



Lower Moreland Township

Winter 2021

When You Call 911, Who Shows Up?



As a practicing physician, I know the value of being prepared for an emergency. It stays at the forefront of my mind and in serving Lower Moreland, it's my greatest concern for the community. More than 50% of the Township's general fund budget is earmarked for some type of public safety service. Police officers, firefighters, and paramedics are called into service every day. Often the services are routine,

responding to a small fender-bender, attending to burned food, or assisting with non-life-threatening injuries; but there are times when these services must be prepared for much more and because of their training, they are ready. Emergency response is an essential government service and when lives are at stake it demands our highest priority.

In 2019, the Board of Commissioners, with the input of professional staff, authorized a reorganization of the police department and its divisions. This impacted the community through new initiatives including a dedicated school resource officer, enhanced traffic safety, and additional officers on patrol. We must continue to address current needs and future challenges in other emergency services as well. This year's budget begins to address firefighting and how we share resources with and from our neighbors in Bryn Athyn.

Lower Moreland's paramedic unit is shared with Bryn Athyn through the Bryn Athyn Fire Company Ambulance Service. It's just a name, remember that. It doesn't matter what the service is called - it matters that when the service is called through 911, that it shows up and does the job that is needed by residents and businesses alike in Lower Moreland.

When it comes to firefighting and when a call is made, both the Huntingdon Valley Fire Company (HVFC) and the Bryn Athyn Fire Company (BAFC) respond. The name on the truck doesn't matter - the dedication and commitment of the people who respond does. They are dispatched through the Montgomery County Emergency Operations Center whenever a fire-related 911 call is made in this community, and because firefighting services are becoming more challenging with the volunteer system on a decline for years, they are both dispatched together.

Since two fire companies respond together in Lower Moreland and Bryn Athyn, they also increasingly have been training together. It makes

sense. Looking into the future, it also makes sense that firefighting equipment and facilities be considered shared resources, that firefighters be cross-trained as needed, and that the system of volunteer firefighters be considered a diminishing safety net in an all-volunteer form. We are fortunate to have the combined resources of two volunteer fire companies serving Lower Moreland today, but more needs to be done to assure fire protection services are maintained into the future. The Board took one step a couple of years ago by purchasing a property on Huntingdon Pike for a future fire station in a location identified in a commissioned fire protection planning study. The current fire house in Lower Moreland is more than 70 years old.

The development of that purchased property will depend on the reorganization of community firefighting services in the near future. Some of that change is happening today. Having the active volunteers of two distinct fire companies working in unison to keep you safe is the first step, and we are very appreciative for their continuing effort. Training requirements for firefighters are ever-increasing, while the number of people in the community available and willing to drop everything on a moment's notice to respond to the alarm is decreasing. It is a lot to ask of a volunteer considering the inherent danger of the job. This year's budget, however, includes increases for new fire protection measures including a small stipend program at HVFC, and to assist BAFC with minimal paid-staffing. Both newly funded initiatives mean that firefighters are stationed more often at a firehouse and able to respond faster to fires - faster can save lives.

The firefighters of Lower Moreland and Bryn Athyn are rightfully proud of their distinctive histories of service & dedication plus commitment to their communities. If you ever have to call 911 for fire services or an ambulance, remember that the name on the truck is just that, a name. It's the people who are called to serve you that are important; they have to have the equipment and resources needed to safely do the job so that they are available today and into the future to show up in your time of need. Please take the time to let all first responders in our community know how much you appreciate them whenever you can.

Sincerely,

Dr. David H. Sirken, President

Lower Moreland Township Board of Commissioners



Township of Lower Moreland

640 Red Lion Road
 Huntingdon Valley, PA 19006
www.lowermoreland.org



Standing (from Left to Right): Commissioner Blumhardt; Commissioner Canale; Commissioner Hausen
 Seated (from Left to Right): Commissioner Kuritz; Commissioner Sirken, President; Commissioner McQueen, Vice-President

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

- Ward 1:** Ruth A. Hausen Rhausen@lowermoreland.org
- Ward 2:** Jill Blumhardt Jblumhardt@lowermoreland.org
- Ward 3:** Clay D. McQueen, Vice President..... Cmcqueen@lowermoreland.org
- Ward 4:** Joseph A. Canale, Jr. Jcanale@lowermoreland.org
- Ward 5:** Dr. David H. Sirken, President Dsirken@lowermoreland.org
- Ward 6:** Denise A. Kuritz Dkuritz@lowermoreland.org

TOWNSHIP DIRECTORY

- Christopher R. Hoffman, Township Manager
- E.J. Lee, Assistant Township Manager/Finance Director
- David J. Sciroto, Chief of Police
- Stephen D. Woerner, Director of Public Works
- Robert D. Schadegg, Code Enforcement Officer/Zoning Officer
- Robert Scholly, Jr., Fire Marshal/Emergency Management Coordinator
- John B. Rice, Township Solicitor
- Timothy P. Woodrow, P.E., Township Engineer
- Stephen R. Gabriel, Township Planner
- Jane Anne Saile, Tax Collector

MEETING DATES & TIMES

- Board of Commissioners:** Monthly Meeting- 7:00 p.m. Second Tuesday of the month
- Building Code Board 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

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

Public Works

Trash & Recycling Reminders & Information



Trash and recycling materials must be placed curbside the night before your collection, but not before 6:00 p.m. A limit of six trash cans, bundles or bags is enforced. Containers and bags may not exceed fifty pounds each. Please note that hazardous materials, concrete, dirt, tires, and electronic waste, to name a few, may not be placed curbside for collection.

2021 HOLIDAY COLLECTION SCHEDULE – if there is trash and recycling collection service on a holiday, the remaining collection services for the week will shift by one day.

MEMORIAL DAY, Monday, May 31 2021

- Collection on Tuesday, June 1, 2021
- Tuesday's Regular Collection moves to Wednesday, June 2, 2021
- Wednesday Yard Waste Collection moves to Thursday, June 3, 2021
- Thursday Regular Collection moves to Friday, June 4, 2021
- Friday Regular Collection moves to Saturday, June 5, 2021

LABOR DAY, Monday, September 6, 2021

- Collection on Tuesday, September 7, 2021
- Tuesday's Regular Collection moves to Wednesday, September 8, 2021
- Wednesday Yard Waste Collection moves to Thursday, September 9, 2021
- Thursday Regular Collection moves to Friday, September 10, 2021
- Friday Regular Collection moves to Saturday, September 11, 2021

THANKSGIVING, Thursday, November 25, 2021

- Collection on Friday, November 26, 2021
- Friday's Regular Collection moves to Saturday, November 27, 2021

E-Waste Collection

A collection bin for e-waste items is available at the Public Works Building. Residents may drop off e-waste items Monday- Friday from 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. by appointment only. Collection is for Lower Moreland residents only and I.D. is required. Accepted materials include audio and video equipment, vacuums, PCs, car batteries, cell phones, to name a few. A full list of items is available at www.lowermoreland.org. To make an appointment, please contact Kelly Jones at 215-947-3100 or kjones@lowermoreland.org.



Code Enforcement Department

Building Permits

Considering the installation of a new fence, pool, or deck this spring? It is important to understand when a permit is needed. Permits need to be obtained for most general construction, plumbing and electrical projects. A permit is also required for signs, fences (new or replacement), sheds, gazebos, pergolas and sidewalks. Permits are not required for painting or wall covering, general landscaping, re-shingling a roof, replacing but not moving plumbing fixtures (except water heaters), cabinets or counter tops and siding.

Please note, permits usually take about 15 business days to process. Once your project is ready for inspections, please notify the Township so we can properly close out your permit. If you are unsure whether a permit is needed, call the Code Department at 215-947-3100. Work performed without obtaining a permit first can result in the doubling of fees.

Grading Permits

The enactment of Act 167 in Pennsylvania passes the responsibility to manage stormwater runoff to local municipalities. The result is an obligation on a landowner to manage even the most minor of construction projects through proper design of stormwater management facilities. In general, most patio, building addition, pool and driveway expansion projects require a grading permit. To find out if your project requires a grading permit, call the Code Department at 215-947-3100.

Six Easy Ways to Prevent Stormwater Runoff Pollution

When stormwater flows over lawns, sidewalks and driveways, it picks up chemicals, dirt, and other pollutants. The stormwater then travels through a system of pipes and roadside ditches that make up stormwater systems. This water eventually flows directly to creeks, rivers, lakes, wetlands or coastal waters. Prevent stormwater runoff pollution at your home by following these guidelines:

- Wash cars at the car wash
- Pick up after your pet
- Never dump anything down a storm drain
- Check cars for oil leaks
- Use fertilizers and pesticides sparingly
- Compost your yard waste and organic waste

For more information and additional resources regarding stormwater, visit the Township's website at www.lowermoreland.org/residents/stormwater.

Police Department

CrimeWatch

The Lower Moreland Township Police Department will be embarking on a new social media initiative in 2021. This initiative is being done through CrimeWatch. CrimeWatch is a web application which increases community awareness, expands offender accountability and provides organized channels for the public to safely submit information to authorities. These are all concepts which are supported by the Core Values of our department. Crime Watch will increase the trust between the community and the police department by providing community outreach, problem-solving, investigative, and crime prevention objectives.

In addition, this platform will allow for the broadcasting of information related to traffic, road closures, accidents, snow emergencies, parking, trash collection/delays, etc. The Crime Watch platform is simple to use for both law enforcement and the public.

So, keep an eye out on the Township website and Facebook page for updates regarding this informative initiative in the coming months.

Grant awarded by the Asplundh Foundation

LMPD applied for and was awarded a grant for two new programs. This allowed for the purchase of all the necessary equipment for "Forcible Entry Tools" and a "Mountain Bike Patrol Program".



Forcible Entry Tools:

All LMPD officers were trained to use "forcible entry tools" that were placed in all of the marked police units. All officers were able to practice using the department's eight new Halligan bars to open

a training door provided by the Bryn Athyn Fire Company. These tools allow officers the capability for swift entry or access to help citizens during emergencies trapped in buildings.

Mountain Bike Patrol: Six LMPD officers have been selected to become part of the department's new bicycle patrol unit. These six officers recently completed training from the International Police Mountain Bike Association to become certified police cyclists. Six police bicycles, specialty uniforms and equipment as well as storage and transport racks were all purchased thanks to the Grant.

Their normal duties will be to patrol and provide visibility on the township trails, parks and harder to reach locations. We are also hopeful that when we return to community events the LMPD Bike Unit will be able to interact with community families and children.

Come Springtime keep your eyes open on the trails, in the parks and even in your developments as our new bike officers are looking forward serving our community in new and exciting ways!

Training

It will come as no surprise that COVID-19 has had an impact on almost every aspect of police work, and training is no exception.

The Lower Moreland Police Department, however, has remained committed to ensuring that all of our officers remain up-to-date on existing and new techniques to be able to provide the best possible service to our residents. Despite COVID-19 restrictions, Lower Moreland officers collectively completed over 2,000 hours of training in 2020. In addition to completing all state-mandated



annual recertification training in first aid, firearms and case law updates, our officers attended training on various topics including de-escalation, defensive tactics, instructor development, physical fitness and more.

Internship Program

Under the direction of Chief Scirrotto, in 2019 the Lower Moreland Township Police Department began offering internship opportunities to criminal justice students from local colleges and universities. Police department interns can earn college credit while participating in a variety of activities, including ridealongs, investigative work and department training. Although currently scaled back due to COVID-19 safety concerns, the department's internship program remains operational, and opportunities exist for both 2021 semesters. Interested applicants should contact LMPD Training Coordinator Rich Worthington at 215-947-3132.



Medication Drop Off

Do you have old, expired or unused medications sitting in your medicine cabinet? You can dispose of them safely and free of charge at the Lower Moreland Police Department! A secure, confidential drug drop box is located in the police station lobby and is available during business hours, 7am-10:30pm Monday through Friday and 10am-3pm on Saturdays. All medications are accepted, with the exception of needles (sharps) and liquids. Help us keep prescription medications away from children and out of our waterways!



Township Manager's 2021 Budget Message

The Township budget is prepared by the Township Manager and is approved and adopted by the Board of Commissioners every fall. The goal of the budget is to provide financial management, resource allocation, program evaluation and long-range planning.

The budget is comprised of 16 funds with the largest being the General Fund, which supports Township departments as well as funding capital projects and needs.

The 2021 Budget proposes a total millage of 5.13 broken down between the following funds:

- General Fund: 3.23
- Fire Hydrant: .063
- Fire Tax: .31
- Debt Services: .700
- Library: .455
- Ambulance/EMS: .087
- Parks & Recreation: .285

The average local real estate tax bill will be \$1,077.30 (face value). For reference, the following is the average tax bill paid by a resident

• for each fund if paid after the discount period:

- General Fund: \$678.30
- Fire Hydrant: \$13.23
- Fire Tax: \$65.10
- Debt Services: \$147.00
- Library: \$95.55
- Ambulance/EMS: \$18.27
- Parks & Recreation: \$59.85

• The Township's two business-type funds are the Sewer Fund and the Trash Fund. The 2021 trash fee is \$350 per the recent bid awards which provide the same extensive collection program for trash, recycling yard waste, e-waste, white goods and bulk items. It also covers the Township's curbside leaf collection and composting programs. The Township's sewer rates remain the same for 2021.

• Other seven funds consist of capital and special designation funds supported by transfers from the seven main millage funds, grants and state/federal agency funds.

• To see the 2021 budget in its entirety or for more information, visit the Township website at www.lowermoreland.org.

Christopher Hoffman, Township Manager

Tax Collector

Please note that the Tax Collector holds normal business hours Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. (September- May) and Tuesday and Thursday from 10:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. (June – August)

Tax due dates will be notes on the bill and also posted on the Township website.

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 with any additional questions.

Fire Marshal

Stay Informed- Sign Up for ReadyMontco

Want to receive notifications regarding emergencies, severe weather, crime alerts and disasters in Montgomery County? Sign up for ReadyMontco, a mass notification system administered by the Montgomery County Department of Public Safety that allows you to receive emergency and community notifications via your preferred delivery method. The service is free of charge but text messaging and voice rates may apply.

To sign up, visit <http://readymontco.org/>. You will need to create a profile, provide a method of contact (text, personal or business email or phone) and add a location. Select "Lower Moreland Township" under Community Info to receive Township alerts. There is also an option to receive County alerts, weather alerts and school information as well.

Help Us Find Your Property in an Emergency

• In an emergency, it is imperative that first responders are able to locate your home quickly. The Fire Code requires that new and existing buildings have approved address numbers, building numbers or approved building identification placed in a position that is plainly legible and visible from the street fronting the property.

• Address numbers shall be Arabic numerals or alphabet letters, contrast with the background and be a minimum of 4 inches high with a stroke width of 1/2 inch. Address numbers should be mounted on both sides of your mailbox or on your mailbox post and on the house in a visible location from the street. Please note that numbers should not be spelled out. Numbers can be purchased at your local hardware store. Should you have any questions, contact the Fire Marshal at 215-947-3100.

Huntingdon Valley Library



625 Red Lion Rd
Huntingdon Valley, PA
19006
215-947-5138
hvlibrary.org

**Huntingdon Valley Library is Open for Contactless Pick-up 7 days a week.
Phone Reference help and Readers Advisory services.**

Virtual Printing or Faxing.

Call us. We are ready to help! 215-947-5138

Job Interview Room



The Library is offering the Friends Learning Lab as a quiet space for digital job interviews.

Equipped with Computer, Camera, Microphone, and Lighting.

Call the Library to reserve a time:
215-947-5138

Huntingdon Valley Library | hvlibrary.org | 215-947-5138 

**Get your Library Card
mailed to you!**

Visit our website and apply for a card today.

<http://hvlibrary.org>

Ongoing Virtual Events

- Storytimes
- STEM & Craft Activity Kits for Kids
- Family Trivia Nights
- Interactive DIY Teens Programs
- Zoom Book Clubs
- Tea Time with Christy

Egg Decorating Kit Eggstravaganza



Pick up kits at Huntingdon Valley Library
the week of March 22-28.

Sponsored by Lower Moreland Township



hvlibrary.org | 215-947-5138 | 625 Red Lion Rd, HV, PA 19006

GET GRAPHIC!

Huntingdon Valley Library's new Graphic Novel Contest begins on February 1. Students in grades 3-8 are invited to create their own graphic novel and submit it for a prize. Guidance on how to make a graphic novel can be found in the accompanying Beanstack challenge. Submissions are due on April 2. For more details, visit hvlibrary.org.

SPOOKTACULAR Contest winners



Best House: The Giordano Family



Best Front Porch: The Prybylasky Family



Best Lawn: The Archibald Family



Best Essential Worker Display: The Traktoenko Family



Best Lawn Inflatable Display: The Stein Family



Best Mailbox: The Pfeiffer Family



Best Scarecrow: Pine Road School 1st Graders



Best Driveway: Pine Road Elementary School



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 | 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 | 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 for more information.

Remember the 3 W's

WEAR A MASK

WASH YOUR HANDS

WATCH YOUR DISTANCE

6 ft

cdc.gov/coronavirus