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- Newsletter Submission •
Deadline for the
next newsletter
May 9, 2025

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Assistant Recreation Director
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Hanoverview

Supervisors' News & Updates



As We Enter 2025, There Is Much Work to Be Done

By Susan A. Lawless, Esq., Chair, Board of Supervisors

By the time this first newsletter of the new year reaches residents' mailboxes, most of us will have already abandoned our new year's resolutions. Congratulations to those readers who have held steadfast to their new goals. The Board of Supervisors does not make new year's resolutions, but we do set goals and determine the hierarchy or priority among such goals. One of those goals is to roll out the new website in the first half of this year. There will be one site for both the Township and the Community Center. We hope that you will find the new, single site to be intuitive and more responsive to searches from handheld devices than is the current website. It will feature a more expansive calendar to announce all the activities happening in our Township in one spot.

It is anticipated that the calendar will be jam packed as there are always a lot of great things happening at the Community Center. And the Community Center represents one of the 2025 priorities as well as one of its fiscal challenges. The Community Center has been in need of a new roof and HVAC system for some time now. The Township will focus heavily upon securing the necessary funding to get that work done in 2025. Another priority, will be to complete the design, secure the bids and construct a new field house at the Township's largest park, First Responders Park. This project is not anticipated to be a fiscal challenge as the bulk of the funds necessary to design and build it have already been secured through grants sponsored

Please turn to page 3.



Pharo, Monocacy Parks Receiving New Playgrounds as Pump Track Goes to Bid

By Stephen M. Gross, Board of Supervisors

As I write this update, a light snow is falling, more is in the forecast, and we've only had a couple days over the past two weeks where temperatures have climbed above freezing.

But before we know it, it will once again be warm enough to spend afternoons in our parks and comfortably stroll on the Township's walking paths. This year, we have quite a few improvements to look forward to as the Township continues its focus on upgrading its parks and trails. Among the updates we'll see in 2025 are Pharo and Monocacy Parks both receiving new playgrounds, and a pump track being installed just behind the Community Center at the Hanover Township Municipal Park.

Those who have braved the cold to walk their dogs or go for a brisk run near the end of Gaspar Ave. in Stafore Estates have already witnessed evidence



landscape
structures

Pharo Park

627.24007-62 • Pharo Park (Broomer) • 8.27.2024

GENERAL RECREATION, INC.

Please turn to page 4.



Sinkhole Awareness

By John N. Diacogiannis, Board of Supervisors

Recent sinkholes in the Lehigh Valley, including a large one in Hanover Township, have brought attention to a problem that has been around for an exceedingly long time. Most of our area of Pennsylvania is underlaid with limestone. Sinkholes can develop gradually or abruptly, and their occurrence is not limited to Pennsylvania. In 2002, I wrote an overview of sinkholes, emphasizing the importance of recognizing early signs when possible, taking immediate action and advising on the importance of having insurance coverage for sinkhole damage. The following is an update of that article.

Have you ever had that sinking feeling, but you are not on a river, lake, or ocean? You may be experiencing a sinkhole. A sinkhole collapse is the sudden settlement or collapse of earth resulting from subterranean voids created by the action of water on limestone or similar rock formations. Sinkhole development varies in different areas of the country, depending on geologic conditions. Quite often, surface water makes its way through openings in rocks and soil and begins to dissolve the underlying limestone. Surface disturbances may compound or accelerate the problem. Poor or improper drainage often concentrates the water in the wrong place. Water pipe leaks or underground streams can be the main cause of the problem.



Sinkholes sometimes cause extensive damage to structures and roads, resulting in costly and often uninsured repairs. The worst area for sinkhole damage is Florida. It seems as if every year there is a car or two and even a whole house disappearing into a Florida sinkhole. A major local sinkhole event involved the collapse and leveling of a modern office building in downtown Allentown. Sinkholes can also be deadly. In 1993, a sinkhole measuring 100 feet wide and 25 feet deep appeared under an Atlanta parking lot. Two individuals lost their lives, and many vehicles were damaged in the collapse. Limestone deposits underlie much of the Lehigh Valley. We may not be a hotbed for sinkhole activity like Florida and Kentucky, but many of us have seen the effects of sinkholes all around us. It is important that you recognize the early signs of a sinkhole and what to do when they become apparent. ■

Pre-collapse Sinkhole Indicators:

- Water runoff is ponding where it had not previously.
- Cracks begin to appear on the ground surface.
- Posts, fences, or trees begin to tilt.
- Small preliminary holes begin to appear on the ground or macadam.
- Vegetation is wilting in a localized area, while the surrounding area is fine.
- Nearby well water (not prevalent in Hanover) begins to experience turbidity (i.e., cloudy, sediment filled).
- A water pipe break is often evidenced by dirty water coming from faucets. Report that to the water company immediately.
- Understand that sinkholes can appear without warning.

What to do if a sinkhole opens on or near your property:

- If a sinkhole threatens your home, contact your homeowner's insurance company for assistance. Take steps to limit further damage and to correct the situation. Seek professional help. Keep others, especially children, well clear of the hole. The subsurface void can be far larger than the surface hole. The ground surrounding the hole can be very dangerously unstable.
- If there is evidence of running water, immediately call the water company servicing your area,
- If a public road is threatened, contact the Hanover Township office immediately. After hours, contact the Colonial Regional Police Department.
- If the road surface has already collapsed, also immediately contact the Colonial Regional Police Department.

DO NOT IGNORE A SINKHOLE, no matter how small or insignificant it seems. The problem can quickly worsen. Even the pre-collapse indicators should be investigated for cause and a possible developing sinkhole.

A word about insurance coverage for sinkhole damage:

- Damage caused by sinkholes is typically not covered by standard homeowner's insurance. Sinkhole damage coverage can usually be added to your policy for a moderate cost. This covers the physical damage to dwellings and personal property caused directly by sinkhole collapse. Contact your insurance company or agent to determine if your policy includes sinkhole coverage and consider obtaining it if you don't have it. ■



2026 Trash Collection – What a New Contract Likely Means for the Township

The Township's existing trash and recycling contract with Republic Services will expire at the end of 2025. In preparation for the new contract to begin in 2026, the Township will put trash and recycling services out to bid this year. Residents should be aware that cost increases in trash collection are becoming a growing trend across the region.

Across the Lehigh Valley and the state, neighboring communities are seeing sharp price hikes in their waste management services. Here are a few examples of recent increases that could set the stage for similar changes in our Township:

- Allentown – As reported by *Morning Call* on October 3, 2024, trash fees are set to increase by 46%
- Lower Macungie – *Lehigh Valley Live* reported on July 21, 2024, that the township approved a new waste management contract with an increase of more than 50%
- South Whitehall – In September 2023, *Lehigh Valley News* covered a 62% price hike for waste collection approved for the following year.
- Upper Mount Bethel Township – In 2023, residents faced a nearly 116% increase in trash and recycling collection fees, jumping from \$225 per household in 2022 to \$485.
- Lower Paxton Township – Nearby communities, such as Middle Paxton and Derry Township, have seen dramatic increases in their rates. Middle Paxton's collection nearly doubled in 2022, reaching \$600 per year, while Derry Township's rate went up by 89.7%, reaching \$113.85 per quarter.

While it is impossible to predict the exact cost increases for our Township in 2026, it is clear that the landscape of waste collection services is shifting in the direction of higher costs. Residents will experience higher rates in 2026. The Township will continue explore all avenues to mitigate such increase and to update you on the process. The final results of the bid, once a contract is finalized, will be made available at Board meetings and in this newsletter. ■

As We Enter 2025 cont. from page 1

by our representatives in Harrisburg. The most important feature of a formal the field house will be permanent bathroom facilities. Such a facility will help attract tournaments to our Township.

We will need to sharpen our pencils in 2025, not only to complete upgrades at the Community Center but also to address the anticipated increases the Township faces with the expiration of its current residential waste and recycling contract. Most, if not all, of the neighboring Townships in the Valley that have gone to bid have seen much higher annual costs. It is, therefore, timely that the Township has hired a new auditor, Herbein CPA's & Advisors, to conduct the annual review of our financial status and accounting practices. The change was not made out of concern for the fiscal health of the Township but rather to take advantage of the resources of a larger accounting firm. The hiring of a new audit team coincides with the implementation of new financial software this year as well. Having a new audit team look at our practices with fresh eyes will hopefully yield greater efficiencies. That review, combined with the new software, the Board hopes will assist the Township's staff to further develop our budget and budget process from not only a general road map but also into a tool to identify fiscal trends, both positive and negative.

The Township's public works team anticipates receipt of two long awaited utility dump trucks in Spring. The department has already taken delivery of a new street sweeper. The team will continue to maintain our parks and upgrade them, as with the installation of new playground equipment at Pharo Park. The Township will be investigating the upgrade of certain pedestrian cross walk locations within the Township and is exploring the costs associated with automated pedestrian detection systems.

Achieving these goals in 2025, the Board hopes, will keep Hanover the great place it is to live, work and play. ■

Shovel

Always shovel snow from your sidewalks and driveways for your safety and others. Shovel snow onto lawn areas, not onto the road or into storm drains. Snow shoveled into the yard area helps reduce runoff that goes down the storm drain and into waterways.

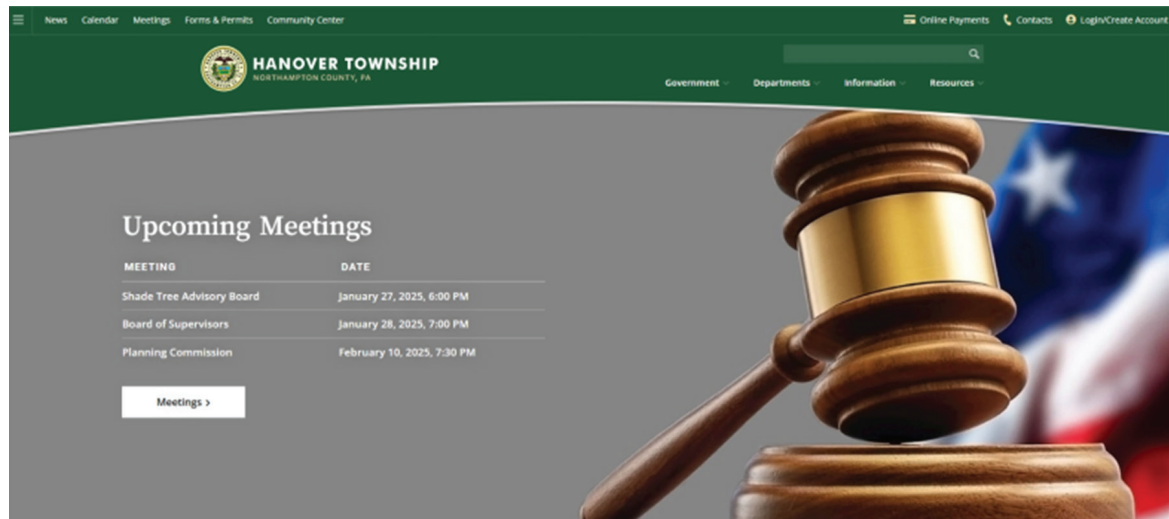
Exciting News: A New Township Website Is Coming Soon!

We're thrilled to announce that a brand-new Township website is on the horizon, with plans to go live in the first quarter of 2025. Our dedicated staff have been working closely with a municipal website provider to create a more user-friendly, accessible, and informative online experience for our residents.

The new website will feature an interactive calendar, real-time email notifications, allowing you to stay up to date with Township events, news, meetings and activities – making it easier than ever to keep track of what's happening in our community.

In addition, we're combining the Township and Community Center websites into one convenient location. This will allow you to access all the important information you need in one place, saving you time and effort when looking for updates or services.

The new site will also showcase updated photographs that highlight the beauty and vibrancy of our community, bringing the Township to life in a fresh and engaging way.



Finally, we know many of you access websites on your smartphones and tablets, so our new website will be fully mobile-friendly. This ensures you'll have a seamless experience no matter how you're connecting.

We're excited for you to explore the new site once it's live! Keep an eye out for updates, and get ready for a more intuitive and engaging way to connect with everything our Township has to offer.

Stay tuned – our new website is coming soon! ■

Pharo and Monocacy Parks cont. from page 1

of the work beginning at Pharo Park. In mid-January, the old, outdated playground equipment, which was designed for children ages 2–5, was removed. The swings were also removed but are just part of general maintenance. A new, larger playground designed for ages 5–12 will soon arrive. It will still feature several slides but include various climbing stations as well. Installation is scheduled to begin as the weather allows.

It's just the first phase of updates for Pharo Park. Not this year, but in the near future, there are plans to resurface both the basketball and tennis courts. The tennis courts will also be outfitted to accommodate pickleball enthusiasts.

In addition to Pharo, Monocacy Park, on Hanoverville Road, will receive a youth fitness park to go along with the playground that currently sits on the 8.5-acre site. The fitness park will include an overhead ladder, overhead rungs, parallel bars and floating stepping pods. The equipment will be purchased with funds the Township received from the Northampton County Department of Community and Economic Development's 2024 Grow NORCO grant. At the May 14 Board of Supervisors meeting, the Supervisors unanimously approved a resolution to apply for the grant

Hanover Township Fitness Park – Area 1



and on Dec. 18, we were awarded \$22,500.

As for the pump track at the Municipal Park, it will be put out for bid in February/March with construction beginning later in the year.

These are just a few of the projects in the works to improve on the wonderful park system we have in the Township and we'll be sure to share more updates as we move forward with additional projects. ■



February: Heart Disease Awareness Month and Women's Health – A Focus on Heart Disease

By Jean Versteeg, Vice Chair, Board of Supervisors

A woman I am friends with recently had a serious, unexpected heart incident. Her experience reminded me that cardiac conditions may present very differently in women, and it is important to educate ourselves for our benefit and the benefit of the women we care about.

Every February, the American Heart Association shines a light on this crucial health issue affecting millions worldwide: heart disease. While heart disease is often seen as a condition that primarily affects men, it is also a leading cause of death among women. February is American Heart Month, and Friday, February 7th is National Wear Red Day. This is a great time to learn how to recognize the unique ways that heart disease impacts women.

The Hidden Threat: Heart Disease and Women

Heart disease remains the number one cause of death for women in the United States, yet many women don't recognize the risks or symptoms associated with the condition. According to the American Heart Association, one in three women dies from heart disease, more than all forms of cancer combined.

What's particularly troubling is that women often experience different symptoms from men. While men typically experience chest pain or discomfort as the hallmark sign of a heart attack, women may have more subtle or less recognizable symptoms such as:

- Shortness of breath
- Unusual fatigue
- Nausea or lightheadedness
- Pain in the back, jaw, or neck

Because these symptoms can be mistaken for other conditions, women may not seek immediate medical attention, which can delay diagnosis and treatment.

Why Heart Disease Affects Women Differently

Several factors contribute to why heart disease can present differently in women. A key one is the role of hormones. Estrogen provides some protection against heart disease in younger women, but this protection diminishes after menopause, making post-menopausal women more vulnerable to cardiovascular conditions. Additionally, women with high blood pressure, diabetes, or a history of preeclampsia (a pregnancy-related complication) are at higher risk.

Women are also more likely to suffer from microvascular disease, a condition where the small blood vessels in the heart become damaged, leading to heart problems. This condition is more challenging to diagnose with traditional tests like an angiogram and can be more difficult to treat.



NATIONAL WEAR RED DAY® IS FRIDAY, FEB 7.

Our No. 1 killer, cardiovascular disease, unfairly targets women. We have been left out of research, testing, treatment and funding. Fortunately, women have an amazing resource – each other.

SHARE YOUR HEART AND JOIN US AS WE WEAR RED TOGETHER.

WearRedDay.org | [#WearRedDay](https://twitter.com/WearRedDay)


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Heart Disease Awareness cont. from page 5

The Importance of Preventive Care

It's essential for women to take proactive steps to safeguard their heart health. The American Heart Association recommends that women:

- ▶ **Know their numbers:** Monitor blood pressure, cholesterol levels, and blood sugar. Regularly discussing these metrics with a healthcare provider can help identify potential risk factors early.
- ▶ **Exercise regularly:** At least 150 minutes of moderate-intensity aerobic activity per week can significantly reduce the risk of heart disease.
- ▶ **Maintain a healthy diet:** Focus on a diet rich in fruits, vegetables, whole grains, and healthy fats while limiting processed foods and added sugars.
- ▶ **Manage stress:** Chronic stress can contribute to heart disease, so practicing relaxation techniques such as yoga, deep breathing, or meditation can be beneficial.
- ▶ **Avoid smoking:** Smoking increases the risk of heart disease and stroke, particularly for women who take birth control pills or are pregnant.

Raising Awareness: What You Can Do

February is an opportunity to raise awareness about heart disease, particularly as it impacts women. Here are some ways you can get involved:

- ▶ **Wear Red:** On National Wear Red Day (the first Friday of

February), show your support for women's heart health by wearing red and encouraging others to do the same. This simple gesture helps raise awareness about the importance of heart disease prevention in women.

- ▶ **Share Knowledge:** Educate your friends, family, and community about the risks of heart disease, the symptoms to watch for, and the importance of early detection. Many people may not realize the risks or know how to take action to protect their heart health.
- ▶ **Support Research and Advocacy:** Organizations like the American Heart Association work tirelessly to fund research, improve patient care, and raise awareness about heart disease. Consider donating or participating in a fundraising event to support their efforts.
- ▶ **Talk to Your Doctor:** If you're a woman, especially if you have a family history of heart disease or other risk factors, make sure to schedule regular checkups with your healthcare provider. Early detection can lead to better outcomes, so don't hesitate to ask questions and discuss your health concerns openly.

Heart disease is a significant health threat to women, but many of its risk factors can be managed or prevented with awareness, education, and lifestyle changes. As we recognize American Heart Month this February, it's an ideal time to raise awareness, take action, and protect our hearts. Let's continue to spread the message about the importance of heart health, especially for women, and work together to make heart disease history. ■

Mark Your Calendars

2025 RESIDENTIAL WASTE & RECYCLING BILLS

Your Residential Waste & Recycling Bills for 2025 calendar year of services have been mailed to each residential property owner. If you do not receive your bill by the middle of February, please call the Municipal Office at 610-866-1140. Online Payments are available on our website @ www.hanovertwp-nc.org. Our office will accept cash or check payments during our normal business hours of 8am to 4pm Monday through Friday, you may pay by mail, or drop off your payment into the mail slot (front of building) during non-business hours.

Get the Best Rate and Pay or postmark the Discount Rate by 3/7/2025.

- Base Bill Rate is due 3/8/2025 - 4/4/2025.
- After 4/5/2025 you will incur a penalty of 10%.
- Bills not paid by August 1st, 2025, will be sent to collections.



REAL ESTATE TAX COLLECTION DAYS

Mark your calendars! Berkheimer representatives will be at the Community Center February 14 and March 27 from 9am to 5:30pm to accept your real estate tax payments and answer any questions. Tax bills will be mailed by February 1st.

berkheimer

Hanover Township Community Center



Dante Terenzio
Recreation Director

Get Out of the Cold: Stop by HTCC

Weight Room Upgrades Coming Soon!

The beginning of the year is always a busy time at the Hanover Township Community Center as membership renewal keeps our hard-working front desk staff on its toes. Attendance within our programming and weight room has seemingly skyrocketed so far in 2025, mostly due to New Year's resolutions along with staying out of the bitter cold this particular winter has brought on.

Aside from our always popular morning fitness classes, we are currently conducting a number of other programs within HTCC.


Our martial arts class began its winter session at the beginning of January and will run through April. It is never too late to sign up for these classes.

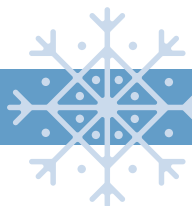
An indoor junior tennis clinic is also in full swing, as is Hanover Hoops, which is in its third year. This youth basketball league has attracted nearly 50 children between the ages of 6–12 from throughout Bethlehem. We have two divisions with four teams in each, and we look forward to some fun competition throughout the next couple months.

Additionally, the HTCC Pickleball League will kick off its second season in February. We have more than 40 players spread throughout six teams. The first pickleball league was exciting, especially seeing the strategy, improvement, and comradery displayed by our players.

Perhaps more exciting news: The HTCC weight room will see significant upgrades later this winter and into the spring. Members can expect to see brand new machines, barbells, plates, kettlebells, shelving, and more. Other upgrades at HTCC: Our vinyl floor will be cleaned and refinished, and we will be installing new disc golf goals out back.



 Be sure to check the HTCC Facebook page for updates on winter programming.



HTCC Winter Programming



RECREATION

- Youth and Adult Martial Arts
- Junior Tennis Clinic
- Open Pickleball and Clinics
- Open Gym Volleyball

FITNESS

- Yoga • Core Yoga • Silver Sneakers Classic
- Silver Sneakers Chair Yoga • Spin Class
- Low-Level Weights
- Step Aerobics • Zumba Gold
- SHiNE Dance Fitness

CARD GAMES (all games begin at 1pm)

Monday: Bridge • Tuesday: Pinochle;
Wednesday: Mahjongg • Friday: Hand and Foot

Please visit

hanovercommunitycenter.com

for more information or to register
for Recreation classes.

Members of HTCC can register for all
fitness classes at the front desk of
the Community Center or by calling
our front desk at 610-317-8701.



Hanover Township Community Center



Gunkle an Integral Part of HTCC Programming

By Dante Terenzio

It's no secret the senior programming at the Hanover Township Community Center is thriving. We offer numerous classes throughout the week and our instructors take great pride in their work. None more than Susan Gunkle.

At HTCC, Gunkle instructs low level weights, Silver Sneakers chair yoga and classic, as well as SHiNE Dance Fitness classes. She makes classes fun for our members, while driving home the importance of health and fitness. But what makes instructing most enjoyable for Gunkle is the bonds she has formed with her students.

"It has truly been a pleasure teaching at HTCC, and that is because of the members. They are a huge part of why I love working here," Gunkle said. "I try to make a connection with as many of my students as possible because I love getting to know them on a personal level and hearing their stories."

Gunkle began teaching fitness classes at Elverson Fitness Club in 2013. After three years of instructing Zumba classes, Gunkle made the move to the Lehigh Valley. Once she arrived to the Lehigh Valley, she obtained certifications to teach Silver Sneakers classes such as classic, chair yoga, and dance, to name a few. Then, after a student encouraged her to apply, she made her way over to HTCC in 2018.

The relationships Gunkle has built within the community is a big reason why her classes are constantly filled. She treats her students with respect and compassion.

"When my mom unexpectedly passed away in 2015, I realized many of my students were about her age. It was then

Continued on page 9.



Susan Gunkle, 2nd from left, with her students.

Wifflefest to Kick Off 2025 Special Events

By Dante Terenzio

We had a blast running events on the back end of 2024 – especially the newly added Turkey Bowl, which drew more than 60 children throughout the Lehigh Valley. We're on a streak of eight events with cooperative weather, now let's cross our fingers and hope that continues into 2025.

Our first event of the year is new – Wifflefest. This is a wiffleball tournament that will be held in the HTCC Gymnasium. Registration is going well so far as we're hoping to bring in all the backyard wifflers in Hanover Township.

The goal is to have a youth and adult division, with a homerun derby to cap off the event. Refreshments will be available throughout the day.

If you would like to sign up for the event, you may do so at the HTCC Front Desk or online at htcc.activityreg.com. ■

Hanover Township Special Events

- March 15 Wifflefest (Wiffleball Tournament)
- April 12 Breakfast with the Easter Bunny
- May 9 HTCC Golf Tournament (Whitetail Golf Club)
- May 10 Easton Municipal Band and BASD Alumni Band Concert
- May 17 Armed Forces Day
- June 4-7 Hanover Township Carnival
- June 21 Dip and Dance (Hanover Township Pool)
- August 5 National Night Out + Dip and Dance (Hanover Township Pool)
- September 11 Patriot Day
- October 4 Fall Fest
- November 15 Turkey Bowl (Football Game)
- December 5 Tree Lighting
- December 6 Breakfast with Santa



Hanover Township Community Center



Lisa Outcalt
HTCC Preschool
Director

HTCC Preschool Update

As we welcome a new year, HTCC Preschool is looking forward to our fun and exciting activities planned. As well as our regular schedule of events such as taking nature walks through the community center grounds, and enjoying our academic activities. This year we look forward to the community center's new Introduction to Sports program. HTCC Preschool students will enjoy learning about a variety of sports, team work, stretching, and being a good sports ambassador. Our Recreation Director, Dante Terenzio, and Assistant Recreation Director, Ken Lowe, will run this exciting program once a week, and we are extremely excited for this wonderful opportunity.

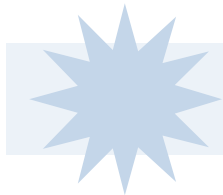
HTCC Preschool is so thankful to the Boy Scouts Troop 302 for building our wonderful preschool garden (top). Eagle Scout James O'Brien worked closely with HTCC and I to iron out the finer details of materials, placement, and timescale. The preschool students are excited to learn hands on about the plant life cycle and nutrition through this project, and will encourage students to start a garden at home.

HTCC Preschool is thankful to Ilia Khallouf for the birdhouse and information sign (bottom), here the students will learn about the bird's life cycle, and birds native to our area. Our students are hoping to observe some activity, and hopefully some chicks in the future.

As always, thank you to our HTCC preschool staff who are always working hard to make our preschool fun and educational, and a huge thank you to our wonderful families and students that help our preschool be a great place to work and learn. ■



HTCC Preschool will be posting summer camp information on the HTCC website in early March, so stay tuned for more information.



Gunkle cont. from page 8

that I made it my motto to treat all of them exactly how I would hope someone would treat her," Gunkle said. "I promote an environment of kindness and community. I like sharing words of encouragement with them through conversations, and even through my 'thought of the day' at the end of my chair yoga class."

"I want my students to walk in, put their troubles aside

for 45 minutes, do something good for their physical and emotional well being, have fun, and build connections with others," added Gunkle. "One saying from Maya Angelou I always think about is that 'at the end of the day, people won't remember what you said or did, but they will remember how you made them feel.' I want my students to leave knowing they truly matter, and someone cares about them." ■

School News & Updates

Hanover School

Welcome 2025! So many wonderful things have taken place at Hanover Elementary since the start of the school year.

Our students were able to participate in the annual Harvest Day celebration which included a parade through the neighborhood and fall inspired activities. Autumn celebrations continued by joining in the Bethlehem Halloween Parade. In November, we took time to honor the Veterans of our country during a ceremony. Our school was very honored to have Veterans from the local community join us this year. Through the help of our community, the Bake Sale held during Election Day was a huge success. Many, many thanks to those who so generously donated their yummy baked goods and to those who helped during the sale. Mayor Reynolds (right) visited our 3rd grade classrooms to further the teachings and discussions on the role of government. All eyes were a glow with a Laser Light Assembly.

We kicked off the holiday spirit with a wreath and poinsettia sale in November. Our student government took on a leadership role of decorating a tree at LVIA. Students were excited to partake in the joy of the Secret Santa Holiday Gift Shop – a big thank you for all the helpers and volunteers. The 5th grade students had the joy of watching the *Nutcracker* at the Zoellner Arts Center, while our 2nd grade students saw the *Annie* performance at the Ice House. Both shows featured some of our Hanover Hawks as performers! The hallways were



filled with holiday tunes from the annual Winter Program. The show featured vocal performances from kindergarten and 4th grade as well as an instrumental presentation from the 5th grade students in Band and Orchestra. Our students were greeted by some members of the LHS Grenadier band with more holiday sounds. To demonstrate the season of giving, we partnered with the Northampton County Children and Youth to provide gifts to families in need. Thanks to everyone's charitable spirit, 100 families felt the holiday joy as well. ■

Asa Packer School

Since the last newsletter, the Asa family has been super busy this past Fall/Winter.

Asa Packer's PTA volunteers graciously worked on Asa's Cooperative Garden Float for the Bethlehem Parade held on October 27th, securing our school a 3rd place finish! This could not have happened without our generous sponsors: Unangst Tree Farms, Camel's Hump Farm, and Scholl Orchards. The Asa students, faculty, and parents had a blast walking through Bethlehem handing out candy to the crowd.

The Puma Partner's program has been underway since September. Asa students in 5th, 4th, and 3rd grades are paired up with 2nd, 1st, and kindergarten students. They meet up to enjoy time reading to one another, crafting, and talking about how great it is to be a PUMA! The experience for the kids has been terrific, and the bonds they are creating will last a lifetime. Another new and exciting program brought to the school this year with the help of our fabulous 1st grade teacher, Mrs. Truchan-Lalande, is the Tech Titans. Two students

from each class were chosen to meet once a month to further their technology skills as a way to assist other students in their classrooms. The students are learning so much and are excited to use the skills to help their fellow classmates.

On November 11th, Veterans were honored at Asa Packer during an assembly. The Veterans were invited early to enjoy refreshments before the ceremony as a special thanks for all they have done for our Country. Christmas City Studios sent a photographer to the event to help Asa commemorate the beautiful event.

Our Student Lighthouse held a Veterans Day clothing drive for the whole month of November and were blown away by the generosity of the donations they received. The kids also helped to organize PJ Day in December where monetary donations were made to CHOP. This year's group of future civic leaders also set up the school spirit days which consisted of flannel day, favorite holiday, festive sweater day, teacher/student swap day, Jersey Day, Red, White, and Pink day.

BETHLEHEM AREA PUBLIC LIBRARY

WWW.BAPL.ORG

Hello, Hanover Township residents from your friends at BAPL! We're excited to share all the wonderful activities, programs, and opportunities happening at your library this month and beyond. Be sure to check bapl.org for updated times and locations!

SPECIAL EVENTS AT THE LIBRARY:

Qigong: Meditation and Relaxation: Mondays at noon

Take a break and find your calm with Qigong. This meditative practice is perfect for those looking to relieve stress and recharge.

Learn to Play Bridge: Course dates: February 3 – March 17 (no class on President's Day)

Always wanted to learn this classic card game? Now's your chance! Join us to pick up the basics and connect with fellow card enthusiasts.

Open Mic Night: Mondays at 5pm

Show off your talent or cheer on local performers during our lively Open Mic Night at the Main Library.

Jigsaw Puzzle Swap: February 22 at 10:30am

Swap your completed puzzles for new ones! Bring your favorites to trade and discover a fresh challenge.

FOR KIDS AND TEENS:

Homework Help

We're here to help kids succeed! Drop in for free homework help and resources to tackle those tricky assignments.

Teen Advisory Board

Have a teen who needs community service hours? Encourage them to join BAPL's Teen Advisory Board! They'll help shape library programs and make a difference in their community. More information at bapl.org/youth-services/teens



COMING SOON! A BRAND NEW BAPL BOOKMOBILE!

Keep your eyes on the Township roads for our new bookmobile -- coming soon to a place near you!



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Bookmobile Schedule: bapl.org/the-bookmobile



**BETHLEHEM AREA
PUBLIC LIBRARY**

Learning Starts Here

Asa Packer

cont. from page 10

The students in the APTV club have been busy covering all the happenings at Asa Packer since the start of school. Their creativity and keen eye are helping to create lasting memories on film and camera for all Pumas to enjoy. They don't miss an opportunity to catch the fun and proud moments shared at Asa.

Winter also led us to the Girls on the Run Race held at Desales University on December 8th after the 10-week training program. Girls from 3rd, 4th, and 5th grades participated in a 5k alongside a buddy. It was cold, but our Asa girls ran their hearts out, ending a successful and empowering experience. December 16th brought us to the Winter Concert where our kindergarten and 4th grade students got to show off their amazing singing and dance moves to an audience of students, parents, and faculty. The concert's music was played by Asa's talented 5th grade band alongside the music teachers. It was a wonderful experience for all. Prior to leaving for Winter Break, the students engaged in winter-themed parties in their classrooms, led by the room parents and party helpers. The children worked on crafts, played games, and enjoyed winter-themed snacks. Fun was had by all!

On December 27th, the Asa students and families were invited to a private ice-skating party at Bethlehem Ice Rink. Everyone had a blast on the ice and made memories to last a lifetime. It was exciting to see so many students on the ice, from the first timers to the kids racing around and doing tricks. Thank you to Patient First for sponsoring this event!

Asa's PTA fund raisers have been keeping busy setting up Dine & Donate events for the first half of the year to help raise money for student trips and assemblies. Pat's Pizza saw many Asa families in November for some delectable, authentic Italian food. During the hustle and bustle of the holiday season, Asa families also relaxed at PJ Whelihans, watching sports and eating wings and burgers. Some of our families spent a



night out at Qdoba's munching on chips and other Mexican goodies earning 25% of sales donated back to the school, YAY! We invite you all out to Chick-fil-a in Whitehall on February 5th, for our next Dine & Donate. No one can resist those waffle fries and Chick-fil-A special sauce.

Family Feast Night was held on January 30th. Asa families shared tried and true family recipes in a family style meal at the school. Everyone tried out new foods and desserts and enjoyed being together outside of the classrooms with their classmates and a few teachers. Asa's auditorium never smelled so good.

Asa's gymnasium was lit up in February for the first annual Student Glow Party. Thanks to Christmas City Landscaping, the students enjoyed a night in from the cold dancing away with glow sticks. Kids came dressed in their neon gigs giving off a cool glow with the black lights.

Looking ahead, please join us on May 9th for our annual Puma Patio Party. We will have loads of yummy food trucks, face painters, a balloon artist, DJ, photo booth (thanks to Christmas City Studios), games, and lots of inflatables for the kids. Inside the side school's gymnasium, you will find our Basket Raffle, with dozens of fabulous prizes. All proceeds from the party will go to help fund a new, all-inclusive and adaptive playground for the Asa Students to enjoy for years to come. You can purchase wristbands the day of the event so your kiddos can join the fun. We can't wait to see you there.

Look for news about Asa Packer in the Spring *Hanoverview Newsletter*. We LOVE to share all the fun and memories being made at our magnificent school, ASA PACKER!! ■

Snow emergencies: Winter is here

Please keep an eye out for any posted "Snow Emergencies." During a snow emergency, vehicles parked on posted roads are subject to ticketing and/or towing. Having vehicles removed from the roadway greatly assists the Public Works department in our snow plowing operations. It makes plowing safer and faster and also reduces the risk of possible damage to your vehicle. Please keep an eye out for "snow emergencies" broadcast via Email and WFMZ as well as other media outlets. Remember to always drive safely in snowy conditions.



CRPD Invites You to Join Project Lifesaver

by John N. Diacogiannis, Police Commission

Do you have a family member, a friend or an acquaintance with wandering disorders? More specifically, at risk individuals are those with Alzheimer's, Dementia, Autism, Down syndrome, and traumatic brain injuries.

Do you know that there is a program to assist local law enforcement agencies in locating people who wander off?

Project Lifesaver International has the premier search and rescue program operated internationally by public safety agencies and is strategically designed for "at risk" individuals who are prone to the life-threatening behavior of wandering. The program is designed for all ages. The primary mission of Project Lifesaver is to provide timely response to save lives and reduce potential injury for adults and children with the propensity to wander due to a cognitive condition. The goal is to enable first responders to achieve the goal of "bringing loved ones home."

I'm very pleased to advise that our Colonial Regional Police Department (CRPD) is a Project Lifesaver participating agency. The Project Lifesaver program (PLS) was created so that law enforcement/search teams could streamline search and rescue operations. It significantly decreases search time and increases the chance of successful reunions.

When a person signs up for PLS they receive a bracelet with a tracking device "transmitter" secured in it. That "transmitter" has a frequency number specifically assigned to that person. If the individual were to wander, CRPD (and neighboring law enforcement agencies) has a receiver that can track the individual's transmitter.

CRPD's receiver can reach a transmitter signal within a mile radius of where the receiver is located. The receiver is portable and can be used from patrol vehicles or on foot. Other area agencies would assist as needed.

PLS is the only organization that is officially organized to train Public Safety Agencies such as CRPD to electronically locate lost people with transmitters. Officer Aspen Miller is the CRPD's training coordinator for program. ■



Officer Scott Breneman with the PLS receiver.

Why Enroll Your Loved One into Project Lifesaver?

Wandering is a very common behavior among those with cognitive conditions, and in that instance, it is very dangerous, and potentially life threatening. By enrolling your loved one in Project Lifesaver, they will become a part of a community that is dedicated to their safety and well-being, while ensuring that in the event that they wander, they will be located within a timely manner and returned home safely. Project Lifesaver will provide your loved one with an additional layer of protection, which will provide your family with newly found peace of mind.

How to Enroll

To sign up for Project Lifesaver, visit the City of Bethlehem Bureau of Health - Community Health department, and request to speak with Zoraida Garcia, or email her at zgarcia@bethlehem-pa.gov, or call (610)-865-4698. The program and bracelets are free to participants.



Yard waste and leaf collection totals are in!

2024 has produced one of the highest yard waste and leaf collection totals the Township has ever seen. This year the yard waste truck dumped 142 loads totaling 852 yards equaling over 700 tons of yard waste. As we wrapped up one of the dustiest leaf seasons on record, we saw some high totals as well. The four leaf collection trucks visited the city compost center 187 times totaling 5,610 yards of leaves. *If leaves are still placed curbside, please bag them and put them out for the yard waste collection coming up in April.*



EMS CORNER

By Karen Peters, EMS Director

2024 EMS CALL STATISTICS

Medical Emergencies	3,015
Motor Vehicle Accidents	207
Fire Support	82
Total calls for the year	3,304

Emergency Preparedness

Tips to prepare for an emergency:

- ▶ Have a clear walking path to your home and through your home so we can quickly and safely get to you or the patient. If possible, have someone meet us outside or at the door so we can easily locate you.
- ▶ If you have pets, please lock them up for our safety. Pets are very protective of their owners especially when their human is not feeling well.
- ▶ Make a list of all your medication, allergies and past medical history and keep it current. You should always keep a list with you in your wallet in case you are away from home. We need this information to properly treat you at the time of an emergency. Some medications you take may interfere with the treatment you need at the time of the emergency.
- ▶ A valid advanced directive such as a DNR, POLST or medical power of attorney form, either the signed original or a copy MUST be given to EMS so they can honor it.

- ▶ Maintain an updated list of emergency contacts, including family members, close friends, and your primary care physician's contact information.
- ▶ Ensure your home and both sides of your mailbox are marked clearly with your house number so first responders can quickly identify your location.

Urgent Care or Emergency Room

Know when to call 911 or go to an urgent care center.

Urgent care facilities are for non-life-threatening medical issues and emergency rooms are for potentially life-threatening conditions in which delaying care could cause permanent harm or death.

Some examples to go to urgent care centers:

- Colds/Flu • Sore throat • Earaches
- Urinary infections • Bronchitis, pneumonia
- Eye infections • Other common injuries & illnesses

Some examples to go to emergency room are:

- Chest pain/heart attack symptoms
- Heart palpitations
- Severe breathing problems/shortness of breath
- Allergic reactions to foods, animals or bug bites
- Unconsciousness • Drug overdose • Loss of vision
- Head or eye injuries • Pneumonia • Seizures
- Shock • Weakness or pain in an arm or leg
- Deep or large wounds that do not stop bleeding
- Constant vomiting



Fire Company News

**TOTAL FIRE RESPONSES FOR 2024
CALLS FOR SERVICE..... 1,015**

A Huge Thank You to all our residents for the generous donations and treats you gave to Santa and his elves. Our members look forward to this day every year. It is so much fun to see how excited everyone, including our furry friends are to see Santa. Your generous donations helped to keep us all warm in our hearts. The Fire Company needs your donations to help support our great Company throughout the year. These donations help us to pay the bills we need to pay to keep our volunteer company operational.



Thank you once again to **Wegman's** for their gracious donation of the apples, candy canes, and puppy treats we gave out on Santa Day and for donating the lunch for Santa and his elves. Santa Day is

our biggest fundraiser of the year, and this donation makes it possible for us to use all the donations we receive towards our operational expenses.

Hanover Township Volunteer Fire Company was the beneficiary for the **December bingo** held at the HTCC. Thank you to all who came out and supported us!



Fund Drive

We will be mailing out our annual fund drive mailing in late April. We use your generous donations towards the fire company's annual operational expenses. We rely on your donations to help us help you! ■

Join the Hanover Township Volunteer Fire Company: *A Call for New Members*

The Hanover Township Volunteer Fire Company is seeking passionate and dedicated individuals to join our team and make a difference in the community. As a volunteer firefighter, you will play a vital role in saving lives, protecting property, and ensuring the safety of your friends and neighbors. Whether you are interested in firefighting, rescue operations, or supporting roles, we have a place for you.

Why Volunteer with Us?

- ▶ **Serve Your Community:** There is no greater reward than knowing you are helping protect the people you care about. As a volunteer firefighter, you will respond to emergencies, assist with rescue operations, and play a key role in safeguarding Hanover Township.
- ▶ **No Experience Necessary:** You do not need to have prior firefighting experience. We provide comprehensive training to help you succeed, with support and guidance every step of the way. Whether you're brand new or looking to expand your skills, we will make sure you are fully prepared for every challenge.
- ▶ **Tax Relief Benefits:**
 - **100% Property Tax Relief:** As a volunteer firefighter who owns property in Hanover Township, you will receive 100% relief from your property taxes, helping you save money each year.
 - **Earned Income Tax Rebate:** In addition to property tax relief, you can also take advantage of a rebate on your local earned income tax. It is a fantastic way to give back to those who give so much.
- ▶ **\$5 per Call Incentive:** In recognition of your commitment, volunteers are also eligible to receive \$5 for every emergency call they respond to. This small incentive helps acknowledge your time and dedication to protecting our community.
- ▶ **A Supportive Team Environment:** When you join the Hanover Township Volunteer Fire Company, you join a team of dedicated individuals who share your passion for service. You will build lasting relationships with fellow volunteers and become part of a close-knit family.
- ▶ **Flexible Involvement:** Volunteer firefighting is flexible. Whether you can commit a few hours a week or more, every bit of help counts. We work with your schedule to ensure you can participate in the way that fits your life.



What We are Looking For

We are looking for individuals who are eager to serve their community and willing to rise to the challenge of emergency situations. Whether you are new to firefighting or returning to the field, we welcome anyone who is passionate about learning and helping others.

How to Get Started

It is easy to get started with the Hanover Township Volunteer Fire Company:

- ▶ **Visit the Station:** Join us at one of our weekly trainings (Mondays, 7–9pm) to learn more about what we do, the benefits we offer, and how you can get involved. Our team will answer all your questions and guide you through the process.
- ▶ **Apply:** After attending a training, you can officially apply and begin your training. We will provide all the tools and support you need to succeed.
- ▶ **Get Involved:** Once you have completed your training, you will be ready to respond to emergency calls, participate in drills, and engage in community events.

Ready to Make a Difference?

If you are ready to serve your community, gain new skills, and enjoy financial benefits, we encourage you to consider joining the Hanover Township Volunteer Fire Company. Your time, effort, and dedication will not only benefit those you serve, but it will also be deeply rewarding for you.

For more information or to apply, visit our website or contact us directly. We look forward to welcoming you to our team! Join us today: Together, we make Hanover Township safer for everyone! ■

DELIVER AS ADDRESSED
OR TO CURRENT RESIDENT

RECIPE



**HAPPY
HANOVER
HOT**

CHOCOLATE



Ingredients:

- 2 cups whole milk (or your preferred alternative)
- 2 tbsp unsweetened cocoa powder
- 2 tbsp sugar (adjust to taste)
- 1/4 tsp vanilla extract
- Pinch of salt
- 1/4 cup heavy cream (optional for extra creaminess)
- Whipped cream or marshmallows for topping
- Chocolate shavings or cocoa powder for garnish (optional)

Instructions:

1. **Heat the Milk:** In a small saucepan, heat the whole milk over medium heat. Stir occasionally to prevent it from scorching. Once it's warm (but not boiling), remove from heat.
2. **Mix Cocoa and Sugar:** In a separate small bowl, combine the cocoa powder, sugar, and a pinch of salt. This will help break up any lumps and make it easier to blend into the milk.
3. **Combine Ingredients:** Add the cocoa mixture to the warm milk, stirring until completely dissolved and smooth. If you're using heavy cream, add it now for extra richness.
4. **Add Vanilla:** Stir in the vanilla extract for a hint of flavor.
5. **Serve and Garnish:** Pour the hot cocoa into your favorite mug. Top with a generous swirl of whipped cream or marshmallows, and garnish with chocolate shavings or a sprinkle of cocoa powder.

ENJOY YOUR WARM, VELVETY HOT COCOA! THIS RECIPE IS PERFECT FOR COZY NIGHTS AT HOME, AND YOU CAN EASILY DOUBLE OR TRIPLE IT TO SHARE WITH FRIENDS AND FAMILY.