



Honey Brook Township

Chester County, PA



Issue 13, Volume 2

Summer 2023

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Please note: The Honey Brook Township Admin. Building's lobby is a drop-off point for non-perishable donations to the Honey Brook Food Pantry during the Township's normal business hours or any evening that there is a meeting. Consult the Pantry's website for the most up-to-date list of accepted (and needed) donation items.

Attention:

The Township Post Office box has been discontinued. Please note that the street address and mailing address are now both:

**500 Suplee Road
 Honey Brook, PA 19344**

edition of our Township News. It contains information about the Honey Brook Community Partnership's largest project coming in September, Harmony Day.

We suggest you keep this newsletter for future reference, as it contains important information. Up-to-date information is always available on the Township website at www.honeybrooktwp.com.

As has always been the case, please contact our Township staff at 610-273-3970 if you have any questions or concerns regarding the information contained in this publication or about the services the Township provides.

Sincerely,

The Honey Brook Township Board of Supervisors



Tracy Olsen

John McHugh

Laura Burdy

The following mission and vision statements were adopted by the Board of Supervisors in 2004:

The mission of the Board of Supervisors of Honey Brook Township shall be to provide municipal services related to land use, police protection, and public works, in order to maintain a community that supports a tranquil and rural way of life.

The vision of the Board of Supervisors for the future of Honey Brook Township is that the Township shall remain a predominantly agricultural community that surrounds a population hub offering various commercial and social activities. The vision includes the establishment of a land preservation program, the concentration of non-agricultural uses along specific portions of major arterials, betterment of current low-income housing areas, upgrading of all governmental and quasi-governmental facilities, reduction of non-local traffic in congested areas, and exploration of Township and Borough integration.

Honey Brook Township Administration Office
 500 Suplee Road * Honey Brook, PA 19344 * Phone 610 273-3970 * Fax 610.273.3909 * E-mail info@honeybrooktwp.com
 Office hours: 9 am-3 pm Monday – Friday * Holiday Closures as announced / posted

General Information

Township Population (2020 census): 8,274
 State Roads: 24 miles

Land Area: 25.4 square miles
 Township Roads: 52.47 miles

Township Taxes. The Township collects two types of tax each year—a 1.5% Earned Income Tax and a real estate tax based upon a property’s assessed valuation.

Earned Income Tax. Keystone Collections Group collects this tax on behalf of the Township and the Twin Valley School District (TVSD). The school district receives one-half of one percent from this tax. The remaining one percent goes to the Township (0.5% for general funding and 0.5% for land preservation purchases). Like your state and federal income taxes, you must file with Keystone by April 15th each year. Forms are available by contacting Keystone Collections Group 610-269-4402. Failure-to-File Notices for the previous year are sent after October 15. Call 1-866-539-1100 or visit Keystone’s website at <https://www.keystonecollects.com/> to file electronically.

Real Estate Tax.* Residents in Honey Brook Township pay real estate taxes to three agencies:

1. **Twin Valley School District.** The School District collects its own real estate tax. The 2023-2024 tax rate is 32.4937 mills for Chester County. Contact the district’s tax office at 610-286-8632 for more information.
2. **Chester County.** Chester County collects its own real estate tax (Chester County Treasurer: 610-344-6370). The 2023 tax rate is 4.551 mills. Contact the County Assessment office at 610-344-6105 for more information.
3. **Honey Brook Township.** The Chester County Treasurer collects the Township’s real estate tax. The 2023 tax rate is 1.35 mills, allocated as follows: 0.7 mills to Township General Services, 0.5 to Fire Services, and 0.15 mills to Emergency Medical Services.

*County and Township tax rates take effect January 1; School District tax rates take effect July 1.



Twin Valley School District (TVSD)

Serving Elverson and Honey Brook Boroughs and Honey Brook and West Nantmeal Townships in Chester County; and New Morgan Borough and Caernarvon and Robeson Townships in Berks County

4851 North Twin Valley Road, Elverson, PA 19520-9310 * Phone 610-286-8600 * Fax 610.286.8608 * www.tvsd.org
 Superintendent: Dr. Patrick Winters

Twin Valley High School	* 610-286-8600 *	4987 North Twin Valley Road, Elverson, PA 19520
Twin Valley Middle School	* 610-286-8660 *	770 Clymer Hill Road, Elverson, PA 19520
Honey Brook Elementary Center	* 610-273-3615 *	1530 West Walnut Street, Honey Brook, PA 19344
Robeson Elementary Center	* 610-582-9580 *	801 White Bear Road, Birdsboro, PA 19508
Twin Valley Elementary Center	* 610-286-8670 *	50 Mast Drive, Elverson, PA 19520

Appointed Officials and Staff

Township Manager/Secretary, Warren Obenski: oversees the day-to-day administration of Township business, including budgeting, staff, and services.
Public Works Director, Don Johnson: oversees the maintenance of Township roads and signs, storm sewers, and Township buildings and grounds.

Treasurer, Peter Barsz: handles all receipts and expenses and provides detailed accounting thereof.

Building Code Official/Zoning Officer, Technicon Enterprises, Inc.: enforces zoning, building, and maintenance codes.

Emergency Management Coordinator (EMC), Robert Esposito, Jr.: prepares plans to protect the community from a natural or manmade disaster.

Engineer, Michael Reinert, Technicon Enterprises, Inc.: prepares designs for stormwater systems, roads, and bridges, reviews SALDO plans, and works closely with the Planning Commission.

Solicitor, Beth Kohl, Esq.: provides legal opinions & guidance; represents the Township in court.

Solicitor to Zoning Hearing Board (ZHB), Christopher Hartman, Esq.: provides the ZHB with guidance.

Administrative Office staff: Miranda Acosta, Kris Bry, and Kristy Deischer-Eddy

Public Works Staff: Carl Brown, Kevin Kennedy, and Jeffrey Paulson

Township Boards, Committees, and Commissions

Recreation and Park Board: advisory body that makes recommendations to the Board of Supervisors regarding Township Park areas and facilities. It also organizes and conducts a variety of recreation programs & activities. There is a vacancy on this Board.**

Planning Commission: advisory body that reviews all proposed subdivision and land development (SALDO) plans and public hearing applications and recommends action to the Board of Supervisors. It also reviews proposed amendments to the Township's zoning and SALDO regulations and prepares the draft of the Township's Comprehensive Plan which is updated every 10 years.

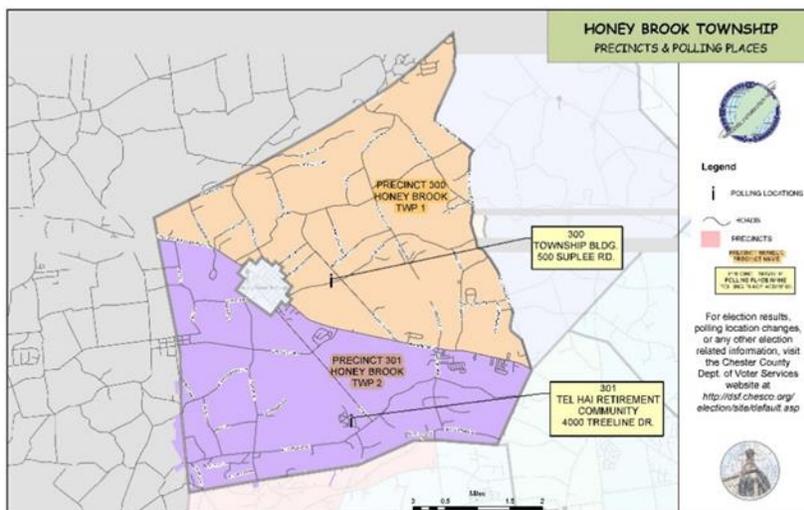
Land Preservation Committee: advisory body that reviews applications for agricultural conservation easements and recommends farms for preservation to the Board of Supervisors.

Zoning Hearing Board: quasi-judicial body that hears appeals from landowners seeking relief from zoning regulations and then renders a decision. See page 6 for more information about Zoning Hearings.

All meetings are open to the public and are held in the Township Administration Building's meeting room. See meeting schedule on page 4. Each Board, Committee, and Commission reorganizes at its first meeting of the year. Check the website for updated information.

****If you are interested in serving on a Board, Committee, or Commission, please submit a letter of interest and brief resume to the Township Manager during normal business hours at 500 Suplee Road or by e-mail at manager@honeybrooktwp.org.**

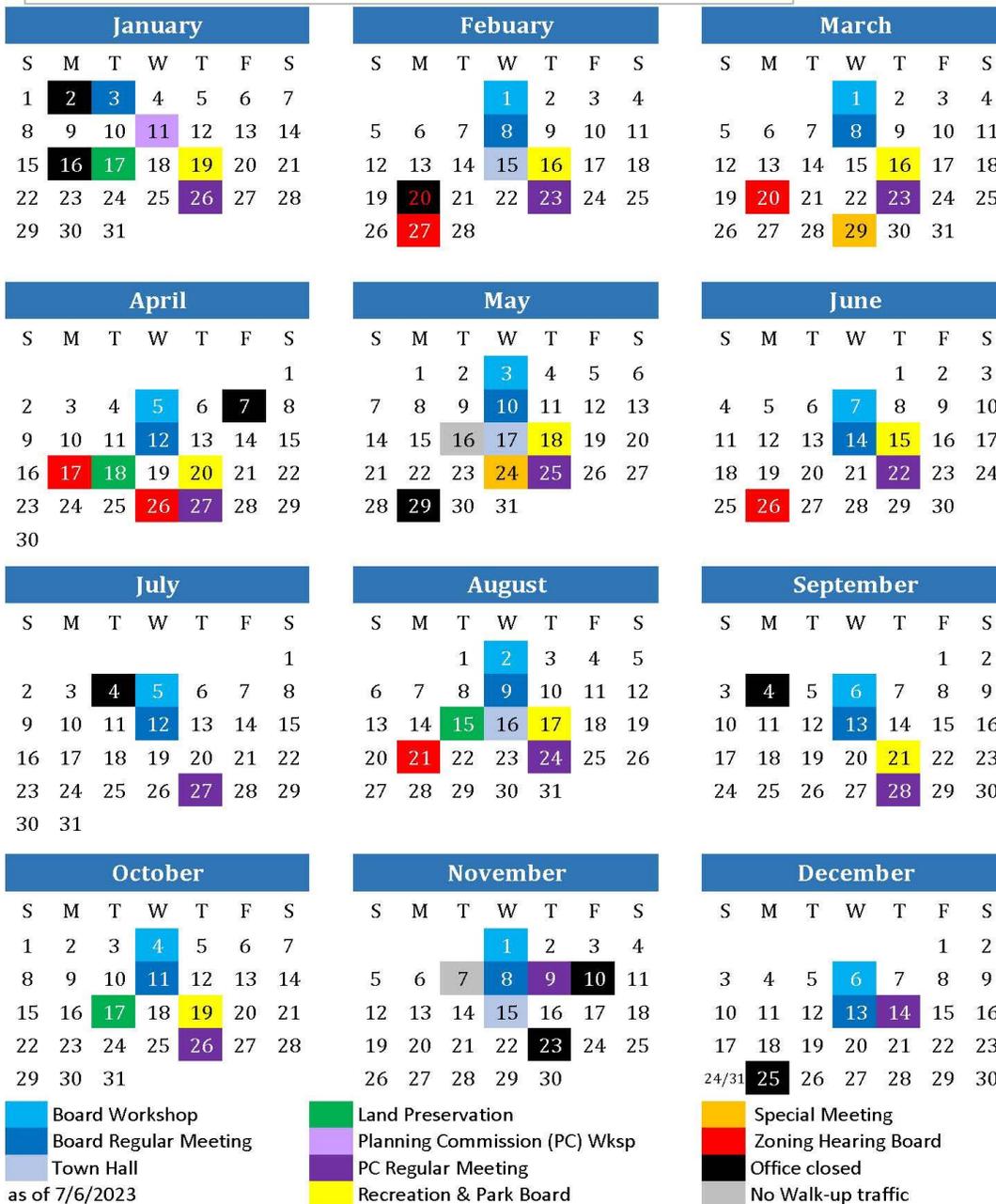
Precinct 301 - Honey Brook Twp 2 (those living south of Route 322): polling place is in the Tel Hai Stonecroft Community Center for the Arts, 4000 Treeline Drive
Precinct 300 - Honey Brook Twp 1 (those living north of Route 322): polling place is the Honey Brook Township Administration Building, 500 Suplee Road



2023 General Election: Nov. 7
 For all voting questions, contact Chester County Voter Services at 610-344-6410 or <https://www.chesco.org/156/Voter-Services>

All meetings held at the Township Administration Building, 500 Suplee Rd.
 All meetings at 7:00 pm except Jan. 17 (8 am mtg; 9 am Farmers' Breakfast, which requires
 RSVP by January 10). Start time of Zoning Hearing Board meetings is 6:30 pm.

2023



iCompass Meeting Portal

The Township Administrative Office has implemented iCompass software for easier access to Township meeting agendas and minutes. Visit <https://honeybrooktp.civicweb.net/Portal/> or click on the button from the Township website's home page at www.honeybrooktp.com. Click on "subscribe" to be notified automatically when agendas and approved minutes are posted.

Land Preservation Update

The Land Preservation program is an important tool used to maintain the Township's agricultural heritage and rural landscape. To date, over 4,900 acres of land have been preserved in perpetuity through agricultural easements. The Chester County Planning Commission published its 2022 inventory of preserved lands. This document will be shared on the new Township website. The Land Preservation Committee (LPC) meets quarterly to review applications, provide the Board of Supervisors with an update of the account (monies to be paid out and balance available), and inform farmers of the steps to apply for preservation easements. The July 18 meeting has been rescheduled for August 15. The last meeting of 2023 will be on October 17. Both meetings start at 7:00 pm.



Planning Commission (PC) Update

The PC will be continuing its discussions of the proposed Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance (SALDO) updates at its upcoming meetings. Once the PC has fully discussed the updates, it will make a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors. The Board will advertise a hearing to take place during one of its upcoming Regular meetings, in accordance with procedures outlined in the Municipalities Planning Code (MPC). Once the Board authorizes the advertisement of the hearing, the proposed changes will be a public document, and the public may review the proposed amendments. The Supervisors will conduct the hearing, allowing for public comment, and once the hearing is concluded, they will vote on whether or not they wish to enact the amendment.

PC meetings are held on the fourth Thursday of the month, January through October, and the 2nd Thursday of the month in November and December. All meetings begin at 7 pm in the Township Administration Building's meeting room.

Following is the current list of projects in the Township. These are listed in more detail on the Township website. It is updated frequently. See the April 2023 newsletter for the explanations of each category.

Construction in progress:

- Sweetwater Woodworks land development (Rural Occupation), 6430 Emery Rd
- 496 Mount Pleasant Road one-lot subdivision
- 1373 Beaver Dam Road one-lot subdivision
- Penn Wynne Chestnut, LP, a.k.a. Chestnut Ridge (northwest corner of Grieson and Chestnut Tree Roads – 128 single-family homes
- Honey Brook Estates, a.k.a. Sweetwater Farm, 3531 Horseshoe Pike – 37 single-family homes
- 560 Cupola Road, one-lot subdivision (540 Cupola)
- Village Greene, 2042 Horseshoe Pk (all homes built; punch list items remain)
- Tel Hai Cherry Drive – removing 17 cottages to build 20 townhomes
- Tel Hai Phases I, II, and IV East – **all except a 40-unit apartment building in Phase 4 has been built**

Plans granted conditional final plan approval:

- Home Courts Advantage (Keystone Court) Mobile Home Park expansion, 2140 Horseshoe Pike – adding 36 mobile homes
- Maple Inn Estates (24 townhomes), 3125 Horseshoe Pike
- Tri County Investments land development plan (remodeling a warehouse building), 2120 Twin County Road
- 155 Mount Pleasant Road land development plan (Rural Occupation building)
- Struble Ridge (Mobile Realty 3, LLC) land development plan, 2222 Horseshoe Pike (113 new mobile homes)
- Pleasant View Welding land development plan, northeast corner of Reservoir Rd & Horseshoe Pk (construction of new warehouse space)

Plans under review:

- Twin Valley Business Park LLC Subdivision and Land Development Plan, Westbrooke Drive expansion (seven new lots)
- Arbor's Glen (a.k.a. D.R. Horton), 2077 Horseshoe Pike / 2351 Chestnut Tree Rd
- McIntyre formal sketch plan, 3766 Horseshoe Pike
- Calvary Chapel land development (converting business building to a church), 5011 Horseshoe Pk

Anticipated plan submissions:

- 283 Mount Pleasant Road land development plan
- Dollar General land development plan, location TBA
- Tel Hai Phase V land development plan
- Christian Stoltzfus minor (one-lot) subdivision plan, 410 Broad Street

PERMITS REQUIRED

The Township requires that property owners obtain permits **before** starting most construction projects, demolishing a structure, removing trees or timber harvesting, opening a business, or moving a mobile home, just to name a few. Listed below are common permits that are required:

- **Building permits** are required to erect, construct, reconstruct, enlarge, alter, move, change the use of, or demolish any structure which involves adding or removing structural square footage on the property. Permits are also required for sheds; decks, patios, and porches; signs; swimming pools and hot tubs; electrical/mechanical/plumbing; retaining walls; and new driveways, driveway expansions, and repaving of driveways.

Please note: Permits are *not* required for re-shingling of roofs; painting, flooring, or siding; exact one-for-one replacement of windows or doors; sealcoating a driveway; or other cosmetic repairs, **unless** any structural changes, additional asphalt / pavement will be poured, or changes in footprint are proposed.

- **Zoning permits** are generally reserved for smaller projects that are not subject to the Uniform Construction Code; projects that are subject to the UCC require building permits.
- **Other permits** are also required including those for any new business including home occupations and businesses; change in use of any building; removing trees or timber harvesting; moving a mobile home, and yard sales to name a few.

Permit applications can be found on the Township website under the Permits & Forms tab, picked up from the Township Administration Office, or mailed, faxed, or e-mailed upon request made to the staff.

When in doubt, please contact the Township with any permit questions!

Please note that permit fees will be doubled for work commenced without a permit. This is to help stem the high number of permits that are retroactively applied for after it is discovered that work took place.

Zoning Districts in Honey Brook Township

When applying for permits in Honey Brook Township, the application will ask for your Zoning District. Below are the types of zoning districts and their corresponding parts in the Township Code of Ordinances:

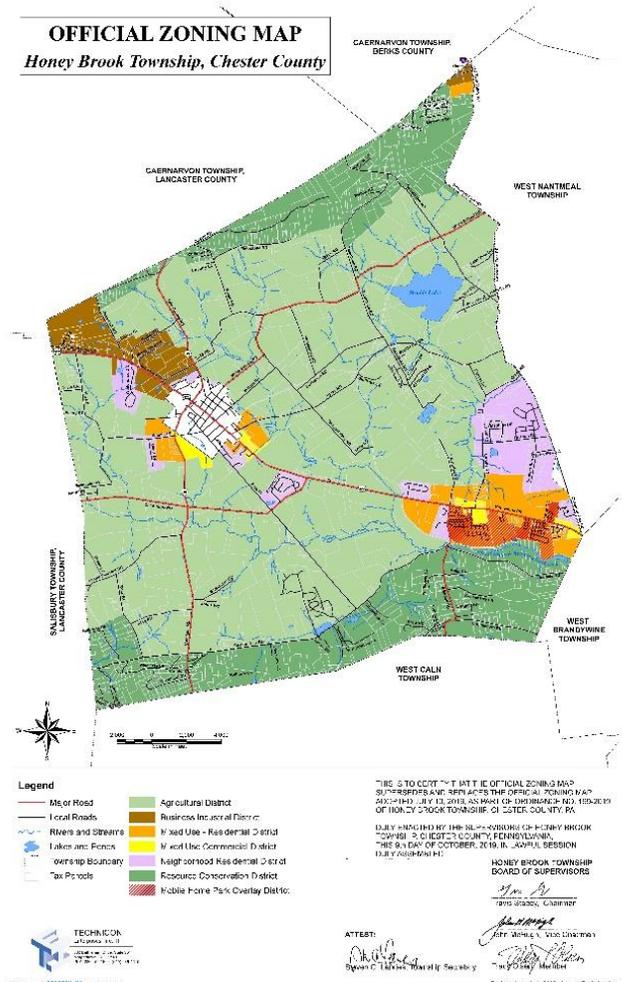
- A:** Agricultural (Part 17 of Chapter 27 of the Township Code of Ordinances, or "Zoning Ordinance")
- BI:** Business Industrial (Part 19 of the Zoning Ordinance)
- MUC:** Mixed Use Commercial (part 5 of the Zoning Ord.)
- MUR:** Mixed Use Residential* (part 6 of the Zoning Ord.)

*the **MHP (Mobile Home Park) overlay district** is within the MUR zoning district (part 21 of the Zoning Ordinance)

NR: Neighborhood Residential (part 4 of the Zoning Ord.)

RC: Resource Conservation (Part 18 of the Zoning Ord.)

Not sure what zoning district you are in? Consult the map on the Township website at www.honeybrooktwp.com. A smaller version of the zoning map is depicted below.



Trash Collection

Residents are required to contract with their own trash hauler who will also provide recycling services. Residential developments managed by a Home Owners' Association (HoA) may contract with a hauler for the entire neighborhood, so please check with your HoA manager for this information. Likewise, managers of Mobile Home Communities contract with a hauler on behalf of the community. **PLEASE NOTE: *Burning of household trash is prohibited.***

Household Hazardous Waste Collections

The remaining Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) collections are scheduled for:

- Saturday, August 26, 2023, in Oxford
- Saturday, October 7, 2023, in West Chester

Preregistration is required via the Chester County Solid Waste Authority (CCSWA) website: www.chestercountyswa.org.

Yard Waste Recycling

All haulers collecting trash in Honey Brook Township *must* offer yard waste collection at least three times per year; twice in the fall and once in the spring. Please check with your contracted hauler for their scheduled pickup date(s).

Recycling is Mandatory

Pennsylvania and Honey Brook Township regulations require all residential, commercial, institutional, and municipal properties to separate recyclable materials from their waste and have it properly collected and processed.



Residential collection of recyclable materials shall be provided at least once each week by your contracted trash collector. Items to be recycled by all residential units including mobile home parks and apartments include: Glass containers, Cans, Plastics: No. 1 to No. 5 and No. 7, and Paper (newspaper, catalogs, magazines, junk mail, paper, envelopes, and cardboard boxes and containers). Check with your hauler to learn whether additional items may be recycled.

Residents shall also separate leaf waste from other recyclable materials and trash. Your hauler is required to collect leaf waste at least once in the Spring and twice during the months of September through December. Check with your hauler for their schedule. You also have the option of disposing of leaf waste by taking it to the Chester County Lanchester Landfill Composting Site on a fee-per-load basis. Contact the CCSWA at 610-273-3771 for details.

Commercial, industrial, institutional, and municipal property owners/operators plus the sponsor of any community special event or other activity shall at a minimum separate all of the items required of residents listed above plus high-grade office paper and corrugated cardboard. These materials may be stored until collected. The property owner/operator shall annually provide written documentation to the Township of the types of materials and the total tons of materials that were recycled. This documentation is due no later than the end of January for the prior calendar year.



Open Burning

Outdoor burning of municipal waste, leaf waste, yard waste, or recyclable materials that are required to be separated and collected (newspaper, cardboard, clear glass, and plastics) is **PROHIBITED**. Small controlled fires, such as campfires, are permissible, but **toxic materials of any kind (including trash or construction waste) cannot be burned at any time**. Any and all fires shall be monitored at all times and one should keep a source of water nearby in case of emergency.

The Right-to-Farm Act allows farmers on farms of over 5 acres to carry out **normal and customary** activities of farming operations, which **occasionally includes** open burning. However, a farmer may **NOT** burn municipal waste, leaves, or recyclables generated from a residential unit on the farm or from any other residential property. The Right-to-Farm Act also permits the use of newspaper for bedding for farm animals, and the composting and spreading of manure or other farm-produced agricultural wastes, provided that such activities are conducted in accordance with all applicable laws, rules, and regulations.

Recreation and Parks Update

The Rec & Park Board welcomes its two newest members, Kevin Dougherty and Summer Kehl! One Board vacancy remains; could it be you we're looking for? If interested, please submit a cover letter and resume to the Township Administration Office, 500 Suplee Road, or e-mail manager@honeybrooktp.org. The Board's next meetings are:

- August 17, 2023
- September 21, 2023
- October 19, 2023
- January 18, 2024 (reorganization meeting)

All meetings start at 7:00 pm in the meeting room of the Township Administration Office, 500 Suplee Road.

Skate Park Design Meeting #2 Held May 24

A second public meeting was held with YSM Architects to discuss the design and layout of the skate park being planned at the James A. Umble Memorial Park. Missed the meeting? Catch the replay on YouTube or stop by the Township Administration Office to view the plans.

Lost an Item? Found an item?

The Township Administration Building has a "Lost and Found" collection of items, mostly left behind at the James A. Umble Memorial Park. If you have lost an item, check with the office during normal business hours. If you find an item, please turn it in!

Pickleball Round Robin Tournament on Harmony Day, September 16

Avid pickleball players meet in an informal setting each Tuesday and Thursday at 6:00 pm at the tennis courts in Umble Park. During Harmony Day, these regulars will be holding a round-robin-style tournament. Come cheer on your friends and neighbors and learn about this decades-old sport. Its popularity has gained a lot of traction in recent years!



James A. Umble Memorial Park

Located at 173 Suplee Road, the park is open from dawn to dusk each day. A walking trail encircles the park and features a Born Learning Trail installed in November 2014 courtesy of a United Way grant. The park is actively used by the Twin Valley Little League. Other park amenities include portable toilets, two tot lots, tennis courts, and a sand volleyball court. A complete listing of the park rules is posted near the entrance to the park.

A picnic pavilion is available for residents to reserve free of charge on a first-come, first-served reservation basis. The pavilion includes outdoor grills and picnic table seating as well as a hitching post. The pavilion can be reserved by filling out a Facilities Use Application and returning it to the Township Administration Office. A security deposit is required to secure the reservation, and it will be returned provided that no damage is sustained to the pavilion or the surrounding park area. Bases for the baseball/softball field and pickleball equipment are all available at the Township Administration Office for Township residents to borrow for use at the Park. Look for the grey box to the left of the entrance to 500 Suplee Road on the parking lot side of the building.

TOWNSHIP POLICE COVERAGE

Honey Brook Township is covered by the Pennsylvania State Police. Call 9-1-1 for emergencies or you can contact the State Police Embreeville Barracks at 610-486-6280 for non-emergencies.



FREE CAR SEAT SAFETY CHECKS

The State Police at the Embreeville Barracks, 997 Lieds Road, Coatesville, holds free safety checks for car seats on the second Friday of each month. For more information, call 484-340-3248.

HONEY BROOK BOROUGH EVENTS*

- July 16 Concert in the Park 5:30-8
- August 6 Concert in the Park 5:30 -8
- September 9 Bocce Tournament 10 am (rain date 9/10)

**All events take place in Borough Park, 91 Pequea Avenue (behind Borough Hall).*



HONEY BROOK FIRE COMPANY NEWS

The Honey Brook Fire Company will host its 2023 Golf Outing on Friday, August 11 at the Honey Brook Golf Club. Price of \$125 per golfer includes lunch. Shotgun start is 8:00 am. For more information and to register, visit <https://www.honeybrookfire.org/news/957/HBFC-2023-Golf-Outing->.

The annual Boot Drive will take place on August 26. Donate generously!

FOOD PANTRY NEWS



\$30K in 60 Days

July 1 - August 31

Help us raise \$30,000 by August 31st to provide meat and fresh produce

Unprecedented Demand
The Pantry now serves 42% more new families with food cost up 10%

Together we make a profound difference.

Please Donate Today

- 1) Venmo: @honeybrookfoodpantry
- 2) Website: honeybrookfoodpantry.org/donate
- 3) Checks mailed to:
Honey Brook Food Pantry
5064 Horseshoe Pike
Honey Brook, PA 19344

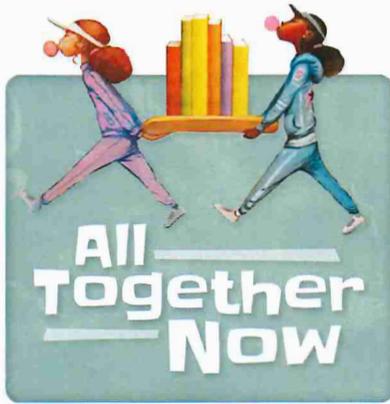
The Honey Brook Food Pantry is located at Door #8 of the Good Food Distribution Center, 5064 Horseshoe Pike (across from Wimpy & Dee's Diner). Distributions are on the 2nd Wednesday from 10 am to 12:30 pm and the 4th Wednesday from 4:00-6:30 pm for eligible residents in the Twin Valley School District. Visit the Pantry website at honeybrookfoodpantry.org for more information.

Although 2022 was the most active year in the Pantry's 11-year history, the trend so far is accelerating in 2023.

On the distribution day prior to Easter, 251 families encompassing over 800 members (including 265 children), enjoyed receiving a complete ham dinner. In addition to the ham of their choice, each recipient received five side dishes, six fresh fruit and produce items, a package of Pepperidge Farm dinner rolls, and a freshly baked apple pie from Crop's Fresh Market. The hit of the day, as always, was the availability of enough baskets and treats to meet the overflow turnout.

The persistent rise in demand has become more complicated by the termination of the Chester County Food Bank's produce box program in April. Replacing that program is estimated at an additional \$4,200/month in unanticipated food costs. To that end, the \$30K in 60 Days campaign was launched this month. See above for all the details.

Lastly, the Annual Golf Outing at the Honeybrook Golf Club to benefit the Honey Brook Food Pantry is scheduled for Tuesday, October 10, 2023. For registration details, visit www.honeybrookfoodpantry.org.



HONEY BROOK COMMUNITY LIBRARY

SUMMER READING PROGRAM

through August 12, 2023

*Pick up your Summer Reading package at the Honey Brook Library, register, and start reading!

*Bring in your reading log weekly & earn raffle tickets for prizes.

*Bring in a non-expired food item each week for the Honey Brook Food Pantry for 1 extra raffle ticket.

Build & Play

Tuesdays, July 11, 18, 25, & August 1 at 10 am. For all ages. Come join us to have fun build-ing with our wooden blocks, Lego blocks, Magnatiles, Lincoln Logs, Brainflakes, and other items. Held outside in nice weather. Registration is required.

Family Baking with Miss Therese

Tuesdays, July 11 & 25 from 6-7 pm. For grades 1–6. Bring the family and join Miss Therese to learn how you use math when you bake by measuring. Dry ingredients will be provided for you to take home and bake. Milk/water/eggs/etc. will be added on your own. Registration required.

Lego Night at the Library

Tuesday, August 8 at 6 pm. For school ages & teens. Join us to build with Lego blocks.

Gaming Night — Electronic & Board Games

Tuesdays, July 18 & August 1 at 6 pm. For ages 8–18. Bring along your DS, iPads, or any hand held game system, or take a turn on our Xbox Kinect & WiiU. Feel free to bring along a favorite board game. Registration required.

Stories in the Shade with Miss Jennifer

Wednesdays now through August 2 at 10 am. For families; all ages welcome! Join Miss Jennifer for stories, songs, and crafts outside in our back yard when weather permits. Please bring a blanket for your family. All ages are welcome! Registration required.

Nature Thursdays

Thursdays at 10 am. Dates to be announced. For ages 6-teen. This program is outside in our back yard. Please bring a blanket or chairs for your family.

Teen & Adult Craft Fun

Thursdays at 6 pm. For ages 14 through adult. Projects include July 13 - Flower Pot decorating, July 20 - Spa Crafts, July 27 - Vase Yarn Craft.

Sewing Camp with Ms. Nancy

Fridays from 6–8 pm. For ages 12–adult. Join Ms. Nancy in making a variety of sewing projects this summer. Registration required.

Magic the Gathering Club

Saturdays from 3–5 pm, July 22 & August 12. For ages 13–adult. Join us to play Magic the Gathering. Bring your own cards or starter card sets can be provided for you. Registration required.

A Citizen's Guide to Pennsylvania Local Government

In Pennsylvania, everyone lives in a school district, a county, and a municipality (borough, city, home-rule municipality, town, or township). Elected officials are the governing bodies of these types of governments. There are also independent municipal authorities, created by one or more municipalities, counties, or school districts for borrowing funds to acquire, construct, and operate public facilities¹ (such as the Honey Brook Borough Authority—HBBA—or the Northwestern Chester County Municipal Authority—NCCMA). These authorities are governed by a board of directors that is appointed by the participating municipalities, counties, or school districts.

There are also various governmental designations in Pennsylvania that have characteristics of governmental units but are considered subordinate agencies of state or local governments. An excellent example of this is the Chester County Conservation District; but urban areas can have others, such as port authorities, convention center authorities, parking authorities, and the like.

Each local government operates under a state law, called a code (with the exception of home-rule municipalities, which are governed by charters). Honey Brook Township, for instance, operates under the Second Class Township Code.

Here's a breakdown of the local governments and how they are governed in Pennsylvania¹:

- 500 School districts, run by elected Boards of School Directors.
- 67 Counties, run by three elected Commissioners.
- 56 Cities, run by elected Councils and Mayors.
- 956 Boroughs, run elected by elected 7-member Councils and Mayors.
- One (1) Incorporated Town—Bloomsburg, in Columbia County, run by an elected 6-member Council and an elected Mayor who may vote on all business items before the Council.
- 93 Townships of the First Class, run by at least five elected Commissioners.
- 1,454 Townships of the Second Class, run by either three or five elected Supervisors.

Interestingly enough, this number of local government units earns Pennsylvania a third-place spot on the list of states with the most governmental units, behind Minnesota (2,720) and Illinois (2,828).²

An expanded version of much of this information is available on the PA Department of Community & Economic Development (or DCED) website at <https://dced.pa.gov/download/citizens-guide-to-pennsylvania-local-government-pdf/>. A printed copy is available to read in the Township Administration Building's meeting room.

¹ pa.gov

² governing.com

Paid Well Water Study

Researchers at Temple University are looking for families who drink water from a private well for a paid study. They are interested in keeping children safe from illnesses that can be spread by drinking water from private wells. Families will receive a free whole-home UV water treatment system (value of device + installation = \$1,000). Families can participate from home. To be part of this NIH-funded study, families must have a child three years old or younger and live in select PA counties.

For more information, visit the research website at www.wettrial.org, call them at (215)204-5124, or email them at wettrial@temple.edu.





Honey Brook Community Partnership News

The Honey Brook Community Partnership's mission is to bring Borough and Township partners together to facilitate communication, share resources, and work together to enhance our community. The Partnership is comprised of businesses, interested residents, and local government officials and is open to the community. To receive information about the meetings held on the second Tuesday of the month at 4:30 pm, please visit www.honeybrookpartnership.com.

Scholarships for High School Seniors

Each spring, the Partnership awards scholarships to two Twin Valley High School seniors who plan to further their education by attending a college, business, trade, or technical school. This year's recipients, who received \$750 each, are pictured below with the current Partnership Chair.



Pictured are (L-R): Addison Bailey, Partnership Chair Julie Funk, and Kaylee Snyder. Addison will be attending Millersville for Secondary Education and Political Science/Government, and Kaylee will be attending the PA College of Technology for Dental Hygiene.

Make a Difference Day

The last Saturday in October is National Make a Difference Day, an opportunity for people to engage in local projects in their community. Honey Brook is no exception, as the Partnership places collection boxes throughout the community to collect needed items for individuals and/or groups. Past projects have included coat drives, toiletries and paper products collections, and

food collections. Watch the Partnership website for the 2023 project, to be announced in early fall.

Deck the Brook

The "Deck the Brook" decorating contest is held in early December each year. Honey Brook residents and businesses are invited to decorate their front doors and yards for the holidays and enter a competition to win prizes.

Welcome Signs

The Partnership erected four welcome signs in 2013, two each on Routes 322 and 10. After 10 years, the discs with logos for non-profit organizations were showing signs of wear, so they are currently getting a facelift! Be on the lookout for the new logos to be installed soon. The Partnership is proud to have Boy Scout Troop 9 assist with the landscaping.

Harmony Day Preview

Mark your calendars for September 16, 2023! Details will be announced as they become available, but see the photo below for a sneak peek of some of the fun! If you would like to help plan the event, come to a meeting or visit the Partnership website. Harmony Day Sponsorship information is on page 13.

The Partnership meets monthly on the second Tuesday of the month from 4:30-5:30 pm. Typically, Partnership meetings are held in the conference room of the Chester County Solid Waste Authority (CCSWA) building, located at 7228 Division Highway, Narvon. All meeting events are posted on the recently rebooted website, honeybrookpartnership.com. Follow the Partnership on Facebook and Instagram to stay updated.

The Partnership is built on community volunteers. It has a leadership team of a Chair, Co-Chair, Treasurer, & Secretary. Each of these positions is for a 2-year term. A lot of exciting things are happening in 2023; won't you join in?





CELEBRATE HONEY BROOK HARMONY

Help us bring our community together on Harmony Day!

The Honey Brook Community Partnership (HBCP) is organizing the annual Harmony Day event on Saturday, September 16, 2023. Along with lots of free family fun activities held at the Honey Brook Fire Company on 679 Firehouse Lane in Honey Brook from 10 AM – 2 PM, will be food, music, and other events at key sites around town to display our unity, spirit, and pride.

We invite you to help sponsor this event.

Games for all ages, food trucks, special music, a children's art show and activities, celebration of our history and much more will offer something for everyone and a day of family fun to bring the community together.

We need your help to not only make this a wonderful event, but to also help the Partnership grow its ability to provide grants in support of groups doing valuable work for community residents, provide scholarships, and to continue to work on projects that make our community the best it can be.

Show the community that you care: Select one of the attached Sponsor packages.

If you have questions about a sponsorship, please feel free to contact Julie Funk, Chair of The Honey Brook Community Partnership at hbcpc.harmonyday@gmail.com. Thank you very much for your support.

The Mission of the Honey Brook Community Partnership is to bring together borough and township partners to facilitate communication, share resources, and work together to enhance our community. It is comprised of residents, business owners, and township and borough representatives who care. For more information visit www.hbpartnership.org.

What are Stormwater Pollutants?

by Andy Yencha, Extension Educator, Renewable Natural Resources

Stormwater harms local creeks, rivers, and lakes in two major ways. It causes *physical* damage (such as flooding, streambank erosion, and loss of fish habitat when too much water drains into a creek or river too quickly), and it causes *water pollution* because stormwater often contains harmful materials picked up when it is washed across the land. These pollutants can be grouped into five broad categories:

1. Solid Waste

This stormwater pollution category includes items that should have been disposed of in a landfill or incinerated, but instead are uncontained in the environment where they can harm wildlife and clog stormwater systems. Sources of trash include careless and intentional littering, historic dumping before the days of widespread trash collection, and loose garbage set outside on windy days. Solutions include keeping solid waste contained and removing it from local waterways during community stream clean-up events.

2. Sediment

Sediment most often comes from soil erosion which happens when stormwater washes bare soil into streams. Sediment can smother stream habitat, alter stream flow and increase nutrients to harmful levels. Sources include uncovered soil on lawns, gardens, and farmlands (especially when located on a hill); slumping streambanks; muddy construction sites; poorly maintained dirt and gravel roads; and careless logging practices. The key to preventing soil erosion is slowing down stormwater where it falls, because slow-moving water contains less erosive energy. Achieving this is often as simple as covering bare soil with garden mulches or crop residues.

3. Nutrient Rich Materials

The nutrients nitrogen and phosphorus are the primary pollutants in stormwater. Each of them can cause plant and algae blooms in streams and rivers, including harmful algae blooms that pose a potentially fatal risk to any unsuspecting swimmer or pet dog that drinks too much contaminated water. Nutrient-rich materials also lower oxygen levels in state waterways which harms fish and other aquatic life. Common sources include excess fertilizer on lawns and croplands as well as eroded soil because nutrients, especially phosphorus, are often attached to sediment particles. Solutions involve applying nutrients at the right time of year, in the right amounts, and never near high-risk spots like waterways, sinkholes, and wells.

4. Pathogens

Harmful bacteria, protozoa, and viruses are found in stormwater. They cause gastrointestinal illnesses when ingested and are usually the reason why swim advisories get posted at public beaches. Pathogens come from animal sources including improperly disposed pet waste and livestock manure as well as failing home septic systems. Cleaning up after pets, managing manure properly, and pumping septic tanks before they get too full will all help to keep pathogens out of stormwater.

5. Toxic Materials

Everyday compounds can poison stormwater when overused or used improperly. Common toxic compounds include misapplied pesticides around the home and farm, excess winter salt applications around homes, public roads, and commercial properties; and gas, oil, and antifreeze leaks from cars and trucks. Like the other categories, the solutions for keeping toxic materials out of stormwater are often common sense. They include using these products sparingly, following all label directions, safe storage including a plan for dealing with leaks and spills, and proper disposal.

If you have additional questions about stormwater, or you are just interested in learning more, you can find a full series of videos and articles in the Penn State Extension Stormwater Basics series at <https://extension.psu.edu/stormwater-basics>.

Roadmaster Report

The seal coat process was completed by the end of May. The Roadmaster notes that once the road surface temperature exceeds 140 degrees, the oil underneath the stone liquifies, as happened along Beaver Dam and Suplee Roads in early July. Dust was spread along those spots to help absorb the oil.



Line painting will be taking place in August or early September. This work is weather-dependent; ideal conditions are for the weather to be warm and dry. Rain, high humidity, or temperatures below 50 degrees Fahrenheit will increase the drying time of the paint.

Please note that it is the **vehicle operator's responsibility to operate their vehicle within the roadway lines** and to follow all warning and advisory signage. Please stay back from the Line Painting truck if you see one. Don't drive on the wet paint lines, and please don't pass the paint trucks. To do so will not only put your vehicle at risk of being damaged by paint splashing onto it, but it will ruin the work that was just done to keep the roads safe. A good rule of thumb is that if the lines look new, presume that they are not yet dry! As always, if there are concerns about the maintenance of a Township road, please alert the Township Administration Office.

7 REASONS WHY YOU SHOULDN'T BLOW GRASS CLIPPINGS INTO THE STREET

IT'S SLIPPERY FOR VEHICLES. When wet, the clippings are just as slippery and potentially dangerous as ice is in the wintertime, which means you could cause an accident and hurt someone.

YOU MIGHT ALSO BE BLOWING DANGEROUS DEBRIS. Some people have gravel driveways or landscaping features on their property. Blowing clippings could inadvertently result in rocks being thrown onto passing cars, pedestrians, or other houses. You could get stuck with a bill to fix someone's property or even sued.

IT'S ILLEGAL. Honey Brook Township has an ordinance prohibiting the blowing of grass clippings into the street. The dangers touched on above are the reason.

IT CAN NEGATIVELY AFFECT THE WATER SUPPLY. When storm drains get clogged with grass clippings a couple of things are possible. One is that clogged storm drains can get backed up and flood the roadway, affecting everyone in the neighborhood. You'd probably quickly be pinpointed as the one that blows their lawn clippings into the street and clogs the storm drains. Another thing that can happen is that the nitrogen, phosphorous, and other elements in the clippings can throw off the water supply. Remember, "When it rains, it drains."

YOU'RE ROBBING YOUR LAWN OF NUTRIENTS. Grass clippings are actually good for our lawns and help them grow. They act as a natural fertilizer, helping lawns helping them grow greener, thicker, and healthier. Just make sure you are using a proper mulching mower, as large chunks of grass clippings laying around can actually kill patches of grass if the grass underneath "can't breathe".

THE CLIPPINGS HAVE LOTS OF USES. If you bag your clippings, then you actually have a lot of options. You could use it as food for some types of animals, as compost, as mulch, or as weed control in garden beds.

IT JUST LOOKS BAD. Let's face it, it really does look bad when you are driving through a neighborhood and one homeowner has carelessly blown their cuttings all over the road. Keep the street clean of your yard's mess, and hopefully, everyone else will do the same.

State Roads – The following roads are maintained by PennDOT:

Route 10 (Compass Road south of the Borough/Twin Valley Road north of the Borough), **Route 322** (Horseshoe Pike), Cambridge Road, Chestnut Tree Road, Isabella Road, Maple Street (from Borough line to the intersection with White School and Pleasant View Roads), Morgantown Road (between Chestnut Tree and White School Roads), South Birdell Road, and White School Road.



To report concerns on state roads, contact PennDOT at 1-800-FIX-ROAD (349-7623) or submit a report at the PA Department of Transportation Customer Care Center, <https://customercare.penndot.gov/>. To check conditions on state roads, visit www.511PA.com.



500 Suplee Rd.
Honey Brook, PA 19341



ReadyChesCo is used to notify you during a crisis or emergency and delivers important alerts such as inclement weather events or community alerts, **including Honey Brook Township meetings.**

Register at www.readychesco.org

You can receive notifications and updates on all or some of your devices:

- E-mail (work and/or home)
- Cell phone via voice and/or text

- Smartphone/PDA
- Pager

It is free to sign up. You choose the type of alerts you will receive. Be advised that these messages may incur charges from your wireless carrier depending upon the type of plan you have. You may choose to stop receiving the messages you sign up for at any time.

More information is available from:

Chester County Department of Emergency Services * 601 Westtown Road, Suite 012, West Chester PA
610-344-5000 * Facebook.com/ccdes * twitter.com/ccdes * Instagram.com/chescodes * chesco.org/des