

Honey Brook Township

CHESTER COUNTY, PA

Volume 10, Issue 1

Fall 2019/Winter 2020

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Board of Supervisors

Lost 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.

Dear Residents and Friends,

The Honey Brook Township Board of Supervisors is pleased to present this latest issue of our Township News. Thanks to the sponsorship of the advertisers in this publication, this newsletter has been produced at no cost to our residents. The Board sincerely thanks these members of the business community for their generosity and support and encourages you to support these businesses with your patronage.

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

Please contact our Township staff at 610-273-3970 if you have any questions regarding the information contained in this issue or about the services the Township provides.

Sincerely,

The Honey Brook Township Board of Supervisors



John McHugh, Vice Chairman Travis Stacey, Chairman Tracy Olsen, Member

The Board of Supervisors consists of three members elected at-large for staggered six-year terms. The Board is the Executive and Legislative branch of the Township's government that is responsible for establishing policy, adopting ordinances, regulating land use and overseeing the Township's finances. The Board holds a workshop meeting the Wednesday prior to their regular business meeting. The regular meeting is on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 7 pm. The sole exception to this is the January meeting, which will take place on January 6, 2020 at 7:00 pm..

The Board also appoints residents to a variety of other boards, committees and commissions. Listed on page 4 are the most active groups and their meeting schedules. Please contact the Township Administration Office if you are interested in serving on one of these bodies.

Mission & Vision

Honey Brook Township was incorporated on February 24, 1789, from the western part of West Nantmeal Township. It is classified as a township of the second class, with a Board of three Supervisors elected at-large for six-year terms.

The following mission and vision statements were adopted 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, 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.

Attention:

We strive to deliver this newsletter to the mailboxes of all Honey Brook Township residents.

If you feel you are missing from our list, please contact the Township Administration Office.

Honey Brook Township Administration Office

500 Suplee Road • P.O. Box 1281

Honey Brook, PA 19344

Phone 610-273-3970

Fax 610.273.3909

Office hours: 9 am-3 pm Monday – Friday • Holiday Closures as announced/posted



chiropractic

S P I N E H E A L T H L I F E

POTTSTOWN OFFICE
92 Kemp Road
Pottstown, PA 19465
610.705.0201

ELVERSON OFFICE
83 W. Main Street
Elverson, PA 19520
610-286-7000

LIMERICK OFFICE
553 W. Ridge Pike
Limerick, PA 19468
610.495.0101



We care about
all of God's Creatures

www.honeybrookah.com

Edward A. Frankel, DVM

Marsia Bates, DVM

Melissa Detrick, BS
Administrator / Owner

3784 Horseshoe Pike
Honey Brook, PA 19344

(610)273-2887

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Hours by appointment



N U R S I N G H O M E

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is no less
beautiful than
the sun rising.*

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**Thank you,
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Ryan Tyler

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Supervisor

Terry L. Eames

Administrator

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Honey Brook, PA 9344

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General Information

Township Population (2010 census): 7,647
State Roads: 24 miles

Land Area: 25.4 square miles
Township Roads: 52.64 miles

Township Taxes - The Township collects two types of taxes each year. Earned Income Tax, based upon wages, and a real estate tax based upon a property’s assessed valuation.

Earned Income Tax - Keystone Collections Group collects 1% on behalf of the Township and 0.5% on behalf of the Twin Valley School District. The Township portion is used to pay general operation costs and for land preservation. 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. 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 2019-2020 tax rate is 30.1215 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 2019 tax rate is 4.369 mills. Contact the County Assessment office at 610-344-6105 for more information.
- 3. **Honey Brook Township** - The Chester County Treasurer also collects the Township’s Real Estate Tax. The Township’s proposed 2020 tax rate is 1.15 mills; the 2020 budget will be voted upon at the December Board of Supervisors Regular Meeting. See page 22 for more information.

**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

Address: 100 North Twin Valley Road, Elverson, PA 19520-9310
Phone: 610-286-8600
Fax: 610-286-8608
School tax information: 610-286-8652
Website: www.tvsd.org
Superintendent: Dr. Robert Pleis

Schools

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



General Information (cont.)

Appointed Officials and Staff

Township Manager/Secretary, Steve Landes: Responsible for the day-to-day administration of Township business including finances, budgeting, staff, and provision of Township services.

Public Works Director, Don Johnson: As the head of the Roads Department he is responsible for the maintenance of the Township roads, storm sewers, street signs, and Township buildings and grounds including James A. Umble Memorial Park.

Treasurer, Peter Barsz: Provides detailed accounting of all receipts and expenses, develops and oversees all cash handling and disbursement procedures, and prepares payroll.

Building Code Official/Zoning Officer, Technicon Enterprises Inc.: Responsible for the enforcement of zoning, building and property maintenance codes. The Zoning Officer has office hours on the first and third Tuesdays of each month at the Administration Office for residents' convenience.

Emergency Management Coordinator (EMC), Robert D. Esposito, Jr.: Prepares plans to protect the community in the event of a natural or manmade disaster.

Engineer, Michael Reinert, Technicon Enterprises Inc.: Prepares designs for roads, bridges, and storm water systems. Reviews land development and subdivision plans and works closely with the Township Planning Commission and other government and regulatory agencies.

Solicitor, Christopher Hartman, Esq.: Provides the Board of Supervisors and Manager with legal opinions and guidance. Represents the Township in court proceedings.

Solicitor to the Zoning Hearing Board, Kenneth Werner, Esq.: Provides the Zoning Hearing Board with legal opinions and guidance.

Office Staff: Kristy Deischer-Eddy and Kris Bry.

Public Works Staff: Carl Brown, Jeffrey Paulson, and Travis Roy.

Township Boards, Committees and Commissions

The **Park and Recreation Board** is an 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 and other activities. The Board meets at 7:30 pm on the 3rd Thursday of the month during January through June and August through October.

Lee Heller, *Co-Chair*

Therese Mauchline, *Member*

Christine Luke, *Secretary*

Sheri Zynn, *Co-Chair*

Kevin Wynant, *Member*

Scott Holt, *Member*

Ray Shafer, *Member*

The **Planning Commission** is an advisory body that reviews all proposed land development plans and subdivision applications and recommends action to the Board of Supervisors. It also reviews proposed amendments to the Township's zoning and the subdivision & land development regulations. This commission meets at 7 pm on the 4th Thursday of each month from January through October and as announced in November and December. Members are:

Susan Lacy, *Member*

Levi Kauffman, *Member*

Terry Schmidt, *Member*

Gary McEwen, *Chair*

Melissa Needles, *Vice-Chair*

Troy Stacey, *Member*

Bob Witters, *Member*

The **Land Preservation Committee** is an advisory body that reviews applications for agricultural conservation easements and recommends farms for preservation to the Board of Supervisors. This committee meets at 7:00 pm on the 3rd Tuesday of odd-numbered months except for the January when the meeting is held at 8:00 am. Members are:

Shane Hadden, *Vice-Chair & Secretary*

Susan Lacy, *Member*

Chip Jones, *Chair*

John R. Stoltzfus, *Member*

Mike Zook, *Member*

The **Zoning Hearing Board** is a judicial body that hears appeals from landowners seeking relief from zoning regulations and then renders a decision. The Board meets at 7:30 pm on the 3rd Monday of the month **or** as announced on an as-needed basis. Members are:

Frank Fredella, *Chair*

David Rodgers, *Member*

Jeff Emberger, *Member*

Darlene Olear, *Alternate*

All meetings are held in the Township Administration Building. Meeting days and times are subject to change. All groups re-organize each January. Check the website for the latest information.

Honey Brook Township Voting Precincts

Precinct 301

Honey Brook Township 2

(those living south of Route 322):

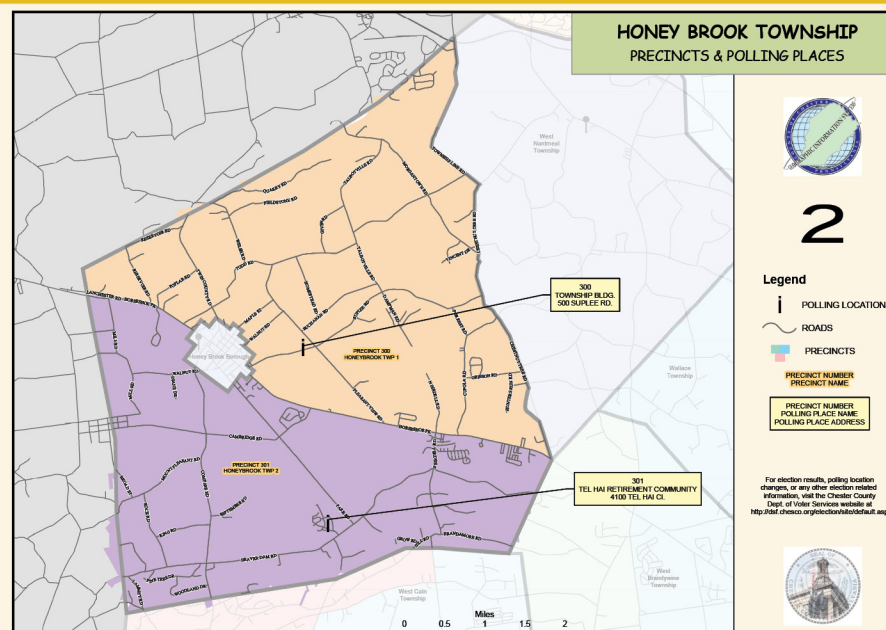
Polling place:

Tel Hai

Retirement Community

4100 Tel Hai Circle

Honey Brook.



Precinct 300

Honey Brook Township 1

(those living north of Route 322):

Polling place :

Township Administration

Building

500 Suplee Road

Honey Brook

The 2020 Primary Election is April 28, 2020; the General Election is November 3, 2020.

To register to vote or for voting questions, please contact Chester County Voter Services at 610-344-6410 or visit www.chesco.org/156/Voter-Services.



General Information (cont.)

Land Preservation Update

The Land Preservation Program is an important program used to maintain the Township's agricultural heritage and rural landscape. To date, over 4,250 acres of land has been preserved. Four more farms totaling 250 acres are being considered for preservation.

In 2019, the Land Preservation Committee (LPC) updated the Land Preservation Plan, adopted in 2007 and updated in 2012. The 2019 update is available on the Land Preservation page of the Township website.

The LPC meets on odd-numbered months, generally on the third Tuesday of the month at 7:00 pm. The January Meeting is at 8:00 am on January 21, followed by a Farmer's Breakfast at 9:00 am. The public is welcome to attend this free event; however, reservations are required by January 14 at 610-273-3970.

Free Car Seat Safety Checks

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

Honey Brook Environmental Group

This community environmental volunteer group aims to advocate for the beauty and sustainability of our local environment through community involvement, cooperation, and action. Every other Thursday from 4:30-5:30 pm, the group meets at the Honey Brook Borough Building, 73 Pequea Avenue. The group gathers its gloves, bags, etc. and heads out to designated areas around town to pick up trash and recyclables. In addition to regular clean-up days, the Honey Brook Environmental Group has collaborated with the Township Park & Recreation Board on various projects, including planting trees at James A. Umble Park in 2017 and the Great American Cleanup for the past 3 years. The group also presents environmentally-themed children's presentations at the Honey Brook Community Library.

This is an innovative and fun opportunity for residents of all ages anyone and everyone to get involved with a wonderful cause and also enjoy time with friends, neighbors, and family.

For more information, contact Tierra Graham, group manager, at (484) 798-5582 or tierragramham1998@gmail.com.



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NEWSLETTERS SENT OUT TO LOCAL RESIDENTS

EIGHTH PAGE	\$195
QUARTER PAGE	\$340
HALF PAGE	\$540
FULL PAGE	\$1000

**CALL NOW TO RESERVE YOUR SPACE!
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General Information (cont.)

State Roads

The following roads in Honey Brook Township are maintained by the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT): Route 10 (Compass Road south of the Borough/Twin County Road north of the Borough), Route 322 (Horseshoe Pike), Cambridge Road, Chestnut Tree Road, Isabella Road, Maple Street (from Borough line to 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 610-340-3200. To check conditions on state roads, visit www.511PA.com. NEW! Report state road conditions online at customer care.penndot.gov.



Honey Brook Community Harmony Day 2019 Wrap-Up

Mini-Carnival and Health Faire at the Fire Company Fairgrounds

The Honey Brook Community Partnership (HBCP) held a mini-carnival on Harmony Day, September 19, 2019. The Health and Wellness Faire was held once again, and community members had the opportunity to fill up their "Wellness Passport" for a chance at prizes.

Various other locations held activities as well: Gateway Baptist Church, Heatherwood Retirement Community, Honey Brook American Legion Post 422, Honey Brook Community Library, Honey Brook Presbyterian Church, Howell Masonic Lodge, Honey Brook Hardware, The Long Way Home, State Farm Agent Ryan Tyler, Honey Brook Borough Police, Eby's Market, and September Farm Cheese.

The HBCP and its Harmony Day Committee wish to thank the 2019 Harmony Day sponsors! Your support allows the HBCP to continue the tradition of Harmony Day, the annual opportunity showcase our community and to draw residents and visitors to Honey Brook to enjoy family-friendly activities.

TONS OF FUN CARNIVAL SPONSOR (\$1,000)

Honey Brook Pharmacy

COTTON CANDY SPONSORS (\$750)

Knies Insurance Group - BB&T Bank - September Farm

FRIED OREO SPONSORS (\$500)

Chester County Solid Waste Authority - Honey Brook Golf Club - Hoover Building Specialists - Tel Hai Retirement Community

FUNNEL CAKE SPONSORS (\$350)

Heatherwood Retirement Home - Suburban Brewing - Zook Molasses Co./Good Foods

CARNIVAL GAMES (\$250)

Blue Marsh Insurance - Hickory House Nursing Home - M&T Bank - Spec Fab

LOLLIPOP (\$25-200)

E.M. Kutz, Inc. - Millers' Service Center, Inc. - Ryan Tyler State Farm Agency - Sanders Saws & Blades, Inc.

GIFTS IN KIND

Brandywine Hospital (Tons of Fun) - Honey Brook Fire Company (Tons of Fun) - Honey Brook Borough Police Dept (Tons of Fun) - Charles Blosenski (Lollipop) - Honey Brook Youth Center (Lollipop) Baldwin Electrical (Lollipop)

Other Honey Brook Community Partnership Events

"Make a Difference Day" is one of the largest annual single days of service projects nationwide, held on the fourth Saturday in October each year. The goal is to improve the lives of others through a wide range of community-driven service projects. This year, the Partnership collected items for the Honey Brook Food Pantry's "Under 4" Initiative.

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. This year's categories are for best decorated Residential Doors, Residential Yards, and Businesses. Voting will run December 9th - 18th. This year will feature public voting on the Partnership's website, www.hbpartnership.org.

2019 marked the second year for the HBCP to award grants to non-profit organizations and two scholarships to graduating seniors from Twin Valley High School. Those receiving grants in 2019 were the Hearts and Hands Community Center, Honey Brook Food Pantry, Honey Brook Youth Center, Griffin Goetz of BSA Troop 9, Girl Scout Cadette Jamie Fox, and the Twin Valley Community Education Foundation. The Twin Valley High School seniors receiving scholarship awards were Sydney Badman and Laurie Cleaver. Visit the Partnership's website for information on the 2020 grants and scholarship opportunities.

Honey Brook Community Partnership meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month at noon. For more information about the Partnership and the events and projects they organize, please contact Verna Emery at emeryspring@verizon.net.

Township Police Coverage

Honey Brook Township is covered by the Pennsylvania State Police. Residents should call 9-1-1 for emergencies or the Embreeville Barracks at 610-486-6280 for non-emergencies.





General Information (cont.)

CCWRA Plans "Watersheds" Update

Chester County Water Resources Authority (CCWRA) Plans "Watersheds" Update

In 2002, the Chester County Board of Commissioners adopted Watersheds, An Integrated Water Resources Management Plan for Chester County and its Watersheds. Its purpose is to serve as the water resources element of Chester County's Comprehensive Plan, Landscapes. To comply with the Pennsylvania Stormwater Management Act ("Act 167") of 1978, the Chester County Board of Commissioners subsequently adopted the "County-wide Act 167 Stormwater Management Plan Addendum" as an amendment to Watersheds and Landscapes2 in 2013. This plan was approved by the PA Department of Environmental Protection as required under PA Act 167 (1978), and all municipalities within Chester County have since adopted the model stormwater ordinance that was included in this plan. This ordinance was also developed to comply with NPDES MS4 ordinance provisions required at that time.

The Chester County Planning Commission recently completed an update to the County's comprehensive plan, Landscapes3, which was approved by the Board of Commissioners in November 2018. To ensure that the County and its citizens, businesses, organizations, and municipalities are equipped with the information needed to respond to the County's evolving water resources needs, the Chester County Water Resources Authority (CCWRA) is preparing to update the Watersheds plan and the County's Act 167 Stormwater Management Plan to support Landscapes3. Another model stormwater ordinance has been developed to assist municipalities in complying with new NPDES MS4 stormwater ordinance requirements prior to PADEP's September 30, 2022 deadline. The CCWRA will be seeking comments from municipalities and stakeholders across the County to gather input on desired changes to incorporate into the updated documents. Throughout the update process, CCWRA will host informational meetings and events to gather comments from all stakeholders. Information and updates will be periodically posted at chesco.org/water.

However, Citizens with topics of interest or concern that they wish to have considered for the updated plans may be emailed to water@chesco.org. See the Water Plans Questionnaire to help guide your thinking at <https://www.chesco.org/DocumentCenter/View/51658/92019-Summit-Water-Plans-Questionnaire?bidId=>.

The Latest Addition to the Fish Fry Menu

Toasted Lobster Melt

Served Fridays 4pm-8pm



5287 Horseshoe Pike
Honey Brook, Pa 19344
610.273.3552

www.septemberfarmcheese.com



Trash and Recycling

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' Associations (HOA) may contract with a hauler for the entire HOA so please check with your HOA manager for this information. **Burning of household trash, recyclables, and toxic materials of any kind is prohibited.**

Yard Waste Recycling

All haulers collecting trash in Honey Brook Township must offer yard waste collection at least three times per year; once in the spring and twice in the fall.



For more information, visit the Chester County Solid Waste Authority (CCSWA) website at www.chestercountyswa.org.

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, Paper (newspaper, books, catalogs, magazines, junk mail, paper, and envelopes), and Cardboard boxes and containers. Check with your collector to learn whether additional items may be recycled.

Residents shall also separate leaf waste from other recyclable materials and trash. Your trash collector 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 leaf waste by taking it to the Chester County Lanchester Landfill Composting Site. Fees may apply; check with the CCSWA.

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.

Outdoor 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 not prohibited, but toxic materials of any kind 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 does not prohibit farmers on farms of over 5 acres from carrying out normal and customary activities of farming operations, which occasionally includes open burning. However, a farmer may NOT burn municipal waste, leaves, plastic, 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.





Parks & Recreation Information

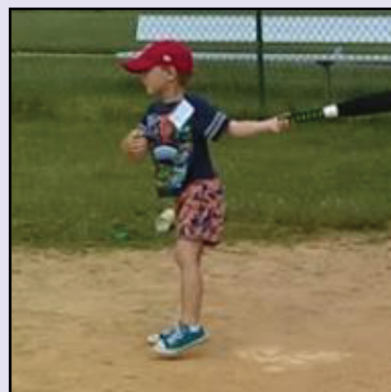
Summer 2019 Youth Programs Recap



The half-day summer camp, in its fifth year, was run by Michelle Zeitz, Theresa Androwick, and Lauren Swan, with two high school age helpers, at the Honey Brook Elementary Center three mornings a week for five weeks. Attendance averaged 17 per week with more than 30 different children in grades K-5. Each week had a different theme with games to coincide with the theme, plus weekly visits to the Honey Brook Community Library and a water games day (most welcome on the hot summer days!).

2020 Youth Activities

Look for registration forms for the Half-Day Summer Camp and other Summer 2020 activities information in the Spring/Summer 2020 edition of the Township Newsletter or watch the Township website at www.honeybrooktwp.com for announcements. The Camp will run July 7-30.



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. Park amenities include three ballfields, two tot lots, picnic pavilion, tennis courts, and a sand volleyball court. A list of the park rules is posted near the entrance to the park.

Picnic Pavilion Reservations – Residents can reserve the pavilion for group outings free of charge on a first-come, first-served basis. The pavilion includes outdoor grills and picnic table seating as well as a



hitching post and handicapped parking. Reserve the pavilion by submitting a Facilities Use Application together with a \$100.00 security deposit to the Township Administration Office. The security deposit will be returned provided that no damage occurs or clean-up is needed because of the group's use.

Park Equipment Available - Residents are allowed to borrow baseball/softball bases and pickleball equipment for use at the park. The equipment, which is located in the box located next to the front door of the Township Administration Building, is available on a first-come, first-serve basis. Please return the equipment promptly after your use.



WERNER & WOOD

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- Medicare/Medicaid Planning • Real Estate
- Land Development & Zoning • Conservatorships

FIRM PROFILE: The Law Firm of Werner & Wood was established in April 1984 at West Chester, Pennsylvania, by Kenneth R. Werner and David W. Wood, Jr. The firm established county satellite offices in Honey Brook and Phoenixville that same year. Mr. Wood retired from the practice in 2012. The main office in the county seat of West Chester and two convenient locations in the surrounding area allow the firm to serve conveniently every resident of Chester County.

Main Office:
Kenneth R. Werner, Esquire
LL.M., Taxation
 203 West Miner Street
 West Chester, PA 19382
610-692-2900
kwerner@wernerwoodlaw.com
www.wernerwoodlaw.com

Satellite Offices
 Rt. 10 and Rt. 322
 Honey Brook, PA 19344
 610-273-3412
 592 Schuylkill Road, Suite 2
 Phoenixville, PA 19460
 610-692-2900

www.wernerwoodlaw.com



Parks & Recreation Information

James A. Umble Memorial Park Master Plan

Honey Brook Township is in the process of developing a Master Plan for James A. Umble Memorial Park. The Master Plan will provide a blueprint for future recreation and public use improvements.

Twenty residents attended a public meeting on November 21 to view the Pre-Final Master Plan for the park. Consultants from YSM Landscape Architects presented the preliminary park design. Residents' thoughts and ideas are important and will help to establish priorities for future enhancement of James A. Umble Memorial Park.

Watch the website for more details as they emerge





Parks & Recreation Information

Umble Park Sidewalk Project

The Umble Park Sidewalk Project proposes the construction of a four-foot wide, 250-foot long pedestrian sidewalk along Suplee Road, connecting the James A. Umble Memorial Park driveway with the sidewalk at the Honey Brook Township & Borough municipal boundary. All engineering studies have been completed, and discussions with the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) regarding potential impacts to the watercourse running at the edge of Suplee Road. The hope is that the sidewalk will be poured before winter sets in.



Site of proposed sidewalk.

Pickleball Wrap-Up

The Honey Brook Township Park & Rec Board facilitated pick-up Pickleball games at the James A. Umble Memorial Park tennis courts starting in May. What started as a half dozen curious folks blossomed into an enthusiastic group of about 20 regular participants (pictured below).

Originally intended to last through August, the group continued playing well into October while the good weather lasted. Late-season purchases of additional nets and paddles ensured that more participants could play at one time.

Watch the Township website at www.honeybrooktwp.com for announcements about play resuming in Spring of 2020. If you’ve wondered what this craze is all about, be sure to check it out!



Honey Brook Township Pickleball Enthusiasts - July 16, 2019.

Movie Night Wrap-Up



The 2nd annual Park & Rec Movie Night at the Park was held on September 6, 2019. “Lego Movie 2” was shown to an audience of approximately 75. Movie Night 2020 has yet to be announced. Stay tuned!



Township Regulations

Permits Required

The Township requires that property owners obtain permits before starting most construction projects, opening a business, demolishing a structure or removing a trailer 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 and expansions.

Please note: Permits are not required for re-shingling of roofs; painting, flooring, or siding; exact replacement of windows or doors; sealcoating a driveway; or other cosmetic repairs, unless any structural changes or changes in footprint occur.

- 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: any new business including home occupations; Accessory dwellings; change in use of any building; timber harvesting; trailer removal; and yard sales, to name a few.

Permit applications can be found on the Township website under the Documents/Forms tab, they can be picked up from the Township Office or the staff will be glad to mail them upon request. When in doubt, contact the Township staff with any questions at 610-273-3970.

Dog Laws

Pennsylvania's Dog Laws:

- If your dog (3 months of age or older) is not licensed, you may be fined up to \$300 per dog. Get a license at the Chester County treasurer's office or online at www.padoglicense.com. An annual license is \$8.50 and a life time license is \$51.50. If your dog is spayed or neutered, the annual fee is \$6.50 and lifetime is \$31.50. Discounts are available to older adults and people with disabilities.
- Dogs and cats three months or older must have a current rabies vaccination. Owners of non-vaccinated pets may be fined up to \$300, plus court costs. Have your dog or cat vaccinated by a licensed veterinarian, who can provide a vaccination certificate.
- Your dog must be under control and supervised at all times. You are responsible for any damages caused by your dog on someone else's property.
- It is illegal to mistreat or abuse animals. Report suspected abuse to the Brandywine SPCA at 610-692-6113, to police at 610-486-6280, or the PA Animal Cruelty Hotline, 866-601-7722.
- Purposely poisoning a dog, whether it is yours or someone else's, is illegal.
- You may not abandon or attempt to abandon any dog. You could be fined \$1,000, plus court costs.
- Puppies under eight weeks old cannot be bartered, traded, sold or transferred.
- You must have a state kennel license if you keep, sell, transfer, adopt or foster 26 or more dogs in a calendar year. A boarding kennel license is required if you care for another person's animal in your home for more than four (4) hours in any day during a calendar year.
- If your dog attacks or kills a human or domestic animal without provocation, it may be considered dangerous. You may face extensive fines and restrictions.

Remember, if your dog gets lost, a current license is the fastest way to get your dog back home. Licensing fees help protect the millions of dogs in Pennsylvania by funding the Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement.



**ADVERTISE
IN THE
HONEY BROOK
NEWSLETTER!**

NEWSLETTERS SENT OUT TO LOCAL RESIDENTS

EIGHTH PAGE	\$195
QUARTER PAGE	\$340
HALF PAGE	\$540
FULL PAGE	\$1000

**CALL NOW TO RESERVE YOUR SPACE!
215-538-0350**



Public Works



pennsylvania
STATE POLICE

PennDOT, PA Turnpike Announce Implementation of Statewide Automated Work Zone Speed Enforcement Pilot

Harrisburg, PA – The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) and the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission (PTC), in partnership with the Pennsylvania State Police (PSP), has announced the implementation of a statewide Automated Work Zone Speed Enforcement (AWZSE) pilot program to reduce work zone speeds, change driver behavior, and improve work zone safety for workers and motorists.

“The Automated Work Zone Speed Enforcement program isn’t about issuing violations, it’s about saving lives,” said PennDOT Secretary Leslie S. Richards. “Last year, 23 motorists were killed in a Pennsylvania work zone. Through this program we are urging motorists to slow down and pay attention while driving, especially in work zones where roadway conditions can change on a daily basis.”

The AWZSE program was established by the Pennsylvania General Assembly in Act 86 of 2018. A minimum 60-day pre-enforcement pilot period began on November 4. During the pre-enforcement period, violations will not be issued. Enforcement is expected to begin in early 2020.

Automated speed enforcement units will be deployed to a number of active work zones during the pre-enforcement period. These work zones will be in various types of projects and will initially focus on our interstate and other limited access work zones. Work zones are selected by a data-driven process to maximize the effectiveness of the systems and will be marked with signage in advance of the enforcement area.

“When a crash occurs in an active work zone, it’s just as likely to result in death or injury to a driver or passenger inside that vehicle,” said PA Turnpike CEO Mark Compton. “This program is about protecting everybody’s safety. If not for these workers in an active work zone, I ask you to slow down for yourself and other travelers.”

Pennsylvania’s AWZSE program uses vehicle-mounted systems to detect and record motorists exceeding posted work zone speed limits by 11 miles per hour or more using electronic speed timing devices. AWZSE systems are only operational in active work zones where workers are present. Once enforcement begins, registered owners will receive a warning letter for a first offense, a violation notice and \$75 fine for a second offense, and a violation notice and \$150 fine for third and subsequent offenses. These violations are civil penalties only; no points will be assessed to driver’s licenses.

In 2018, there were 1,804 work zone crashes in Pennsylvania, resulting in 23 fatalities, and 43 percent of work zone crashes resulted in fatalities and/or injuries. Since 1970, PennDOT has lost 89 workers in the line of duty and the PA Turnpike has lost 45 workers since 1945.

“We are committed to facilitating the efficient movement of traffic through work zones while ensuring the safety of drivers, passengers, and workers,” said Director of the Pennsylvania State Police Bureau of Patrol Major James Basinger. “PSP continues to work closely with our safety partners to explore how to best leverage evolving technology to make Pennsylvania’s roads safer.”

For more information on the Automated Work Zone Speed Enforcement program, visit <https://WorkZoneCameras.PennDOT.gov>.

From the Public Works Director

Fall is here and winter is rapidly approaching. Here are some tips to keep you and your neighbors safe:

Fall Weather Responsibilities

- 1. Mailboxes:** Please check the position of your mailbox to insure that it doesn’t extend over the edge of the street making it susceptible to plow damage. The Road Crew makes every effort to avoid causing damage to mailboxes; however, plowed snow may be pushed against mailbox posts, especially during large storms.
- 2. Remove all items from the Township’s right-of-way before winter arrives.** Items like decorations, basketball hoops, Ag bags, real estate or political signs, or other portable objects are not permitted in the right-of-way at any time. A good rule of thumb is to keep such items at least 10 feet back from the roadway to reduce the chance of plow damage.
- 3. Trim trees and shrubs** so that branches do not extend within three feet of the roadway edge.
- 4. Grass clippings and leaves** must never be blown into the street or storm drains.

Winter Weather Responsibilities

- 1. Vehicle Parking:** Whenever there is a winter weather event, all vehicles must be removed from the streets including cul-de-sacs in the Township until the storm has ended and the Public Works staff has completed the final storm clean-up. ***The Township is not required to declare a weather emergency for this requirement.*** If vehicles are parked on streets and cul-de-sacs during a winter weather event, they are subject to towing at the owner’s expense.
- 2. Sidewalks:** Snow and ice must be cleared from sidewalks within 24 hours after the storm ends. If you can’t completely clear your sidewalk because of ice conditions, treat it with sand or other abrasive material.
- 3. DO NOT throw or blow snow into the streets.** Pile the snow behind the curb line or street edge where it won’t obstruct traffic movement or the Township’s plowing operations.
- 4. Fire Hydrants and Storm Drains:** You are required to clear snow around fire hydrants on your property. You can also help minimize flooding by clearing snow from storm sewer catch basins located along your property.
- 5. Tips about clearing your driveway:** The Township receives complaints every year about the staff plowing driveways closed or covering sidewalks after a resident has spent hours shoveling them open. Unfortunately, during plowing operations, snow is pushed to the right side of the road, regularly blocking driveways and occasionally covering sidewalks.

The best way to avoid having to clear snow from your driveway multiple times is to wait until plowing operations are completed before you clean up. If you’d like to get a head start but don’t need to get out of your driveway, consider not shoveling the last six feet toward the street until the plowing operation is complete. If you need to clear your driveway before plowing is complete, you can minimize the amount of snow plowed into the driveway in the following manner: clear not only your driveway out into the street, but also all of the snow at least 10 feet along the street. This will allow plows to unload most of the snow before crossing in front of your driveway.

Bear in mind that any damage caused from the Public Works staff’s plowing operations or moving items out of the right-of-way prior to such operations is the property owner’s responsibility.

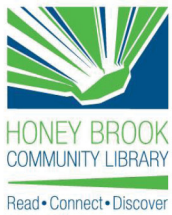
Planning Ahead for Spring

If you are planning on installing a driveway or changing a current one this spring, remember that you will need a Road or Highway Occupancy Permit by either the Township (if it connects to a Township road) or the State (if it connects to a state road). Even if your driveway connects to a private road in the Township, you will need a permit for any impervious coverage you install on your property.



Around the Community

Honey Brook Community Library Programs:



Building Club for Little Ones

Bring your preschooler to play with LEGOs, wooden blocks, Lincoln logs, & magnatiles on the third Tuesday of the month at 10:00 am. Registration required.

Chatty Crafters

Every Thursday from 7-9 pm, join in the fun for this knitting, crocheting, and needlework group for young adults and adults. Bring your own supplies.

Mystery Book Club

Join us at the Honey Brook Library on the third Tuesday of each month at 1:00 pm for our Mystery Book Club. Reading list available on the website.

Raise-a-Reader

This program for children ages 0-36 months includes rhymes, finger plays, music, and lots of books with Miss Melissa. Limited to 15 children and their caregiver on Fridays at 10:00 am. Registration required; three sessions offered per year.

Sewing with Miss Nancy

Fridays 6-8 pm at the Honey Brook Library for all ages 12 and older. Ms. Nancy will help you with basic sewing skills or choose a pattern or project from the Library's many sewing books. We have five sewing machines at the library or bring your own.

Story Time with Miss Jennifer

Enjoy songs, stories, and crafts at the Honey Brook Library on Wednesdays and Thursdays, from 10:00-11:00 am. Best suited for preschool ages 2-5, but all ages are welcome.

YA for Adults Book Club

Held the second Thursday of the month from 6:30-7:30 pm.

Special events:

Dog Tales: Tuesday, November 26, 6:00-7:00 pm

Elves Night Out: Friday, December 6, 7:00-8:30 pm

Stop in for a flyer, find us on Facebook, call 610-273-3303, or e-mail jspade@ccls.org for more information on any of the above programs or to register.

Internet Hotspots Available!

Take the Internet with you. Hotspots from T-Mobile are available to rent from the Library. Going on a trip? Need Internet at home? Just always on the go? Rent one of our Hotspots. They will be \$6 for a 3-day rental and \$14 for a 7-day rental. They are 4 G and up to 10 devices can connect to them at the same time. Your library card must be free of fines and you will be required to show ID when checking them out.

Fundraising Opportunity:

Amazon -- If you are using Amazon, sign in first through Amazon Smile. Go to <http://smile.amazon.com> and select "Honey Brook Community Library Chester County Library" using the link. It's that easy! 5% of your purchases will be donated to the HBCL from Amazon. Please tell your friends and family and remember to sign in through Amazon Smile each time you use Amazon.

Board Members needed!

Board of Trustees members for the Library are needed. If you are looking to give back to your community, please contact Director Jennifer Spade or stop by if interested. Board members serve a 3 year term and Board meetings are the 4th Monday of the month at 6:30 pm.

Honey Brook Community Library
687 Compass Road
Honey Brook, PA 19344
610-273-3303

Hours: Mondays & Wednesdays: 11 am - 6 pm
Tuesdays & Thursdays: 11 am - 8 pm
Fridays: 11 am - 5 pm
Saturdays: 10 am - 5 pm
Sundays: closed

Register for programs to jspade@ccls.org

Changes to the Coatesville VAMC's Urgent Care

Starting 10/28/2019, the Coatesville VAMC's Urgent Care no longer operates on a 24/7 basis.

Coatesville VAMC's Acute (locked) Psych unit will continue to admit/transfer patients already admitted/processed from community hospitals or other VA Emergency Rooms 24/7.

All Veterans who are experiencing a medical (Chest pains, difficulty breathing, severe wounds, head injury, etc.) or Mental health emergency (HI/ SI behaviors, etc.) during the closed hours will need to be taken to the closest ER/ED for treatment. Once admitted at the community hospital, the hospital will coordinate with the appropriate VA staff for the Veterans continuation of care.

For those Veterans who are not experiencing a Medical/MH emergency, but request to be taken to the Coatesville VAMC, will not be admitted after closing hours. Also, there is no transportation (other than taxi/bus at veteran expense) available to return the veteran to their home/community.

The closure will be a 3-phase process:

Phase 1

10/28/2019 – 01/05/2020: VA Urgent Care will be open from 7:30 am-8:00 pm weekdays (M-F) and 7:30 am – 3:30 pm on weekends (Sat-Sun). Closed on all Federal Holidays.

Phase 2:

01/06/2020 – 03/01/2020: VA Urgent Care will be open from 7:30 am-5:00 pm weekdays (M-F) and 7:30 am – 12:00 noon on weekends (Sat-Sun). Closed on all Federal Holidays.

Phase 3:

Starting 03/02/2020: VA Urgent Care will be open from 7:30 am – 5:00 pm weekdays (M-F). Closed on weekends (Sat-Sun) and on all Federal Holidays.

For more information, see the Coatesville VAMC Newsletter at: https://www.coatesville.va.gov/news/eagle/Eagle_Autumn_2019.pdf, which has the details of the closure (on page 1) and how the cost of the ER/ED visit can be coordinated by the VA (on page 2, under Emergency Medical Care).

Honey Brook Food Pantry

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 the 2nd & 4th Wednesdays of the month except where noted due to holidays. One visit per month per household, please.

Now in the second half of our 6th year of serving local residents of the Honey Brook community, the HBFP has now registered well over 1,300 families, serving over 12,000 pounds of food to 700-800 people per month. About one third of the families who no longer attend have been verified as “food secure”, clearly validating our mission and providing tangible evidence of meeting the needs of hungry families while that need exists.

Although the number of people served has stabilized, on a recent Wednesday we had the largest non-holiday distribution since last spring. “Emergency” situations continue to increase and having a reliable resource providing healthy food support when needed remains a critical community need.

December	January	February	March	April	May
December 4 10:00 am-1:30 pm December 18 4:00-6:30 pm Holiday Pickup Only: December 14, 10 am - 1:00 pm	January 8 10:00 am-1:30 pm January 22 4:00-6:30 pm	February 12 10:00 am-1:30 pm February 26 4:00-6:30 pm	March 11 10:00 am-1:30 pm March 25 4:00-6:30 pm	April 8 10:00 am-1:30 pm April 22 4:00-6:30 pm	May 13 10:00 am-1:30 pm May 27 4:00-6:30 pm

- In our quest to serve the most vulnerable population segments, we see nearly 300 children per month:
- The weekend **Kids’ Back Pack Program (80)** through the local Elementary Schools serves those most in need
 - **Summer food boxes full of healthy items are provided to all participating children**
 - Healthy cooking demonstrations and ingredients are part of every distribution and our **“Taste It” Team regularly prepares meal and snack items targeted to children**
 - The **“Garden for Life”** program has expanded to over 50 families including **25 children** and a **Community Garden in the Borough Park was added this year.**
 - The **Nutritional Supplement Program for Infant-Age 3**, (food list on the website) when proper development is most critical for future health, has been a great success. Specialized foods, instructions, educational materials and counseling are offered to over 45 families and 60+ children and the parental feedback is overwhelming. **Diapers and Wipes**, along with some personal items, are also provided.
 - **Children’s Vision Testing through age 11** provided by the Honey Brook Lion’s Club
 - **Toys** and gently used **children’s books** are always on display
 - In conjunction with Toys for Tots and a local employer, every child will receive at least one **New Toy** this December

Impacting the cycle of poverty starts with kids and serving them is a most important priority. Despite tremendous support from the community, the resources of the pantry are challenged by great need. Please contact me with any questions or further needs and many thanks for your support!!

Kenneth R. Ross
Board Chairman, Honey Brook Food Pantry
610-291-0067
www.honeybrookfoodpantry.org
visit us on Facebook @ Honey Brook Food Pantry

Alternate Honey Brook Food Pantry Donation Drop-off Point

The Honey Brook Township Administration Office at 500 Suplee Road is a drop-off point for non-perishable donations to the Honey Brook Food Pantry during the Township’s normal business hours of Monday through Friday, 9:00 am- 3:00 pm. Consult the Pantry’s website for the most up-to-date list of accepted (and needed) donation items. Look for the bin in the lobby of the Administration Building at 500 Suplee Rd.



General Information for Winter Storms

- Municipalities and the County of Chester will be communicating with the public through Ready Chesco. Sign-up today at readychesco.org.
- The Chester County Department of Emergency Services (DES) will regularly be providing updates on social media sites:
Chester County DES Facebook: facebook.com/CCDES/
Chester County DES Twitter: twitter.com/ccdes
- Keep listening to the radio or watching the television for news about what to do, where to go, or places to avoid.
- If there are downed lines on your property, do not touch them! Report them to PP&L at (800) 342-5755.
- If you come across a roadway that is barricaded – do not drive around the barricade or move the barricade. The road has been barricaded for your safety.
- Honey Brook Township EMC Facebook page:
facebook.com/Honey-Brook-Office-of-Emergency-Management-115259859876408/

How to Report Power Outages

The Chester County Department of Emergency Services politely reminds individuals not call 9-1-1 to report your power is out. Be sure to call your electric utility provider to report your power is out. Please report your power outage to PP&L at (800) 342-5755 every 8 hours even if you have already reported it. This helps electric utility providers to understand where the outages remain.

ADVERTISE IN THE HONEY BROOK NEWSLETTER!

NEWSLETTERS SENT OUT TO LOCAL RESIDENTS

EIGHTH PAGE	\$195
QUARTER PAGE	\$340
HALF PAGE	\$540
FULL PAGE	\$1000

CALL NOW TO RESERVE YOUR SPACE!
215-538-0350

Honey Brook Borough Events

HONEY BROOK BOROUGH TREE LIGHTING

Sunday, December 8: Christmas Tree Lighting, 7:00 pm. Caroling, refreshments, and a visit from Santa, arriving via fire truck!

For information, call 610-273-2020

Ready ChesCo



ReadyChesCo is used to notify you during a major crisis or emergency, and delivers important emergency alerts; such as weather, road closures, health, or community alerts. You can choose to sign up by county, municipality, or by topic.

You may receive notifications and updates on all your devices:

- email account
- cell phone (via SMS)
- pager

Registration takes only a few minutes! You can register by visiting www.readychesco.org

It is free to sign up for ReadyChesCo, and you can choose the type of alerts that you get. Your wireless carrier may charge you to get messages on your device, so check your plan to see what is covered. You can choose to stop getting these messages at any time.

Shepherd's Kitchen

Shepherd's Kitchen Offers Monthly Free Meal to the Community

The Honey Brook Presbyterian Church, 4331 Horseshoe Pike, has been serving meals and sharing companionship with the community since 2012. The free meals are usually served on the first Thursday of the month from 4:30 to 6:30, and they are nutritiously and lovingly prepared. All are welcome to come and break bread! Upcoming dates are:

• Dec. 5 • Jan. 9*

*(note date change due to New Year's Holiday)

• Feb. 6 • Mar. 5 • Apr. 2

Visit the Shepherd's Kitchen on Facebook (the menu or cancellation notice can be found there):
<https://www.facebook.com/Honey-Brook-Presbyterian-Church-331648382176/>
or call 610-273-2848 with questions.



Senior News



SENIOR FOOD BOX PROGRAM: In partnership with the Chester County Food Bank, qualifying seniors age 60 and older may register to receive a Senior Food Box at Honey Brook Community Library.

To qualify, you must:

- Be a Chester County resident age 60 or older
- Have total household income at or less than the following:

Family Size	INCOME LEVEL		
	Annual	Monthly	Weekly
1	\$17,800	\$1,485	\$343
2	\$24,030	\$2,003	\$462

Fresh Produce Available

On (most) Thursdays, the Chester County Food Bank delivers fresh produce to the Center. Produce is FREE and available for the public (but we encourage you to call to be sure a delivery was made)!

**MEDICARE ANNUAL ELECTION PERIOD OR
MEDICARE ANNUAL OPEN ENROLLMENT PERIOD**
October 15, 2019 - December 7, 2019

Are you unhappy with your current Medicare coverage? Have you reviewed your Medicare coverage every year? Medicare drug and health plans change annually. Premiums change, fees, copays, coinsurance and deductibles change, drug formularies change. You should review your coverage every year to determine if there is better coverage and cost savings! Any changes you make to your coverage will become effective January 1, 2020.

The Medicare Annual Election Period is the time each year where you can do the following:

- Switch or join Medicare Part D prescription drug plan
- Switch to another Medicare Advantage HMO or PPO
- Switch from a Medicare Advantage plan back to Original Medicare with or without a Medicare Supplemental/Medigap plan and prescription drug plan
- Review and compare your current coverage

Call and make an appointment with an APPRISE Medicare Counselor who can assist you in making changes and guide you in evaluating your options. These counselors are trained and certified by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to provide FREE assistance, with confidential and independent assessments of healthcare options under Medicare.

Counselors will be available at the Coatesville Area Center, 250 Harmony St., by appointment only. Call 610-383-6900 to schedule.

Radon Information

Did you know that an estimated 40% of Pennsylvania homes have higher levels of radon than national safety standards? This is due in large part to the state’s geology. Radon is an odorless, colorless radioactive gas that occurs naturally from the breakdown of uranium in soil and rocks and enters homes through cracks in the foundation or other openings. Though typically found in basements, radon can be found anywhere in the home.

Winter is a perfect time to test for radon, because doors and windows are closed, allowing for more accurate results. Simple radon test kits are inexpensive and available at home improvement and hardware stores. For more information about radon, visit <https://www.dep.pa.gov/Business/RadiationProtection/RadonDivision/Pages/default.aspx>.

Spotted Lanternfly



Spotted lanternfly (SLF) is an invasive insect present in Chester County and surrounding areas. SLF threatens agriculture, tree health and it is a nuisance pest. Chester County is within the SLF quarantine zone. Check for and remove SLF egg masses from late fall to early spring. Remember that egg masses may be underneath your car or in your wheel well. During all other times of the year, check for nymphs and adults, and keep your windows rolled up when you park. Don’t store things or park under infested trees, and do not transport firewood. Inspect your vehicle for SLF before traveling.

For more information and to learn how you can control SLF on your own property, visit <https://extension.psu.edu/spotted-lanternfly-management-for-homeowners> or call 1-888-4BAD-FLY. See page 18 for pictures of all SLF life stages.



KNOW HOW TO SPOT THE SPOTTED LANTERNFLY



Adult (with wings closed) can be found July–December



Nymph (early stage) can be found late April–July



Egg mass (fresh) can be found October–December



Adult (with wings open) can be found July–December



Nymph (late stage) can be found July–September



Egg mass (older) can be found January–June



TOWNSHIPS TODAY

A NEWSLETTER BROUGHT
TO YOU BY YOUR TOWNSHIP

Third Quarter 2019

Pennsylvania's First Farm Bill Invests Millions to Address Challenges Facing the Ag Industry

Pennsylvania's first-ever farm bill will invest \$23.1 million to help farmers better cope with the challenges threatening their livelihoods while creating opportunities for future generations.

"The [bill] is bold, aggressive, and necessary to protect our farming heritage," Gov. Tom Wolf said at the recent bill signing, adding that these "historic investments...will improve the lives of all residents for years to come and create a pathway for a dynamic and prosperous farming economy in Pennsylvania."

"In my 20 years of public service," Ag Secretary Russell Redding said, "this is the largest investment I've ever seen made in Pennsylvania agriculture."

Pennsylvania's farms not only provide food, clothing, and other goods for people around the world, but they're also important to the economic vitality of townships of all sizes and all regions, urban, suburban, and rural.

Wolf has described the agricultural industry as "the backbone of Pennsylvania's economy."

"You don't have to drive too far in Pennsylvania to come across a farm," said David M. Sanko, executive director of the Pennsylvania



A major hurdle facing the industry, however, is that the average age of farmers is increasing. Under Pennsylvania's first-ever farm bill, landowners who rent or sell to young farmers will be eligible for a tax credit.

State Association of Township Supervisors.

"Agriculture is a significant part of the commonwealth's landscape and culture while employing thousands of township residents. ➤



TOWNSHIPS TODAY • Third Quarter 2019

“The farm bill,” he added, “preserves and strengthens a generational industry that is a key part of the fabric that makes Pennsylvania a great place to live, work, and raise a family.”

Support for young farmers

A major hurdle facing the industry, however, is that the average age of farmers is increasing.

“Pennsylvania’s farming population is getting older, and serious conversations are taking place about where the next generation will come from,” Pa. Farm Bureau President Rick Ebert said. “Making access to farmland more affordable for younger farmers can help remove obstacles facing the next generation on the farm.”

Under the farm bill, landowners who rent or sell to young farmers will be eligible for a tax credit.

“The lack of affordable farmland to rent or buy is often listed as the number one reason why young people do not pursue careers in farming,” Ebert said. “We are hopeful that this new tax credit program will create more opportunities for Pennsylvania agriculture and inspire the next generation of farmers in the state.”

The new farm bill will also:

➤ *Develop new resources for agriculture business development and succession planning.*

- Two million dollars will be invested to create the Agriculture Business Development Center, which will provide business planning, marketing, diversification, and transition planning services to farmers.
- Landowners who transfer preserved farmland to a qualified beginning farmer will be exempt from the realty transfer tax.

➤ *Increase opportunities for Pennsylvania’s agricultural workforce.*

- With \$500,000 in seed money from the farm bill, the state will create the Pa. Farm-to-School Grant Program, which will increase nutrition and agriculture education for pre-kindergarten through fifth grade students.
- Another \$500,000 has been set aside to re-establish the Agriculture and Youth Development Grant Program, which provides workforce initiatives for organizations such as FFA and 4-H.

➤ *Remove regulatory burdens and strengthen the state’s agricultural business climate.*

- The Agriculture Linked Investment Program will receive \$500,000 to provide low-interest loans for conservation practices.
- The state has also allocated \$2.5 million to the Conservation Excellence Grant Program, which will fund best-management practices in priority areas of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed.



➤ *Increase market opportunities and expand the organic farming sector.*

- The state is providing \$1.6 million to support the Pa. Preferred Program and create the Pa. Preferred Organic Initiative. An additional \$1 million will be given to Pa. Preferred to increase enrollment in the Homegrown by Heroes Program, which supports products grown by veterans.
- The new Specialty Crop Block Grant Program will receive \$500,000 to invest in hardwoods, hemp, hops, and other priority crops.

➤ *Protect agriculture infrastructure.*

- Under the farm bill, \$4 million has been set aside to create the Pennsylvania Rapid Response Disaster Readiness Account, which will provide a quick response to agricultural disasters. This funding will also help continue the fight against the spotted lanternfly, an invasive insect that poses a significant threat to Pennsylvania agriculture.

State budget sets aside more money for farming

In addition to the farm bill, the recently passed 2019-2020 state budget includes additional funding to support agriculture.

State lawmakers approved at least \$7 million for such initiatives as the Agricultural Business and Workforce Investment Program, the Animal Health and Diagnostic Commission, and the Livestock and Consumer Health Protection Program. Research and cooperative extension programs also received funding increases.

“We believe the heavy focus on agriculture this year is a recognition by the General Assembly and the governor that a prosperous farming community is essential to the economic health of rural communities and the state’s economy,” Ebert said. “The new programs and increased funding for other programs come at a time when many farmers have struggled to stay in business after five consecutive years of depressed prices.”

“The lack of affordable farmland to rent or buy is often listed as the number one reason why young people do not pursue careers in farming. We are hopeful that this new tax credit program will create more opportunities...and inspire the next generation of farmers.”



Christmas Tree Safety



As you deck the halls this holiday season, be fire smart. A small fire that spreads to a Christmas tree can grow large very quickly.



PICKING THE TREE

- Choose a tree with fresh, green needles that do not fall off when touched.



PLACING THE TREE

- Before placing the tree in the stand, cut 2" from the base of the trunk.
- Make sure the tree is at least three feet away from any heat source, like fireplaces, radiators, candles, heat vents or lights.
- Make sure the tree is not blocking an exit.
- Add water to the tree stand. Be sure to add water daily.



LIGHTING THE TREE

- Use lights that are listed by a qualified testing laboratory. Some lights are only for indoor or outdoor use.
- Replace any string of lights with worn or broken cords or loose bulb connections. Read manufacturer's instructions for number of light strands to connect.
- Never use lit candles to decorate the tree.
- Always turn off Christmas tree lights before leaving home or going to bed.



After Christmas

Get rid of the tree after Christmas or when it is dry. Dried-out trees are a fire danger and should not be left in the home or garage, or placed outside against the home.

Check with your local community to find a recycling program.

Bring outdoor electrical lights inside after the holidays to prevent hazards and make them last longer.

FACTS

- ! **One quarter** of home Christmas tree fires are caused by electrical problems.
- ! Although Christmas tree fires are not common, when they do occur, they are more likely to be serious.
- ! A heat source too close to the tree causes roughly **one in every four** of the fires.



A Letter to the Residents of Honey Brook Township

The Honey Brook Township Board of Supervisors wants you to know that there will be an increase in Township property taxes next year to help offset the ever rising costs of providing fire and ambulance services.

The local real estate tax rate for Honey Brook Township has remained unchanged at .98 mills for the past eleven (11) years. In part this was accomplished because the Township is fiscally conservative in the way it provides services each year. Unfortunately today, two vital services to our community require additional financial support to continue their operations, the volunteer fire company and the ambulance / emergency medical service (EMS).

Since 1892, the Honey Brook Fire Company has been the sole provider of fire services to our residents. They are a 100% volunteer organization that relies primarily on fundraising and donations to make ends meet. The Township offers some financial assistance to offset the cost of fire company operations however neither we or the Fire Company has the necessary monies to support the long-term need to purchase expensive capital equipment such as fire trucks.

The Elverson-Honey Brook EMS continues to see a significant decrease in medical insurance reimbursements and membership donations, while call volumes and the costs for services are ever increasing. The EMS unit operating out of the Honey Brook fire station is the busiest ambulance in their service area.

According to the Pennsylvania Second Class Township code, "the township shall be responsible for ensuring that fire and emergency medical services are provided within the township by the means and to the extent determined by the township, including the appropriate financial and administrative assistance for these services.

As elected Supervisors, we are responsible to ensure that these vital emergency services are provided and adequately funded. The brave and dedicated members of the Honey Brook Fire Company and Elverson-Honey Brook EMS selflessly dedicate themselves to ensure that we all remain safe. We strongly believe it is our duty to guarantee that they have the necessary resources to quickly and safely respond to an emergency.

The proposed real estate tax increase amounts to 0.37 mills which equals just \$3.08 extra per month for each \$100,000 of assessed value. Approximately 77% of the new property tax is dedicated to fire protection, with the remaining 23% dedicated to EMS.

Be aware, this extra property tax will not fully support the total costs of providing fire and EMS services. Both organizations will need to continue relying on fundraisers and donations to meet their budget needs. The costs to fully fund these services through taxes would require an increase much, much greater than .37 mills. We ask that you continue your generous support of the Fire Company and EMS fund raising activities and membership drives because it helps support these important services and it also may help minimize future tax increases.

We understand that any increase in taxation is a serious concern however, we believe that supporting our first responders and emergency services is of the utmost importance. This year 84% of your property tax bill was dedicated to the Twin Valley School District and 12.2% was dedicated to Chester County. This means that your increased Township taxes will still only represent 3.8% of your overall annual real estate tax bill.

The Board of Supervisors feel that life safety is of utmost importance and hope that this letter helps you understand why we have decided to make our first tax increase since 2009. We welcome you to contact the Township with any questions you may have in regards to this or any other matter, so that we may continue to provide you with the services our Township needs.

We wish you a happy and healthy holiday season.

Travis Stacey

John McHugh

Tracy Olsen

Honey Brook Township Board of Supervisors



PennDOT Reminds Customers of October 2020 Federal Enforcement Deadline for REAL ID

Harrisburg, PA – The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) reminds customers that in less than one year, on October 1, 2020, federal enforcement of the REAL ID Act will begin at airports and secure federal facilities nationwide.

Beginning October 1, 2020, federally-accepted form of identification (whether it's a Pennsylvania REAL ID driver's license or ID card, a U.S. Passport/Passport Card, a military ID, etc.) must be used as identification to board a commercial flight or visit a secure federal building that requires ID at the door. REAL ID-compliant driver's licenses and photo ID cards have been available at the customer's option since March 2019.

To date, more than 400,000 Pennsylvanians have chosen to get a REAL ID-compliant product. Based on data from other states with optional REAL ID programs, PennDOT anticipates that approximately 1.3 million of its customers will get a REAL ID before the federal enforcement deadline of October 1, 2020.

"We encourage our customers who are interested but haven't yet obtained one to start the process now," said Secretary of Transportation Leslie S. Richards.

Federal regulations require that in order to be a REAL ID-compliant product, PennDOT must verify the below documents:

- **Proof of Identity:** Original or certified copy of a birth certificate filed with the State Office of Vital Records/Statistics with a raised seal/embossed or valid, unexpired, U.S. Passport;
- **Proof of Social Security Number:** Social security card, in current legal name;
- **Two Proofs of Current, Physical PA Address:** Current, unexpired PA driver's license or identification card, vehicle registration or a utility bill with the same name and address; and
- **Proof of all Legal Name Changes (if applicable):** Certified marriage certificate(s) issued by the County Court for each marriage, court order(s) approving a change in legal name, or amended birth certificate issued by the State Office of Vital Records/Statistics

If residents need to obtain replacement documents, they should contact the State Office of Vital Records/Statistics, Social Security Administration and/or obtain Certified Marriage Certificate(s) from the County office in which the marriage license was issued.

Customers can bring the required documents to any PennDOT Driver License Center. More info about document requirements, including a

printable document checklist, can be found on the Document Check page of the PennDOT Driver and Vehicle Services website.

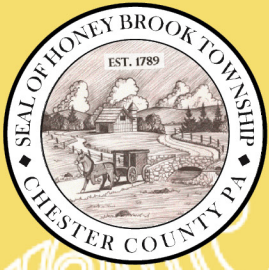
Customers who choose to get a REAL ID will pay a one-time fee of \$30, plus a renewal fee (current renewal fee is \$30.50 for a four-year non-commercial driver's license, \$31.50 for a photo ID). The expiration date of their initial REAL ID product will include any time remaining on their existing non-REAL ID product, plus an additional four years, unless the customer is over 65 and has a two-year license. This expiration date structure means that the customer won't "lose" time that they've already paid for. After the initial REAL ID product expires, the customer will pay no additional fee, beyond regular renewal fees, to renew a REAL ID product.

Customers have three options for obtaining a REAL ID product:

- If a customer has been pre-verified, customers may order their REAL ID online and receive their REAL ID in the mail within 15 business days.
- Customers can visit one of PennDOT's 63 Driver's License Centers, have their documents verified, pay the one-time fee, and their REAL ID product will be mailed to them within 15 business days;
- Visit one of the 12 REAL ID Centers have their documents verified, pay the one-time fee, and receive their REAL ID product over the counter at the time of service:

- 1) 1782 E 3rd Street, Williamsport;
- 2) 1085 Hanover Street, Wilkes-Barre;
- 3) 812 W College Avenue, Rte. 26, Pleasant Gap, (a.k.a. Rockview in Centre County);
- 4) 7200 Peach Street #480 (Summit Towne Center), Erie;
- 5) 1738 9th Avenue A, Altoona;
- 6) 1700 Markley Street, Norristown;
- 7) South 70th Street, Philadelphia;
- 8) 1025 Washington Pike, Rte. 50, Bridgeville;
- 9) 143 S. Gulph Road, King of Prussia;
- 10) 1101 MacArthur Road, Allentown;
- 11) 429 North Enola Road, Enola; and
- 12) 2090 Lincoln Highway East, Lancaster.

More information about REAL ID in Pennsylvania, including frequently asked questions and information on documents required for REAL ID, can be found at www.penndot.gov/REALID.



Honey Brook Township

CHESTER COUNTY, PA

Volume 10, Issue 1

Fall 2019/Winter 2020

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