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2021 - A Year of Transition & Improvement Projects

The Board of Supervisors is pleased to report that despite the ongoing COVID restrictions, the Township continues to provide all services, as well as, moving forward with several capital projects.

Not only will 2021 be a busy year, but it marks a change of leadership in our two most critical positions. On January 4th, Police Chief Tim Dickinson retired after 15 plus years of service to the Township. The Board appointed Tim Troxel as our new Police Chief. We thank Chief Dickinson for his many years of exemplary service and welcome Chief Troxel to the Township team.

Township Manager Rob Ford has informed us of his plan to retire this year. The Board has engaged a consulting firm to assist us in a regional search for a new Township Manager.

Our Public Works Department was

very busy in January and February managing a series of snow and ice events, not seen in recent years, spending 1,870 man-hours plowing and spreading 2,160 tons of salt to keep Township roads and facilities clear and safe. We thank them for their extraordinary efforts.

Township capital projects planned this year include:

- Completion of the Forty Foot Road Widening Project with final phase including the milling, paving and the re-configuration of travel lanes from Tomlinson Road to Allentown Road;
- Construction of a trail connecting an existing trail on Kriebel Road to the area of farm buildings in Fischer's Park, providing a connection to the recently completed pedestrian bridge;
- Rehabilitation of the Skippack Creek Sewer Interceptor from the Hatfield Township line to the Turnpike.

Economic development activity continues with the construction of a Planet Fitness and plans were submitted for a Chipotle restaurant and a Mattress Warehouse at the Shops of Town Square. Later this year, construction will be completed for a Starbucks, adjacent to the Courtyard Marriott. Construction will also begin on a 591,360 square foot warehouse facility on Wambold Road.

Finally, we anticipate being able to return to our regular community events schedule this year. We hope to see you at our summer events!

To keep abreast of Township news and events please sign up for our E-News at towamencin.org.

Sincerely,

Chuck Wilson
 Chairman, Board of Supervisors

Township Manager Rob Ford Plans to Retire This Year

In January, Township Manager Rob Ford informed the Board of Supervisors of his intention to retire this year, affirming he will stay until the Board has identified a replacement. Mr. Ford said, "It always seemed like a cliché when I was younger, but I would like to spend more time with my family. I have learned that it is the one thing you cannot buy more of, no matter how hard you work."

Ford has served as the Township Manager since September 2004 and has been a resident of the area since 1993. Mr. Ford has served on numerous boards and committees during his tenure.

Prior to his time at Towamencin, he was the Assistant Manager and Director of Community Development at Whitmarsh Township for 12 years. From 1979 to 1991, he was an active-duty officer in the U.S. Navy, flying the A6 "Intruder." Ford left active duty in 1991 and affiliated with the Navy Reserve at NAS Willow Grove, retiring

from the Navy as a Captain in January 2010.

Highlights of his time at Towamencin include: improvements made to the Township parks and the stabilization of the Township's financial position. However, he emphasized that his greatest satisfaction has been working with Township staff, various elected officials, committee members, residents, and local businesses over the years. "It was always a 'team effort' trying to do what was best for the community overall."

He thinks the best is yet to come as Towamencin approaches its 300th year as a Township.



Voter Information for Primary Elections, May 18th

Important dates for the local primary elections for Montgomery County:

- **LAST DAY to REGISTER before the primary is May 3rd**
- **GENERAL PRIMARY - Tuesday, May 18th**

Voters have several options to cast their ballot:

- **Vote by Absentee Ballot**
- **Vote by Mail-In Ballot**
- **Vote In Person**

You can consult the County website to determine your registered polling location. The website also has links to voter registration status, candidates running for office, volunteer opportunities and district maps.

The County Voter Information website is:

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

Voter Registration Phone: 610-278-3280

Election Board Phone: 610-278-3275

Towamencin Township is PA State Representative District 61: Representative Liz Hanbidge

Towamencin Township is PA State Senate District 24: State Senator Bob Mensch

Towamencin Township is U.S. House of Representatives District 4: Congresswoman Madeleine Dean

Towamencin Township U.S. Senators: Senator Bob Casey and Senator Pat Toomey



The Fischer's Park Pedestrian Bridge is Now Open

In late November, construction was completed for the pedestrian bridge at Fischer's Park, over the Towamencin Creek, which allows access to the northern portion of park.

The 100-foot long bridge, which sits about ten feet above the creek-bed, is a steel truss structure made of weathering steel requiring no painting; making it virtually maintenance free.

The structure supports a wooden walkway complete with wooden handrails, and post and rail fencing along the approaches. This structure's patina along with the wooden features blends the bridge with its natural setting among the woodlands along the creek.



The bridge now connects the 57-acre section of the park, south of Towamencin Creek, with the 23-acre section on the north side. This connection will provide convenient access to additional facilities being planned for that area, as well as, much needed additional

parking for park patrons. It will also provide walkers and hikers with direct access from Fischer's Park to the planned Evansburg Park Trail and the Kriebel Road Trail.

The bridge provides an excellent spot to view the water falls over the dam, just upstream of the bridge. The bridge connection is the first step in expanding access and adding improvements to the park's northern side.

While much of that vision remains a work in progress, the bridge is open and we encourage you to take a stroll across it and enjoy its pleasant surroundings.

Tax Collector Update: A Review of State Property Tax/Rent Rebate

The state's popular Property Tax Rent Rebate program provides rebates of up to \$650 on rent or property taxes paid in the previous year by low-income seniors and individuals with disabilities. A new online filing tool will make it easier to file applications for the program.

The new myPATH system allows applicants to complete applications online, track the status of their claim and benefit from faster processing and direct deposit options. Rebates will be distributed beginning July 1.

Applicants can also still file by mail. Community residents can contact the Tax Collector if they need additional information on filing Property Tax Rent Rebate claims.

Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program

New: File Your Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program Applications Online

Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program claimants now have the option to submit program applications online with the Department of Revenue's myPATH system. Filing online leads to fast processing, easy direct deposit options and automatic calculators that will help you apply for your rebate. Visit mypath.pa.gov to file your application.

The rebate program benefits eligible Pennsylvanians age 65 and older; widows and widowers age 50 and older; and people with disabilities age 18 and older. The income limit is \$35,000 a year for homeowners and \$15,000 annually for renters, and half of any Social Security income is excluded. Spouses, personal representatives or estates may also file rebate claims on behalf of claimants who lived at least one day in 2018 and meet

all other eligibility criteria.

The maximum standard rebate is \$650, but supplemental rebates for qualifying homeowners can boost rebates to \$975.

The Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program is one of five programs supported by the Pennsylvania Lottery. Since the program's 1971 inception, older and disabled adults have received more than \$6.9 billion in property tax and rent relief. The rebate program also receives funding from slots gaming. In addition, the law gives the following relief to seniors in most need.

Seniors who live in Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, or Scranton, where local wage/income tax rates are very high, will not benefit from a local tax shift to lower taxes on top of the reduction offered by the state funded property tax relief. To ensure that seniors in these communities receive significant property tax relief, each senior household with income under \$30,000 has its property tax rebate increase by an additional 50 percent.

In addition, property tax rebates are increased by an additional 50 percent for senior households in the rest of the state, so long as those households have incomes under \$30,000 and pay more than 15 percent of income in property taxes.

Free Assistance - Property Tax/Rent Rebate application assistance is available at no cost from Department of Revenue district offices, local Area Agencies on Aging, senior centers and state legislators' offices.

Content provided by the Pennsylvania Department of Revenue's website: www.revenue.pa.gov/ptrr and Mypath.pa.gov.

Community Development Updates

* In late December, ground was broke for a new Starbucks located at the corner of Sumneytown Pike and Towamencin Avenue, adjacent to the Marriott Hotel. The restaurant will be 2,600 square feet, with a drive-thru. The Grand Opening is expected in late 2021.

* Firestone Complete Auto Care is now open. The new store opened in late November 2020.

* Franklin Street Storage Facilities – Storage Partners, LLC has received approval to develop a 102,720 square foot indoor conditioned storage facility on Franklin Street, between Sumneytown Pike and I-476.

* Core5 Warehouse Project – Core5 Industrial Partners has received Land Development approval for a 591,360 square-foot warehouse facility on Wambold Road at Allentown Road. Although the address is Allentown Road, the development is primarily along Wambold Road.

* Towamencin Village Shopping Center Presentation Update – A long-awaited facelift to the Towamencin Village Shopping Center was presented at the Board of Supervisors by the property owner, PSDC in October 2020. Building permits for the updated facades were approved in January 2021. In addition, building permits were issued for Planet Fitness to occupy the space located in the building at the rear of the property closest to Allentown Road.

The shopping center renovations will be part of a mixed-use integration with a proposed adjacent 55 and older building (to be located between the SKF campus and the shopping center) with the new town center layout. The proposed main entrance will align with the future signaled intersection at Newbury Way and Forty Foot Road. The developer plans to add front facing retailers to the back portion of the current shopping center building.

* Delp Drive Warehouse Development - Versus Partners, LLC has submitted a Land Development application for a 267,648 sf warehouse located at the end of Delp Drive. The application will be reviewed by the Planning Commission this spring.



Township Event & Recycling Information



Electronics Recycling Day - Saturday, June 26, 2021 (9 am– 12 pm)

Towamencin Township is proud to offer our residents the opportunity to responsibly recycle their obsolete electronics. Our event will be held at **North Penn High School, located at 1340 Valley Forge Road, Lansdale.**

This service is available to all Towamencin Township residents and small businesses with fewer than 50 employees. Electronics will be recycled by eForce Compliance, Philadelphia's first Certified Responsible Recycler. We will accept all electronic devices with a plug. No smoke detectors or large appliances will be accepted. All data media will be destroyed or wiped!

Accepted Items Include: Laptops, computers, peripherals, typewriters, mice, telephones, printers, fax machines, cameras, keyboards, cell phones, small appliances, calculators

Items with fees: \$30 per TV or computer monitor, \$10 per air conditioner, microwave or dehumidifier, \$100 per wooden console or projection TV

Not All Types of Recycling Were Created Equal (But They Are All Important)

There are three main types of recycling that post-consumer materials can undergo. Each has specific advantages and end products.

Primary recycling, often referred to as “closed loop recycling”, is when recyclable materials are mechanically processed to create a product that serves a similar function. For example, a post-consumer plastic bottle can be mechanically processed to create a new plastic bottle. This bottle has similar strength and performance characteristics as the original bottle.

Some materials, such as aluminum and glass, can be recycled in this closed loop system an infinite amount of times. No matter how many times these materials are recycled; their material quality will not decrease. A glass bottle made with glass that has been recycled 20 times will

perform just as well as a bottle made of new glass.

The quality of other materials, such as paper and plastic, decreases each time they are recycled. Each time a paper product is recycled, these fibers become shorter, until they become so short they are unable to be used to create new paper. The EPA estimates that paper can be recycled a maximum of five to seven times. Plastic recycling fares worse. The polymers that make up plastics are shortened each time the material is recycled, and it is estimated that plastic can only be recycled one to two times before the quality of the material is diminished.

This is where **secondary recycling** comes in. Secondary recycling is still a mechanical recycling process, but it uses recycled materials to

make a new product. This new product typically does not have the same physical demands as the original product and is often less recyclable. An example of secondary recycling is plastic bottles being turned into polyester.

The third type of recycling is **tertiary recycling**. In tertiary recycling, recycled materials are used as a feedstock in a process to create chemicals and fuels. These chemicals can then be used to create new materials.

Municipal and state regulations require that residents, commercial establishments and non-residential establishments recycle all recyclable materials. Commonly recycled materials include paper, plastic, glass and metal. Check with your hauler for a complete list of acceptable recyclable materials.

Montgomery County Household Hazardous Waste Collection Events

By Appointment Only - register at www.MontcoPARecycles.org

Saturday, April 24

Boyertown Middle School East
2020 Big Rd, Gilbertsville

Saturday, May 1

Indian Valley Middle School
130 Maple Ave, Harleysville

Saturday, May 8

Montgomery County Community College
595 Cathcart Road, Blue Bell

Saturday, June 12

Temple Ambler Campus
1431 E Butler Pike, Ambler

Saturday, June 19

Abington Junior High School
2056 Susquehanna Road, Abington

Contact Info: recycling@montcopa.org
610 278-3618

Retrievr Collects Clothes, Electronics & Household Items

Retrievr, the pickup service for electronics and clothing recycling that serves Montgomery County, has added to the list of materials that it will accept for a fee. Microwave ovens, dehumidifiers, air conditioners, and mini refrigerators can be picked up for a fee, in addition to TVs and monitors. Also, Retrievr has resumed a buyback program for high value items like smartphones and branded clothing. The fee schedule is listed below and is on the Retrievr website at <http://retrievr.com/montcopa>.

There is now an added a \$10 flat doorstep convenience fee for clothing and any small electronics. If any of the below items are included with the pickup, the doorstep convenience fee is waived.

Fees are charged for the following items:

- \$10 for each microwave • \$35 for each TV under 150 lbs. and monitors that use a Cathode Ray Tube (CRT)
- \$100 for each TV 150 lbs. or more, such as those with wooden cabinets or rear-projection TVs
- \$50 for each dehumidifier, window air-conditioner and mini refrigerator under 50 lbs.

Retrievr will also pick up the following electronic devices: computers, cell phones, hard drives, keyboards, mice, PC speakers, PC power supplies, printers, fax machines, stereo equipment, TVs, VCRs, CD players, and laptop and cell phone batteries

In addition to electronics, Retrievr will pick up the following:

- **Clothing** - All men's, women's, children's, and infant clothing including shirts, pants, shorts, dresses, skirts, blouses, sweaters, jackets, raincoats, overcoats, outerwear, sleepwear, swimsuits, T-shirts, undergarments, and formal wear.
- **Footwear** - shoes, boots, sandals, heels, slippers. Accessories: belts, hats, scarves, jewelry, ties, gloves, handbags,
- **Bedding** - comforter, sheets, pillow cases and blankets.
- **Household items** - curtains/draperies, Halloween costumes, cloth napkins, table cloths, towels.



Schedule Your at-home Pickup Today

1



Say Hi. Text PICKUP to 757-70-FETCH (757-703-3824).

2



Prep. Use your address to make sure you're in our service area.

3



Post. Tell us the clothing and electronics you wish to recycle.

4



Plan. Schedule a date for your pickup appointment.

5



Pack. Bag or box up your items and leave them by your door.

6



Pick up. On your selected day, a truck will come right to your door.

FAQ

When does the program go into effect?

Right now! Simply visit retrievr.com or text the word PICKUP to 757-70-FETCH (757-703-3824) and follow the guided scheduler to set a date.

What if I can't send text messages?

Call our number and leave a voicemail. Someone will contact you to schedule a pickup.

What items do you accept?

Visit [retrievr](http://retrievr.com) for a full list of accepted items.

Where should I leave my items?

You can leave your items on your porch, just outside your door, or just outside your garage.

What if I have items I don't want to leave outside, is that okay?

Yes! You might prefer to keep items like computers, phones, or tablets indoors until the driver arrives. When you schedule your pickup, you can ask **retrievr** to ring your bell when they arrive.

Can I get a tax write off for items collected?

No. Just as your recycled paper, bottles and cans are not tax deductible, neither are recycled clothing and electronics.

Summer Beerfest Returns

Date: Saturday, June 12th
Time: 4 pm - 7 pm
Where: Mainland Golf Course
Address: 2250 Rittenhouse Road, Harleysville, PA 19438



Come out to our 2nd Annual Summer Beerfest, hosted by Mainland Grille, Mainland Golf Course & Towamencin Township!
Tickets and more information will be released on April 1st!

Admission Ticket Includes:

- * Access to over a dozen breweries for tasting (a few wineries are included)
- * Live Music
- * Chef's Buffet 4-5pm
- * Souvenir Glass
- * Food to purchase
- * Lawn games
- * Free Parking

4259 W. Swamp Rd, suite 410
 Doylestown, PA 18902
 215-340-0600

Municipal Engineering - Wastewater Facilities Engineering -
 Water System Facilities Engineering - Stormwater Management

CKS
 ENGINEERS, INC.

Special Events are Sponsored By:



Movie in the Park Summer Event

Date: Friday, August 27th
Time: 6:00pm
Where: Fischer's Park
Address: 2225 Bustard Road

Bring your blankets and lounge chairs out to Fischer's Park and enjoy a concert featuring Lolly and Yoyo then a movie under the stars! The event is free to all.

Kona Ice and Grilly Cheese Food Trucks will be the concessions.

Summer Concert Series

Date: Thursdays in July
Time: 7 pm
Where: Fischer's Park
Address: 2225 Bustard Road, Lansdale, PA 19446

Come out for a beautiful summer night and get ready to dance to your favorite songs! Enjoy the talents of our various bands. Don't forget the blankets and chairs.

Food sales by Diz's Dogs/Love Food Truck (new menu!) will start at 6 pm.

- **July 1st: Don't Call Me Francis**
- **July 8th: AM Radio**
- **July 15th: Mike Greer & Company**
- **July 22nd: Flannel (90's Dress Up Event!)**
- **July 29th: Real Diamond**

Fall Concert:

Shot of Southern Concert
Date: Thursday, September 9th
Time: 6:30pm
Where: Fischer's Park



Towamencin Community Day - Saturday, September 11th

Location: Fischer's Park
Time: 12 pm - 4 pm

Towamencin Township is excited to announce their annual community day! NEW this year is a FREE Quad Bungee Jumper and Ax Throwing. We are welcoming back FREE face painting/balloon animals, pony rides, police/fire activities, inflatables by A+ Jump, magic shows, and much more! The event includes live music, a food court, and an array of vendors and local community groups. Last year was our biggest event with over a 1200 attendees. This is a great event for the whole family and residents of all ages. Come out, support your local vendors, and enjoy a beautiful day in the park!



Towamencin Volunteer Fire Company



2020 was a challenging year for TVFC as it was for all of you. Overall, we responded to a total of 361 incidents in 2020, a little less than the previous few years. Included in that

total were 62 EMS related incidents and 290 fire related incidents. Last year we also began assisting the ambulance corps responses on cardiac arrest incidents. As all of you were required to do, we needed to take additional precautions by masking up when in the station or at a scene if not engaged in firefighting directly and then sanitize equipment when we returned. TVFC responded to numer-

ous water rescues last year during heavy rainstorms, in some cases going from one to another for the whole day. We cancelled many events and activities unfortunately in

2020 and moved to holding monthly meetings via Zoom. We continued to have strong member response to incidents despite the added risks of the pandemic. Your men and women volunteers have gone above and beyond as first responders, especially at accident scenes, water rescue or cardiac arrest incidents to serve the community.

TVFC members have been receiving their vaccine shots through Montgomery County's Department of Health, and hopefully later this spring, most of our members will have had their second shots.

In 2020, we did hold our fund drive and successfully hosted our chicken barbecue drive-thru dinner in September. We THANK YOU for your support of these events. These funds help us to keep current with our equipment and keep our facilities in working order.

In 2020, TVFC lost three long-time life members of the company: former Chief Butch Clemens, former Chief Engineer Glenn Kriebel and former medic firefighter Richard "Doc" Alpert. Already this year, we have unfortunately lost more of our family that served this community through TVFC - ladies auxiliary life member Fran Clemens, and the son-in-law of former Chief Clemens, J.R. Ketterer, who served this company, not as a firefighter but in our many fundraising efforts. Our prayers go out to these families. We thank them for their loved ones' contributions serving our community, through TVFC.

During 2020, the company went forward with building the specifications for a replacement engine to be placed in our substation on Snyder Road. The truck committee submitted the bid specs and the company voted to have a new engine built by 4 Guys with a Spartan cab. In late December, we took delivery of this new engine. The company advertised the old engine for sale. It was sold in early December, helping to defer some of the cost of the new piece of apparatus.

Starting this year, along with getting our vaccine inoculations, we completed our CPR recertification class and will have completed our yearly Hazmat-mat re-certification this spring.

This year's fund drive will be kicking off in March so be on the lookout



for your letter in the mail. Please consider your donation carefully as this remains an all-volunteer fire department serving you. With the pandemic, we have had to cancel several fund raising events and have ceased renting out our hall for almost a year. We recognize finances may be strained for many of you but we ask that you do your best to support TVFC.

Looking ahead, we are still unsure as to when we will be back to normal, but we are certain at this point that we will be holding our chicken barbecue on the first Saturday after Labor Day; so mark your calendar! Our hope is that when the weather permits, we will be back out for our weekly drills.

We continually look for new volunteers to join our TVFC family. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer member as a firefighter, fire police or ladies auxiliary member, please call 215-362-2776, hit "1" when connected to leave a message for the Chief. Or stop out on a Thursday night at the main station on Bustard Road to talk to an officer about membership.

WE THANK YOU for your continued support and wish you all a good, safe year.

**Rent the
TVFC
Banquet Hall
for your next
event.**

**Call 215-362-
2776, ext. 309
and leave a
message for
more
information.**

Considering joining the TVFC? We are always looking for more volunteers.

Visit our website at www.towamencinfire.com for more information.



Chief Dickinson Retires From Police Force



In January, the Board recognized the retirement and the exemplary performance of Chief Tim Dickinson. State Senator Bob Mensch was present to congratulate Chief Dickinson on his remarkable career in law enforcement and presented him with recognition honors from the State Senate and PA House of Representatives. The Board expressed their appreciation for protecting the Towamencin Community over the last 15 plus years. Tim Dickinson served as our Chief of Police since 2005. Tim has had a distinguished 43-year career in law enforcement. Prior to assuming leadership of the Towamencin Police Department, he served as the Chief of Police at Perkasio Borough from 1992 to 2005, and as a patrol officer, sergeant, and detective in Lower Moreland Township's Police Department from 1977 to 1992. He presided as President of the Police Chiefs Association of Bucks County, as well as, Montgomery County. Through the initiative of Chief Dickinson, the Towamencin Township Police Department received its first Pennsylvania Law Enforcement Accreditation status in 2012 and multiple re-accreditations.

In his time at Towamencin, Chief Dickinson instituted a Highway Safety Unit to handle accident reconstruction and motor carrier enforcement, expanded the department's involvement in the North Penn Tactical Response Team (including our transition into Montgomery County SWAT), gave full support to the North Penn DUI Task Force, and focused efforts on the department's multiple accreditations.

Tim's 15 years of leadership will continue to influence officers and staff that served under him. Township staff will miss his genuine personality and leadership. We wish him the best and our heartfelt congratulations on his retirement!

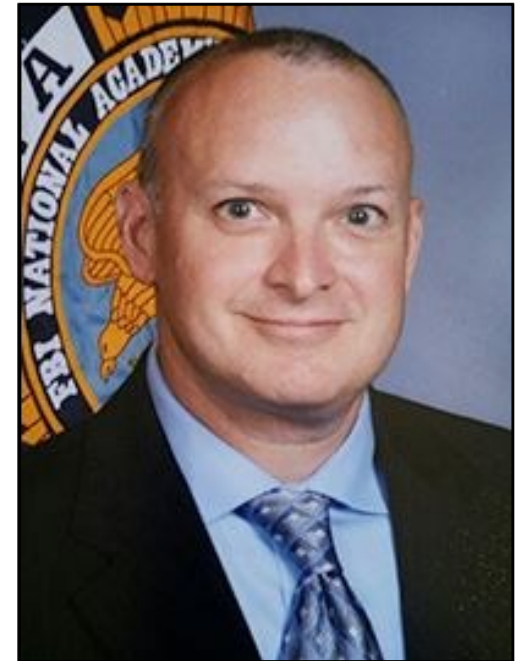
Towamencin Welcomes New Police Chief Troxel

On January 4th, the Board of Supervisors swore in Towamencin Police Department's new Chief of Police, Timothy Troxel. Troxel comes to our community with a wealth of experience.

Prior to Towamencin, Troxel was a lieutenant with the Upper Moreland Township Police Department, serving as a member of the Command Staff for 38 full-time sworn police officers and six civilian staff. Over the course of his law enforcement career, Troxel has served as a patrol officer, detective, patrol sergeant, and lieutenant. He was a member of the Montgomery County SWAT Team (East Region) for 22 years, ultimately serving as Deputy Team Commander of the 50-officer unit.

Chief Troxel holds a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice, a Master's in Public Safety Management, and has graduated from several police executive level management academies, including the FBI National Academy and Northwestern University. Troxel has also been a police instructor for the past 22 years.

Chief Troxel brings 25 years of experience, education, and dedication to community oriented policing as he begins his career here at Towamencin. We welcome Chief Troxel and wish him well in his new role with the Township.



TOWAMENCIN TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

EMERGENCY DIAL 911 • Non-emergency Police Calls #215-368-7600

1090 Troxel Road, P.O. Box 303, Kulpsville, PA 19443



Towamencin Soccer Club



Thank You TSC Families, Volunteers and Sponsors!

We Couldn't Have Done It Without You!

It would be an understatement to describe last year's intramural and travel soccer programs as "challenging." With the COVID-19 pandemic sweeping across the globe, state and local governments were attempting to effectively address the crisis. Businesses were closing. Schools were shuttering. And for sports organizations like TSC, we were not even sure if we would have a soccer season in 2020.

But there was some light at the end of the tunnel...

TSC 2020 Intramural Soccer

Even with the chaos, our myriad of volunteers kept planning, and outlining, and developing an intramural soccer program that they thought would work. We realized our registration numbers had been impacted (down by almost 50%). Availability of playing fields was suspect. And the start date of the program kept moving (back). But we persevered and with a lot of luck, a lot of hope and a lot of prayer, we launched in mid-August. And for the next 10 weeks, we witnessed over 300 smiling kids -- of all ages -- enjoying the great game of soccer.



TSC 2020 Travel Soccer

While our intramural program struggled to get going, our travel soccer program surprisingly blossomed during last year's upheaval. We had the largest number of travel soccer teams – a total of 22 – a new club record. That equated to over 300 boys and girls participating in competitive soccer games and tournaments during the year-long season. The parents loved it. The players loved it. And TSC loved to see our young athletes back on the field again (even if they had to wear masks).

TYA 2020 Sponsors

It is through the generosity and support of the many local businesses in our area that TYA has been able to offer programs that promote sportsmanship, teamwork, and a healthy lifestyle. Sadly, many of these businesses suffered last year and had to curtail hours, staff, even their operations. The good news is that 43 businesses were able to help the TYA organization last year, with 30 of them directly supporting our soccer program. Both TYA and TSC deeply appreciate all of them!

So, What About Soccer in 2021?

We are working on the concept of "business as usual."

TSC is once again offering its Spring Soccer Advanced Player Development and Goalkeeper Training programs in April. Travel Soccer recruitment and registration will begin in March. And our Fall Intramural Program registration will open up in May. Circumstances may change during the year. And we will try to be as accommodating and flexible as we can be.

But no matter what happens this year, the TSC organization is appreciative to our families, our volunteers and our sponsors – all of whom help keep us going.





Ready, Set, Spring ... Time to Play Ball

Hatfield-Towamencin Baseball is proud to be part of the 50-year tradition of Towamencin Youth Association! We invite you and your family to join us for the upcoming season of "America's favorite pastime."

What's New in 2021?

With a commitment to the health and safety of our players, families, and volunteers, we look forward to getting back on the fields with a competitive and fun vertically integrated baseball program spanning Quickball through American Legion.



CALENDAR BY DIVISION

Spring Intramural Season (March 15 - June 15)

Quickball — Ages 4-6 (Coach Pitch w/Quickball)

A: Coach Pitch — Ages 6-7

AA: Player Pitch — Ages 8-9 (46/60 Field)

Minors — Ages 9-10 (46/60 Field)

Majors — Ages 11-12 (50/70 Field)

Connie Mack & American Legion Baseball

Early Spring Connie Mack — Ages 13-16 (April-May)

Summer Connie Mack — Ages 13-16 (May-July)

Summer Junior Legion — Ages 14-16 (May-July)

Summer Senior Legion — Ages 16-19 (May-July)

Senior Connie Mack — Ages 17-40 (May-July)

*We are planning for a "typical" season spanning these dates, subject to any changes in federal/state/local COVID restrictions.

Volunteers

Whether you've been involved with our league for many years, or you're joining us for the first time, there are many ways to get involved and help our league and players continue to thrive. We can't do what we do without you.

Best wishes for a safe and happy spring. We look forward to seeing you on the ball fields soon!

Save the Dates...

We are planning all of the same great events that you've come to know and love over the years. Stay tuned to our website and emails to learn how these events will look and feel this year, based on current COVID-19 conditions and health official recommendations as we get closer to these dates. You can also read about the current safety protocols in place for the upcoming season.

Saturday, April 17 — Opening Day Ceremony

Saturday, April 24 — Picture Day (makeups 4/28)

Saturday, June 5 — All Star Day & Home Run Derby



2021 Baseball Registration

In January, we created a new set of online services to make online registrations faster and easier than ever before. To date, we have several hundred players registered. Registration is still open for select age groups at www.tyasports.org. If you run into any issues, please email us today at HTbaseball@hotmail.com, and we will do our best to find a spot for your son.

If you have not yet registered, it may not be too late. Send us an e-mail at HTBaseball@hotmail.com and we may be able to find a spot for your son, especially if he is eight years old or younger.

Facebook: Hatfield-Towamencin Baseball

Connie Mack Twitter @TowamencinCMB

American Legion Twitter @HatfieldALB

Web: tya-baseball.website.siplay.com

Morgan Log House's Spring/Summer Events

The Morgan Log House is preparing for the 2021 season with a wide range of offerings that bring the past to life!

Some things we're most excited for in 2021 are:

- We're continuing our temporary exhibit, "A Day in the Life of a Farmer," which will use the diaries of Towamencin farmer William Leister to talk about what Towamencin and farming were like from the 1910s through the 1930s.
- Our makerspace, the Morgan Log House Craft Lab, where you come and take part in hands-on history: learning about history by making it.
- Our Apprenticeship Days, on the third Saturday of every month, where you can come and learn a colonial trade or craft. Learn how to do it and stay as long as you'd like.
- Themed months! Each month programs, tours, and events at the Log House will revolve around a theme. Every time you come things will be a little different.
- Our continued bee program, where we raise honeybees on-site and educating about historical uses of honey and bees and the problems facing contemporary pollinators. We even have our own honey for sale.
- Our continued Drop-In Workshop series for kids and families and a new adult workshop series

APRIL

Saturday, April 3: Open House, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Free

Join us to explore the Morgan Log House at our free yearly open house. Learn about the house, its history, and the restoration.

MAY

May's theme is Bees! We're going to be focusing on our educational bee hives in the month of May.

Friday, May 21: History Happy Hour, 7 p.m., Ticketed

Join us for a fun history talk connected to our temporary exhibit, "A Day in the Life of a Farmer" and themed food and adult beverages. It's a fun night at the museum!

Saturday May 22: Apprenticeship Day, Cost of Material Kit

Come and learn a historic trade or craft at the Morgan Log House. We'll teach you the process and you can stay as long as you'd like and explore it! Learn about history by moving through a series of interactive stations and learn a historic trade. The event is for everyone: from families to adults!



JUNE

Theme: June's theme is the Morgan Log House. In the month of June we're going to be exploring the house as an artifact! Learn about the restoration, the history of the house, and more.

Saturday, June 5, Archaeology Day, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Come explore Archaeology and the Morgan Log House! See archaeological materials from our collection, learn how archaeology is used to tell about the past, and take part in an educational practice dig!

Friday, June 18: History Happy Hour, 7 p.m., Ticketed

Join us for a fun history talk connected to our temporary exhibit, "A Day in the Life of a Farmer" and themed food and adult beverages. It's a fun night at the museum!

Saturday, June 19: Apprenticeship Day, 10 p.m. to 4 p.m., Cost of Material Kit

Come and learn a historic trade or craft at the Morgan Log House. We'll teach you the process and you can stay as long as you'd like and explore it! Learn about history by moving through a series of interactive stations and learn a historic trade. The event is for everyone: from families to adults!

This is only a selection of the things we have in store for 2021! Keep an eye out for our Drop-in Workshops, adult workshops, makerspace events, and more!

For more information, follow us on Facebook, and check our website, www.morganloghouse.org. Tours are April through December, Tuesday through Sunday. The Morgan Log House is located at 850 Weikel Road, Lansdale, PA. It is a non-profit history museum that seeks to bring history to life through tours, programs, and workshops throughout the year.

Towamencin Recognized for Preserving Our Farms

Towamencin Township was recently recognized with an award for its part in the effective Montgomery County Farmland Preservation Program.



The County recently celebrated reaching its milestone of over 10,000 acres of permanently preserved farmland.

The County program, purchases agricultural easements on productive farms whereby the owner keeps the land, but it must remain in farming in perpetuity. While the farmer may sell the land in the future, the new owner must continue farming.

As of December 2020, there are 177 farms preserved in Montgomery County comprising a total of 10,196 acres.

Towamencin created its “Agricultural Security Area” in 1993. Today, there are currently seven agricultural properties preserved in the Township, totaling 255 acres, all within the southern area of Towamencin, colloquially referred to as our “panhandle.”

Similar to the Homestead Exception, which is offered to qualified Township homeowners,

Towamencin also provides relief to our farmers through the Farmstead Exemption” program. This is in addition to other existing real property tax relief programs aimed at farms, such as Act 319

(often referred to as "Clean and Green"), which reduces the assessed value of farmland. The farmstead exclusion rate is set by the Board of Supervisors annually as part of the budget process. For the past several years, the Farmstead Exemption has been reconfirmed at \$45,000.00. We are proud of our local farmers!



You can help keep history alive at the Morgan Log House by becoming a Member!

There's all sorts of benefits to membership, and all sorts of different membership levels to choose from. As a 501(C)3 non-profit organization, the Morgan Log House relies on the support of people like you to continue to thrive.

	Individual (\$25)	Family (\$35)	Supporter (\$75)	Historian (\$100)	Patron (\$250)	Friend (\$500)	Advocate (\$1,000)
Adults	1	2	2	2	4	4	6
Kids		2	2		4	5	6
Newsletter	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Gift Shop Discount	10%	10%	10%	15%	20%	25%	30%
Workshop Discount	50%	50%	50%	50%	50%	60%	65%

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Level of Membership: _____

Please make checks payable to: Morgan Log House

Community Pool and Membership Information

Summer is just around the corner, so don't miss out on a splashtastic 2021 season at Towamencin Community Pool! StandGuard Aquatics will continue to be the pool operator this season.

Towamencin Community Pool will be open for another great season - Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day weekend. Pool hours are 12pm to 7pm daily, except when posted. Also, enjoy our lap swim hours from 11 am to 12 pm, Monday through Friday. Swim lessons for all ages and other water activities will also be available for registration. Please check our website, under Programs, for dates and times. Please note that Towamencin Community Pool will be closed on all North Penn School District days and is subject to closure in the case of severe or cold weather.

Not convinced you are ready to purchase your season memberships for the 2021 season? No worries! Stay informed about registration, discounts, special events, and closures by creating an account at sgatowamencin.com. Once your account is setup, you will receive emails regarding the topics listed above so you can stay up-to-date with what's happening at Towamencin Community Pool.

Towamencin Community Pool would also like to remind our patrons that our facility is a smoke-free zone. Join us this summer in keeping Towamencin Community Pool a safe, clean, and fun environment for everyone! Our staff at the Towamencin Community Pool looks forward to seeing you and your family this summer!

Membership Prices

Juniors (ages 2-5), Seniors (65+) and Military ID's	\$77
Individuals (ages 6-64)	\$154
Family of 2	\$297
Family of 3	\$330
Family of 4	\$363
Family of 5	\$396
Family of 6	\$429
Family of 7	\$462
Family of 8+	Call office for details



TOWAMENCIN SWIM AND DIVE TEAM

AGES 5 - 18

- ✓ Morning Practices
- ✓ 7 Meets Tue. & Thu. nights + Championships
- ✓ Practice from Memorial Day to Aug 1st
- ✓ High School Practice option

\$100 per child

REGISTER NOW!
WWW.TOWAMENCINSWIMTEAM.ORG
[facebook.com/towamencinswimteam](https://www.facebook.com/towamencinswimteam)

Memberships are now available for purchase online at their website www.sgatowamencin.com.

Contact info: www.sgatowamencin.com

Office Phone: 215-368-2615

Email: towamencin@standguardaquatics.com

Free Library Services: Bookmobiles & Online Resources

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.



Books and More on the Bookmobiles

Browse our bookmobile collection. We have a little of everything that you would see at a bricks and mortar library branch. Don't see what you are looking for on the bookmobile? You can also request items from the other 35 public library locations in the Montgomery County Library District. Your requested items are delivered to the bookmobile. We will text, call, or email you when they are ready for pickup.

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! **Did you Know?** Currently, four different bookmobiles visit Towamencin Township on regularly scheduled routes. When one is in the shop for maintenance, another bookmobile or a library cargo van will cover the route.

Meet us at one of our Towamencin Township bookmobile stops:

CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH - 1380 S. Valley Forge Road
Every Thursday: 12:00 PM – 7:00 PM

Scouting is alive and well in Towamencin!

For more than 111 years the Boy Scouts of America has been teaching our youth timeless values, instilling self-confidence, encouraging community service, practicing good citizenship.

Now more than ever – Be a Scout!

Find a unit near you:
www.BeAScout.org



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COURTEOUS
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CLEAN
REVERENT

Programs available for boys and girls ages 5 to 10 (Cub Scouts), 11 to 18 (Scouts BSA), and 14 to 21 (Venturing and Explorers)

CHARACTER ✦ FITNESS ✦ CITIZENSHIP ✦ LEADERSHIP

FREDDY HILL FARMS - 1440 Sunnyside Pike
Alternate Fridays: 1:30 PM – 4:30 PM

Contact Us: Email: bookmobiles@mcilinc.org
or Phone: (610) 278-5100, Ext. 7
Our website: <http://mnl.mcilinc.org>

Veterans Committee Happenings

Do you know where the Tennis-Lukens Cemetery is? You may not, but we can guarantee that you probably pass it regularly! It is located on Allentown Road if you travel north, just past the shopping center being renovated at the corner of Forty Foot and Allentown Road, on the left-hand side. The Tennis-Lukens Cemetery is more than a small family cemetery that is the final resting place of Revolutionary and Civil War Soldiers; it is also part of the future Towamencin Township Veterans Memorial Park! It is joined with a 10-acre area that the Clemens family deeded to Towamencin Township some years ago, and while the actual Memorial Park is being planned by this Committee, we have been using the cemetery for special events in recognition of local veterans, Memorial Day and Veterans Day over the last couple of years.

On Veterans Day, November 11, 2020, we held a ceremony to honor and recognize the passing

of the late Jim Sinz, Captain, US Navy, retired; past member of the Township Board of Supervisors; and founding member of our band of Veterans called the Towamencin Township Veterans Committee, which was formed specifically to see this Veterans Memorial Park become a reality. Rich Marino, a Marine Veteran and fellow Township Supervisor, eulogized Jim. On that day we flew the American Flag over the cemetery for presentation to his loved ones at a later date.

In July 2020, we held a mini-retirement ceremony for a local Marine, CPT Marko Stawnyczyk, who retired with 22 years of active-duty service from Annapolis, where he was a history instructor. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, he only received a framed photo of the Academy for his retirement and a pat on the back. Feeling he deserved more, his mother contacted us to see what we could do. We teamed with American Legion Post 933, in Hatfield, and were able to pull to-



gether a more appropriate little surprise ceremony at the Tennis-Lukens Cemetery with a color guard and all! We flew the USMC flag over the cemetery and then presented it to CPT Stawnyczyk as a memento from this retirement ceremony, along with a membership to the American Legion.

If you are a veteran in Towamencin Township and like the idea of honoring our Nation's veterans, then come on out on the 4th Monday of each month and join us in planning our Memorial Park! If you want to donate to this worthwhile cause, then write a check! If you have questions or want more information, please email: laurengrant70@gmail.com.

Environmental Advisory Committee Updates & Tips

Perkiomen Watershed Conservancy's 2021 Stream Clean-up will be Saturday, April 10th from 9:00 AM until noon. Towamencin Township is part of the Perkiomen Watershed and the Towamencin Creek is a tributary of the Perkiomen Creek. The Stream Clean-up removes trash, scrap metal, tires and other debris from the streams in the watershed. The EAC encourages Township residents to participate in the Stream Clean-up. Many clean-up sites will be located in our area. Online registration and directions to sites will be available at www.perkiomenwatershed.org.

Spotted Lantern Fly – This pest continues to persist in the Township. Fly nymphs will begin to hatch from the egg masses in May. To combat this pest, you can scrape the egg masses off of trees and dispose of them in closed plastic bags, band trees to trap the nymphs, and remove the Tree-of-Heaven from your property. Vehicles should also be checked before leaving the area, to prevent the possibility of spreading the flies. Additional information can be obtained from PennState Extension.



Earth Day Event – The Township's Environmental Advisory Council (EAC) is holding an invasive plant removal event on Saturday, April 24th at Fischer's Park. We are inviting volunteers to come out to learn about this issue and to assist in making our premier park more environmentally friendly and sustainable. We will meet at 9 a.m. at the Meadowview Pavilion (the pavilion with bathrooms). Bring gardening gloves with you if you can and dress for walking through mud and brush. Volunteers will need to wear face masks and follow social distancing guidelines. EAC members will be available to certify service hours for volunteers.

Not all non-native plants are invasive. Invasive plants are those that are non-native to Pennsylvania, grow aggressively, and can crowd out existing native plants. The native ecosystem can become degraded for all of its inhabitants, from native plants to insects, birds and animals. Ultimately, invasive plants alter habitats and reduce biodiversity. Be on the lookout for sign up information on the Towamencin Township website and Facebook in late March. Come out to learn, contribute to making a better natural environment, and celebrate Earth Day!

Perkiomen Watershed Conservancy 2021 TreeVitalize Project – The Township Board of Supervisors has approved a project proposed by the Perkiomen Watershed Conservancy to plant 100 native trees along a section of the Towamencin Creek. The project area is a semi-forested field located at the western corner of Kriebel Road and Pheasant Hill Way. Planting native trees in this area will improve the riparian buffer, increase wildlife habitat, reduce flooding, and reduce the amount of stormwater entering the creek. Perkiomen Watershed Conservancy volunteers will perform the plantings in autumn 2021.



Successful Stream Clean-up - On Saturday, January 9th, Towamencin's EAC held a stream-side trash and recyclables pick-up event. The event brought out approximately 35 community members, including several boy scouts and North Penn students, who braved the cold to improve the stream quality and adjacent park and open space, between Kriebel Road and the Towamencin Creek. Our volunteers collected 30 bags of trash and 12 bags of recyclables. We thank all who volunteered to make it such a productive event.

Why Naturalize Stormwater Basins? Improve Water Quality & Other Benefits

What is a Stormwater Basin? Storm water basins are areas that are constructed with earthen berms to hold storm water after a rain and release the water more slowly into the stream. When storm water basins were built with older developments, basins were primarily to control flooding by holding back the runoff from a storm. More recently, the regulations require that storm water basins also be designed to address water quality.

What is a Naturalized Stormwater Basin? Typically, a naturalized stormwater basin allows for the vegetation in the bottom of the basin to grow into a meadow. These basins can be mowed once or twice a year to keep the growth from getting too high.

Why naturalize a basin? Many municipalities have been required by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection to find ways to improve the water quality of the streams and lakes within and downstream of the municipality. One method to improve water quality is to modify an older storm water basin by removing or interrupting the flow in concrete channels

in the basin, allowing a meadow to grow in the bottom of the basin and planting trees and shrubs. The benefits of naturalizing a stormwater basin include:

- Allowing water to infiltrate into the ground to recharge the aquifer and be used by the plants.
- Reducing sediments and pollutants that wash downstream.
- Reducing the volume and rate of water that reaches the stream which will help reduce flooding and streambank erosion.
- Reducing the need for mowing.
- Providing shade which helps reduce the temperature of the water released into the stream.

If you observe pollutants entering the storm sewer or stream, please call the Towamencin Township office at 215-368-7602.

Enjoy the Township's Parks and Open Space this Spring

Spring is on the way. That means you can keep your New Year's resolution in positive mode by boosting your activity level in our park system. If you have not visited one recently, consider it.

There are 11 attractive parks or open space facilities in the Township to choose from, and all their locations are at www.Towamencin.org. From the website's homepage, just select Departments/Parks/Parks & Recreation/Parks, then choose a location to visit from the list. A destination description and a digital map for each is available, which you can download to your phone. The Towamencin park system is serviced and maintained by our Public Works Department throughout the year. If you want to let your children burn off some energy on the swing sets or in other play areas, take a power walk, bike a trail, stroll leisurely over the new pedestrian bridge in Fischer's Park, or just enjoy the peace of an open meadow. We have a park for you; they are beckon you to play as you like.

and a central walkway of brick pavers between the two bocce courts providing a level, trip-free surface for participants. Maintenance will continue to the courts in 2021, with additional upgrades being considered. The bocce courts are a Township resource and are available to anyone on a first-come-first-served basis. Several groups, including families and seniors, use them on a regular basis. The courts are available year-round, weather and court conditions permitting. If you visited earlier this winter, you may have seen a hardy group of seniors braving the chill to enjoy a game.



The Township's Open Space and Parks Advisory Committee invites residents to comment on any of the multiple amenities within the park facilities or make suggestions for facility improvements. You can do so by emailing info@towamencin.org.

Play in Towamencin parks as often as you can. Be safe, respect the facilities and be courteous to all those who like to enjoy them as much as



If you prefer a group activity, you may want to check out the newly-improved bocce ball courts in Fischer's Park.

The Public Works team recently installed new seating

Recreation and Special Events Advisory Committee



The Recreation and Special Events Advisory Committee is seeking volunteers! The committee is a volunteer group appointed by the Board of Supervisors to aid the Special Events Facilitator in the planning and executing of various programs offered to residents of the Township.

The members attend meetings the third Tuesday of every month in order to plan and organize events for the Township. The members contribute fresh ideas, creative solutions, head sub-committees, and aid in recruiting other volunteers for each event. We ask that each member attend at least four to five events throughout the year. Please contact events@towamencin.org for more information.

**Volunteering is
a great way to
get involved
and enhance
your resume!**

Towamencin Municipal Complex

1090 Troxel Road
Lansdale, PA 19446
Township Building 215-368-7602
Fax: 215-368-7650
www.towamencin.org

Join us on Facebook: Towamencin Township
Monday-Friday 8:00am-4:30pm



Board of Supervisors:

H. Charles Wilson, III, Chairman
Daniel M. Littley Jr., Vice Chairman
Dan Bell, Treasurer
Rich Marino, Secretary
Laura C. Smith, Asst. Secretary/Asst. Treasurer

Administration:

Robert Ford, Township Manager
Colleen Ehrle, Assistant to Manager
Brooke Neve, Finance Director / Assistant Township Manager
Timothy Troxel, Police Chief
Dave Hillmantel, Director of Public Works
Jennifer Guckin, Director of Community Development and Codes

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





BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY
HomeServices
Keystone Properties



Dear Towamencin Township Neighbor:

Home values have risen 10-14% recently and the demand for housing continues at a record pace in our area. It has been a "Sellers" market for the last 3 years but difficult to predict the future. The time may soon come to decide whether to stay and update our homes (kitchen, baths, windows, roof, etc.) or sell and move onto the next chapter in life. If you are contemplating a move in the near future, please don't hesitate to contact me for a no-obligation home market analysis & evaluation.

I have helped over 900 families move in our area and would be happy to offer some advice to help you make the best decision possible.

Thank you,

Ted Miller
Realtor



Cell: 215-290-6106
Office : 215-855-1165 ext. 121
tedm@bhhkeystone.com
www.BHHSkeystone.com

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1090 Troxel Road
Lansdale, PA 19446

SPRING 2021

The Newsletter is produced by the Township's Board of Supervisors. To place an Ad in the Fall Newsletter, contact Cortney Marengo at events@towamencin.org.



- Meet faculty and staff, tour classrooms and experience our beautiful campuses
- Over \$1 million in financial scholarships awarded annually, with 88% of students receiving aid or discounts
- 5-day on campus learning for all students since August

Discover Dock

Learning for lives of purpose

Schedule your **personalized** tour today!

2 campuses ➤ **1 community**

Early Childhood - Grade 8 Campus
 420 Godshall Road
 Souderton, PA 18964

Grades 9 - 12 Campus
 1000 Forty Foot Road
 Lansdale, PA 19446