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Sewer Sale, Development, Improvement Projects & Staff Updates

Over the last six months, the Township has continued moving forward with various projects and initiatives and made an important decision on the future of our sewer system.

Over the summer, the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission issued an order setting a formula that effectively determines what it deems to be a “reasonable” purchase price for a wastewater system in a sale to a public utility. The purchase price (\$104 Million) Pennsylvania American Water agreed to pay the Township under the Asset Purchase Agreement was far higher than the PUC’s purchase price standard under its new formula. While the PUC did conditionally accept PAWC’s application to purchase our system, given the new legal framework instituted by the PUC, it was unlikely the PUC would ultimately approve the sale of our system to PAWC as it was structured.

After discussions with PAWC and our legal counsel, it seemed appropriate to consider the mutual termination of the APA based on this change. At our September 11 meeting, the Board unanimously authorized all necessary actions, including signing the associated termination documentation, to do so. At our September 25 meeting, Ordinance 24-06 was unanimously adopted repealing Ordinances 22-04 and 23-03 related to the sewer sale.

The Township will be moving to quarterly billing for the sewer rental bill for 2025. All residential customers will receive a mailed notice of these details, along with a notice of a new online bill payment system, Xpress Bill Pay. See page 6 for more information. We are also studying a potential switch to consumption-based billing in 2026.

Phase 2 of the Skippack Creek Sewer Interceptor Replacement Project is underway with design and engineering. We are awaiting details on a grant



Grist Mill Park Phase 1 Improvement Plan 7/2024

submission. Construction is anticipated as early as next year.

On the development front, Mattress Warehouse and Chipotle Restaurant are under construction at the shopping center at Forty Foot and Allentown Roads. These retailers are expected to open for business in late 2024/early 2025. Regular shopping center updates are provided monthly by the developer at the Board of Supervisors meetings. At recent meetings, PSDC’s Mark Nicoletti has indicated Whole Foods, Target, Harbor Freight, Chase Bank, Panera Bread and First Watch as prospective tenants for the site.

An application is before the Township Zoning Hearing Board seeking a variance from parking requirements which would enable the Goddard School to move forward with plans for a facility in the former Rite Aid at Valley Forge and Sumneytown Pike.

Despite receiving final Township approvals over two years ago, construction on the new Wawa at Forty Foot Road and Sumneytown Pike appears to be stalled awaiting a parcel transfer between Wawa and the developer.

The Comprehensive Plan Update is moving forward with the next public meeting scheduled for November 21st.

Construction for the Weikel Road Pro-

ject (Township Pool to Snyder Road) is underway. This project includes drainage improvements and sidewalk installations and should be completed later this fall. These improvements are primarily funded by remaining ARPA funds and a Montco 2040 Grant for the sidewalk.

The Grist Mill Park Phase I Improvements project is out for bid. The project will include: an inclusive playground, a basketball court, a handicapped parking area and a perimeter trail. The Township was awarded a \$250,000 PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources grant and another \$250,000 funding submission was sought via a PA Local Shared Grant.

The Township received a Green Light-Go Grant in the amount of \$310,520. The grant will be used to upgrade the traffic signal system along the Forty Foot Road and Sumneytown Pike corridors with adaptive technology enabling the traffic lights to react in real time to changes in traffic conditions.

The Township currently has several pending grant applications including Local Share Account Statewide Grants for the Central Drive Stormwater project, Phase 2 Skippack Creek Sewer Interceptor and Grist Mill Park improvements. Additionally, the Township is waiting on the status of a COVID-19 ARPA Capital Projects Fund Community Facilities grant for improvements to the municipal complex.

We recently welcomed two new employees to the Township’s management team. In July, we welcomed Bill Oettinger as our new Fire Marshall. Bill comes to us from Keystone Municipal Services where he provided contracted code related services to various municipalities including Towamencin. Bill serves as Captain

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Voter Information

Election updates and deadlines can all be found on Montgomery County’s website. You can check polling locations, voter registration status, candidates running for office, volunteer opportunities, district maps and more.

Voter Services webpage: <https://www.montcopa.org/753/Voter-Services>

Office Location:

Montgomery County Voter Services
 One Montgomery Plaza, Suite 602
 425 Swede Street
 Norristown, PA 19401
 Voter Registration: 610-278-3280
 Election Board: 610-278-3275

Important Dates for the General Election:

- October 21 - last day to register to vote
- October 29 - last day to apply for a mail-in or civilian absentee ballot
- November 5 - voted mail-in & absentee ballots must be received by the Election Board by 8PM
- November 5 - Polling hours 7 am - 8 pm, in-person voting

Reminder: No political signs are allowed on Township property and will be removed by the Public Works Department. Signs removed from Township property will be stored behind the Township’s Administration Building until just after the election.

You may call the Township to verify polling locations/precincts at 215-368-7602



VOTE
5
GENERAL ELECTION

TUESDAY
NOVEMBER

- **Towamencin Township is PA State Representative District 61: Representative Liz Hanbidge**
- **Towamencin Township is PA State Senate District 24: State Senator Tracey Pennycuick**
- **Towamencin Township is U.S. House of Representatives District 4: Congresswoman Madeleine Dean**
- **Towamencin Township is U.S. Senators: Senator Robert P. Casey and Senator John Fetterman**

Continued from page 1

of Parkland Volunteer Fire Company, in Langhorne PA. In September, we welcomed our new Finance Director, Eric Reinbott. Eric previously served as the Finance and Operations Manager for the Department of Corrections at Bucks County. Eric joins us as we begin the 2025 budget season.

Our budget work sessions will take place at 6:30 pm on October 2, 16, 30, and November 6. They will take place in the Township’s Meeting Hall and be streamed live via Zoom for those that cannot attend in person.

In closing, a reminder to please help us keep you informed of Township news and events by subscribing to our weekly e-news at towamencin.org.

We hope to see you at our upcoming fall events: Movie-in-the-Park & Halloween Pet Parade on October 19th, Turkey Trot 5K on November 9th and our Holiday Lights Festival on December 6th and 7th.

Sincerely,
 Chuck Wilson
 Chairman, Board of Supervisors



TOWAMENCIN POLICE DEPARTMENT PRESENTS

TRUNK OR TREAT

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26
5-7 PM

NORTH PENN HIGH SCHOOL
1340 S. VALLEY FORGE RD.
LANSDALE, 19446



Police Department Outreach & News

The Department kicked off its inaugural Citizens Police Academy on September 12 with several enthusiastic participants. The Citizens Police Academy (CPA) is a 6-week program, running one night per week, as a 2-hour session.

Each of the 6 sessions will cover a different topic of instruction for the



participants. The topics will explain basic police operations and give attendees information and insight into our police department operations. With each topic, officers from different disciplines will assist with the instruction, such as detectives for criminal investigations. The goal of this program is to provide members of the community with a better understanding of our police department, while increasing communication and collaboration between the police department and community.

The Department plans to make the Academy a pre-requisite for community members to become department volunteers, who would help with events and non-enforcement activities.

Welcome Calmie! The Department recently hired Calmie Cerino as a part-time Operations Assistant. Calmie joined our team this summer and comes to us with a background in retail management and also works with the Hatboro Police Department in an administrative capacity.



Pictured above: Calmie Cerino



Morgan Log House
SETTLED 1708

2024 Fall/Winter Calendar of Events



For more information about our upcoming programs, visit www.morganloghouse.org/events.

If you are interested in volunteering with Morgan Log House, please reach out to

Molly Jobson at director@morganloghouse.org.

We look forward to seeing you soon!

Phone: 215-386-2480 | Address: 850 Weikel Road, Lansdale, PA 19446 | Email: Director@morganloghouse.org

JOIN US ON FACEBOOK: TOWAMENCIN TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

Community Planning & Land Development Updates

Land Development Projects

- **The Shops at Town Square** (Forty Foot & Allentown Roads) – Development is underway for a 6,400 square foot Chipotle and Mattress Warehouse building. The shops are anticipated to open in late 2024/early 2025. The shopping center continues to be owned and managed by Philadelphia Suburban Development Corporation.
- **Wawa Development** – The currently vacant building at Sumneytown Pike and Forty Foot Road will be replaced by a new building featuring twelve (12) fueling stations. The project is awaiting completion of agreements between the developer and Wawa property owner.
- **1600 Delp Drive** – Construction continues on a new 266,000 square foot warehouse at the end of Delp Drive off of Detwiler Road.
- **North Penn School District** – The Township received a Sketch Plan submission for the relocation of the existing onsite transportation facility building at the NPSD High School. This was presented to the Board of Supervisors and the Planning Commission in the summer. Further discussions will occur over the next year with a formal land development submission.
- **Old Forty Foot Road Townhouse Development** – The Township received a sketch plan submission for a 96-unit townhouse development off of Old Forty Foot Road. The plan was presented to the Board of Supervisors and Planning Commission in August and September, respectively, for comment and feedback. Further discussion will occur with a possible submission of a Preliminary Land Development submission.

Green Light-GO Program \$310,520 Grant Awarded

Governor Josh Shapiro announced 73 municipalities will receive over \$30 million to support traffic signal upgrades, increasing safety and mobility across Pennsylvania’s communities through the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation’s (PennDOT’s) “Green Light-Go” Program.

Towamencin traffic signal upgrades are planned for intersections along Sumneytown Pike, Forty Foot Road & Bustard Road corridors. Upgrading to newer technologies in detection allow traffic signals to respond to real-time traffic demand relieving congestion and improving traffic flow.



Comprehensive Plan Update

The Comprehensive Plan process will continue through the end of 2024. A public session was held in January and the second public meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 21, 2024.

We are pleased to share that the public opinion survey received 646 valuable responses. A draft plan will be made available on the Township’s website this fall.

A Comprehensive Plan serves as a guide for public and private decisions regarding the future goals of a community. The process began at the end of 2023 with consultant selection and initial meetings before the Township Board of Supervisors and Planning Commission. Focus groups and interviews have occurred over the past year.

Please check the Township website and Facebook page for future meeting dates.

Any specific questions or recommendations can be addressed to the Township consultant, PJ at the firm of Simone Collins, at pjobanputra@simonecollins.com.

Weikel Road Improvements

The Weikel Road Project will include road widening, drainage improvements and sidewalk installations. Over the last year, the Township Engineer and Township Manager met with all affected property owners to discuss the overall project and address property impacts. In 2023, the Township was awarded a \$200,000 grant for the project through the County’s Montco 2040 Grant Program. The balance of the project will be funded by the Township’s COVID-19 ARPA fund balance. The contract was awarded to NYCE Construction Services on June 26.

2025 Road Paving Schedule

The streets listed below are scheduled for paving in 2025: Mark Drive, Steven Lane, Oxford Road, Donna Place, Lisa Lane, Michael Way, Tylor Way, Detwiler Road, Gehman Road, Susan Drive, Tennis Way and Old Morris Road.

Project schedule and announcements will be provided via our Enews, Facebook and our website.

Fall & Winter Reminders from the Code Department

Open Burn Rules

Who can burn? 1 & 2 family residential dwelling units only.



What can you burn? Yard trimmings only.

Where can you burn? Not less than 50' from any structure, & placed to prevent the spread of fire to within 50' of any structure, vehicle, fuel tank & not less than 25' from any property line. No burning is permitted in streets, alleys, right-of-way.

Prior to burning all residents are required to notify Township Police at 215-368-7600.

You may not burn before 8AM—Fires & embers must be extinguished by dusk on the same day.

Fires must be constantly attended.

Flammable liquid accelerant is prohibited.

1 burn pile, not to exceed 5' x 5' x 3'

You may not burn during high wind, drought or weather inversions deemed hazardous.

Contact 215-368-7602 for complete burn rules.

Leaf and Yard Waste

PA law prevents placing leaves in the trash. Leaves must be composted or placed for separate collection. Your contracted waste hauler is responsible for providing this service to their customers.

Residents must purchase their own biodegradable collection bags. Bags are available at grocery & hardware stores. Plastic bags are prohibited.

Haulers should provide specific pick-up dates. Customers may be billed by their hauler for this DEP mandated collection.

The Township has an active agreement with Barnside Farm Compost Facility with Northern Montco Recycling Commission should residents wish to drop off their yard waste for a fee.

The minimum fee is \$25 and \$50 per ton. The Barnside Compost is located at 991 Haldeman Road, Schwenksville, PA 19473.

Residents with specific questions of what they can bring should call 610-287-8880 or visit <https://barnsidefarm.com/>



Winter Storm/Snow Reminders

All property owners are required to remove snow & ice from their sidewalks within 24 hours with a clear path of 28 inches.

Property owners are responsible to clear fire hydrants within their property boundaries for a clearance of 3' around the fire hydrant.

Residents should ensure their mailbox is properly secured for the winter season. According to the United States Postal Service, mailboxes are to be placed with the face of the box 6 to 8" from the front of the curb. Mailboxes are most often damaged in snow storms not by plows but the force of the snow hitting mailboxes not properly installed or loose. If you can move your mailbox by shaking it, take immediate steps to secure the box according to USPS guidelines.

Remove vehicles, trash cans, sports equipment and any other impediments from the roadways. It is unlawful to throw, shovel or place snow in the road.

Visit the Public Works section of the website for snow emergency routes and more details.

A letter from the Fire Marshal

I'd like to take this opportunity to introduce myself as the newly hired Fire Marshal for Towamencin Township. As the Fire Marshal some of my primary roles and responsibilities are to conduct fire inspections, fire investigations, and fire prevention education. Many people only see or communicate with the Fire Marshal after a devastating event in their lives. Being proactive and educated in fire safety could potentially save a life and prevent significant property damage. I have listed a few fire safety code requirements that will help guide you with keeping you and your property safe.

1. Place smoke alarms in every bedroom and every floor.
2. Place carbon monoxide alarms in common areas outside of bedrooms.
3. Have dryer vents cleaned to prevent lint buildup.
4. Do not overload electrical outlets, extension cords, and power strips.
5. Conduct exit drills in the home "know two ways out".
6. Open-flame cooking devices shall not be operated on combustible balconies or within 10 feet of combustible construction.
7. Open-flame devices such as heaters, lanterns, candles, and any other open flame device shall not be located on or near decorative material or similar combustible materials.
8. Have address numbers visible from the street minimum number size shall be 4 inches.
9. Egress paths shall remain clear in the event of an emergency.
10. Fire extinguishers "type ABC" can be used to extinguish a small fire and/or help you escape. Always contact 911 in the event of a fire.



If you should need any fire safety information or have any questions, please reach out to me. I look forward to keeping the community fire safe.

Yours in Fire Safety,
Bill Oettinger
Fire Marshal

215-368-7602 X1107
boettinger@towamencin.org



Sewer Billing Notice

PLEASE BE ADVISED THAT SEWER BILLING WILL BE CHANGING FROM ANNUAL TO QUARTERLY, EFFECTIVE MARCH 1, 2025.

With the change from annual to quarterly billing the Township has partnered with Xpress Bill pay as a new way to pay your bill online. With this new service, residents will have the ability to view, track and pay your sewer bills. Various payment options are available including credit and debit cards and electronic funds transfer (fees apply). Customers can also set up automatic payment options, as well as sign up for paperless billing.

SIGN UP FOR THIS NEW SERVICE IN A FEW EASY STEPS:

1. Go to www.xpressbillpay.com or follow the link to Xpress Bill pay's website under Online Payments on the Township website www.towamencin.org.
2. Click on the "Sign Up" button on the top of the home screen. Fill in the email and password fields, then click in the "I'm not a robot" box and follow the prompts.
3. Complete the short registration form and click "Next."
4. Go to your inbox and open the verification email then click "Verify Email". Then select "Continue" to log in.
5. Select "Towamencin Township" as your billing organization and follow the prompts for linking your bill (you will need your Account number as it appears on your Township bill).
6. Once your bill is added to your account, you can view and pay your bill online, sign up for paperless billing, or set up auto-pay options.

xpress BILL PAY

If you need further assistance with setting up your account, please call the Township's Finance Department at 215-368-7602.

TIPS FOR TAXPAYERS



by Robert A. Di Domizio Jr., Tax Collector for Towamencin Township

Welcome to this installment of Tips for Taxpayers. As many of you are aware, your North Penn School District tax millage increased for 2024-2025, but did you notice the School Board also increased the Homestead Exclusion? What that means is that each property on the Homestead Exclusion saved \$314.38 on their school tax bill this year. That is certainly a welcome relief to homeowners on the program, especially our seniors living on fixed incomes.

Towamencin Township set their Homestead Exclusion at \$50,000, which comes to \$284.45 in savings. A taxpayer might ask, why is the Township figure so much higher but the tax reduction is smaller when compared to the School tax. The difference lies in the millage rate.

There are three taxing authorities responsible for levying property taxes - Towamencin Township, Montgomery County, and North Penn School District. Each taxing authority sets their own millage rate. The Township millage is 5.6890 and the School District is 30.9667. Montgomery County's millage rate is 5.178.

The Homestead Exclusion only applies to residences, and specifically a primary residence. By definition, a primary residence is "where you intend to reside permanently until you move to another home."

Please take note that if a home has the Homestead Exclusion and that property is sold, the Exclusion goes away. The new owner(s) must apply for their Homestead Exclusion.

The County administers this program but does not participate in it. To apply for the benefit, go to the County website, www.montgomerycountypa.gov and search for the Homestead & Farmstead Exclusion Application. You can call the Montgomery County Board of Assessment Appeals office at (610) 278-3761 and ask for assistance with the application.

TAX COLLECTION DATE REMINDERS

December 31 is the last day to make School, County & Township tax payments. Any payments made after December 31 will go to Tax Claim Collection. The Tax Collector does not accept cash payments. All payments must be received in the form of personal check, money order or cashier's check. Upcoming & important school tax deadline dates:

- Payments made after October 31 – 5% penalty applied
- Face 4 coupon closes on October 31
- Face 5 coupon closes on November 30
- Last day to submit payments by personal check is December 15
- After December 15, only cashier's checks & money orders will be accepted
- Face 6 Coupon closes on December 31

If you have questions regarding school tax payments, please contact the Tax Collector, Robert DiDomizio at 215-723-7297 or email at tax@robertdidomizio.com. You can visit the tax collector's website at <http://www.robertdidomizio.com>.





Towamencin Volunteer Fire Company News

TVFC endured the relentless summer heat and from June-August responded to over 100 alarms. First Responders wear protective gear of about 40lbs. and in the summer heat, it places a heavy toll on the responders. We are looking forward to the fall weather.

In August, we repaved our Bustard Road Station parking lot, and a committee is working together to determine what needs will be addressed next.

On September 7th, we held our annual Chicken BBQ fundraiser, once again this was a sold-out event. We would like to thank everyone who came out to show their support for this event. We especially thank all of our volunteers that work tirelessly to make this annual fundraiser a success.

Since the last newsletter, TVFC has welcomed several new members to our family. We are always looking for new members to join us as fire fighters, fire police, administrative support or auxiliary members. If you are interested in becoming a member, come out any Thursday night to speak with us.

As our 75th year comes to an end, we ask you to consider contributing to our fund drive. As an all-volunteer fire company, these donations, along with our other fundraising events, are vital for TVFC to maintain equipment, property and protective gear for our first responders. Here is a snapshot of costs incurred:

- To outfit one fireman in protective gear ranges from \$3,500-\$4,000
- The cost of a new piece of fire apparatus ranges from \$600,000 to over \$1.5 million, with an average cost of \$900,000.

This is only a glimpse of the costs TVFC incurs. We work hard to maintain our apparatus and achieve a useful life of 20 plus years from each piece. Additionally, we must maintain our firehouse structures and these facilities require upgrades in the near future. These are examples why your support is essential to maintain the quality of protection we provide for Towamencin and the surrounding communities. For the residents and businesses that have already contributed to our fund drive, THANK YOU!

Please note that we have suspended accepting new public banquet hall rentals as we do not currently have a hall manager to handle rental requests.

Safety reminders are always important, and with the Holidays around the corner, now is a good time to remind you of holiday safety tips. Stay safe by reviewing the safety reminders provided.

Join us for our action-packed fall/winter calendar of events as outlined below. For updates, check our Bustard Road Station sign, or visit our website and Facebook pages.

Website: <http://www.towamencinfire.com> **Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/TowamencinVFD>

All of the volunteers at TVFC, wish you a healthy, safe and happy holiday and New Year.

Respectfully,
Your TVFC Members

FALL/WINTER EVENTS

- **Fire Prevention Open House** - Thursday, October 3: 6:30 pm - 9 pm, Bustard Road Station (rain date October 10)
- **Pictures with Santa** - Saturday December 7 - 10 am -1 pm (Bustard Road Station)
- **Township Santa Run** - Saturday, December 14 at 9 am until completed (rain/snow date Saturday, December 21)

SAFETY REMINDERS

- Replace your smoke alarm batteries when you turn your clocks back to standard time if you have an old-style detector
- If you have a live Christmas tree, keep it watered.
- For all trees, check your lights to make sure they work properly and that there are no shorts in the wiring.
- DO NOT run extension cords or plugs under carpeting.
- Make sure outdoor light decoration connections are protected from the weather.
- DO NOT place hot/warm fireplace ashes in a bag or container, in a trash can, near your home's siding or in the garage.

Montgomery County Bookmobile & Outreach Service

Free Public Library Service in Towamencin Township

Towamencin Township is one of 33 municipalities served by the Montgomery County-Norristown Public Library, Branches, and Bookmobiles. Library cards and online accounts are free to residents. Bookmobiles bring the library to Towamencin Township weekly. For a current and complete bookmobile schedule, visit our website: <http://mnl.mclinc.org/>.

2024 Library Service- Towamencin has partnered with the Montgomery County-Norristown Public Library to provide additional library services to our residents. We have scheduled a monthly story time for preschoolers. This program takes place on the 4th Wednesday of each month at 11 am. The story time is held in the Meeting Hall located at 1090 Troxel Road, Lansdale. For additional information, including dates and times, please visit the Township's website and Facebook page.

Item Request Procedure:

Patrons can request items for pick up using the following methods:

- Use their library card barcode & password to login into their online account
- Email our office at bookmobiles@mclinc.org
- Call our office at 610-278-5100 x204
- Drop off a request form at the bookmobile
- Ask our Bookmobile staff



Door Side Pick Ups and Returns

For patrons that want to social distance or experience physical challenges boarding the Bookmobile, we can meet you at the door. Just knock!

E-Books, E-Magazines, and E-Newspapers

Your library card also gives you access to our online resources. You can read thousands of books, magazines, and newspapers on any web-enabled device. Ask us how.

Homebound Outreach

We offer our Books By Mail program to patrons that are long-term or permanently homebound and therefore unable to travel to a library or bookmobile. This is a free-of-charge mail delivery service. We mail a package to the patron with their requested items, a return mailing label, and a pre-paid postage return courier bag. Contact our office for more information.



Bookmobile Community Locations:

CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH

1380 South Valley Forge Road Lansdale, PA 19446

Every Thursday 12:00 PM – 6:00 PM

MERRYMEAD FARM

2222 South Valley Forge Road Lansdale, PA 19446

Alternate Mondays 11:30 AM - 1:30 PM

TD BANK

4309 West Skippack Pike, Skippack, PA 19474

Alternate Mondays 11:30 AM - 1:30 PM

SNYDER SQUARE SHOPPING CENTER

1540 Cowpath Road Hatfield, PA 19440

Every Tuesday 12:00 PM – 6:00 PM

RALPH'S CORNER SHOPPING CENTER

2333 West Main Street Lansdale, PA 19446

Alternate Saturdays 10:00 AM - 3:30 PM

Hours may vary—check the Library's website

Bookmobile and Outreach Services Contact: Email: bookmobiles@mclinc.org | Phone: (610) 278-5100 Ext. 204



Boys and Girls Basketball Registration Now Open!

Both boys and girls travel and rec programs offered • Travel program for grades 3-8

Various divisions for rec: instructional, intermediate, minors and major.

Practices and games twice a week • Season runs November through March

Register at: <https://tyasports.org/home/registration>

Special Events Fall/Winter Programming

MOVIE in the PARK and PET PARADE

Saturday, October 19

Fischer's Park - 2225 Bustard Road

Join us for a fun-filled evening under the stars. Start the Halloween season early and bring the whole family to our Halloween Pet Parade and enjoy The Goonies on the big screen. All pets (and owners) are encouraged to dress in their favorite costume. All pets are welcome. Don't forget your lawn chair or blanket.

Free popcorn will be served during the movie.

Event Schedule:

5:30 PM Pet-Registration ~ 6 PM Pet Parade begins

Movie will start at sunset (approximately 6:30 PM)

Concessions will be available for purchase beginning at 5 PM.



Donations will be accepted for local animal shelters.



TOWAMENCIN SPECIAL EVENTS

TURKEY TROT 5K WALK + RUN FUNDRAISING EVENT

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 9TH

FISCHER'S PARK
2225 BUSTARD RD. LANSDALE



8:00 am Free Kid's Fun Run

9AM 5K Walk + Run

10:00 am Awards Ceremony



Online registration is required.
Scan the QR code or visit:
www.runtheday.com

Chip Timing | Certified Course |
Runners can win a free turkey | Medals
to top 3 runners per age group

Visit our website for more details www.towamencin.org/departments/events

TOWAMENCIN SPECIAL EVENTS

HOLIDAY LIGHTS Festival

Join us for a whimsical stroll through Towamencin's winter wonderland of lights and holiday cheer. Surrey rides will be available for purchase. Additional details will be posted on our website.

December 6th and 7th

4:30-8:30 pm

Fischer's Park

December 6th - free pictures
with Live Reindeer (6 - 8PM)

December 7th - free pictures
with Santa (6 - 8 PM)

Surrey Rides (to be announced)

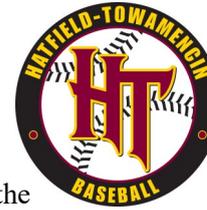
Tree Lighting on
Saturday at 6 PM

Visit our website for more details
www.towamencin.org/departments/events



JOIN US ON FACEBOOK: TOWAMENCIN TOWNSHIP

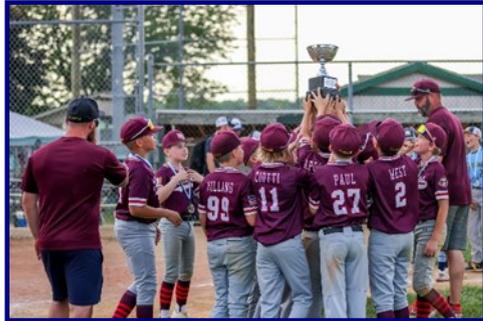
Hatfield-Towamencin Baseball



STAY CONNECTED
 Email:
HTbaseball@hotmail.com
 Web: www.tyasports.org

Want to Get Your Child Involved in a Sport They'll Love for Life?

Look no further than America's favorite pastime! Hatfield-Towamencin offers a competitive and fun baseball program spanning Quickball (ages 4-6) through American Legion (ages 17-19). Registration for the spring season begins in late December / early January. Don't miss out, get in the game! Look for announcements this fall for the Spring 2025 Travel Team try-outs!



Summer 2024 Travel Program

Exciting year for our 12 and under Travel teams – Both 8U and 10U qualified for the Cal Ripken State Tournament; Our 12U and 11U teams captured the Knights Cup championships for their age groups, and the 9U team finished second. Our 11U team also traveled to Pittsburgh for a tournament and finished second in the Pennridge Tournament, while our 12U team finished in the top 20 teams nationwide for their week at the annual Cooperstown NY tournament and Baseball Hall of Fame trip. All in all, a wonderful year for our Travel teams!



Breast Cancer Invitational Charity Fund-Raising Tournament

Since 2010 TYA's HT-Baseball program has "gone pink" and hosted our annual Breast Cancer Invitational (BCI) tournament to raise funds for breast cancer research.

This year we had 34 teams from around the area participate, raising \$6,000 and bringing our 15-year total to just shy of \$105,000. One small way we give back to our community through this worthwhile cause!



 @Hatfield-Towamencin Baseball |  @TowamencinCMB and @HatfieldALB

Thank You

FOR SUPPORTING TOWAMENCIN TOWNSHIP

From us to you!

Thank you for supporting Towamencin Special Events! Because of your generous contribution, we are able to provide community events for our Township. These events allow our residents to experience new things, and get to know one another. We cannot thank you enough!

PLATINUM: UNIVEST & PSDC

GOLD: CKS, GILMORE & ASSOCIATES, INC., CUSTOM CRAFT CONTRACTORS & ACTION KARATE

SILVER: BOWMAN

BRONZE: QNB BANK & SIMONE COLLINS



We think you are ★★★★★

THANK YOU



Thank you Towamencin Community for a wonderful 2024 season. We look forward to seeing you all next summer! Don't forget our best membership price for the 2025 season will be our Black Friday deal in November.



STANDGUARD AQUATICS



Towamencin Soccer Club Program

Learn, Live and Love the Beautiful Game of Soccer!

It's true -- the year 2024 is slowly coming to a close. And for some, soccer may be fading to a distant memory, But not at the Towamencin Soccer Club (TSC). We are already gearing up for another exciting year. Whether you've played for TSC in the past or participated in another club, here are several good reasons for joining us in 2025.

- 1. We focus on player development.** We offer a wide array of training programs to help players (at all levels) learn, understand and develop their skills, both individually and as a team. Our programs include Instructional training, advanced development, speed and agility training, and goalkeeper training, as well as week-long summer camps (including our ever-popular Philadelphia Union youth camp).
- 2. Technical skills are good, but there's more to a good player.** Many clubs focus primarily on the technical abilities of their players. But we highlight other qualities as well: physical ability, mental toughness and resilience, discipline, camaraderie and fair play. The kinds of qualities that help turn our young boys and girls into considerate and respectful citizens.
- 3. We offer all levels of soccer for all levels of players.** Our program comprises all soccer levels, from beginner, recreational soccer to intermediate rec-select soccer to our competitive travel program. Over 900 boys and girls, ages 4 to 19, participate in our programs annually.
- 4. We are competitive.** Our travel teams pack a punch – 6 of our teams were league champions within their age divisions just last year. Many of our team records speak for themselves. Just ask Ed Bernardic, head coach of our U17 dynamo team. Over the last 9 years, his team has amassed a record of over 200 wins (standing at 207 right now), won 24 tournaments and 6 league championships.
- 5. We love volunteers.** We are a volunteer-led, volunteer-managed organization. Our soccer committee (15 members strong) overseeing our entire program are volunteers. Our coaches, assistant coaches and field maintenance staff are all volunteers (and the list goes on). We find that volunteers are more supportive, help promote personal growth, and foster camaraderie and teamwork both within our organization and the community in general.



It's time to learn, live and love the beautiful game of soccer. We'd love for you to join us!

Check us out at www.tyasports.org or email Jeff Hill, TSC Soccer Director, at soccerdirector@tyasports.org.

We look forward to seeing you next year!



JOIN US ON FACEBOOK: TOWAMENCIN SOCCER CLUB

Towamencin Swim Team Season Review & Acknowledgments

Thanks to 183 hard working swimmers and divers, the Towamencin Swim Team clinched third place in the BuxMont League with a record of 5-2 this season. The team was led by coach Sarah Stevens and an enthusiastic crew of new assistant coaches.

The team said goodbye to four seniors – Josh Gratton, Emma Strahorn, Kayleigh Baker, and Julia Lansberg. 2025 promises to be another strong season!



It was an interesting year for record setting as the league eliminated 100-yard events and replaced them with 50-yard events. This left the field wide open for new temporary champions. The current team record holders for the new 50-yard events are:

- 14U Boys 50 Free: Kelly Sommer
- 15O Girls 50 Free: Anna Heebner
- 15O Boys 50 Free, 50 Back & 50 Fly: Ryan O'Donnell
- 15O Boys 50 Breast: Nevin Shaw



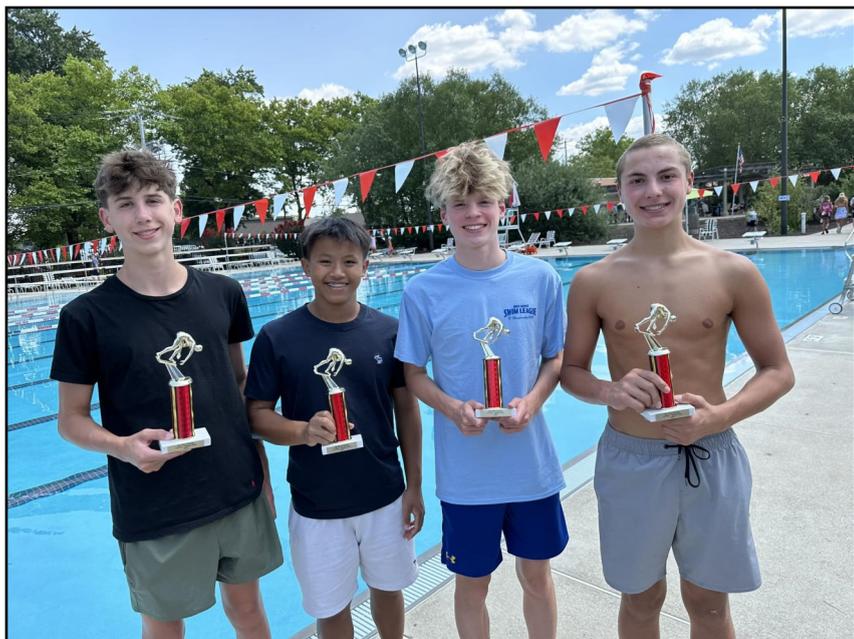
The big winners, however, on the record setting front were the unstoppable 14U boys 200-yard medley relay:

- Kelly Sommer, Jason Phan, Jake Roberts, and Jack Heebner broke the pool, team and league record with a time of 1:44.23, demolishing the previous record of 1:47.11



Also receiving special honors were the following top points scorers: Finley Cohen (8U girls), Charlie MacWilliams (8U boys), Brennen Wehr (10U girls), Noah Miller (10U boys), Lilly DiLenge (12U girls), Andrew Heebner (12U boys), Molly Nelson (14U girls), Kelly Sommer (14U boys), Anna Heebner (senior girls), Ryan O'Donnell (senior boys), Ellie Garrido & Kathryn DiLenge (girls diving), and Enzo Schiano Di Cola (boys diving). A huge thank you to TST's Top Dolphin sponsor this season – BZ Orthodontics – and to Ken Hall and Matt Potts who work so hard to keep our pool in great shape for practices and meets. We're also incredibly grateful to Joe + Rachael Photography (Eagleville, PA), who captured all the sweetest and funniest TST moments this year.

If you are interested in joining the team as a swimmer, diver or coach, we would love to hear from you! Email towamencinswimteam@gmail.com and follow us on Facebook and Instagram: Towamencin Swim Team.



Photographs courtesy of Joe & Rachael Photography

JOIN US ON FACEBOOK: TOWAMENCIN SWIM TEAM

Veterans Committee History Spotlight

The Continental Army at Headquarters Towamensing (October 8-16, 1777)

Although no battles were fought in Towamencin, residents became personally involved in the American Revolutionary War when General Washington moved his headquarters and most of the Continental Army to Towamencin on the morning of October 8, 1777. It was in Towamencin after two dreadful battles in September, troop movements in the region, and a major battle in Germantown just a few days earlier, that the army was able to find a respite from the revolution. The encampment is noted in history as “Headquarters Towamensing”.

For nine days and eight nights, thousands of Continental Army soldiers were camped across Towamencin fields on the Wambold (Wampole) and other Towamencin and Lower Salford Township farms. Washington’s headquarters was in the Frederick Wambold farmhouse that once stood along present-day Detwiler Road at Delp Drive directly behind the MedComp building. The stone farmhouse situated there today, was built in 1881, near the site of the original eighteenth-century Wambold farmhouse.

Brigadier General Francis Nash of North Carolina, mortally wounded in the battle of Germantown on October 4, was taken to Skippack and shortly thereafter to the Towamencin farmhouse of Adam Gotwals along the Old Forty Foot Road, about a mile west of Godshall’s burial yard, today the site of the Towamencin Mennonite Church. General Nash and other soldiers injured at Germantown were treated there. General Francis Nash succumbed to his wounds in the farmhouse on October 7 or 8. He was laid to rest with full military honors in Godshall’s burial yard, on October 9, 1777, alongside three other fallen officers. General George Washington and his staff attended the burial services.

During this time at “Headquarters Towamensing”, the Continental Army nursed its wounded and regrouped from its defeat at Germantown and General Washington conducted the business of a revolutionary army leader dealing with every day military orders in the camp while also communicating with the Continental Congress asking for supplies and support. An examination of General Washington’s personal account books reveals how he conducted the war each day from the Frederick Wambold farmhouse as was penned in official Continental Army records. The first-hand accounts are recorded in history.

The day-by-day accounts of General Washington’s orders and the Continental Army’s activities provide an insight into the encampment in Towamencin. These accounts range from mention of the General getting a haircut and what he paid for it, to his order to execute a captured deserter. Whether you are a history buff or not, these are worth reading. On October 16, 1777, after 9 days in Towamencin, General Washington gave the order, and the army marched towards Peter Wentz’s farm in Worcester and several days later to Whitpain and Whitemarsh and then on to Valley Forge where the Continental Army spent the winter. These soldiers marched along the roads we drive on every day, camped on the ground we are familiar with, were sustained by crops produced by Towamencin’s farmers, and buried their dead in its graveyards. Some soldiers are interred in the Tennis-Lukens Cemetery, others are laid to rest in the Towamencin Mennonite burial yard on Sumneytown Pike. During the time in Towamencin, perhaps the Continental Army camped on the same ground you live on today! All residents should be proud of Towamencin’s history in providing a needed respite for General Washington’s Continental Army.

The Towamencin Veterans Committee wanted to share these historic accounts with Township residents. The accounts are too lengthy to be included in this newsletter but can be found on the Township’s website using this link <https://www.towamencin.org/media/3712/headquarters-towamensing-october-8-16-1777.pdf> or by searching “Continental Army”.

The well researched documented history - to which this article is linked was compiled and written by Brian Hagey, a Towamencin Resident. The Veterans Committee thanks him.

Pictured right: 1777 Continental Army map shows the Towamencin area. Frederick Wampole’s farmhouse, Washington’s HQs is in the red square.



Open Space & Parks Advisory Committee Spotlight: Invasives

Most of us enjoy a walk in the park or around our yard, right? A gentle breeze, attractive surroundings, bird calls, a convenient trail, and, in some places, the calming trickle of flowing water all add an extra measure of pleasantness to the physical health benefit of a stroll. Whether you slowly meander in solitary, walk quietly with others or with your dog, visit the parks in Towamencin, or just mow your own grass, beware “The Invaders” are watching you. They lurk in plain sight, and you would not be alone if you did not notice several of the invasive plant species that populate Towamencin Township. These invaders, if given an unchecked opportunity, will proliferate and dominate the native species growing in your yard or in our parks, thereby destroying habitat and the native food supplies that any number of animals and birds rely upon.

You may be familiar with Towamencin’s annual invasive clean-up days, where citizens are educated on identifying invasives and provide support for volunteers who target certain, particularly problematic areas for manual clean-out of the offending flora. One shortcoming of these periodic clean-outs is that these invasive species will re-proliferate and an annual program will not eradicate the plants that escape detection.

This article was written to instruct our readers and help augment the annual invasive species removal program already supported by the Open Space and Parks Advisory Committee, the Environmental Advisory Council, and the Public Works Department of Towamencin Township, and to help avoid the use of herbicides whenever possible.

Who are “The Invaders”? These are just three of the most wanted culprits.

Canada thistle

(*Cirsium arvense*)

Photo: Eric Coombs, OR Dept. of Agric.



WANTED: DEAD (not alive)

Common mugwort

(*Artemisia vulgaris*)

Photo: Univ. of CT, College of Agric.



WANTED: DEAD (not alive)

Garlic mustard

(*Alliaria petiolate*)

Photo: PA Dept. Natural & Conservation

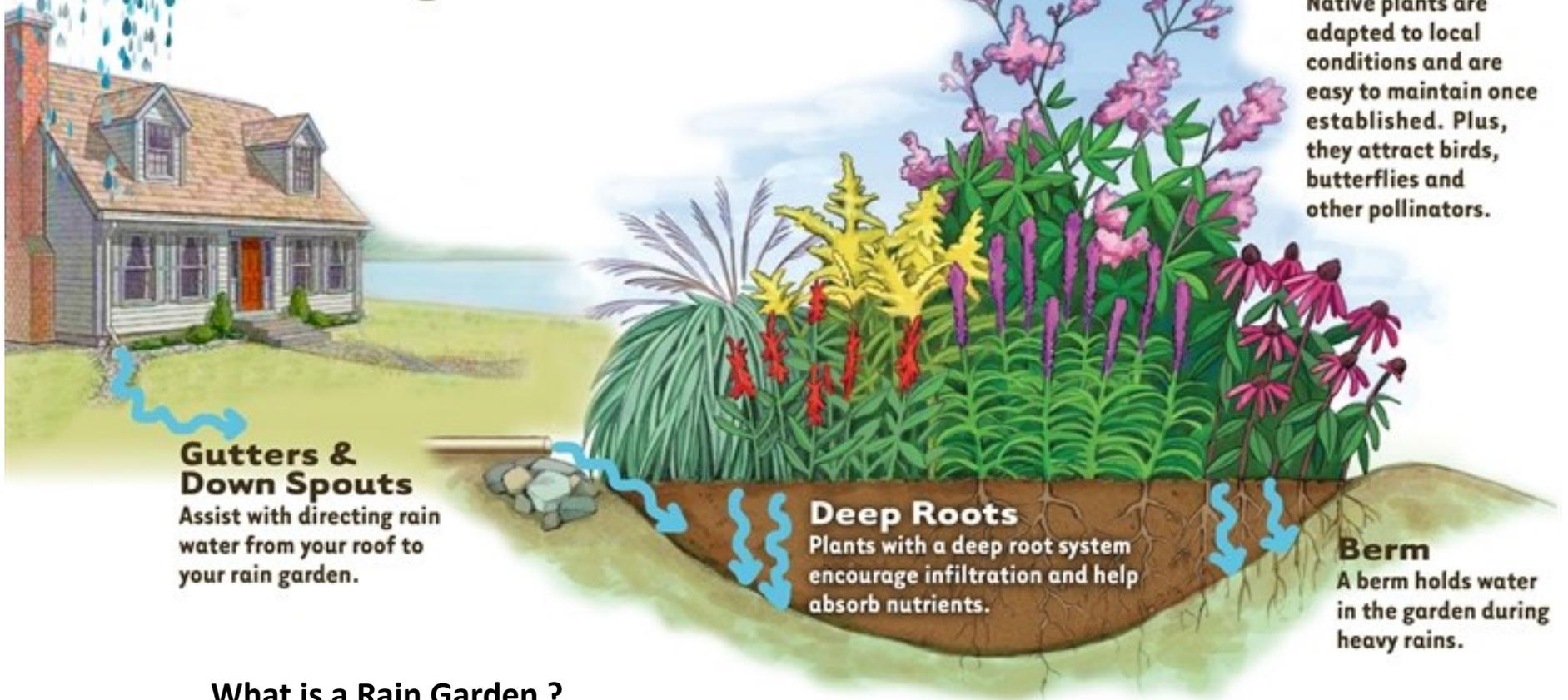


WANTED: DEAD (not alive)

Here’s an easy way that you can help. When you walk around your yard and see an “invader” pull it and toss it in your trash... and not your compost pile. As you walk in your neighborhood, look for these culprits. Explain to your neighbors the harm that these invasive plants cause to the habitat and encourage them to help by also removing any invasive plants on their property. Everyone pulling just a few plants on their own property can be a powerful force multiplier against the invaders. If we all do this regularly, we could remove thousands of invasive plants annually, and really put a dent in the invasive species population in Towamencin. It’s safe, it’s personal, it only takes a minute or two, and it’s a painless way to help beautify Towamencin one small step at a time.

In our parks, when you play, walk, run, or explore habitats for flora, fauna, birds and insects, or just take a nap; you’ll be glad you went. Invasive species exist in all 11 of our parks so when you are out, look for them. The Township does not recommend you destroy invasives in public spaces on your own. If you discover a significant infestation of one of these menaces, report it at info@Towamencin.org and the Public Works Department will investigate, confirm the species, and remove it. This was done recently for an infestation of Japanese knotweed in Fischer’s Park. Whether you visit Bustard Road Park, Veteran’s Park, Grist Mill Park, Butch Clemens Park, Green Lane Park, Heebner Way Park, Kibler Meadows, Drinnon Park, Morgan Way Park, or Valley View Park, be on the lookout for invasives. As always, if there are other ways you think you or your group might be able to help; come talk to us. In the meantime, we encourage you to eradicate invasive species in your yard, and encourage your neighbors to do the same. Every effort is a benefit.

How does a rain garden work?



What is a Rain Garden ?

Rain gardens are shallow, depressed gardens designed to capture runoff and allow the water to infiltrate into the soil or be used by plants rather than allowing the water to runoff into the streets, storm drains and nearby streams. They are a simple, inexpensive way to help reduce runoff and keep pollutants from flowing into the streams and rivers. Rain gardens have many benefits including:

- Filtering pollutants from runoff
- Recharging groundwater
- Conserving water from reduced irrigation
- Removing areas with standing water
- Reduce mosquito breeding areas
- Increase beneficial insects that eliminate pests
- Create habitat for birds and butterflies
- Reduce garden maintenance

Where is a good location for a Rain Garden?

Find a low area in your yard that is at least 10 feet away from the house foundation and 25 feet away from septic system drain field or well head. The best locations are in partial to full sun.

Rain Garden Plants

Rain gardens should be planted with easy-to-maintain native plants. Native plants will require less watering to become established. Since the plants will be in a low area, make sure the plants can withstand wet soil for up to 24 hours. After planting, weeding may be needed until the plants become established.

Your rain garden may need a bit more maintenance than a lawn in the beginning, but in the long run it will be easier to care for and provide many added benefits.

More Information on Rain Gardens

There are many resources for rain garden design and plant selection. Below are a few websites that can help:

- Penn State Extension: <https://extension.psu.edu/an-introduction-to-rain-gardens>
- PA Environmental Council: <https://pecpa.org/wp-content/uploads/Water-Resources-Create-Your-Rain-Garden.pdf>
- Stormwater PA: <http://www.stormwaterpa.org/raingarden.html>

For questions regarding stormwater or to report any pollutants entering the storm sewer system or a stream, please call the Township at 215-368-7602.

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Environmental Advisory Council - Community Events & Outreach

Our Environmental Advisory Council (EAC) continues to plan new conservation initiatives and community education efforts. In the first half of 2024, the EAC participated in several activities to help the environment and to educate residents.

Activities with Perkiomen Watershed Conservancy

The 20th annual Stream Clean-Up for the Perkiomen Watershed Conservancy (PWC) was held on April 13. Towamencin Township is part of the Perkiomen Watershed and the Towamencin Creek is a tributary of the Perkiomen Creek.

PWC assisted the EAC and Public Works Department on April 17 with a cleanup of the Rain Garden in Fischers Park. A few invasive plant species were found in the garden and removed, but PWC said that many of the plant species in the garden are beneficial.

Invasive Plant Removal

On Saturday, **April 20**, Township volunteers and the EAC spent a rewarding morning removing invasive plant species from Fischer's Park. The species included thistle, garlic mustard, and mugwort.



Volunteers and EAC members in the hunt for invasives on April 20th.

Upcoming Workshop

Keep a lookout for registration information for an upcoming workshop with Perkiomen Watershed Conservancy on Thursday, November 14. Details will be sent via the Township e-news and posted on social media

Rain Barrel Workshop

On **June 20**, the EAC hosted a Rain Barrel Workshop at Bustard Road Park, led by PWC. The workshop was a success. Residents assembled their own rain barrel and learned about the benefits of rain barrels.

Rain Barrels:

- Saves money spent on household water use. Rainwater is FREE!
- Provides plants with soft water, free of chlorine, lime or calcium.
- Conserves water for use during droughts.
- Helps to mitigate the problem of stormwater runoff.
- Reduces flooding on your property (and your downhill neighbor's).

Each participant took home their assembled rain barrel. The EAC offset the cost for residents, the PWC workshop was only \$30 per person.



Participants learn the benefits of rain barrels on June 20th.

Towamencin Day

The EAC presented stormwater management and native and invasive plant information at Towamencin Day on **May 11**. Many community members participated in an environmental scavenger hunt and a rain barrel raffle.



Towamencin Electronics Recycling Event

The annual Township recycling event was held on **June 8** at the North Penn High School. This event helps to conserve our precious natural resources. Over 6 tons of electronics were collected!

ENACT

The EAC also sponsored the North Penn High School environmental club, ENACT, who taught children about ocean creatures with an interactive obstacle course, and PECO's Energy Assessment Team, who offered residents free appointments to have their home assessed for energy efficiency.

Thank you to all Towamencin residents who participated in these events! To learn more about our watershed, stormwater management, native plants, and invasive plant removal, visit PWC's Learning Center: www.perkiomenwatershed.org/learning-center.



Stormwater Pollution Prevention Tips

FALL 2024

MANAGING STORMWATER ON YOUR PROPERTY THIS FALL

Fall is here! And with this change in season comes cooler temperatures, shorter days, and lots of yard work to tackle. When crossing off your to-do-list this fall, it's important to remember that yard debris is a significant source of stormwater pollution.

Organic plant material like grass clippings, leaves, and shrubbery trimmings can carry pesticides and fertilizers from your yard and deposit them in local waterways. Piles of leaves and grass clippings will overload a stream's ability to process leaf litter, causing nutrient pollution and oxygen depletion. Yard debris can also clog culverts, storm drains and pipes causing flooding.

Luckily, there are some easy steps that you can take on your property to reduce pollution and improve water quality!



LEARN MORE BY SCANNING THIS QR CODE OR VISITING OUR WEBSITE:
WWW.PERKIOMENWATERSHED.ORG



Do not pile leaves or other yard waste near streams or drainage areas where they can blow or wash into creeks. Use designated leaf collection bags for curbside leaf recycling.



Do not blow leaves or grass clippings off of your property into streets, streams, ponds or drainage swales.



Recycle grass clippings and their nutrients by mulching them and leaves into your lawn or piling them in your garden beds. They will add nutrients back into your lawn and provide shelter for wildlife during the winter.



Plant a native tree! Trees provide vital habitat for wildlife and absorb more stormwater than your lawn does.

Towamencin Municipal Complex

1090 Troxel Road

Lansdale, PA 19446

Township Building: 215-368-7602 & Fax: 215-368-7650

www.towamencin.org



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Community Contacts:

District Justice 215-393-7534

Montgomery County Courthouse 610-278-3000

Montgomery County Health Department 610-278-5117

Montgomery County Library 610-278-5100

North Penn Chamber of Commerce 215-362-9200

North Penn School District 215-368-0400

North Penn Water Authority 215-855-3617

PA Game Commission 610-926-3136

PECO Energy 1-800-841-4141

Police/Fire/Medical Emergency 911

Police Non-Emergency 215-368-7600

Sewer Authority 215-855-8165

Tax Collector 215-723-7297

Towamencin Pool 215-368-2615

Towamencin Youth Association 215-362-8924

Volunteer Medical Service 215-362-2345

Voter Registration 610-278-3280





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@GSPChurch




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Keystone Properties



Dear Towamencin Township Neighbor:

Should I sell my home Now or Wait?

This is a common question I receive. Although the economy is changing & interest rates have moved up, the supply of homes "For Sale" remains near record lows.

Demand still outpaces supply in our area. If you are thinking of selling your home, please don't hesitate to contact me. I will create a tailored marketing plan to assist you in achieving the highest price within your desired time frame.

Thank you,
Ted Miller, Realtor

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FALL 2024

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