. The meeting schedule is available on the Township website and additional information and resources will be shared with the community as available.



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