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Sanitary Sewer System Sale Review & Update

In March 2023, the Board of Supervisors by majority vote approved the assignment of the asset purchase agreement for the Township's sanitary system from NextEra Water Pennsylvania LLC to Pennsylvania American Water Co. The associated sale agreement set the sewer sale price at \$104.1 million dollars. Under the initial agreement, NextEra had the right to assign it to another entity.

The Board of Supervisors approved the original sale to NextEra and subsequent assignment to PA American for two main reasons.

First, PA American has greater financial resources and professional expertise needed to operate and provide long-term investment in a sewer system, particularly considering the ever evolving environmental and regulatory compliance matters. The risk associated with being forced to meet ever more stringent regulations and funding major capital projects is significant. Our system was initially built over 50 years ago and will need significant upgrades in the near future to meet current and evolving standards.

Over the next eight years, system improvements are estimated to exceed \$39 million. Importantly, PAWC has a proven record of environmental stewardship in the operation of wastewater systems and can draw upon a broader range of engineering and operational experience than can the Township. PAWC has deeper financial resources than are available to the Township to address the environmental compliance challenges of our System. The System has a history of permit exceedances and failures to meet Whole Effluent Toxicity testing requirements which PAWC is well equipped to remedy.

Second, the sewer sale proceeds will improve our financial situation and



fund essential projects without taking on additional debt. Specifically:

- The Township will use the proceeds to completely pay off its current debt, enhance existing pension fund balances, and jump start current capital projects with \$5 million. By eliminating existing debt and avoiding future sewer and non-sewer debt, the Township will solidify its financial future. This was a crucial sale-motivator as Township debt could approach \$80 million over the next 8-10 years without the sale.
- Remaining funds of over \$70 million will be placed in a capital reserve fund. It is intended that only interest from this reserve fund, along with grants, will fund future capital projects including: MS4 requirements, storm water infrastructure, park/playing field improvements/open space, intersection improvements, major equipment replacements, major facility repairs, and assistance to our volunteer fire company with upcoming capital needs.
- Eliminating Township debt service, reducing annual pension payments, and eliminating capital funding transfers from Township operating funds will free up over \$1.5 million per year in expenses from our annual operating budgets – net of the \$1 million overhead allocation from the sewer fund. This allows for an increase in the real estate tax homestead exemption to the maximum and allows us to minimize future real estate tax increases—two other crucial sale-motivators.

It is important to note and acknowledge: with or without the sale, sewer rates will go UP. Specifically, Township sewer rates are projected to more than double in the next 8 years. While the Township sets its own sewer rates, PA American's rates must be reviewed and approved by the PA Public Utility Commission, which requires that increases be reasonable and just, while also taking into consideration gradualism (i.e., increases will be incremental and over time). Low-income residents will have access to PAWC's well-established and accessible assistance programs to assist with paying their bills. PAWC estimates that over 1,000 Towamencin customers will be eligible to participate in one or more of its low-income assistance programs. Currently, the Township does not offer any low-income assistance programs to its wastewater customers.

The sale is currently before the PA Public Utility Commission. Two Township residents have filed suit against the Township in the Montgomery County Court of Common Pleas in an effort to stop the sale. The Township is vigorously defending against this suit. As we have previously explained, and as we have shared with sale opponents, the Township legal team does not believe the passage of the Home Rule Charter negates the sale under current Pennsylvania law, the Pennsylvania Constitution, and the United States Constitution. There is strong legal precedent against overturning pre-existing contracts based upon the passage of new laws. Terminating the sale would put the Township in material breach of its duly negotiated agreement and expose it to potentially very costly claims by PAWC. Furthermore, we, the Board

Continued on page 3

Voter Information - General Election, November 7th

The latest updates and deadlines can all be found on Montgomery County's website. You can check your polling location there too. The County website also has links to voter registration status, candidates running for office, volunteer opportunities and district maps.

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

Office Location:

Montgomery County Voter Services
One Montgomery Plaza, Suite 602
425 Swede St.
Norristown, PA 19401

Voter Registration: 610-278-3280

Election Board: 610-278-3275

Important dates for the General Election, November 7th:

- **October 23** - last day to register to vote
- **October 31** - mail-in & absentee ballot applications must be received.
- **November 7** (by 8 pm) - mail-in & absentee ballots due
- **November 7** - Polling hours 7 am - 8 pm, in-person voting

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

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.

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

Towamencin Township is PA State Senate District 24: State Senator Tracy Pennycuik

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

Towamencin Township U.S. Senators: Senator Robert. P. Casey, Jr. and Senator John Fetterman



News & Tips For Taxpayers

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

Welcome to this installment of *Tips for Taxpayers*, as we say goodbye to summer and welcome autumn!

Applications are now being accepted for the 2022 PA-1000 Tax/Rent Rebate Program. That may sound confusing, but the program is designed to offer rebates based on property taxes paid in 2022. The rebate itself is based on financial need and living situation and is not tied to the amount of taxes paid. The deadline to apply for this 2022 rebate is December 31, 2023.

The first step is to have copies of your 2022 tax receipts for North Penn School District and combined Montgomery County/Towamencin Township. If you don't have them, ask your tax collector to provide you with copies by sending a self-addressed, stamped envelope with a note describing your property, and mail it to:

PO Box 1415
Kulpsville, PA 19443

The easiest way to process your application is to ask your tax preparer to do it for you. If you want to attempt it yourself, you will need a computer and internet access.

Most everything you need can be found at my.path.pa.gov. For those without computer access, you can obtain printed forms through the Montgomery County Office of Senior Services (local office at 421 W. Main Street in Lansdale), the PA Department of Revenue Suite 210, Stony Creek Office Center, 151 W. Marshall St. in Norristown, the Lansdale Public Library, the

Indian Valley Public Library, or one of the senior centers like The PEAK Center in Lansdale or Encore Experiences in Harleysville.

Applicants must be at least 65 years old during 2022. Individuals as young as 50 may be eligible if they are widowed. Claimants under age 65 who have a spouse aged 65 or older residing in the same household are eligible. Permanently disabled persons between the ages of 18 and 64 may also apply for the program.

The *adjusted* income limit is \$35,000 for owners and \$15,000 for renters. Adjustments exclude one-half of your Social Security benefits, one-half of your Supplemental Security Income benefits, one-half of your State Supplementary Payment benefits, and one-half of any Railroad Retirement Tier 1 benefits.

Forms, information, and instruction booklets are available here:

<https://www.revenue.pa.gov/FormsandPublications/FormsforIndividuals/PTRR/Pages/default.aspx#>

The North Penn School District will match 90% of the rebate amount granted by the PA-1000 rebate, up to a maximum of \$877.50. An information sheet was included with the school tax bills. For more information, go to their website at:

https://www.npenn.org/our_district/tax_rebate_program_and_form

By easing the financial burden on Pennsylvania's seniors, this program not only promotes financial stability but also helps seniors remain in their homes, surrounded by their loved ones. Signing up for the PA-1000 program is a crucial step toward securing financial well-being and peace of mind.

Community Planning & Land Development Updates

Total Liquidators - opened for business on August 12, 2023. The retailer is located beside the LIDL grocery store, located at 1150 Welsh Road. Total Liquidators sells "big-box" store items at a discount, including housewares, small appliances, furniture, toys and clothing.

Extra Space Storage - began operations in March 2023. The property consists of 102,720 square foot indoor air-conditioned storage facility located at 1520 Franklin Street, between Sumneytown Pike and I-476.

Wawa – at 1401 Forty Foot Road permanently closed. The old building is expected to be demolished this fall. A new Wawa facility received Final Land Development approval to construct a 5,051 square foot convenience store with fueling pumps. The 2.13 +/- acre property is located at the corner of Forty Foot Road and Sumneytown Pike and will include fifty-eight (58) parking spaces and an air pump.

Towamencin Village Shopping Center Update - PSDC received final plan approval for a Chipotle restaurant and Mattress Warehouse, located at the former Boston Market location. Permits have also been obtained for the demolition and rebuilding of the building facades. They are also working on the development of two new pads sites, a restaurant with drive-thru and retail site, that will be located to the right of the entrance/intersection off of Forty Foot Road, across from the Village of Newbury Community.

Core5 Warehouse Project - Core5 Industrial Partners 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 situated along Wambold Road. Two of the three buildings have been constructed.

TNC Self Storage - TNC Self Storage received approval to expand the existing self-storage facility on Wambold Road, the existing 65,333 square foot facility will add an additional 40,200 square foot of storage units. Construction is complete, with operations expected to start later this year.

Dock Woods Health Care Addition - Dock Woods received approval for a 17,540 square foot building expansion. The expansion will allow for additional room to convert all double occupancy rooms to single occupancy rooms. The total number of beds will remain the same. Construction continues.

Belfair Square Sketch Plan - Caracausa Building and Development, Inc has proposed the consolidation of nine separate parcels into a single 3.94-acre development site, located along Welsh Road within the MRC – Mixed Residential Cluster and RBP – Residential Business Professional Overlay Zoning Districts. The applicant plans to develop the property into 16 townhouses and associated public and site improvements, including parking and storm-water management facilities. The proposed use is permitted by conditional use. Land Development plan approval is expected by the end of 2023.

Continued from page 1

majority, as your elected representatives, having weighed the sale pros and cons, continue to firmly believe the sale is in the Township's best interest. As such, we do not intend to terminate the sale.

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 incoming fall events: Halloween Pet Parade & Movie-in-the-Park on October 13th, Turkey Trot 5K on November 11th and our Holiday Lights Festival on December 1st and 2nd. More details can be found inside this newsletter and on the Township website.

Sincerely,

Chuck Wilson

Chairman, Board of Supervisors

Sidewalk Connectivity Study

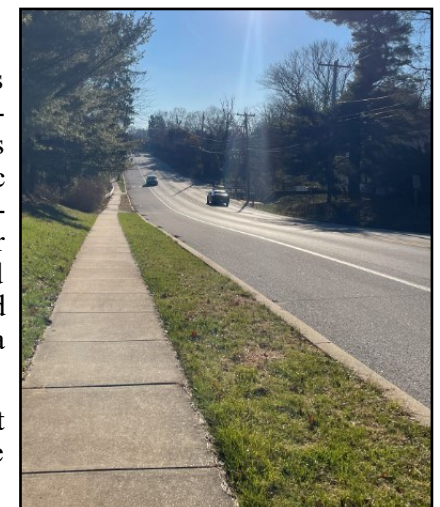
The Township has completed its sidewalk connectivity study and is finalizing some details before adoption this fall. The plan was developed by the Township Planning Commission and the Township's planning consultant, Simone Collins. The study involved 8 public meetings over several months, public comment, key person interviews, and Township staff meetings. The final plan is available for viewing on the Township's website. We are thankful to the public and committee members who participated in the process and attended meetings to help shape the blueprint that will make Towamencin a more pedestrian and bike friendly community.

The Township is currently utilizing this plan and has submitted a grant application to the PennDOT – Transportation Alternatives Set Aside Program (TASA) for improvements along Bustard Road.

Comprehensive Plan Development

The Township Board of Supervisors has selected Simone Collins to complete a Township Comprehensive Plan. Two firms presented their proposals to the Township Planning Commission on July 10th, 2023. The team at Simone Collins will work with the Township and community to develop objectives that are inclusive while creating specificity that directly addresses challenges and opportunities in Towamencin Township.

The document will help guide the direction of the Township over the next 10 to 20 years. The process will begin this fall and is expected to take several months to complete. Please check the Township website and Facebook page for future information and details regarding input and involvement.



Codes Department's Fall/Winter Reminders

Open Burning Rules

Who Can Burn: One and Two Family Residential Dwelling Units Only

What You Can Burn: Yard trimmings only

What You Cannot Burn: Leaves, Recycling Material, Garbage, Household, Business, Industrial Trash and Construction Debris or Similar Waste Products

Where You Can Burn: Not less than 50 feet from any structure, and so placed as to prevent the spread of fire to within 50 feet of any structure, vehicle or fuel tank and not less than 25 feet from any property line

Where You Cannot Burn: In any street, alley or any right-of-way

When You Can Burn: January, February, March, June, July, August, September and December - Saturdays and Sundays only—April, May, October and November - daily

Additional Information

Prior to any burning, residents are required to notify the Township Police Department at 215-368-7600.

You may not start burning before 8 am. The fire and all embers must be completely extinguished before dusk, on the same day ignited. Smoldering debris is not acceptable. The fire must be attended constantly by a responsible person.

You must have an operating garden hose long enough to reach 15 feet beyond the burn pile.

The pile size must not exceed 5' x 5' x 3' high. If more piles exist, only one (1) pile may be burning at a time.

You may not use flammable liquids to accelerate the burning of the pile.

You may not burn during high winds, drought or weather inversions or when deemed hazardous by the Fire Marshall.

The fire must be free burning and not generating excessive smoke.

Any embers discharging from the fire must be controlled and may not enter onto adjacent properties.

If a complaint is received due to excessive smoke or fire embers entering onto adjacent properties, the Fire Marshall's Office or the Police Department may order the fire to be extinguished.

If high winds exist, a ban will be placed on any "open burning" for the remainder of the day.

The fire must be completely extinguished by dusk on the same day it was ignited. No extension of this time may be granted.

Leaf and Yard Waste

Pennsylvania Law prohibits placing leaves in the trash. Leaves must be composted on site or placed for separate collection. Your contracted waste hauler is responsible for providing this service to their customers in Towamencin.

Residents must purchase their own biodegradable leaf and yard waste collec-

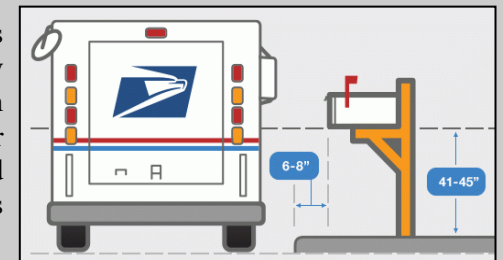
tion bags that are available at grocery and hardware stores; no plastic bags are permitted.

Haulers are to advise customers of specific dates and details for leaf pick-up and are required to provide specific collection dates for leaves and yard waste. Customers may be billed by their hauler for this DEP mandated collection. Haulers are required to report tonnage collected from each collection to Towamencin so that it can be forwarded to DEP.

The Township has an active agreement in place with the Barnside Farm Compost Facility - in conjunction with the Northern Montgomery County Recycling Commission - should residents wish to drop off their yard-waste for a fee. There is a minimum charge of \$25 and a rate of \$50 per ton. The Barnside Farm Compost Facility is located at 991 Haldeman Road, Schwenksville, PA 19473. Residents with specific questions should call the facility at (610) 287-8880.

Winter Storm/Snow Reminders

All property owners and/or tenants are responsible for removing snow and ice from the sidewalks within the public right-of-way for a clear path width of 28 inches. Snow and ice must be removed within 24 hours after the end of a storm.



Property owners and/or tenants are also responsible to clear hydrants within their property boundaries for a clearance of 3 feet around the hydrant. The minutes saved by not having to clear snow from a hydrant may mean a drastic difference in the outcome of firefighting efforts. The house you may save may be your own.

We urge residents to help prepare for the winter season by shaking their mailbox. In most instances where mailboxes are damaged, the snow plow doesn't actually hit the mailbox, the force of snow thrown from the roadway is enough to knock down a loose mailbox. Damage to posts and receptacles can often be prevented by proper routine maintenance. If the mailbox moves when shaken, the mailbox and/or post may not withstand standard snow removal operations and should be repaired or replaced prior to the onset of winter. *According to the United States Postal Service, mailboxes are to be placed with the face of the box 6 to 8 inches from the front of the curb.

Park vehicles off the streets during winter storms to allow for safe and efficient removal of snow from curb to curb. Also remove trash cans and sports equipment from the roadway prior. To avoid being plowed in, shovel snow to the right of your driveway (as you are facing the road).

It is unlawful to throw, shovel or plow snow into any roadways within the township from adjoining property. It is unlawful to park any vehicles on a Snow Emergency Route during a declared Snow Emergency. Please consult the Public Works section of the Township website for a list of Snow Emergency Routes.

Towamencin Volunteer Fire Company News



Fall and winter months are always filled with active schedules. Once again, we are heading toward another year of over 400 alarm responses. Your volunteers continue to respond and train all year and are preparing for the inclement days ahead. In addition, they put in numerous hours toward fire company operations, and planning and organizing events for the community.

Our first fall event we had was our 58th Annual Chicken BBQ that occurred on Saturday, September 9th. This event is our largest annual fundraiser and takes an army of volunteers and countless hours to pull it off successfully. We had another sold out year and we thank the community for supporting us at this event and to all who participated as volunteers.

Our next event will be our Fire Prevention Week Open House event, held on October 5th, from 6:30 pm - 9:00 pm. We invite and encourage the youth, parents, grandparents and residents to come out and see what your financial support has provided us and see the TVFC volunteers in action. Also, during fire prevention week, we will be visiting schools and day care facilities. During this week, firefighters provide lifesaving public education and we ask you to consider becoming a volunteer with us. We need men and women for firefighters, fire-police, administrative and auxiliary members to grow with us. The personal reward of serving the community is worth the commitment it takes.

As we head into December, our auxiliary sponsors a picture day with Santa. This is scheduled for December 2nd from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm. Lastly, our annual TVFC Santa run through the township neighborhoods will be on Saturday, December 9th, with a rain date on December 16th. We will be out all day until all neighborhoods are visited. When you hear the sirens and see the truck, come out and say hello to Santa and the firefighters.

For those that have not yet responded to our annual fund drive mailing or need additional tax write offs for the year, you still have time to consider donating to this all-volunteer fire company organization. Thank you to all of those that have contributed so far this year.

As we do every year in the fall newsletter, we remind you of holiday safety tips. Please read below on how to keep you and loved ones safe this holiday season. Lastly, please be sure to check out our sign at the Bustard Road Station, our website, or Facebook for any updates to our schedule.

All of the volunteers of TVFC, wish you good health and a safe and happy holiday season.

Respectfully,
Your TVFC Members

WINTER/HOLIDAY SAFETY REMINDERS

- Replace your smoke alarm batteries when you turn your clocks back to standard time or by the end of October.
- If you purchase 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 your extension cords or plugs under carpeting.
- Make sure all outdoor light decoration connections are protected from the weather.
- DO NOT place your hot/warm fireplace ashes in a bag, container, into the trash can, or next to your home siding or in the garage.
- To ALL Commercial and residential property owners, please make sure your address is visible and clear from the street for emergency personnel to identify your property quickly in an emergency.

Key Dates to Remember

- **October 5th** Fire Prevention Open House (Bustard Road Station) 6:30pm-9:00pm
- **December 2nd** Pictures with Santa (Bustard Road Station) 10:00am-1:00pm
- **December 9th** Township Santa Run 9:00am, ongoing until complete (rain/snow date is 12/16)

Main Station Address: 1590 Bustard Road, Kulpsville, PA 19443

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

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

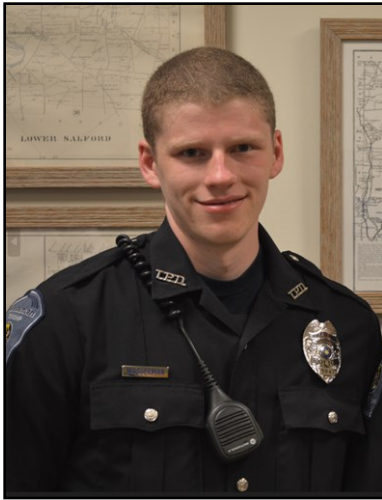
Rent the TVFC Banquet Hall for your next event.

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



Police Department Updates, New Traffic Email & Events

Detective Wasserman Departure from Department



In September, Detective Gabriel Wasserman resigned from Towamencin's Police Department after serving our community for over 7 years. Gabe accepted an appointment as a Special Agent with a federal law enforcement agency. Gabe demonstrated consistent dedication and positivity through his work at Towamencin.

Gabe was hired in April of 2016 by Towamencin and quickly showed an aptitude for investigative work. He was the inaugural POINT Officer for the department

and was assigned to Detectives in January 2022.

The Police Officer INvestigator Training program assigns patrol officers to the criminal investigation (detective) division for a period of 1 year to attend investigative training and work investigative cases under the supervision of the detective sergeant. He will be missed. We wish him well in his new career!

Highway Safety Email Contact

Towamencin Township's Police Department is unveiling a new way to contact our Highway Safety Unit to report traffic concerns through a dedicated email.



Traffic@towamencinpd.org is the email to use to directly report traffic issues to our Highway Safety Unit (HSU).

This email should be used to report traffic issues such as, but not limited to:

- Speeding concerns at a specific location
- Repeated stop sign violations at a specific location
- Commercial vehicles on restricted roadways
- Requests for traffic studies

This information will be used by our HSU to target their enforcement activities to address the concerns of residents. This email should NOT be used to report incidents such as (not limited to):

- Accidents
- Disabled vehicles
- Aggressive driving/road-rage
- Suspicious vehicles
- Possible intoxicated driving
- Any issue requiring **IMMEDIATE** police attention!

For these situations, call 9-1-1 immediately!

DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION (DEA) 25th NATIONAL TAKE-BACK INITIATIVE

This is a great opportunity for those who missed the previous events, or who have subsequently accumulated unwanted, unused and expired prescription drugs, to safely dispose of those medications.

Please visit: <https://www.dea.gov/takebackday> for more information.

Take-Back Day: October 28th, 2023, 10 am - 2 pm

Location: the Lobby of the Towamencin Township Police Department
1090 Troxel Road, Lansdale, PA 19446



Fall & Winter Events

The Towamencin Police Department has several upcoming social events for the Holiday season.

We are looking forward to our annual Holiday Toy drive. We need the public's generosity to help local families in need. Information will soon be posted on our Facebook page.

Don't miss the upcoming Trivia Night with our Chief in support of our "No-shave November" charity. Keep watching our Facebook page!

Follow our social media for the latest postings!



www.facebook.com/towamencintownshippolicedepartment

www.twitter.com/TowamencinPD

Police Department: Highway Safety Update & Reminders

Message from our Highway Safety Unit

It is back to school time, which means the school buses are out and about attempting to safely pick up students. A few reminders about traffic laws involving school busses:

- ◆ If you see *red* flashing lights and a stop sign/bar that means all vehicles must stop in all directions. The only exception is if there is a physical barrier between travel lanes.
- ◆ If you see *amber* flashing lights while meeting or overtaking a school bus, you may continue with caution, but you must be prepared to stop.

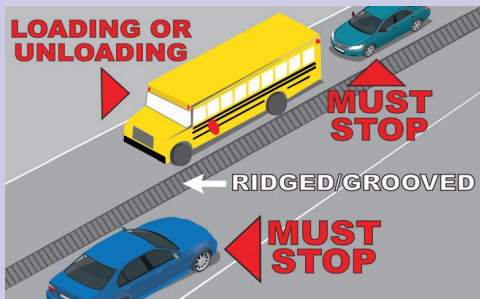
Let's also not forget about the school zones during this time of the year. The school zone speed limit is 15 MPH. At 11 MPH over the speed limit, you can receive a \$500 fine. Please be careful, there are still students that walk to school within the Township.

For more information on Pennsylvania's School Bus Stopping Law, including an animated graphic demonstrating when you must stop, visit www.penndot.pa.gov/safety and click on "Traffic Safety & Driver Topics" and then "School Bus Safety".



PENNSYLVANIA'S SCHOOL BUS STOPPING LAW

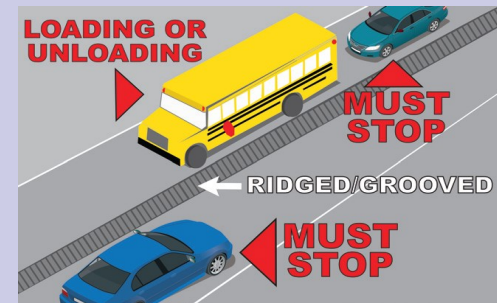
- ◆ When you meet or overtake a stopped school bus with red signal lights flashing and stop arm extended, you **MUST STOP**.
- ◆ When you approach an intersection where a school bus is stopped with red signal lights flashing and stop arm extended, you **MUST STOP**.
- ◆ You **MUST STOP** at least ten (10) feet away from the school bus.
- ◆ You **MUST WAIT** until the red lights have stopped flashing and the stop arm has been withdrawn before moving.
- ◆ **DO NOT MOVE** until all the children have reached a place of safety.



You **MUST STOP** on roadways with or without painted lines.



You **MUST STOP** at an intersection, whether it is or is not marked with a stop sign. All traffic **MUST** stop.

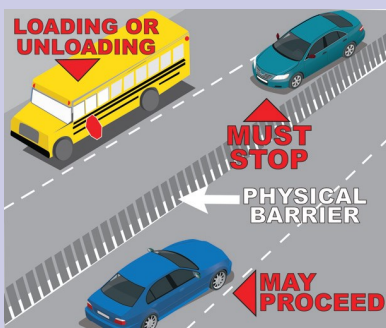


You **MUST STOP** on roadways with ridged/grooved dividers.

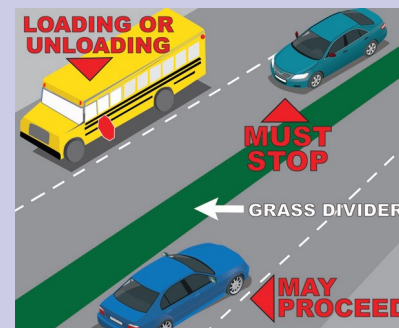
SEPARATE ROADWAYS

Drivers may proceed on a highway with clearly defined dividing sections or physical barriers providing separate roadways. This only applies when the school bus is on the opposite side of the road.

If In Doubt, STOP!



Physical barriers include concrete median barriers, metal median barriers, guide rails, etc.



Clearly indicated dividing sections include trees or shrubs, rocks or boulders, a stream, grass, etc.

Year-end Special Events at Fischer's Park

Halloween Pet Parade & Movie

Dates: Friday, October 13th

Time: Halloween Pet Parade starts at 6:00 pm

Movie: starts at dusk (approximately 6:30 pm)

Location: Fischer's Park 2225 Bustard Road Harleysville



Start celebrating the Halloween season early and bring the family out to enjoy a fun, free evening in the park! Dress up your pet in their favorite costume and join us for our pet parade. Prizes awarded to the best dressed pet! Then, join us for the Addams Family 2 under the stars! We will have Travelin Hot Dogs selling their food, so come hungry. FREE popcorn will be available! Candy and snacks will be available for purchase. Bring your blankets and chairs! The event is free to all.

5:30 pm -7 pm Concessions open & Pet Registration/Check-In

6:00 pm Pet Parade Begins

6:30 pm (Dusk) The Addams Family 2

Donations for local animal shelters will be accepted. Visit our website for a list of supplies needed, pet registration form, and event details !

Towamencin Turkey Trot 5k Walk/Run



Date: Saturday, November 11th

Time: 9 am

Where: Fischer's Park

Address: 2225 Bustard Road, Lansdale, PA 19446

Registration: through Run the Day at www.towamencin.org

Time to start training for the Turkey Trot 5k Walk/Run! This is a great race for runners or walkers of all levels. The course is certified with chip timing, race photographer, and all runners get a long sleeved tech shirt. The overall male and female winners receive turkeys and all of those placing first and third in each category receive medals. There is a children's 10 and under fun run, no registration necessary. The award ceremony takes place right after the race and offers light refreshments to runners and spectators. Pets and strollers are welcome.

Day of event registration fee increases to \$45 and not guaranteed a shirt, so register early!

Holiday Lights Festival & Tree Lighting Ceremony

Dates: Friday, December 1st & Saturday, December 2nd
(rain date - tree lighting only 12/8)

Time: 4:30 pm - 8:30 pm both days

Location: Fischer's Park -2225 Bustard Road Lansdale, PA 19446

Registration Details: Registration for the surrey rides will take place on Wednesday, November 1st at 10 am. Visit the township website and our Facebook page for the registration link. The link will be also be emailed to those who receive the Township e-news.

Take a whimsical stroll through Fischer's on our Surrey Rides. The event includes our annual tree lighting, pictures with Santa, and more! More information on this event and details for registration will be released on our Facebook page and our website at www.towamencin.org.

Please note, no walk on riders will be available on Friday and *very* limited walk on riders will be available on Saturday, however not guaranteed.



Thank You to This Year's Platinum Sponsors



Municipal Engineering
Wastewater Facilities Engineering
Water System Facilities Engineering
Stormwater Management

4259 W. Swamp Road, Suite 410
Doylestown, PA 18902
215.340.0600

www.cksenineers.com






Towamencin Soccer Club Program Review

It's Called the Beautiful Game for a Reason

It was the Brazilian footballer Pele who popularized "The Beautiful Game," a nickname given to association football (soccer). Over the years, it's a phrase that has caught on big time -- not just in the U.S. but around the world. It is the most widely played sports in the world, enjoyed by boys and girls aged two years old up to age 19 – and higher. Soccer also happens to be the most widely watched sport in the world; keep in mind that the World Cup attracts over a billion fans during its daily matches.

How can you play The Beautiful Game? Look no further than the



Towamencin Soccer Club (TSC). This organization prides itself on having one of the largest and longest-running soccer programs in this region. And it is one of the few clubs that continues to be volunteer-led and volunteer-driven by an extremely volunteer-active association.

Check out some of our terrific programs for 2023:

Travel Soccer Program: For players who want to be the best at soccer and enjoy competitive league and tournament play, TSC offers one of the best and most amazing travel soccer experiences available.

Intramural Soccer Program: Our recreational program, which runs from August through October, focuses on improving player development and proficiency in a learning, fun atmosphere. It offers winning soccer techniques taught by soccer professionals, as well as the opportunity to practice skills and techniques during small-sided game play.

The Philadelphia Union:

We continue to build on a very active and vibrant partnership with the Philadelphia Union (our region's professional soccer team). This year, we hosted two annual TSC soccer events down at Subaru Stadium, one in the spring (April 1st against Sporting KC) and one in the fall (September 27th against FC Dallas). It's one of the most enjoyable ways for our players and their families to see the Union in action – and participate in memorable on-field experiences.

TSC also hosted a Union summer camp from July 17-20, as well as a Union travel camp from August 7-10, both at our Grist Mill fields. The Union Youth organization is also working with both our intramural and travel programs to help develop and enhance our players individual soccer skills, promote camaraderie, and cultivate team sportsmanship.

For regular updates on club events, as well as player and team activities, visit our website (www.tyasports.org) and our Facebook page (Towamencin Soccer Club).

If you have questions about our soccer program, team sponsorships or special events, please contact Jeff Hill, Soccer Director, at his direct email: tsdirectorhill21@aol.com.



Participants in our Summer Union Training Camp



Top 10 Reasons to Love Hatfield-Towamencin Baseball



A Community Tradition for 50+ Years

1. We keep the focus on **KIDS, FAMILIES ... and FUN!**
2. Our coaches and volunteers are **qualified, respectful, and supportive** role models.
3. Our youngest players (ages 4–5) enjoy the **exciting, faster-paced** format of Quickball.
4. We offer **instructional and competitive Intramural divisions** for hundreds of players ages 5–12.
5. Our Cal Ripken travel teams (ages 7–12)* play in a variety of **local and out-of-state tournaments** — with 12UA capping off their career at the iconic Cooperstown Dreams Park tournament.
6. We offer **very competitive summer programs** for Connie Mack (ages 13–16)*, Junior Legion (14–16), and American Legion (16–19) with a long tradition of success and good sportsmanship — and many of our players go on to compete at the high school and college level.
7. Our American Legion program proudly represents the **Veterans of Hatfield Post #933.**



10U Titans, Champions of the Nor-Gwyn Wood Bat Classic



8. We have a **thriving fall program** for Quickball and Coach Pitch teams, while our intramural players participate in the Inter-Community Fall League. Older players participate in the Bux-Mont Connie Mack Fall League, which prepares them for middle school and high school spring baseball.
 9. We offer a host of fun events, including **Opening Day, All Star Day/Home Run Derby**, and the hugely popular 1-day **Breast Cancer Invitational (BCI)** tournament.
 10. Your **great baseball memories** will last a lifetime!
- Look for Spring 2024 registration details starting in December.



*Hatfield-Towamencin Baseball and Souderton Area Baseball partner through combined teams

STAY CONNECTED

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Boys and Girls Basketball Registration Now Open!

Important Details:

- Offer both boys and girls travel and rec programs
- 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/>

Towamencin Swim Team Summer 2023 Update

This summer, the Towamencin Swim Team (TST), comprised of over 200 swimmers and divers, had another fantastic season. Head coach Sarah Stevens led the team to a 2nd place finish in the league with a record of 6-1. This is Stevens' 19th year coaching at TST and her 6th year as head coach. The team was sad to say goodbye to ten talented swimmers and divers who graduated, but with lots of strong athletes in the younger age groups, the future looks bright.



This summer, TST swimmers broke four long standing records:

- Brady Stanton set a new team and pool record for senior boys diving with a score of 240.90,
- The relay team of Christopher Groff, Nevin Shaw, Owen Fritz, and Ryan O'Donnell set a new team record for the senior boys 200 medley relay with a time of 1:37.77,
- Christopher Groff set a new team record in the senior boys 100 yard backstroke with a time of 52.44,
- Andrew Heebner set a new team record in the 10U boys 25 yard breaststroke with a time of 16.78.

Also receiving special honors were the following top points scorers: Kassidy Komorowski (8U girls), Peter Daciw (8U boys), Madison



Kindred (10U girls), James Andolino (10U boys), Molly Nelson (12U girls), Will Andolino (12U boys), Leah Yum (14U girls), Kelly Sommer (14U boys), Anna Heebner (senior girls), Nevin Shaw (senior boys), Kathryn DiLenge (girls diving), and Brady Stanton (boys diving).

A huge thank you to TST's Top Dolphin sponsors this season – BZ Orthodontics, W.B. Homes, and Jillamy Logistics – and to pool managers Ken Hall and Matt Potts for their continued efforts to make Towamencin Pool the place everyone wants to be in the summer!



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Open Space & Parks Update - The Tale of the Trails & Chestnuts



You may have noticed that Towamencin opened two new walking/bike trails in 2023. One trail extends the existing smooth gravel path along Towamencin Creek and takes you further west along Kriebel Road to the park at Green Lane Road. The second new trail begins at the east end of the creek-side path and takes you through the woods from Trumbauer Road to the cul-de-sac on Valley View Way. These new trail links create opportunities for hundreds of residents who live in proximity to the Trumbauer Road bridge (developments along Morris Road, Pheasant Hill Road and others) to walk, not drive, to youth activities in Green Lane Park or just enjoy

your “morning mile”, without traffic, at whatever pace suits you.

The OSPAC also planned for these new walking spaces to include a “trail of trees.” A multi-year plan includes planting 25 trees in 2023, with additional plantings in future years. A trail of a hundred trees in total, representing 11 tree species, all native to Pennsylvania, is the vision. Each species will be identified and mapped to create an educational opportunity for those with an interest, and in a few years, anyone could take a shady walk along the route. The OSPAC plan was coordinated with representatives of the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society [PHS], the Pennsylvania State University Department of Urban Forestry, and The American Chestnut Foundation [TACF].

Our TACF liaison creates a unique opportunity for Towamencin to plant chestnut trees, *Castanea dentata*, which are blight-resistant trees. These blight-resistant trees are extraordinarily difficult to buy because the process for producing them is complicated (see separate story). The OSPAC and Towamencin Township will reserve space along the “trail of trees” to plant and nurture several of these once-prolific hardwoods, whenever they become available, and restore them to their rightful habitat.

A new pathway is slated for Drinnon Park. The Board of Supervisors approved a curving, paved path, eight feet wide and fully ADA-compliant to cross the park. It will connect Drinnon Way to Tennis Circle and facilitate more convenient access to the children’s play area in the park for strollers or those who may wish to avoid uneven surfaces.



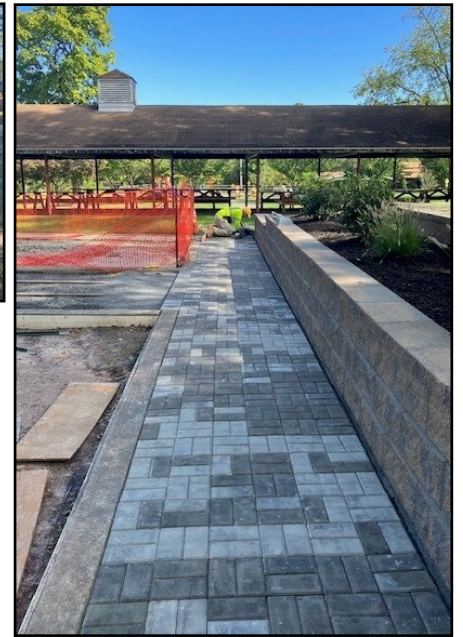
Fischer’s Park is the jewel in the crown of Towamencin’s 11 parks, and improvements are slated there too. In September, our Public Works Department began refurbishment of the bocce ball courts. A retaining wall is being constructed to serve the dual purposes of redirecting run-off and provide additional places to sit. A perimeter of drainage piping will collect run-off from the adjacent uphill area, and will be tied into the existing drainage field under the bocce courts. This will prevent the silt accumulation on the surfaces of the courts that has rendered them un-playable. A full-depth resurfacing of both courts with a bocce-specific product cannot be installed in cold temperatures so court resurfacing is scheduled for spring 2024.

Several future projects to improve the parks and the enjoyment of life in Towamencin Township are being considered. The ideas OSPAC is consid-



construction at Fischer's bocce courts

ering are: Veteran’s Park (engineering and access), Grist Mill Park (pavilion and other improvements), Fischer’s Park (pickleball courts and parking), Butch Clemens Park (a pavilion with restrooms, parking), and Green Lane Park.



The volunteers on the OSPAC all feel we serve you, our fellow residents, better when we’re listening. We would like to hear your input on our collective future, either on existing projects or new ones; OSPAC meetings are generally 7:00 PM in the Township Hall on the second Monday of the month. Check the posted dates/times on the Township website at <https://www.towamencin.org>.

Now, about those chestnut trees — Why are they so hard to get?

The chestnut blight fungus, *Cryphonectria parasitica*, destroyed 30 billion of American chestnut trees in the 1900’s. Fortunately, technology for reproducing genetically identical chestnut embryos (cloning) was developed.

Decades of cross-pollination of American (blight-sensitive) and Asian (blight-resistant) chestnut varieties was unsuccessful. Chestnut trees, unlike flowers or corn, take years to mature and produce nuts, and even blight-resistant trees never persisted in the forest. Fortunately, plant cloning became possible and hope for producing blight-resistant trees was revived. Tree cell cultures were generated in glass bottles from seed embryos of single nuts, a process called somatic embryogenesis. Thousands of genetically identical embryos were created. Tiny seedlings were grown in the laboratory from mature embryos, carefully nurtured, transplanted, and then professionally managed for years to produce chestnuts.

Years of research in recombinant DNA technology (gene splicing) finally cracked the code. Only in 2007 were all-American chestnuts produced which had full blight resistance. This was attained by splicing a wheat gene for an enzyme called oxalic acid oxidase [OxO] into the American chestnut genome. The enzyme breaks down oxalic acid to carbon dioxide and hydrogen peroxide which destroys the ability of the blight fungus to injure the tree. It is estimated that only 1,000 trees were growing in field sites as of 2014, and government approval is required before any blight-resistant trees can be planted in the wild. Towamencin is hoping to be among the leaders in re-introducing the American chestnut to Pennsylvania. There are ways you might be able to help; come talk to us.

Veterans Advisory Committee Update

The Veterans Committee continued to discuss ways to implement and fund the Veterans Memorial Park Master Plan, prepared by Simone-Collins, Landscape Architect, and accepted by the Board of Supervisors on November 9, 2022. The Committee made a presentation to the Board at its June meeting, laying the groundwork for discussions of needed efforts to advance the Master Plan through its funding and implementation phases.

The Committee took part in following activities and events:

- Placed flags in area cemeteries at the gravesites of veterans, leading up to Memorial Day.
- Marched in the Hatfield Memorial Day Parade.
- Participated in a national Taps-Across-America event at the Township's Tennis-Lukens Cemetery, where Revolutionary War

soldiers are interred.

- Participated in the Township's annual Towamencin Day event, staffing a table and educating Township residents on Towamencin Veterans Memorial Park Plans.
- Participated in the collection and proper disposal of worn-out flags on Flag Day

The Committee is now planning for Veterans Day in November. The origins of Veterans Day date back to the end of World War I in 1918, marked by the cessation of hostilities on the 11th hour, of the 11th day of the 11th month. Originally known as Armistice Day, it celebrated the end of the "war to end all wars." In 1954, it evolved into Veterans Day, a tribute to all military veterans.

The Township's Veterans Committee marks this date and time as a way of ensuring the continued remembrance of our country's Veterans. Each year, the Committee holds a short ceremony at the Tennis-Lukens Cemetery to honor their sacrifice

and show the community's gratitude to all Veterans who have served our country.

Please plan to join us at the Tennis-Lukens Cemetery on November 11, 2023, at 11 am to honor all veterans. The Cemetery is adjacent to Veterans Memorial Park on Allentown Road just west of Forty Foot Road. Very limited parking is available at the cemetery, so we suggest you park in the adjacent shopping center and walk on the path along Allentown Road to the cemetery.

If you are interested in learning more about the Veterans Committee, whether you are a veteran or not, the Committee meets on the fourth Monday of the month in the Township Meeting Hall at 7 pm. Please join us and see what it is all about.



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Environmental Advisory Council Update & Fall Event



Our Environmental Advisory Council (EAC) continues to be involved in planning new conservation initiatives and community education efforts. In 2023, the EAC participated in several activities to help the environment and to educate residents.

The annual Stream Clean-Up for the Perkiomen Watershed Conservancy (PWC) was held on April 15. Towamencin Township is part of the Perkiomen Watershed and the Towamencin Creek is a tributary of the Perkiomen Creek. The EAC led the volunteer efforts at Fischer's Park, along with 10 additional residents. During the stream clean-up, our crew removed 10 full bags of trash and debris, in addition to a car hood, piping (metal and PVC), and a traffic cone.

On April 27, the EAC hosted a Rain Garden Workshop led by Jessie Kemper, PWC Director of Conservation. The workshop was a success with 22 residents participants, who learned how rain gardens reduce stormwater runoff, filter pollutants, and provide a wildlife-friendly addition to the landscape. Each participant



brought home three rain garden plants: New York aster, swamp milkweed, and sweet flag. The EAC generously offset the individual resident cost, allowing the workshop fee to be \$10 per person.

Thank you to all Towamencin residents who participated in the above 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

Backyard Composting Workshop - Thursday, October 12 at 6:30pm

Are you unsure what to do with your kitchen, garden, and yard scraps? Would you like natural, home-made compost for your lawns and gardens in the spring? Expand your recycling efforts and turn your yard debris and kitchen scraps into a valuable resource for your garden. The EAC is sponsoring a Backyard Composting Workshop led by the Pennsylvania Resource Council on Thursday, October 12 from 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm at the Towamencin Township building.

This workshop will thoroughly cover the importance and benefits of composting, the process, proper maintenance, and ways of using finished compost. Township residents will receive a FreeGarden EARTH compost bin with attendance. This bin is ideal for urban and suburban areas and has an 82-gallon capacity. Once again, the EAC is generously offsetting the cost for residents, so this workshop is only \$35 per person and includes a compost bin (bin alone retails for over \$100!).

Link to register: <https://tinyurl.com/towamencin>.

PECO Home Energy Assessment Discount for Towamencin Residents

Looking to save energy and save money? A PECO Home Energy Assessment is a valuable service your local utility provides to help reduce your bill and make your home more comfortable.

PECO wants to help reduce usage in Towamencin Township by offering a special \$10 discount on any home energy assessment.

Discover if your home is wasting energy and how to improve comfort. We're currently offering two ways for you to save money and learn more about your home's energy use: an in-home or virtual Energy Assessment. A \$200 value, these assessments only take 1-2 hours.

Here's what's included:

- **Professional advice from a PECO energy advisor.** They'll help you find areas of your home that are wasting energy and ways to stay comfortable year-round.
- **Free energy-saving products**, such as LED bulbs and smart power strips (up to \$125 value*). These will be mailed to you prior to your virtual appointment or installed during your in-home assessment.
- A **personalized report** with energy-saving tips and strategies that can save you up to 20% on energy costs annually.

Now through December 31, PECO is offering Towamencin Township residents a special \$10 discount* for any home energy assess-

ment, the normal cost is \$49 (\$99 for the PLUS).

Please use the special promo code **TOWEAC** on the website (www.peco.com/assessment) or call 888.573.2672 to schedule your appointment. *Limited time offer expires December 31, 2023. Limited supply per household and where applicable. Certain restrictions apply. You must be a PECO residential electric customer to participate. One Energy Assessment per residence, per year. This program is subject to change, including termination, without prior notice.

Appointments are available Monday-Friday. Limited number of appointments available on Saturdays.

Become a Community Sponsor in 2024

Want to connect with the community and help build the local economy? Be a community partner with Towamencin Township! We welcome all businesses and organizations to participate in the Township's events. By advertising with us or becoming a sponsor for any of our great community events, you connect directly with the residents in our community! Our newsletters, events, and ballpark signs are excellent ways for local businesses to advertise and support the local economy. We offer a unique and targeted approach to get your name out, as we understand the needs of your consumers/clients.

For more information on how to become a community partner with Towamencin Township and the varied pricing options, call the Township at 215 368-7602 or email events@towamencin.org. The sponsorship form can be found on our website at <https://www.towamencin.org/departments/events/>

Montgomery County Bookmobile and Outreach Services

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/>. Meet us at one of our Towamencin Township or nearby community locations:

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1380 South Valley Forge Rd, Lansdale, PA 19446
Every Thursday 12:00 PM – 6:00 PM

MERRYMEAD FARM

2222 South Valley Forge Rd, Lansdale, PA 19446
Alternate Mondays 11:00 AM - 1:30 PM

TD BANK

4309 West Skippack Pike, Skippack, PA 19474
Alternate Mondays 11:00 AM - 1:30 PM

SNYDER SQUARE SHOPPING CENTER

1540 Cowpath Rd, Hatfield, PA 19440
Every Tuesday 12:00 PM – 6:00 PM

RALPH'S CORNER SHOPPING CENTER

2333 West Main St Lansdale, PA 19446
Alternate Saturdays 10:00 AM - 3:30 PM

Bookmobile and Outreach Services Contact

Email: bookmobiles@mclinc.org
Phone: (610) 278-5100 Ext. 7

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 x7
- Drop off a request form at the bookmobile
- Ask our staff on the Bookmobile

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.

Towamencin Municipal Complex

1090 Troxel Road

Lansdale, PA 19446

Township Building 215-368-7602

Fax: 215-368-7650

www.towamencin.org

Like us on Facebook: Towamencin Township

Monday-Friday 8:00 am - 4:30 pm



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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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Adam M. Szumski, Director of Finance

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FALL 2023

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