

# NORTHAMPTON *Township*



**WINTER/SPRING 2021**

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**BUCKS COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA**

**NORTHAMPTON TOWNSHIP ADMINISTRATION BUILDING**

55 Township Road | Richboro, PA 18954 | 215-357-6800 | Fax: 215-357-1251

**[www.northamptontownship.com](http://www.northamptontownship.com)**



## EYE ASSOCIATES OF RICHBORO

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Robert D. Levy, O.D.  
Julie H. Greenberg, O.D.  
Minal G. Patel, O.D.  
Geoffrey M. Kaplan, O.D.  
Van B. Luong, O.D.

Oakley • Ray Ban • Burberry • Tory Burch

215-355-5818 • [eyeassociatesofrichboro.com](http://eyeassociatesofrichboro.com)



## Rainbow Academy Pre-school & Kindergarten



Visit the Preschool on a Farm by calling **215-355-6498** or visit us at [rainbowacademypreschool.com](http://rainbowacademypreschool.com)



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Corner of Almshouse Road & Hatboro Road  
**215-357-1716**



Northampton Township would like to thank the businesses that appear in this newsletter and to recognize them each as supporters and cornerstones of our community. For it is with their contributions that this newsletter has been produced at no charge to our residents.



## KENDERDINE'S

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# NORTHAMPTON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS



Adam Selisker  
*Chairman*



Eileen Silver  
*Vice-Chairman*



Frank O'Donnell  
*Secretary*



Dr. Kimberly Rose  
*Treasurer*



Barry Moore  
*Member*

Administration: .....215-357-6800    Codes/Zoning/Permits:215-357-6800 x207    Parks & Recreation:.....215-357-6800 x249  
Manager's Office: .....215-357-6800 x201    Public Works Dept:.....215-357-6800 x216    Recreation Center:.....215-357-5396  
Finance Dept:.....215-357-6800 x240    Human Resources:.....215-357-6800 x208    Senior Center:.....215-357-8199  
Planning Dept: .....215-357-6800 x207    Library: .....215-357-3050

**Emergency \* 911** • Police Department Non-Emergency: 215-357-8700 • Fire Marshal: 215-357-6800 x210

## Chairman's Message

*Dear Northampton Residents,*

My theme for 2020 was "Let's GO!"

Well, I did not realize at the time it meant "Let's GO home." This year presented us with an unimaginable situation and in true Northampton fashion we shined together as a community.

In a pandemic, it can be tempting to stop doing things. Not in Northampton! Your Board of Supervisors, Township leaders and staff were committed to continue services with the health and safety of our residents and employees as top priority.

First and foremost, no critical public services were interrupted at any time. Your Police, Fire, EMS and Public Works continued to operate with 100% service. Additionally, the Township added a Medical Director to the professional staff to provide direction on policies and protocols. This addition provided invaluable insight to Covid-19.

Our Administration building, along with many other Township services worked quickly to reinvent the way services are delivered. The Board of Supervisors along with other boards and commissions quickly went to virtual meetings that allowed public participation. Both the Parks and Recreation Department and the Library provided online participation programs, while the Library implemented curbside pickup.

There is light at the end of the tunnel. We will remain vigilant, follow strict safety protocols, and return to "normal" when it is safe.

Looking forward into 2021, the Board of Supervisors adopted a budget that did NOT include a property tax increase. Last year, the Board established a Road Maintenance Fund that accelerates the Township's paving programs and earmarks monies that will enable the Public Works Department to resurface ten miles a year. Other 2021 projects include: sidewalk construction in Richboro using a \$500,000 state grant resulting in no cost to property owners, planning for the Township's 300 birthday celebration in 2022, and finalizing plans for a construction of two new fire stations.

The Township's website has been upgraded. The website is a great place to find information on current and future activities. I encourage everyone to sign up for Township email alerts for the most up-to-date information. In person meetings will resume when they can be done safely for the board members, the staff and the public.

As Ben Franklin said, "energy and persistence conquer all things!"

Be safe,  
Adam

## 2021 Board of Supervisors Leadership

During the reorganization meeting of the Northampton Township Board of Supervisors held on Monday, January 4, Supervisor Adam Selisker was appointed to lead the Board of Supervisors as Chairperson in 2021. Supervisor Selisker returns to this leadership role having served as Chairperson in 2020.

Supervisor Eileen Silver will serve as Vice Chairperson, Supervisor Frank O'Donnell will serve as Secretary to the Board of Supervisors and Supervisor Dr. Kim Rose will serve as Treasurer. Rounding out the Board is member Barry Moore.

During the reorganization meeting, several residents were appointed to serve on advisory boards and commissions. For a listing of Township Boards and Commissions, and full meeting schedule, visit [www.northamptontownship.org](http://www.northamptontownship.org)



Vincent J. Deon  
Tax Collector – C.P.T.C

### VINCENT DEON – TAX COLLECTOR

While our lobby is closed for YOUR SAFETY please continue to use our convenient "DROP BOX" located in front of our building. For a stamped receipt please enclose your complete bill & include a self-addressed stamped envelope. If you have questions or need assistance please call 215-357-1343

- **The County & Township Bills are mailed on March 1st.** 2% Discount due date is April 30th. County / Township real estate discount period is until April 30st, FACE amount due until June 30th. A 10% PENALTY from July 1st until December 31st.
- **School Real-estate bills will be mailed out July 1st.** 2% Discount until August 31st. School real estate discount period is until August 31st, FACE amount due until OCTOBER 31st. A 10% PENALTY from November 1st until December 31st.
- **Occupational Tax (OCC) will be mailed out July 1st.** 2% Discount until August 31st. School real estate discount period is until August 31st, FACE amount due until OCTOBER 31st. A 10% PENALTY from November 1st until December 31st.



We all look forward to see you once our office opens. Thank you for your understanding.

*"I am proud to announce that our tax office has not missed a single day of servicing our taxing authorities throughout this pandemic. You, the TAXPAYERS, are essential to us all."*

## New Township Website: Sign Up For Township News Alerts

Residents and visitors of Northampton may have gone to the Township's website a number of times over the years to find information about Township services. But just like many things, after time, a bit of sprucing up, some revamping and improvements are needed. And that is exactly what the Township is in the process of doing to the website [www.northamptontownship.com](http://www.northamptontownship.com)

Some of the noticeable changes start with the overall look and easier navigation throughout the many sections. In addition, the new website platform is a dynamic system that changes its' look and layout to best suit the end users view depending on the type of device being used (smartphone, tablet, desktop, etc.).

On the homepage, the top section is a billboard format that highlights five hot topics or announcements. Below that will be our most requested pages such as links to Meeting Videos, Northampton Valley Country Club, Library, Parks & Recreation and Trash & Recycling. Lastly on our homepage is the Newsfeed and Township calendar of meetings and events.

In addition to the homepage, and on every page, there is a menu section that includes tabs directing visitors to a plethora of information such as Board of Supervisors, Township Departments, Services, General Information and Resources.

Perhaps one of the more important sections of the page is the newsfeed. This section provides the latest news on township presentations, public notices, meeting announcements, videos, news releases, trash pickup schedules and much, much more. If you have not registered to receive email notifications, please visit [www.northamptontownship.com](http://www.northamptontownship.com) and click "Login/Create Account" in the upper right hand corner. From there, subscribers will be able to select the types of news information and notices you prefer to receive. *If you have any comments, questions or suggestions, please email [info@nhtwp.org](mailto:info@nhtwp.org).*

# Trash Collection Rules and Regulations

- **Trash is collected once (1) a week:**
  - Each household is limited to twelve (12) bags or cans of trash per collection.
  - The collection starts at 6 am, so put the trash to the curb the night before, or plan accordingly.
  - All trash should be bagged in plastic bags, **Do Not** put out trash in paper bags, cardboard boxes, or in containers smaller than 20 gallons or larger than 32 gallons. These cause litter.
- **Trash, Recycling, and One (1) Bulk Item is on the same service day.**
- **Bulk Item Collection:**
  - Bulk items can include furniture, carpets, appliances, tree limbs, or trunks larger than 3" in diameter (cannot be longer than 36") certain restrictions apply.
  - Carpets and padding must be cut into 3-foot widths, rolled, tied, or taped.
  - Windows, mirrors, glass panels in doors, etc., must be taped in a crisscross pattern to prevent breakage.
  - Only 10 rolls of carpet/padding per pick up.
  - Mattresses and box springs must be wrapped in plastic.
- **Bulk Items to be considered Hazardous:**
  - Refrigerators, air conditioners, and humidifiers contain Freon which is considered Hazardous. *You must call to schedule a pick-up at 1-800-432-1616. There is **no charge** for this service.*
- **Leaf and Yard Waste Collection**
  - December 16 to March 31. Yard waste is collected the same day as trash and is limited to five (5) containers. Cans may be used and plastic bags may be used only during this time.
- **Medical Waste Disposal:**
  - Syringes and materials used for medical treatment: Place in a heavy plastic container, tape lid shut, and place in the regular trash. *(Not in Recyclables).*
- **What to do if any of the above pick-ups were missed.**
  - Contact the Township at 215-357-6800 or via email at receptionist@nhtwp.org. Include your name, address, and phone number. The Township is in direct contact with a Route Supervisor and will reach out to the issue resolved as quickly as possible. The Township requests that once you notify us of your situation, leave whatever was not taken at the curb. If J.P. Mascaro & Sons are behind in collections they sometimes work late and on weekends to get items collected.



*The Township thanks you in advance for your patience and cooperation in these matters.*

**Do the right thing use the right bin**  
**HELPFUL TIPS TO END CONTAMINATION**  
**Don't Let Good Recycling Go to Waste . . . When in Doubt Leave it Out**



- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>Glass Bottles &amp; Jars:</b>       | Rinsed green, brown + clear bottles and jars <b>ONLY</b>  |
| <b>Paper &amp; Cardboard:</b>          | Newspaper, Magazines, Tissue Boxes, Envelopes, Computer Paper, Pasta Boxes, Corrugated Cardboard, Non-Soiled Pizza Boxes, Paper Towel Rolls, Junkmail |
| <b>Aluminum &amp; Steel Food Cans:</b> | Soft Drink Cans, Food Cans, Beer/Alcohol Cans, Cookie Tins  |
| <b>Plastic Bottles Only:</b>           | Rinsed Thoroughly, Bottles 1 & #2 Only Only on Bottom, Water, Soda, Shampoo & Laundry Detergent Bottles   |



**PLEASE DO NOT RECYCLE THE FOLLOWING:**

Plastic Bags, Coffee Cups, Food Scraps, Diapers, Wire/Plastic Hangers, Styrofoam, Light Bulbs, Juice Boxes/Pouches, Yard Debris, Clothing, Electronics, Dishes, Flower Pots, Batteries

*Thank you !*

For more information visit. [www.northamptontownship.com/services/trash-recycling.aspx](http://www.northamptontownship.com/services/trash-recycling.aspx)

Alternative Method for Disposal when an Item is not Recyclable:

**Call 215-348-6414 or visit [www.buckscounty.org/recycling](http://www.buckscounty.org/recycling).**

# PAINT DISPOSAL



Latex paint **IS NOT**  
hazardous

Oil-based paint **IS**  
hazardous waste

## DISPOSAL PROCEDURES

### LATEX ( WATER BASED )

- Remove the lid and let the paint air dry in the can until it is no longer pourable. To speed up the process stir in absorbent material such as kitty litter, sawdust, mulch, speedy dry, etc. Do not place the lid back on the paint cans.
- Dried Paint containers may be disposed of in your automated garbage container or placed curbside for removal on your scheduled bulk pick-up day.
- Paint should never be poured down a household or storm drain.

### OIL-BASED ( Hazardous )

- Oil-based paints and stains can be disposed of at one of the Bucks County Planning Commission Household Hazardous Waste Events. Please call 215-348-6414 for more information or visit their website at [www.buckscounty.org/recycling](http://www.buckscounty.org/recycling).
- Oil-based paint and stains are flammable whether wet or dry
- Never put flammable products down any drain or into the garbage



### IMPORTANT:

DO NOT dispose of liquid paint in your garbage can before it is dried out, paint will leak from the garbage truck and ruin roadways, vehicles, and/or property. Take the time to dispose of the paint properly.

## Planning and Zoning Corner . . .

The following is multi-part series on the planning and zoning process. In each issue, we will focus on a particular area in order to better help you understand the documents, process, and terms that guide planning and zoning in Northampton Township. This month we will focus on the Northampton Township Planning Commission.

### *What is the Planning Commission?*

The Northampton Township Planning Commission consists of seven members and two alternate members who are appointed by the Board of Supervisors. They are an advisory body that makes recommendations to the Board of Supervisors on the following:

- subdivision and land development applications;
- conditional use applications;
- comprehensive planning;
- zoning and subdivision ordinance amendments; and,
- general land use and planning matters within the Township.

The regular meeting is the second Tuesday of each month at 7:30 PM.

If you have any questions or require more detailed information, feel free to contact Mike Solomon, Director of Planning and Zoning, at 215-357-6800 x214. He will be happy to answer any questions.

**WHEN YOU'RE WASHING YOUR CAR IN  
THE DRIVEWAY, REMEMBER YOU'RE NOT JUST  
WASHING YOUR CAR IN THE DRIVEWAY.**



All the soap, scum, and oily grit runs along the curb. Then into the storm drain and directly into our lakes, streams and into coastal waters including the Delaware Bay.

And that causes pollution which is unhealthy for fish. So how do you avoid this whole mess? Easy. Wash your car on grass or gravel instead of the street. Or better yet, take it to a car wash where the water gets treated and recycled.

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If you have questions regarding storm water, please contact your municipality or Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection's Regional Office. For general questions, you may also contact DEP's Bureau of Water Management at (717) 772-5661 or visit [www.dep.state.pa.us](http://www.dep.state.pa.us). Thanks to the Washington State Water Consortium for permission to adapt and use this poster

# Building, Codes, and Permits

*Thinking of remodeling or adding an addition to your home?* The Northampton Township Building and Codes Department can help you navigate your way through the process.

## STEPS FOR APPLYING FOR A PERMIT

### 1. Determine if the project requires a permit:

- Permits are not required for: painting, flooring, installing vinyl siding material, gutters, downspouts, replacement vinyl windows, and other cosmetic improvements. However, other improvements, such as fences, decks, additions, electrical, mechanical, and plumbing projects require permit approval. We recommend that you contact the Building and Codes Department for any and all of your projects in order to determine if a permit is required.

### 2. If a permit(s) is required, things to consider:

- If there are questions, the Township staff should be consulted in the planning stage to determine applicable permit requirements. This includes zoning questions related to setbacks from property line, fence location, etc.
- In addition to building permits, some projects may require separate electrical, mechanical, and/or plumbing permits.
- Please take note that Northampton Township has adopted the Uniform Construction Code (UCC). Information can be found on the Labor and Industry website at [www.dli.state.pa.us](http://www.dli.state.pa.us) under the Uniform Construction Code section.

### 3. Obtain the applicable permit application(s) online at [www.northamptontownship.com](http://www.northamptontownship.com) under Building and Codes in the Documents and Forms section.

### 4. Submit a completed application to the Township Office.

- A completed application, including three sets of complete plans and a site plan (for any exterior improvements) is required. Due to the coronavirus pandemic, please call the office at 215-355-3883 to make arrangements for permit submission. The building is currently closed, but we are staffed daily, including a drop box outside the building. Based on your project, we will advise of the best method to make submission.
- Your application will be reviewed by Township staff. If there is any additional information or corrections needed, we will contact you.
- Please note that all electrical reviews and inspections are conducted by a contracted third-party electrical inspection agency, United Inspections.
- Fees are determined in accordance with the approved fee schedule that is on our website. The Building and Codes Department staff will advise of the required fees, which are due upon permit submission.

### 5. Permit is issued

- The Township will mail out the approved permit.
- Prior to any digging, you must place a PA-1 Call to 811 to have all utility lines marked.

## REQUIREMENTS FOR CONTRACTORS AND THE RIGHTS OF HOMEOWNERS

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania requires various contractors performing home improvements to be registered with the Attorney General's office. In addition to the registration requirement, there are regulations regarding contracts, the duties of contractors, and the rights of homeowners. More information is available by visiting [www.attorneygeneral.gov](http://www.attorneygeneral.gov).

Northampton Township only requires plumbers to be registered with the Township. All contractors are required to submit certificates of liability insurance and workman's compensation.

## NEED MORE INFORMATION?

Feel free to contact the Building and Codes Department at 215-355-3883 with any questions about your project. We will be happy to assist you!



*From the Code Enforcement Department . . .*

## Permits Online

For your convenience, please be advised that permit applications are available on the Northampton Township website under Departments - Building Code - Documents, Forms & Permits. The website address is [www.northamptontownship.com](http://www.northamptontownship.com).

If you have any questions, or require additional information, feel free to contact the Code Enforcement Department at 215-355-3883.



## A Message From Public Works

Northampton Township Public Works strives to keep ahead of the maintenance performed on our 176 miles of roadway. To accomplish this, we plan to re-pave or micro-surface 10 miles of road per year. Listed below is the proposed road maintenance program for 2021. This program is subject to change depending on road conditions after the 2020-2021 winter season, and other possible variables.

### PAVING PROJECT

Hatboro Road	Charlotte Drive
Barley Road	Green Drive
Harvest Road	Windsor Drive
Clover Road	East Heron Road
Kings Lane	Cornell Avenue
Post Road	Murray Drive
Jennifer Lane	Nelson Drive
Cedar Brook Drive	Danby Court
Heather Road	Greenville Circle
Fairhill Drive	Radcliffe Drive



### MICRO-SURFACING PROJECT

Florence Drive
Cathleen Drive
Suzanne Court
Loretta Circle
Elsa Way
Rosemary Drive

The department of Public Works maintains 85 Basins, 16 Traffic Islands, and 24 Intersections. The basins are mowed or trimmed on a rotating, biweekly schedule (weather permitting), beginning in April and ending in October. Basins that are considered natural or Meadow Basins are mowed once a year, usually in January.

The following concerns on state roads should be submitted via [penndot.gov](http://penndot.gov) (Submit a Concern tab) or by calling 215-345-6060.

- Remove Something from the State Road (dead deer, etc.)
- Road or Bridge Conditions (pot holes, sinkholes, etc.)
- Property Damage Claims
- Ongoing Roadwork/Projects

## Northampton Township Public Works Department



If you see a problem while traveling Northampton Township, report it to the proper authorities such as potholes, dead animals, and fallen trees or branches. Northampton Township takes care of over 26 square miles and we depend on residents to do their part and notify us of concerns.

**Did You Know:** *Not all roads located in the Township are Township Roads, some are owned by the State.* If you have a concern about one of the state-owned and maintained roadways listed below, please submit it via the PennDot Customer Care Center at [www.penndot.gov](http://www.penndot.gov) (submit a Concern Tab) or by calling 1-800-FIX-ROAD. If your concern is related to an urgent issue, please call the PennDOT Bucks County office directly with your concern at 215-345-6060.

### ***The following is a list of State Roads in Northampton Township:***

#### *(Owned and Plowed by PennDot)*

Bridgetown Pike  
Bristol Road  
Buck Road-PA 532  
Chinquapin Road  
Churchville Lane  
Old Bristol Road  
Worthington Mill Road

#### *(Owned by PennDot, Plowed by Northampton Township)*

2nd Street Pike – PA 232  
Almshouse Road- PA 332  
Bustleton Pike  
Holland Road  
Jacksonville Road-PA 332  
Newtown-Richboro Road- PA 332

*To report an issue on a Township Road, contact the Public Works Department during normal working hours of 7:00 am until 3:30 pm at 215-357-6800. After hours and weekends contact the police non-emergency number at 215-357-8700.*

### STREET SWEEPING

Beginning in April, all streets are swept in a concentrated effort to clean-up the Township from the winter months. After all the streets have been completed, the rest of the year is spent sweeping low lying areas where debris might form and clog storm drains. Debris caused by winds and flooding is removed following storms.

# Northampton Township Police Department

## RETIREMENT NEWS . . .



Charles Woolson is a long-time resident of the Holland section of Northampton Township and has been a dedicated Crossing Guard in the Township for the last twenty-five years. Charles served from October 1995 until December 2020.

Charles was the crossing guard at East Holland Road and Old Jordan Road for several years before switching his post to Mallard Road and Crescent Drive. First and foremost, the children were always his priority, and the parents knew that they could depend on Charles to see that each child was safe going to and from school. No matter what the circumstances; weather, traffic, or bus safety Charles was diligent in keeping the children safe.

Several years ago, a group of parents hosted a birthday party for him at the post to show their appreciation for all of the dedication he has shown over the years. ***Thank you, Mr. Woolson, for twenty-five years of dedicated service to our community.***

## POLICE FITNESS PROGRAM

The Northampton Township Police Department held it's first annual "Fitness Challenge" for officers. The physical standards were based upon our states physical fitness requirements for hiring of new officers. Testing involved officers completing a 300 Meter Run and a 1.5 Mile Run within a minimum time, and a number of Sit Ups and Push Ups within a minimum time. Many of the officers trained for, and supported the Challenge. In the end, the following officers passed the Challenge: Officer Freas, Detective Gensler, Officer Golembieski, Officer Hearn, Officer Jumper, Officer Leaper, Chief LeCompte, Sergeant Mahony, Detective Martin, Corporal McLaughlin, Officer Reinhardt, Corporal Robertson, Officer Rota, Officer Stroup, Officer Trubiano and Officer Wehrmann.



## AWARDS CEREMONY

The Northampton Township Police Department recognized a number of our department members for exemplary work during the last 16 months. Department Awards and the Officer of the Year award were privately presented in our station's meeting room due to COVID-19. The following officers were recognized for their work:

**B Platoon - Distinguished Unit Citation:** *Officers from B Platoon responded to Holland for the report of a "domestic in progress". The victim's car keys were taken by force and the suspect was attempting to take her vehicle. Investigation of the unfolding incident resulted in a foot pursuit of the suspect and his eventual surrender. Northampton Officers were assisted by Lower Southampton Officers during the incident. The suspect was charged with Robbery, Flight to Avoid Apprehension, Unauthorized use of an Auto, Protection from Abuse Violation and Possession of controlled substances and paraphernalia.*

**A Platoon, Quality of Life Unit and Criminal Investigation Division - Distinguished Unit Citation:** *On August 04, 2020 the effects of Tropical Storm Isaias severely impacted Bucks County Pennsylvania for nine hours. The storm brought high winds, heavy rainfall, and substantial flooding, which caused road closures and loss of utility services. The officers/detectives working handled in excess of 60 calls for service, assisted in the rescue of a man trapped in a vehicle with live wires, treated a female for a lacerated knee and managed numerous flooded and closed roadways ensuring the safety of the Northampton Township Community. Everyone on duty August 04, 2020 showed great teamwork in managing the call volume and prioritizing calls for service to ensure community safety and wellbeing. For excellence during the service of their duties every officer's unit was recognized.*

**Officers Devaney and Ofc. Wyant – Life Saving Award:** *Officers Devaney and Wyant responded to a residence on Serene Dr. in Holland for a 42-year-old male in cardiac arrest. Officers quickly assessed the situation and took over lifesaving measures that were initiated by neighbor, Stephen Easley. Use of an Automatic External Defibrillator (AED) and continued CPR allowed the patient to regain a pulse and be transported to the hospital. The patient did make a full recovery and medical experts attributed the swift application of CPR and AED as the primary reason for survival. Our department also recognized Mr. Easley with a Citizens Award for his life saving efforts.*

**Senior Officer Carman, Officer Dovidio and Officer Hearn – Life Saving Award:** *Officers responded to a residence on West Rambler Dr. in Holland for a 52-year-old female in cardiac arrest. Upon arrival they found the person unresponsive. After a quick assessment they initiated CPR and used an Automatic External Defibrillator (AED) on patient. Medical experts attributed the patient's survival to the quick application of CPR and the AED.*

**Senior Officer Comyn – Officer of the Year:** *The Officer of the Year is selected through a voting process within the police department. Any officer receiving the award exemplifies our core values of honor, integrity, courage, loyalty, duty, respect, and service. Officer Comyn is a knowledgeable and respected officer in our department. He has many specialized duties and responsibilities related to technology. Because of his work numerous operations within our department are supported, which aids in the performance of every officer's duties. Officer Comyn's commitment to our department is regularly displayed in his work and in his support of fellow officers.*

## A FOOD DRIVE WITH MANY PARTNERSHIPS

This year our food drive was unlike any of our past food drives. The COVID-19 pandemic created challenges that made us question whether we should move forward. We decided to have the event after hearing about food pantries that didn't have enough food to fill orders and enough food to provide to families for Thanksgiving. COVID-19 has caused many residents in our area to suffer from lockdowns, illness, and the subsequent economic crisis. It was now, more than ever, that a food drive was needed.

The food drive this year was not going to be a competition like "Battle of the Hamptons," it came to be a partnership with everyone that wanted to help donate food and money. We advertised the drive on Northampton Township Police Department's Facebook Page, Northampton Township's website and on Northampton Township's new electronic sign boards. After we started our food drive we asked Upper Southampton Police Department to join us, and with very little notice they agreed.

Our police department and several other departments in Northampton Township were collecting and donating food every day, but the biggest collection day was November 7th. Over 100 residents drove-up and dropped off food with our officers. CVS loaned us their crates to help us organize and store thousands of pounds of food. For the first time someone requested food during the drive; they were accommodated. With the cooperation of the Southampton Giant our officers teamed up with Upper Southampton Police Officers and operated a second collection site on the same day in the store's parking lot.

Everyone's generosity at this time of need cannot be overstated. In all, 10,000 pounds of food was collected and donated to Bethanna Food Bank and over \$1,000 Dollars. Wrightstown Food Cupboard was given \$500 Dollars for their bank. Large food donations came from The Upper Southampton PBA and The Northampton Business Association. Cash donations came from the Northampton Township PBA (\$1,000), Carr and Duff (\$300) and multiple township employees.

Thanks to all our partners, volunteers, residents, businesses, and individuals that so generously donated to this project. The support that we received from the Northampton and Southampton Communities is a reflection on all that call this community home.



## F.I.N.D.S. PROGRAM

In 2008, the Northampton Township Police Department started the F.I.N.D.S. (Family Information Data System) program. The F.I.N.D.S. program was originally developed to allow residents to voluntarily register any family member that might walk away from their residence and not find their way back home. Since its inception, over 50 residents have been registered. The F.I.N.D.S. program has now been expanded to include those who attend school or who are employed in Northampton Township with cognitive disabilities, intellectual disabilities, or any other physical or mental impairment.

This program provides Northampton Police with a voluntary, secure database of residents, temporary residents, students, and those employed in the Township who have a disability, or any other physical or mental impairment. The purpose of creating and maintaining this database is to give Northampton Police the ability to quickly ascertain important information about individuals with special needs, so that we can speed up the process of getting them help as soon and as effectively as possible. This information could include what medication an individual may need in an emergency, the best way to communicate with someone, letting us know if they are fearful of uniformed Police, where a runaway may likely be found, or who to contact in the event of an emergency.

The F.I.N.D.S. program will allow residents to voluntarily register anyone qualified to be in the program. Minors must be registered by their parent or guardian. Adults may be registered by a family member or interested party such as a caregiver or an assigned caseworker. The registration process includes filling out a registration form, providing two current photographs of the registrant, and being issued a photo identification card containing the registrant's name, photograph, and any important information that the registrant's family or care giver believes is necessary. There is no charge for this service or the identification card. Thanks to an anonymous donor we have increased our ability to provide identification cards to everyone.

*Anyone looking for more information on the F.I.N.D.S. program should contact the Northampton Township Police Quality of Life Unit at (215) 322-6111 during regular business hours.*

## WINTER DRIVING SAFETY TIPS

### Your Vehicle

- So much of driving safely on the road starts before your trip begins by *keeping your vehicle properly maintained*. Aside from regular maintenance such as changing your oil and getting your brakes and suspension checked, winter months can cause additional problems with your vehicle. For example, batteries tend to fail in the Winter.
- Too often we get fixated on a vehicle being "All Wheel Drive" or "Four Wheel Drive". However, neither of these features will be helpful on ice-covered roads. *Also, neither of these features will work properly in snow if your tires are not properly maintained.*
- *Make sure your windshield wipers are in good working order* and that you have a full reservoir of windshield washer fluid that is designed for cold weather. You cannot drive safely if you cannot see out of your windshield!



### Your Trip

- Often winter weather may cause roads to be closed due to hazardous conditions. *If you are not sure your route will be safe, plan another route or consider delaying your trip until the weather event is over.* If you must drive in a winter weather event, always know another way of getting to your destination. GPS units and cell phone service may be interrupted, so do not rely only on your GPS for directions, so consider keeping a map in the car.
- *Allow extra time* when driving in winter weather so that you are not rushing to get to your destination.
- *It is best practice to keep a flashlight, jumper cables, a snow brush, ice scraper, blankets, and a warning device (such as flares) in the vehicle.* For longer planned trips, bring food and water.
- *If your vehicle is low to the ground*, just a few inches of snow can disable your vehicle.
- *Allow for a greater stopping distance* than normal in winter weather.
- Keep a *greater distance between your vehicle and others* while driving in winter weather.
- *If you have anti-lock brakes*, you should know to keep your foot firmly on the brake pedal when trying to stop.
- If you do not have anti-lock brakes, *pump your brakes* to avoid losing control of your vehicle when braking.
- Operating your vehicle in bad weather *can cause you to get fatigued much sooner than normal driving.* Get plenty of rest before your trip and plan stops and rotate drivers if possible.
- *Most importantly, if you do not have to drive during a winter weather event, please, just stay off the roadway.*



# NORTHAMPTON TOWNSHIP FIRE DEPARTMENT



The Northampton Township Fire Department is a combination department consisting of paid, volunteer and paid on-call staff. The Fire Department provides fire suppression, rescue and emergency medical services to the 26 square miles of the township. We operate out of 3 stations and respond to approximately 600 emergency calls per year. The staff trains weekly on various fire and rescue disciplines. We also conduct 500 annual fire inspections and pre-incident planning in our business community. Other non-emergency services including fire safety training, fire prevention and CPR/AED training.

We are always looking for volunteers to join our team. New firefighters are trained in basic firefighting and rescue techniques. Our staff is committed to providing quality service to our community through education and training. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer firefighter please contact NTFD Station 3 at 215-357-8277.

Have a safe 2021,  
Rob Holmes  
Deputy Fire Chief

## ACTION NEEDED:

### *Does Your Home Or Business Have an Alarm System?*

Due to upgrades to the 911 phone system in Bucks County, some of the phone lines used by alarm companies for dispatch have been disconnected and removed from service. If you have not updated the dispatch numbers with your alarm company, it may be extremely difficult and time consuming for alarm companies to notify Bucks County Dispatch in a potential emergency. If you have a monitored burglar alarm and/or fire alarm in your home or place of business, please contact your alarm company and make sure they have the following numbers on your account for emergency dispatch:

**Fire and Emergency Medical Services..... (215) 328-8516**  
**Police Department..... (215) 328-8502**

Also, while verifying that the alarm company is calling the correct number for dispatch, ensure that your alarm company has the correct emergency contacts, correct cross streets, and correct municipality. If you live in Richboro, Churchville, Holland, Upper Holland or Ivyland the municipality is NORTHAMPTON TOWNSHIP.



## Northampton Township and Fire Department Deploy Digital Signs

In 2020, the Township and Northampton Fire Department installed digital signs at each fire station, Municipal Park, Recreation Center and the Northampton Valley Country Club. In addition to providing respective department information, the main purpose for the signs is to communicate emergency messages out to the public in times of power outages and extreme weather events. Every sign can be accessed remotely to broadcast an emergency message on all signs instantaneously. Future signs include the Senior Center and the Library.



## Computer Equipment Fires

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) urges added caution when using and charging laptops or other digital devices at home. According to NFPA's most recent Electrical Fires Report an estimated average of 900 computer equipment fires occurred in U.S Homes each year between 2014 and 2018, resulting in 50 civilian injuries and \$50 Million in direct property damage.



*"Many households may have more people using and charging electrical devices on a daily basis than usual" said Lorraine Carli, Vice President of Outreach, and Advocacy at NFPA. " This additional use of equipment means more opportunity for misuse, and misapplication, which can contribute to an increased fire Risk."*

When it comes to using and charging laptops, smartphones and other digital devices, following simple precautions can help minimize the risk of electrical fires:

- Only use the charging cord that came with the device, avoid cords with conductive jackets.
- Discontinue use if device or charger becomes excessively hot or emits a burning smell.
- Make sure all cords and wires are in good condition. Discard frayed, or damaged cords.
- Unplug all devices when not in use to save energy, and minimize the risk of shock, or fire.
- Ensure that the plugs are fully inserted into the outlet and remain that way while in use.

Even during this time of social distancing, electricians are still working and considered essential businesses. Call the utility company or a qualified electrician immediately if you experience any of the following.

- Frequent problems with circuit breakers tripping, or fuses blowing.
- Discolored or warm outlets.
- Flickering, or dimming lights.
- Sparks from an outlet.
- A plug no longer stays plugged into an outlet on its own.

# Lithium Ion Battery Safety

## for Consumers



Lithium ion batteries supply power to many kinds of devices including smart phones, laptops, scooters, e-cigarettes, smoke alarms, toys, and even cars. Take care when using them. In rare cases, they can cause a fire or explosion.

### The problem

- These batteries store a large amount of energy in a small amount of space.
- Sometimes batteries are not used the right way; batteries not designed for a specific use can be dangerous.
- Like any product, a small number of these batteries are defective. They can overheat, catch fire, or explode.

### Safety Tips

- Purchase and use devices that are listed by a qualified testing laboratory.
- Always follow the manufacturer's instructions.
- Only use the battery that is designed for the device.
- Put batteries in the device the right way.
- Only use the charging cord that came with the device.
- Do not charge a device under your pillow, on your bed or on a couch.
- Keep batteries at room temperature.
- Do not place batteries in direct sunlight or keep them in hot vehicles.
- Store batteries away from anything that can catch fire.

### Signs of a Problem

Stop using the battery if you notice these problems: odor, change in color, too much heat, change in shape, leaking, odd noises. If it is safe to do so, move the device away from anything that can catch fire. Call **9-1-1**.

### Battery Disposal

- Do not put lithium ion batteries in the trash.
- Recycling is always the best option.
- Take them to a battery recycling location or contact your community for disposal instructions.
- Do not put discarded batteries in piles.

### High-Tech Luggage

Some major airlines no longer accept 'smart' luggage with non-removable lithium ion batteries as checked or carry-on luggage. The powerful batteries can potentially overheat and pose a fire hazard during flight.

In some instances, smart bags with removable lithium ion batteries will be allowed on board if the battery can be removed on site and taken on board with the customer. Check with your airline for restrictions.



**NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION**

The leading information and knowledge resource on fire, electrical and related hazards

[nfpa.org/education](http://nfpa.org/education) ©NFPA 2017



# FREE LIBRARY *of Northampton Township*

25 UPPER HOLLAND ROAD | RICHBORO, PA 18954 | 215-357-3050

HOURS: Monday-Thursday: 10:00am-9:00pm | Friday: 1:00pm-5:00pm | Saturday: 10:00am-5:00pm | Sunday: 1:00pm-5:00pm

## YOUR TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY LIBRARY

A little over fifty years ago, the Free Library of Northampton Township opened its doors to the people of the township. The library began in a re-purposed building on an old Nike Missile base, but as the years progressed, the library grew. Today, the library occupies a 30,000 sq. ft. facility with over 110,000 items including books, dvds, iPads, and hotspots. The library has truly become a vital part of twenty-first century Northampton Township.

In order to prepare for this new century, the library engaged in a project to improve access to its excellent collection. The entire collection was individually tagged with Radio Frequency Identification (RFID). RFID is a technology that allows wireless communication between a programmed tag and a digital reader connected to an online database—such as a library catalog. This allows for more efficient and quicker checkout/check in of materials and superb inventory control which aids in cataloging. During the library’s downtime, staff tagged the entire collection and saved money in overall project cost.

After library users find and select items, they can utilize two contact-free self-checkout kiosks. It is fun to scan your library card, key in your PIN, and stack your items on the kiosk’s pad. Everything

is checked out in seconds with a printed or emailed date due receipt. Staff are happy to provide assistance or answer questions.

Indeed, good things are happening at the library. In 2020, the library was awarded a Keystone Grant for building improvements. For instance, the library installed an energy-efficient HVAC system, renewed carpeting, and updated parts of the electrical system. Plus, the building’s clerestory is to be completely renovated as part of this Keystone Grant.

As all know, COVID-19 has altered many aspects of daily life, and the library has faced changes too. Our Adult and Children’s programs had to be moved from in-person to virtual. However, the creativity of librarians allowed programs to be equally as memorable and informative.

Consequently, the library’s mission is to provide equal access to information in all of its many formats. Information is the key. The community can assist the library in fulfilling this mission by donating to the library’s Annual Appeal in the late Spring. Together, as a community, we will move forward in the twenty-first century.



## PROGRAMS

### Martin Luther King Jr. Shoebox Project

The Free Library of Northampton Township is proud to once again be holding this special Day of Giving Event. This is your chance to give to those in need. Pick up a shoebox at the library now. (*Or use one you have at home.*) Take it home and fill it with essential hygiene items appropriate for a preschooler. Return it to the library by February 14 so we can spread the love. Shoeboxes will be distributed by the United Way of Bucks County to local families in need. *Receive a special bookmark and charm for participating!*



Cold February days at home are a lot more interesting with fun STEM activities to keep you busy.

### Penguin STEM Pick-Up Program

Grades k-2

Pick up your science kit Monday, February 8 beginning at 10:00am



### Snowflake Crystal STEM Pick-Up Program

Grades 3-5

Pick up your science kit Monday, February 22 beginning at 10:00 am.

View video posted on Facebook at 4:00pm for instruction.

### Valentine’s Day Mystery - Family Game

*Looking for something fun to do with the family on Valentine’s Day?*

Come to the library to pick up your valentine kit (February 8- February 13). Work together to read the clues and solve the mystery. Return to the library by February 27 and show us your answer. Each child will receive a charm for participating!



### Relaxing Reads Program

It’s time for bed, clear your head with some relaxing mindful stories. Our Relaxing Reads program is designed to help young children relieve their daily stress by listening to stories and learning mindfulness techniques. Join us for 4 weeks on Facebook as we learn belly breathing, calming techniques and self-awareness skills. Posted every Monday at 7:00 pm, February 15 - March 8, *Recommended for Preschool – 2nd Grade.*





## James E. Kinney Senior Center

### OUR FUR THERAPIST, JACKSON, IS AN ANGEL ON A LEASH

Meet our furry therapist Jackson, who visits the senior center once a month for the past several years. Jackson hasn't visited since February due to COVID-19 but he and his owner Bob Wharton have been busy winning TWO prestigious awards and starting a non-profit organization, Angel on a Leash.

Congratulations to Jackson and Bob for winning the prestigious American Kennel Club (AKC) 2020 PAWS OF COURAGE. The AKC Paws of Courage is an award to show appreciation for the work that dogs do in the service of humankind. There were only 3 dogs throughout the country who received this award!!



Jackson and Bob also received a Congressional Certificate of Recognition and a United States flag that flew over the U.S. Capitol from Congressman Brian Fitzpatrick for Jackson's Therapy Work.

The non-profit organization, Angel on a Leash, keeps Jackson busy by providing support and tail wags to people in schools, nursing homes, senior centers and hospitals.

***Congratulations and thank you for your great work and community spirit!***

*For more information about Angel on a Leash, please visit [www.angelonaleash.net](http://www.angelonaleash.net) or contact Bob Wharton at 215-478-6762.*



*Jackson and Bob Wharton*



**Thank you to everyone that participated in the senior center's 1<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL HOLIDAY WREATH SALE.  
The event was a huge success with 150 beautiful wreaths purchased!  
The generosity and support of the seniors and the Northampton community is greatly appreciated.**



### GIRLS SCOUTS OF AMERICA GOLD AWARD "Giving Garden" Project at the James E. Kinney Senior Center

The Northampton Township James E. Kinney Senior Center was the beneficiary of Taylor Smith's Girl Scout Gold Award Beautification Project called the "Giving Garden." The Giving Garden was researched and designed by Taylor Smith, with construction and planting assistance by her family and fellow girl scouts. If you visited our bocce court area, you may have spotted a few flying friends in our pollinator garden, a hummingbird feeder, a solar fountain, a bee house, solar lantern and a ceramic garden sphere. The recipe for our Giving Garden: sit, watch, enjoy and relax.

The senior center would like to thank the following individuals and businesses who donated their time, goods and services for the summer phase of the Giving Garden:

- Girl Scouts of America: Director and Gold Award Sponsor, Ms. Maggi Miller
- Initial construction: Chaile Capewell, Nandini Dasaka, Kiersten Lanshe, Ian Saca, Mrs. Kelly Smith, Mr. Kenneth Smith, Taylor Smith and Mr. Edward Wittenberg
- Garden Supplies: Marrazzo's Manor Lane Landscaping and Hardscaping, Feeny's Wholesale Nursery and Gaspers Landscape Design and Construction

**WATCH FOR NEW SPRING PLANTINGS IN 2021!**





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Corporate Events and more!**



**CONTACT US:**



[events@nvgc.com](mailto:events@nvgc.com)



215.355.2234



[www.northamptonvalleycountryclub.com](http://www.northamptonvalleycountryclub.com)

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- PREMIUM SPIRITS & ROTATING DRAFT BEERS
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- HAPPY HOUR EVERY  
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- GRAND GOLF COURSE VIEWS
- FAMILY FRIENDLY ATMOSPHERE



To sign up and receive text alerts  
for happy hour and menu specials,  
send your cell phone number to  
[lori.stjohn@nvgc.com](mailto:lori.stjohn@nvgc.com)



[www.northamptonvalleycountryclub.com/tavern-menu/](http://www.northamptonvalleycountryclub.com/tavern-menu/)  
299 Newtown Richboro Rd, Richboro PA 18954  
215.355.2234 x 21

# PARKS AND RECREATION STAFF PERSEVERES AND DEMONSTRATES THE MEANING OF RESILIENCE

My, what a difference a year makes! This time last year, the Parks and Recreation Staff was in the groove; offering a slew of programs, coordinating special events, summer camps and preparing the swim club and parks for the active months ahead. Although there are processes and procedures that guide the necessary preparation and planning, the staff has come to expect that there will be a snag or issue that will disrupt the progress and test our capabilities. However, the disruption and distress that was caused by Covid-19 was unlike any other. Despite the challenges, fear and uncertainty that came with the fluid situation, the Parks and Recreation Department persevered, pivoted and found ways to provide Northampton residents opportunities to engage in recreational activities during the pandemic.

### Shelter at home – what DO we do?

We all remember March 19, 2020 when the Governor of Pennsylvania issued a directive for all state residents to shelter at home and limit movements outside of their homes beyond essential needs. Along with restaurants, bars and retail shops, township facilities were closed including the Administration Building, Library, Senior Center and the Recreation Center. All recreation and sport programs were cancelled and the future of summer rec programs was uncertain.

The Parks and Recreation staff continued to work from home and, like the rest of society learned how to meet virtually. On-screen time was spent with co-workers, colleagues and government leaders discussing ways they could adjust and continue to offer programs and activities while our residents were hunkering down at home. As a result, the resourceful and creative team developed a Parks and Recreation Daily Planner full of travel and virtual tours, crafts and DIY projects, coloring pages, scavenger hunts and family themed photos. Conversation continued with instructors, who at first volunteered their time, to offer exercise programs to help keep our participants on schedule with their personal fitness goals. As time went on the State of Pennsylvania was under a three-phase plan, which directed when and how the local areas would reopen. Our stay at home or “red phase” became longer than the anticipated two weeks, and the virtual classes later expanded to include not only fitness and exercise but art, karate, chess, coding, cooking, SAT prep and more. Family trivia nights took the place of the in-person special events.

It was not until June 5th when Bucks County entered the “yellow phase,” that relief was in site. The team continued to organize virtual programs, focus on bringing participants back to class, while at the same time coordinated the summer camps and swim club. Parks were back open and usage was higher than ever; proving that parks are essential to our community.



### Park usage and activities increased during Covid

The statistics provided through a survey conducted by the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) come as no surprise – 83% of adults find exercising at local parks, trails and open spaces essential to maintaining their mental and physical health during the COVID -19 pandemic. 59% of respondents say it is very or extremely essential to exercise in parks and green spaces to relieve stress and remain healthy during this crisis. Anyone who has visited or lives near any of our parks can attest to the drastically increased use this past year! Amenities such as basketball courts, playgrounds and public rest rooms closed for a short time in March 2020 to discourage large gatherings. Northampton Township parks and trails remained open to ensure our residents had a safe place to sustain their physical and

mental health throughout the pandemic. In particular, the Municipal Park located at Hatboro and Bristol Roads in Churchville provided a perfect sanctuary for many.

### 2020 - the year we gave families back their summer

The Township, along with the rest of Bucks County, moved to the “green phase” late in June, just in time to salvage the summer. This news was a relief to the parks and recreation staff who persevered and had devised alternative summer camp and swim programs. With restrictions and protocols needed to be accepted by the County prior to operation, Parks and Recreation was able to offer an array of summer camp programs which included a Camp2U Kit, Camp in the Park, the traditional Day Camp and some specialty in-person and virtual week long specialty camps.

Having a facility as grand as the Municipal Park enabled a limited number of children to participate in “Camp in the Park.” Due to the uncertain use of indoor facilities and the fact that outside programming proved to be safer, this camp was created to take the place of the Township’s signature camps that traditionally are scheduled in the Council Rock Schools.

## Parks and Recreation *continued*

The camp was held in two-three week sessions, Tuesday thru Thursday, outdoors (weather permitting) with an inclement weather make-up days reserved for Mondays or Fridays. Typically, it is rain that cancels camp outdoors, but this summer, it was more the heat than the wet weather that worried the team. Tropical storms, heat waves and wearing masks could not, however, stop the fun!

The Day Camp program held at the Recreation Center was also modified to comply with CDC, state and local recommendations, as well as guidance from the American Camping Association. Due to restrictions and protocols put in place, a number of changes were made. The children were able to play games, complete crafts, make new friends, and feel like summer was a bit normal even though campers and staff wore masks while inside and outside all summer long and the facilities were disinfected a number of times a day. With the cooperation among camp and pool staff, campers were able to enjoy use of the Northampton Valley Swim Club. There too, protocols were put in place. Camp “houses” were not permitted to intermingle and when not swimming, masks still needed to be worn. But that didn’t stop the children from loving camp and the pool. As one parent said, “Thank you for giving my daughter back her summer!”

### Community special events re-imagined

When COVID-19 lingered, the staff was faced with the realization that the special events already scheduled for the spring and summer would need to be cancelled. The Bunny Hunt, the Health and Wellness Festival, the Kids Yoga Festival and even the long-standing Sounds of Summer Series, would be lost due to the restrictions placed on large gatherings. The decision to halt all events was a difficult one, but totally necessary. The decision and fluidity of the pandemic did not stop the creative staff from forging ahead with plans to reinvent popular events and create new ones.

Nothing can stop Halloween from happening in Northampton; not even a pandemic. The Halloween event, which has been a popular annual event since its inception 44 years ago, would not fall victim to the virus. With some imagination the event was salvaged and planned as usual; only this time at Municipal Park. There was so much to do and see: a costume parade, “scarecrow row” and spectacular trunk displays, all reinvented with safety in mind and protocols in place. In addition to the activities of the day, participants and staff were able to reap the benefits of being outside with picture-perfect weather.

Thanksgiving was also acknowledged with the park paths lined with reminders of the simple things in life to be grateful for. COVID -19 certainly brought new meaning to Thanksgiving!

The December holidays are typically celebrated with a trip to New York City to see the decorations and shows. Of course, that could not happen. But our own “Book and Bedtime” performance with Mrs. Claus could. With the use of technology, and again, creativity, “Book and Bedtime” was revamped. Mrs. Claus was able to visit and read her books virtually. A video was made and packages were sent out to families with the code to view the video, a letter from Santa, reindeer food, crafts and treats for all good boys and girls to enjoy. This re-created event brought joy to many more, as we were able to accommodate more registrations than in prior years.

For the first time ever, the Municipal Park was decorated for the December holiday season. The “Trail of Cheer” was made possible with new partners. The Rock United Girl Scout Service unit adorned the mall area with their outdoor vision for all to enjoy. And the Bucks County Women’s Chorus provided pre-recorded caroling stations along the pathways with an opportunity for park visitor to sing along. A holiday tree was displayed for people to add an ornament.



### Parks and Recreation; an essential service

Findings recently published in the 2020 NRPA Engagement with Parks Report show that a large majority of U.S. adults (82%) believe that parks and recreation is essential. More than 4 out of 5 people agree that parks and recreation is an essential local government service.

Throughout the pandemic, the Northampton Township Parks and Recreation Team has demonstrated the essential value of their work and will continue to do so. The Parks and Recreation Department provides our residents of all ages with resources so they can improve and maintain their physical and mental health, connect with family and friends and reconnect with nature. The team continues to produce and execute quality, wholesome recreation programs and activities. The pandemic actually forced the team to think outside the box and develop new recreational opportunities for all.

Each team member exhibits their courage by not letting the fears of the unknown extinguish the passion to provide recreation services to the community. The challenges of ensuring the safety of the participants and themselves during these uncertain times are being met with knowledge, empathy, and desire. To re-invent programs so that the residents can participate and feel safe while doing all of that is being achieved. Thanks to the tireless efforts of our parks and recreation professionals, the Northampton Township community is fortunate to enjoy the parks and many programs and activities offered during this uncertain and unsettling time in our lives. They persevere and prove their resilience daily. *To read the unabridged article visit [www.northamptonrec.com](http://www.northamptonrec.com).*



## HERE'S HOW TO REGISTER FOR PARKS & RECREATION CLASSES, PROGRAMS & EVENTS!

**1**

### REGISTER ONLINE AT [www.northamptonrec.com](http://www.northamptonrec.com)

To register online, a credit card is needed. Prior to registering for any activity you must first create a household account through the NorthamptonRec.com website

**2**

### REGISTER BY PHONE CALL US AT 215-357-6800 ext 249

To register over the phone, a credit card is needed. If you do not already have a household account on northamptonrec.com, one will be created for you.

**3**

### REGISTER BY PERSON OR BY MAIL

Mail your registration form to or visit us at  
Northampton Township  
55 Township Road, Richboro, PA 18954  
Cash, checks and credit cards accepted

## THE PANDEMIC ACTUALLY CREATED NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR 2021

*Jennifer Fean, Program Manager*

Think back to December 2020 and earlier this year. The word “virtual” undoubtedly prompted some sort of unfavorable reaction. A groan here, or an eyeroll there. We were so over it! Yet, back in March during the stay at home phase the thought of interacting with others even virtually brought excitement! It was fun to video conference with co-workers, play games with friends on Zoom and visit with extended family! But now the tables have turned and real, live interaction seems to have gained excitement again! Before March of 2020, we would have laughed at a question like “We get to do that in-person?”

If recreation programs are only offered in-person, and residents are concerned about getting sick, or getting someone else sick, participating virtually is preferred. As a Parks and Recreation programmer, it's all very confusing. So, what is the right answer? Which platform do we choose? In-person or virtual?

The answer is quite simple and exciting at the same time – why not offer both platforms? Beginning in January, Northampton Township Parks and Recreation presented a virtual alternative to almost all of the in-person programs they are offering. In addition, there are many new opportunities that can only be offered virtually.

Art classes for both children and adults are offered in-person and virtually, as well as a menu of exercise classes on both platforms, an adult cooking series presented asynchronously for your convenience by the talented chefs at Northampton Valley Country Club, and live virtual cooking classes for children. From chess to karate to voice-over training, Parks and Recreation has a wide array of activities to keep residents healthy – both mentally and physically, in-person or from the comfort of your home.

The Recreation department is also proud to offer online certifications and courses for adults. Participants can advance their skills for employment, if they are seeking new employment or for personal satisfaction. All of the classes can be done on your own time with weekly assignments and access to the instructor and other participants via chat. These same courses are offered in universities across the United States and they are never cancelled! Get certified in Online Teaching, Graphic Design, Microsoft Excel, Digital Marketing, Coding, Game Design, Web Design and so much more! And to top it off CEU's can be earned for professional development. Not ready for a full certificate? No problem! Courses can be taken individually too! There are also non-certificate courses offered in Podcasting and Fiction Writing. Don't miss the opportunity to join one of these courses this winter!

No need to view virtual programs as the enemy! Virtual programs give you the opportunity to take a class with a family member or best friend who live far away, to have the ability to just come home from school or work and enjoy a class without rushing or worrying about inclement weather, or just simply for peace of mind during a challenging time. Whether you decide to come in-person or take a program virtually, Northampton Township Parks and Recreation is here for you this winter – join us!

**EDITORS NOTE:** *Due to the fluidity of the pandemic and the mitigation measures in place, the in-person classes may or may not take place as originally scheduled. To view all programs or to register, visit [www.northamptonrec.com](http://www.northamptonrec.com) or call the Recreation Center at 215-357-5396.*

# YOUR HELP IS NEEDED TO KEEP THE PLAYGROUND PROJECT MOVING...

It is no surprise that, as with most everything else, the scheduled improvements to the popular playground at the Municipal Park located on Hatboro and Bristol Roads in Churchville has been delayed. This delay is partly related to COVID as the last leg of fundraising events were canceled. The events have yet to be rescheduled as the pandemic is still too fluid. The opportunity to donate to the project, however, still exists and every little bit helps.

Over the past few years the Miracle League of Northampton Township and the Northampton Township Administration have been working together to come up with a plan to expand the popular "blue" playground so that children of all abilities will be able to experience playing on a playground. Working with Landscape Structures, playground experts in Inclusive Play, the Miracle League Board of Directors has strategically selected pieces of equipment that will welcome children and families of all abilities to learn, play and grow together.

In addition to new equipment, new surfacing, fencing and shade structures are planned.

Grants and donations continue to be sought after to help fund this \$750,000 project. Your donation no matter how little can help to move this project forward and keep the schedule on target for the fall of 2021.

To make a donation visit [mlnorthampton.com](http://mlnorthampton.com) or complete the form to the right. For more information about this project or to donate towards a specific piece of equipment call Nancy Opalka, Northampton Township's Director of Parks and Recreation at 215-357-6800,

## WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP:

- Learn more about the project
- Spread the word
- Participate in fundraising events
- Plan your own fundraising event
- Encourage businesses and individuals to make a contribution
- Volunteer
- Register on the website to receive updated information
- Like us on Facebook @MiracleLeague NorthamptonTwpPA
- Make a donation
- Sponsor a piece of equipment

## HOW TO DONATE

### Donate Online

Visit [www.mlnorthampton.com](http://www.mlnorthampton.com) and select "Help us build a playground"

### Donate by Mail

Complete this form and mail to:  
Miracle League of Northampton Township, PA  
P.O. Box 453  
Richboro, PA 18954

### Gift Amount

- \$25       \$50       \$100  
 \$250       \$500       Other

### Payment Method

- Credit Card
  - VISA       Mastercard
  - AMEX       Discover

Card Number

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Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State and Zip \_\_\_\_\_

- Check

Make your check payable to: Miracle League of Northampton Township PA

Receipt Preference       Email       Mail

Email address:

\_\_\_\_\_

Even if you prefer your receipt by mail, please consider sharing your email address so we can keep you up to date on the playground project progress.

Miracle League of Northampton Township PA is a non-profit 501c3 charity



cut here

## Parks and Recreation Civic Center Improvement Project Completed

The Recreation Complex located on Newtown Richboro Road in Richboro encompasses the Civic Center 1 and Civic Center 2 and is home to the Northampton Little League and American Legion Baseball, Northampton Indians Football Association, Council Rock United Soccer Associations and Council Rock Basketball's summer out door league. These community youth sports groups along with those that participate in Parks and Recreation programs, use the tennis courts, basketball courts and the playground have endured the construction that took place over the past five years.

The project which began in 2016 and was completed in two phases included a magnitude of improvements. Such improvements included but were not limited to reconstruction and repairs to the tennis courts, repairs and painting of the basketball courts, expansion of two parking lots, repaving of the roadway and lots, regrading of the practice soccer fields, lighting of the new softball field, multi-purpose area, and 90' baseball field and the construction of a restroom facility and paved inter park trails.



*Newly lighted 90' baseball field  
at the Civic Center 2 Park*

The Township was a recipient from the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources grant program which partially funded these improvements. The two grants totaling \$470,000 from two grant cycles provided the township the opportunity to enhance the highly utilized park complex. Costs for the improvements totaled approximately \$3 million and was funded by the grants, a bond and the Parks and Recreation Capital fund.

## Northampton Township Swim Club

*Nestled in the breathtaking grounds of Northampton Valley Country Club, 299 Newtown Richboro Road, Richboro 18954*



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- Swim Lessons, group and private, for Infants through adults offered throughout the summer
- Aquatic exercise classes for youth and adults
- Basketball courts, GaGa pits and sand volleyball
- On-site snack bar PLUS access to Tavern on Ten for patio dining, dine in or take-out
- Limited hours offered for parties and events

**Membership, Event, Program Questions** email Debbie at work dcatoggio@nhtwp.org or call 215-357-6800 ext. 249  
**Swim Team requirement, practices, meets, etc.** email Coach Geoff at work goodey@gmail.com.

*For more information, hours, membership types, lessons, programs, rates  
and employment opportunities, visit the Parks & Rec website: [www.northamptonrec.com](http://www.northamptonrec.com)*



# When It Rains, It Drains

Understanding Storm Water  
and How It Can Affect  
Your Money, Safety, Health,  
and the Environment



## Where to Go to Continue the Information Flow

Your community is preventing storm water pollution through a storm water management program. This program addresses storm water pollution from construction, new development, illegal dumping to the storm sewer system, and pollution prevention and good housekeeping practices in municipal operations. It will also continue to educate the community and get everyone involved in making sure the only thing that storm water contributes to our water is...water! Contact your community's storm water management program coordinator or the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection for more information about storm water management.

## What is Storm Water?

Storm water is water from precipitation that flows across the ground and pavement when it rains or when snow and ice melt. The water seeps into the ground or drains into what we call storm sewers. These are the drains you see at street corners or at low points on the sides of streets. Collectively, the draining water is called storm water runoff.

## Why is Storm Water "Good Rain Gone Wrong?"

Storm water becomes a problem when it picks up debris, chemicals, dirt, and other pollutants as it flows or when it causes flooding and erosion of stream banks. Storm water travels through a system of pipes and roadside ditches that make up storm sewer systems. It eventually flows directly to a lake, river, stream, wetland or coastal water. All of the pollutants storm water carries along the way empty into our waters, too, because storm water does not get treated!



*Pet wastes left on the ground get carried away by storm water, contributing harmful bacteria, parasites and viruses to our water.*

*Vehicles drip fluids (oil, grease, gasoline, antifreeze, brake fluids, etc.) onto paved areas where storm water runoff carries them through our storm drains and into our water.*



*Chemicals used to grow and maintain beautiful lawns and gardens, if not used properly, can run off into the storm drains when it rains or when we water our lawns and gardens.*

*Waste from chemicals and materials used in construction can wash into the storm sewer system when it rains. Soil that erodes from construction sites causes environmental degradation, including harming fish and shellfish populations that are important for recreation and our economy.*



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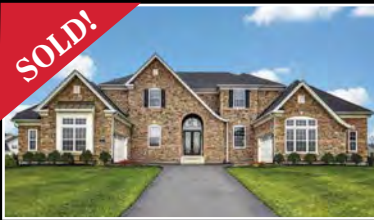
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