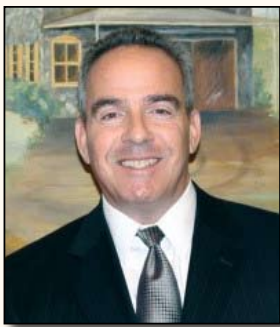




# Lower Moreland Township

Fall-Winter 2019-2020

## Watch Your Assets



Recently I was speaking with fellow residents about property taxes and ideas of how to keep them in check. Tax relief is an undeniable desire for residents - and I am one of them. However, some way and somehow, someone eventually has to pay the bills for township expenses. Real property tax relief is complex in

Lower Moreland, particularly when about 80% of your property taxes today are school taxes set by an elected Board of School Directors and not by the Township Board of Commissioners.

One resident asked about selling our sewer system as he recently read news articles about other municipalities considering the sale of these types of assets. Today Lower Moreland Township operates the sewer system at the lowest possible cost and bills directly for the service. It does not look to turn a profit. The system is financially sound and a group of fellow Lower Moreland residents serve on the Authority Board to help further protect your interests.

So then why would a sewer system be sold? Utility companies and others are trying to buy up these systems when they can and often offer millions of dollars that municipalities then spend on a variety of other things. "Tax relief" is one of those things by using some proceeds from the sale to cover annual deficits in the municipal budget. But guess what? Your sewer bill may grow unchecked. At first a guarantee might be made regarding the rate of increase, but then it can rise at the will of a company or organization that you don't control. The sleight-of-hand is that politicians can claim to not increase your taxes, or to be holding them in check, but are doing so by dipping into proceeds of the sewer system sale, while your sewer fees are raised not by them but by another organization. Have you really gotten financial relief then?

What do you do when you realize your household costs actually have not gone down? You can't get rid of your new sewer company because there is no competition for sewer. There is just one sewer here and you will pay what the owner of the sewer tells you to pay. Today you are the owner and your elected commissioners and a local Authority Board of residents manage it.

Keep in mind also that as more and more of the fund balance from the sale is spent down for "tax relief", eventually it will be depleted and then the increase in taxes necessary to make up for the years of "relief" will come back all at once - and on top of that your sewer bill continues to rise beyond local control.

Is there a situation where it might make sense to sell the sewer system? Perhaps for a major township construction needs but usually not if your municipality is in good financial shape. Lower Moreland Township is in good financial shape today and has a high credit rating. Consider there is an area municipality choosing between declaring bankruptcy or selling municipal water and sewer systems because they may have mismanaged their way into having no choice. That's desperation, not tax relief, and residents will surely pay for it.

For the last eight years I've watched over your township assets along with fellow board members, I have had the pleasure to lead as President of the Board. I've decided to step away from being a Commissioner at the end of this year and I thank you for the opportunity to be in that formal role of public service. I've learned a lot about local government over the years, and I'm not moving away, so I look forward to joining with neighbors and friends as we continue to keep watch together.

*Rob*

**Robert P. DeMartinis, President**  
**Lower Moreland Township Board of Commissioners**



# Township of Lower Moreland

640 Red Lion Road  
 Huntingdon Valley, PA 19006  
[www.lowermoreland.org](http://www.lowermoreland.org)

## BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

<b>Ward 1:</b> Robert P. DeMartinis, <i>President</i>	<a href="mailto:Rdemartinis@lowermoreland.org">Rdemartinis@lowermoreland.org</a>
<b>Ward 2:</b> Jill Blumhardt	<a href="mailto:Jblumhardt@lowermoreland.org">Jblumhardt@lowermoreland.org</a>
<b>Ward 3:</b> Clay D. McQueen	<a href="mailto:Cmcqueen@lowermoreland.org">Cmcqueen@lowermoreland.org</a>
<b>Ward 4:</b> Joseph A. Canale, Jr.	<a href="mailto:Jcanale@lowermoreland.org">Jcanale@lowermoreland.org</a>
<b>Ward 5:</b> Dr. David H. Sirken, <i>Vice President</i>	<a href="mailto:Dsirken@lowermoreland.org">Dsirken@lowermoreland.org</a>
<b>Ward 6:</b> Denise A. Kuritz	<a href="mailto:Dkuritz@lowermoreland.org">Dkuritz@lowermoreland.org</a>

## TOWNSHIP DIRECTORY

Christopher R. Hoffman, <i>Township Manager</i>	Loreen Montagnon, <i>Asst. Township Mgr.</i>
David J. Sciroto, <i>Chief of Police</i>	Stephen D. Woerner, <i>Dir. of Public Works</i>
Robert D. Schadegg, <i>Code Enforcement Officer/ Zoning Officer</i>	Robert Scholly, Jr., <i>Fire Marshal/ Emergency Management Coordinator</i>
Marion Marucci, <i>Finance Officer</i>	John B. Rice, <i>Township Solicitor</i>
Timothy P. Woodrow, P.E., <i>Township Engineer</i>	Stephen R. Gabriel, <i>Township Planner</i>
Jane Anne Saile, <i>Tax Collector</i>	

## MEETING DATES & TIMES

- Board of Commissioners:** Monthly Meeting- 7:00 p.m. Second Tuesday of the month
- Building Code of Appeals:** No monthly meeting. Chairman calls as assignments require
- Civil Service Commission:** No monthly meeting. Chairman calls as assignments require
- Historical Architectural Review Board:** 7:00 p.m. First Monday of the month
- Lower Moreland Township Authority:** 7:00 p.m. Meets quarterly, first Wednesday of the month
- Planning Commission:** 7:00 p.m. Fourth Thursday of the month
- Zoning Hearing Board:** 7:00 p.m. Third Thursday of the month

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## IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

<b>Emergency:</b> .....	9-1-1
<b>Lower Moreland Township Police</b> (non-emergency): .....	215-947-3132
<b>Lower Moreland Township Building:</b> .....	215-947-3100
<b>Huntingdon Valley Fire Company</b> (non-emergency): .....	215-947-2454
<b>Bryn Athyn Ambulance:</b> .....	215-947-1100
<b>Huntingdon Valley Library:</b> .....	215-947-5138



# Public Works

## Loose Leaf Collection

### 2019 Curbside Leaf Collection Schedule

WEEK	WARD
Week of October 21	Wards 2 & 5
Week of October 28	Wards 1 & 4
Week of November 4	Wards 3 & 6
Week of November 11	Wards 2 & 5
Week of November 18	Wards 1 & 4
Week of November 25	No collection
Week of December 2	Wards 3 & 6
Week of December 9	All Wards



Loose leaves should be raked to the curb on the Sunday evening prior to your scheduled collection week. Leaves should NEVER be piled in the street. Also, stones, branches and brush need to be disposed of separately, not in the loose leaf pile..



## Yard Waste Collection

Please note that Republic will continue to collect yard waste until the end of January. Yard waste must be placed in a biodegradable bag or container up to 32-gallons.

The container must have a designated yard waste collection sticker, which can be obtained free of charge from the Township.

## Christmas Tree Collection

The collection of Christmas trees will occur the first three weeks of January. Collection dates will be posted on the Township's website.



## Recycling Tips & Reminders

**D**id you know that just one dirty item can contaminate thousands of pounds of collected recyclable materials? Make sure to empty, rinse and dry recyclable items before placing them in your toter. Recycle smarter by knowing what can and cannot be recycled:

### Always:

- Plastics
- Metal cans, aluminum foil, aluminum foil pans
- Clean cardboard and paper
- Paper containers and cartons

### Never:

- Aerosol cans
- Batteries
- Bubble wrap
- Coat hangers
- Electrical cords
- Food waste
- Plastic grocery bags
- Styrofoam



Should you have questions regarding recycling, please contact our Public Works Department at 215-947-3100 or email [kjones@lowermoreland.org](mailto:kjones@lowermoreland.org).



## Street Sweeping Program

**L**ower Moreland Township recognizes the importance of keeping all Township streets clean for our residents and for the environment. Street sweeping is an integral part of Lower Moreland Township's stormwater and street maintenance program.

The Township's street sweeping program runs throughout the year, weather permitting. It is the Township's goal to sweep each street at least twice a year. Street sweeping removes salt, dirt, leaves, litter, harmful pollutants etc. from entering the storm sewer system and polluting our waterways. These efforts also reduce maintenance costs by keeping storm drains clean.

# Police Department

## Lower Moreland Welcomes New Officers

Six new police officers were appointed to the Lower Moreland Township Police Department in July. Please join us in welcoming Frank Bolella, John DeSanto, Saman Hashemi-Sohi, Zachary Heckenswiler, Kelly Heist and Sierra Volkert.



Standing back row (from left to right): Officer Heckenswiler, Officer DeSanto and Officer Hashemi-Sohi. Standing front row (from left to right): Chief Scirrotto, Officer Heist and Officer Volkert. Not pictured: Officer Bolella

## New Community Programs and Initiatives

The Lower Moreland Police Department has taken an active role in creating programs that strive to foster community relationships and educate the public on a variety of topics. Below is a list of just a few of the programs recently implemented:



**Coffee with a Cop:** Beginning in 2015, the Lower Moreland Township Police Department has been participating in the national “Coffee with a Cop” program. These sessions provide citizens an opportunity to voice concerns, ask questions and get to know their local police officers. Coffee with a cop sessions are held at local establishments and all are welcome to attend.

**Child Safety Seat Inspections:** A staff member, who is a Child Passenger Safety (CPS) Technician, is available BY APPOINTMENT ONLY to check and ensure that a child car seat is installed correctly. The car seat installation experience is an interactive one. Caregivers will leave the appointment confident that the child's seat is properly installed and that they are comfortable reinstalling and using it. Seat checks are free of charge to residents of Lower Moreland. For more information about this Pennsylvania program along with other child state safety initiatives, visit <http://pakidstravelsafe.org/>.

## Chief's Corner: Gift Card Scams

If someone calls or sends a mailing saying they are from...

- The government
- The electric company
- The gas company
- The IRS
- A charity
- An online sales site

And want a gift card... STOP! DO NOT PAY THEM! Anyone who asks you to pay them money with a gift card is a scammer. If you are ever in this situation, please contact the Lower Moreland Police Department at 215-947-3132.

- **Bus Stop Buddies:** The Bus Stop Buddies program was established this past spring as a way for Lower Moreland police officers to better connect with students of all ages. In cooperation with the Lower Moreland Township School District, police officers participating in the program ride random buses to school, giving them an opportunity to talk with students about drugs, bullying and other topics. The program is scheduled again this fall.



- **Mock Teen Bedroom:** Owned and operated by the Bensalem Police Department, the Lower Moreland Police Department has arranged for the trailer to be available at select times at Lower Moreland High School. The mock teen bedroom trailer shows parents how to spot signs of potential drug abuse in a child's bedroom.
- In addition to these programs, Lower Moreland Township police officers are available to speak about crime prevention programs including community policing, neighborhood watch, security surveys, workplace violence, identity theft, retail security, computer safety, drug/alcohol awareness, terrorism, bicycle safety/helmets, juvenile crimes and more. To schedule a presentation for your school, business or civic organization, please call 215-947-3132.



# Code Enforcement Department

## Code Enforcement Tips and Reminders

Planning to install a deck, pool or remodel a kitchen this fall? Before tackling your project, here are some helpful tips and reminders from our Code Enforcement Department. To find out more, please call 215-947-3100 or email [jmatyas@lowermoreland.org](mailto:jmatyas@lowermoreland.org).

- Residential permit applications take 15 business days to process but 30 days for a commercial permit application.
- Construction involving the expansion of a building structure or change in use must receive zoning review and approval prior to the issuance of any construction permits.
- A building permit is required for the construction of a new or replacement fence.
- Drainage of swimming pool water along any public highway, road, street, avenue, or public lane or alley in the Township is prohibited. Non-treated water drained from pools may contain harmful chemicals and must be discharged properly.
- The Township does not license contractors and cannot make recommendations to residents. We do register plumbers and require a registered master plumber to pull a plumbing permit.



## Snow and Ice Removal Guidelines

Lower Moreland Township Code requires the owner, occupant, or tenant of every property in the Township to remove snow and ice from sidewalks, clearing

a pathway not less than 30 inches in width, within 36 hours of the completion of a snow storm. Plowing or piling snow into the gutter or cartway is prohibited.

That said, please don't wait 36 hours to clear sidewalks - do it as soon as possible. Sidewalks need to be cleared so that emergency responders can safely access homes in the event of an emergency. Additionally, snow and ice covered sidewalks force pedestrians and pets to walk in the street creating unsafe conditions. We ask that all residents and business owners be good neighbors and shovel your sidewalks!

## Deceased Animal Collection

To report a deceased animal on a roadway or within the right-of-way limits, please contact the Township during business hours from 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Please note that any animal on private property will not be picked up by Lower Moreland Township.

## Tax Collector

Please note that tax office hours are Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The final penalty date to pay Lower Moreland Township and Montgomery County taxes is December 31, 2019. There will be office hours on Tuesday, December 31st from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Tax payments are accepted via personal check, bank check, money order, cash (exact amount) or credit card. Remember there is a convenience fee of 2.45% when paying with your credit card. Please include your parcel number with any payment made and if paying when the office is closed, please place your payment (no cash) in a sealed envelope and drop into the Lock Box outside the tax office.

Contact Jane Saile, Tax Collector, at 215-947-7661 or email at [lowermoreland.taxcollector@gmail.com](mailto:lowermoreland.taxcollector@gmail.com) with any questions.

# Old Names and Old Post Offices

Today the 19006 zip code is for Huntingdon Valley PA which most people equate to Lower Moreland Township. However, Huntingdon Valley PA is actually a postal designation which encompasses parts of five municipalities in two counties. In Montgomery County it includes most of Lower Moreland but also includes areas of Abington, Bryn Athyn, Upper Moreland and then also Upper Southampton in Bucks County. Huntingdon Valley was almost our own name though. Back in 1966, a

referendum almost changed the name of Lower Moreland Township to the Township of Huntingdon Valley but it failed to pass by just a few votes.

Also back in the day there were more

post offices and villages as people did not travel very far from where they lived. For example there was a post office for Bethayres PA at the corner of Huntingdon Pike and Welsh Road while the post office for Huntingdon Valley PA was half a mile up the hill at Red Lion Road and Huntingdon Pike. Other post offices included one in the village of Terwood PA (formerly Yerkesville) at Paper Mill Road and Terwood Road and Woodmont PA which was next to where Piero's is today, near the Pennypack Trail and the Woodmont neighborhood. There may have been one too at Sorrel Horse which was a village at Byberry Road and Huntingdon Pike. There was a time when just two post offices were left and merged together to form the longest post office name at the time in the US Postal Service - the Huntingdon Valley - Bethayres post office.



*The Lady Washington Hotel, 2550 Huntingdon Pike, was the first Huntingdon Valley Post Office, in 1823.*



*McMahon's General Store, located at the corner of Welsh Road and Huntingdon Pike, was Bethayres' Post Office from 1850 until 1960.*



Lower Moreland was never a town in the traditional sense. It was a collection of villages mostly supporting farming along roads that led to mills and markets. Some small industry came when railroads were built but the series of farming villages which lasted well into the 20th century is a reason why there is not a main "downtown" area of Lower Moreland today.



# Fire Marshal

## The Dangers of Carbon Monoxide

Carbon Monoxide (CO), often times called the silent killer, is an invisible, odorless, colorless gas created when fuels (such as gasoline, wood, coal, natural gas, propane, oil, and methane) burn only partly. Heating and cooking equipment that burn fuel are potential sources of carbon monoxide in homes while vehicles or generators running in an attached garage also produce dangerous levels of carbon monoxide.

The dangers of CO exposure depend on a number of variables, including the victim's health and activity level. Infants, pregnant women, and people with physical conditions that limit their body's ability to use oxygen (i.e. emphysema, asthma, heart disease) can be more severely affected by lower concentrations of CO than healthy adults would be. A person can be poisoned by a small amount of CO over a longer period of time or by a large amount of CO over a shorter amount of time.

In 2010, U.S. fire departments responded to an estimated 80,100 non-fire CO incidents in which carbon monoxide was found. The number of incidents increased 96 percent from 40,900 incidents reported in 2003. This increase is most likely due to the increased use of CO detectors, which alert people to the presence of CO.

## Prevent CO Poisoning

- A CO alarm should be installed outside each sleeping area and installed on every level of the home.



- When warming a vehicle, move it out of the garage. Never run a fueled engine indoors even if garage doors are open.
- During and after a snowstorm, make sure vents for the dryer, furnace, stove and fireplace are clear of snow build-up.
- Have heating equipment and chimneys inspected by a professional every year before cold weather sets in.
- Never use your oven or stove to heat your home.

Learn more about carbon monoxide safety by visiting the National Fire Protection Agency (NFPA) website at [www.nfpa.org/education](http://www.nfpa.org/education).

## Residential and Commercial Knox Box



Lower Moreland Township residents can now take advantage of a great fire safety tool. A Knox Box can be installed to give fire fighters access to your home in case of emergency if no one is present, reducing access time and minimizing forced entry damage.

Applications are available by contacting the Fire Marshal's office at **215-947-3100** or by visiting the Fire Marshal section of the website.



## **Lower Moreland Township**

640 Red Lion Road  
Huntingdon Valley, PA 19006

Presort Standard  
US Postage  
PAID  
Philadelphia, PA  
Permit # 5634

# Community Organizations



## **Huntingdon Valley Fire Company**

The Huntingdon Valley Fire Company, a volunteer organization, provides fire protection to residents and businesses in Lower Moreland Township.

**636 Red Lion Road, Huntingdon Valley, PA 19006**  
**215-947-2454 | [www.hvfire.org](http://www.hvfire.org) | [www.facebook.com/hvfc8](https://www.facebook.com/hvfc8)**



## **Huntingdon Valley Library**

Established in 1871, the Huntingdon Valley Library strives to enrich the community by providing an environment where people can gain knowledge by exchanging information and ideas. The library offers a variety of programs and events for people of all ages.

**625 Red Lion Road, Huntingdon Valley, PA 19006**  
**215-947-5138 | [www.hvlibrary.org](http://www.hvlibrary.org) | [www.facebook.com/hvlibrary](https://www.facebook.com/hvlibrary) | <https://twitter.com/HVLOnline>**



## **Huntingdon Valley Athletics Association**

For more than 60 years, the Huntingdon Valley Athletics Association has provided youth sports and activities to Lower Moreland residents and the surrounding community. HVAA sponsors recreational and travel programs including soccer, baseball, softball, basketball, roller hockey, chess and martial arts. Visit **[www.hvaa.net](http://www.hvaa.net)** for more information.