



"Crossroads of the
American Revolution"

The Town Crier



2024- Q2

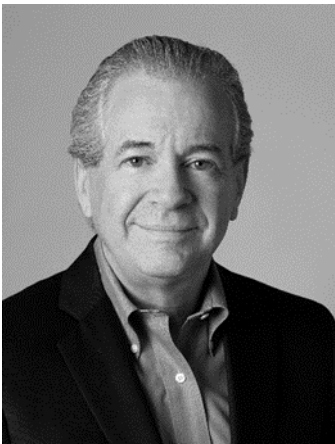
Hopewell Township Newsletter

Traffic Safety Updates

The Hopewell Township Committee often hears from residents concerned about traffic safety. Safety is the number one priority for local government, and we take these traffic concerns seriously and understand the need for immediate action. On many roads in the Township, though, to get something done, we cannot act directly and must ask our Mercer County or State partners to take action.

Roads are designated as federal (Route 295), State (e.g., Routes 29 and 31), County (e.g., Route 579) or local (roads under the direct control of Hopewell Township). If there is a safety issue on a local road, the Township can take action on its own.

For example, last year residents spoke with us about pedestrian accidents and near misses at the crosswalk near the Hopewell Crossing Shopping Center on Denow Road. In response, the Township quickly instituted traffic calming measures, including adding rumble strips and more flashing lights. Because Denow is a local road, we did not need to coordinate with any other governmental body and could act quickly and directly.



When County or State roads are involved, on the other hand, action requires more steps and takes more time. For example, for many years under a previous County administration, residents rightly expressed concerns about the 30 mph speed limit in front of Bear Tavern School on County Route 579 during school hours. The Township Committee continuously advocated for a speed limit reduction here, and

working with County Commissioner (and former Hopewell Township Mayor) Kristin McLaughlin, the speed limits in front of the school finally were lowered to 25 mph last year, with lower speed buffer zones being added as well.

Currently, the Township is working with the County on the intersection of Scotch Road (a local road) and Pennington-

Harbourton Road (a County road). Since 2019, there have been 10 crashes at Scotch Road and Pennington-Harbourton Road, including a tragic fatal motorcycle crash. Because the intersection involves a County road, any safety improvements must be approved and implemented by Mercer County. At our February 20th meeting, the

Hopewell Township Committee adopted a Resolution asking the County to conduct a thorough review of the traffic safety measures at this intersection. In addition, I personally reached out to the Mercer County Director of Intergovernmental Affairs, and he quickly began working with the County Engineer to come up with solutions. They recently installed signs on Scotch Road that read, "Cross Traffic Does Not Stop." We are thankful that our partners in Mercer County Executive Dan Benson's administration took such quick action, and we are currently in discussions with them about further improvements at this intersection.

A similar intersection is where Scotch Road and Pennington-Titusville Road meet. These are both local roads, so the Township can act to improve this intersection. However, this must be done in conjunction with a traffic study and an analysis of whether the intersection meets traffic safety requirements for any regulatory improvements. We had a thorough review of this intersection at our June 10th meeting, and our Township Engineer is currently looking at options for this intersection, beyond the rumble strips, "cross traffic does not stop" signs, and enhanced visibility stop signs and warning signs that are already there.

Further, in coordination with our partners in Hopewell Borough, this year the Township Committee requested that the County lower the speed limits on Hopewell-Pennington Road/West Broad Street (County Route 654) and Louellen Street (County Route 518). Hopewell Borough had requested the County implement a 25 mph speed limit within the Borough, and in order to allow drivers time to safely slow



down, there must be buffer zone speed limits surrounding the new 25 mph zone. The County took quick action again, and this change has already been implemented. These speed limits in the Township have been lowered to 25 mph, 35 mph, and then 40 mph as you drive away from the Borough. Be on the lookout for increased traffic patrols by the Hopewell Township Police Department to enforce the new zones.

Things get even more complicated when a State road is involved. Then, we must work with the New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT). For example, there have been long-standing concerns about safety at the intersection of State Route 31 and Ingleside Avenue (County Route 631). As of January, in the last three years alone, there have been 28 crashes at that intersection, with nine resulting in injuries. This is not acceptable. The Township has requested that NJDOT conduct a traffic study as the first step in installing a full traffic signal at the intersection and has agreed to a cost-sharing plan for the project. We would like this to be moving

along more quickly, but we are pushing hard and will continue to work with the County and NJDOT to get this done. A complication is that Pennington Borough has sent a Resolution opposing a full signal at this intersection to the NJDOT as well as to Mercer County, which has made our request to the State more difficult. But we in the Township are committed to seeing this through.

The Hopewell Township Committee is committed to doing whatever we can to improve safety on our roads and highways. Even when we do not have the power to change speed limits or traffic measures on our own, we have built solid relationships with our County and State partners, who are willing to work with us to make these critical improvements.

If you know of an area in the Township that could potentially benefit from increased traffic safety measures, please reach out.

Courtney Peters-Manning, Mayor, cpeters-manning@hopewelltp.org, cell 609-577-3312
Michael Ruger, Committee Member, mruger@hopewelltp.org, cell 609-577-1247

Summer Camp Registration is Still Open!

It's not too late to register your child for fun this summer with Hopewell Township Recreation Summer Camp! You can register online, or during business hours, 8:30am-4:30pm, by phone, or in-person. Information can be found on our website at www.hopewelltp.org/SummerCamp. There is plenty of room still available.

All camp flyers and registration forms, including travel camp schedules, can be found in the Municipal Building lobby and on the Recreation page.

Questions or to register at 609-737-3753 or recreation@hopewelltp.org!

Karin Poveromo, Director of Parks & Recreation,
recreation@hopewelltp.org



HOPEWELL TOWNSHIP

2024 PHOTO CONTEST

Send in your best pictures of the Township and see your images displayed in the Township Calendar, Scenes of Hopewell Township 2025, and on the walls of the Municipal Building Auditorium!

RULES:

- ~ Nonprofessional photographers
- ~ Hopewell Township residents only
- ~ Images must have been taken in Hopewell Township between 10-31-23 and 10-31-24
- ~ Submit up to 4 pictures per photographer
- ~ Due by 10-31-24 at 11:59pm (firm)
- ~ Judging will take place in November
- ~ Winners will be announced in 2025

Questions? Entries? Reba at info@hopewelltp.org

GIVE US YOUR BEST SHOT! ENTER THE CONTEST



Hopewell Township Recreation

Summer Camps & Clinics still available

- Art in the Park - weeks 3 & 4
- Bulldog Baseball camp
- Field Hockey "summer sticks"
- Girls and Boys Soccer Conditioning Camp
- Speed and Agility Camp
- Track and Field Clinic
- Multi Sports Camp
 - Rec Camp
 - Lunch Bunch
 - Magic Camp
- Nature Explorers Camp
- Mad Science Camp "Eureka: Launching with Legends"
- Mad Science Camp "Lego BRIOLOGY"
- Pre - K Camp
- Rex Arts Camps
- Junior Travel Camp
- Skate Board Camp

SIGN UP NOW!!

www.hopewelltp.org/SummerCamp
recreation@hopewelltp.org
 609-737-3753

HOPWELL TOWNSHIP
 Parks & Recreation Department

It's time for the 2024 Hopewell Township Photo Contest!

Any amateur photographers out there? Hopewell Township residents can submit up to four images taken in Hopewell Township for our annual contest. Pictures must have been taken between October 31, 2023 and October 31, 2024 and are due by 11:59pm on October 31, 2024. Voting will take place in November and winners will be announced in 2025. Winners will have their pictures featured in the 2025 Municipal Calendar and hung in the Municipal Building Auditorium for the year.

Questions? Entries?

Reba Holley, Communications and Outreach Manager,
info@hopewelltp.org

Supporting Local Business Growth

As a member of the Hopewell Township Committee as well as the Tourism and Economic Development Advisory Committee along with Committee Member Kuchinski, I am privileged to witness firsthand the vibrant economic landscape of our community. As a part of this, Township Staff, the Township Committee, and the Tourism and Economic Development Advisory Committee are all dedicated to fostering the success of both existing businesses and newcomers. These groups work diligently ensuring that infrastructure and community services evolve in tandem with our business community's needs.

Celebrating New Ventures



Each ribbon cutting ceremony symbolizes more than just the opening (or re-opening) of a new business; it represents a commitment to community, growth, and innovation. These businesses contribute not only to our economic vitality but also to the unique character that defines Hopewell Township. The Township Committee was honored to participate in so many of these events!

In recent months, Hopewell Township has celebrated numerous ribbon cutting events, marking the establishment and expansion of diverse enterprises. These events have ranged from cozy bakeries offering artisanal delights to boutique shops, renovated restaurants, and more.



Titusville Marketplace Ribbon Cutting, image courtesy of Maria Nicolo



David Chait serves as liaison to the Tourism and Economic Development Advisory Committee.

Our work in supporting local businesses is ongoing. The entire Township Committee is committed to fostering an environment where businesses can thrive, which benefits all residents.

We eagerly anticipate many more ribbon cutting events in the future, celebrating the expansion of existing businesses and the arrival of new ventures that will enrich our community.



David Chait, Committee Member,
dchait@hopewelltp.org

Hopewell Township Celebrates Arbor Day



and protect the planet Earth for generations to come.

Hopewell Township is proud to support the mission of the Arbor Day Foundation "to inspire people to plant, nurture, and celebrate trees" and has consistently achieved Tree City USA recognition from the Arbor Foundation to help encourage community forestry programs. The Township is committed to maintaining this recognition and fulfilling its four core requirements, such as establishing a tree board or department, a tree care ordinance, an annual community forestry budget of at least \$2 per capita, and an Arbor Day observance and proclamation. The Township has established and implemented a comprehensive Community Forestry Management Plan. We appreciate the support from volunteer organizations, environmentalists, and generous donations from local businesses, who helped to establish the Arboretum at Woolsey Park. Every year, new trees are planted using the principle "right tree for the right location" to increase species diversity by emphasizing native species. The township is especially proud to collaborate with nonprofit organizations such as Friends of Hopewell Valley Open Space to bring back and plant dozens of American chestnut seedlings in Woolsey Park. In addition, the sapling of New Jersey's famous mighty giant Salem oak is growing and becoming stronger every day.

The Township traditionally follows the national observance of Arbor Day to celebrate the role of trees in our daily lives.

During the April 22nd Township committee meeting, the

Every year around this time, trees begin to blossom with vibrant colors, symbolizing a new beginning as we transition from the cold, dark winter days to warmer, brighter spring days. April is also a month to celebrate Earth Day and Arbor Day, which aims to educate and raise awareness about taking action to protect the trees

proclamation was read in support of the Arbor Day and celebrated at Woolsey Park on April 26th. Hopewell Township is proud to be one of 3,400+ communities across the country to receive this recognition. Arbor Day was first celebrated in 1872 in Nebraska by planting more than one million trees to encourage farmers to plant more trees that would provide shade, shelter, food, fuel, and add beauty to the surrounding area. Planting trees can improve water quality, reduce stormwater runoff, help reduce soil erosion, and prevent sediment and chemicals from flowing into streams. Neighborhoods with trees are seven to nine degrees cooler, which can help reduce energy costs by an average of twenty-five percent, increase property values, give peace, and improve mental health.

Hopewell Township actively promotes and encourages public participation in protecting trees on private and public property for the entire community's benefit. The Environmental Commission (EC) strongly recommends planting or replacing trees or shrubs with native varieties that thrive in this area to preserve the local flora and fauna and support the equilibrium

of insects, butterflies, and birds, supporting the local ecosystem. The township has recognized the importance of preserving and protecting the environmentally sensitive area surrounding Hopewell Township and managed to permanently preserve over 43% of open space, farmland, and/or outdoor recreational areas. Furthering the commitment Hopewell Township has stringent land use laws to protect stream and stream corridor buffering. The township has a comprehensive stormwater management plan, and the ordinance requires ensuring

the groundwater recharge to protect the surrounding watershed. Hopewell Township's board members carefully review every use variance application to ensure the proposed project has minimal or no detrimental impact on the environment, aligning with the Township's Master Plan and maintaining the rural character of our town.

I would like to recognize the significant contribution of members of the Environmental Commission, Township Administrator, engineers, and public works staff for their efforts to continue to make Hopewell better every day and more beautiful for all!



Uma Purandare, Deputy Mayor, upurandare@hopewelltwp.org



@HopewellTownshipNJ



@hopewelltownshipnj



@TwpofHopewellNJ



@hopewelltwpnj



[www.linkedin.com/
company/hopewelltwp/](https://www.linkedin.com/company/hopewelltwp/)

2024 Township Budget: Working to Get the Best Value Our of Your Dollar

In May, the Committee completed the 2024 Budgeting process for Hopewell Township.

The overall news is positive – the municipal tax rate will increase by only +1.14%, well-below the current rate of inflation and New Jersey’s 2% cap. Additionally, the Township is continuing to reduce debt levels, with new capital in the 2024 Budget \$1.2 Million less than the bond principal we’re paying off. This is important as almost 1-in-4 dollars in the municipal budget are currently dedicated to debt service on previous capital purchases. We have been steadily reducing Township debt over the past 10 years and are working to continue reducing debt and limiting annual interest and principal payments to less than 15% of our annual budget.

Beyond these headline numbers, I thought it would be helpful to share several examples of how we are saving money and provide a preview of what lies ahead.

First, we continue to work towards new shared services with neighboring municipalities, enabling us to provide and/or receive services for less. 2024 is the first full year of our shared Health & Animal Control agreement with Hopewell and Pennington Boroughs. We also continue to take advantage of Mercer County’s Mill and Pave mutual assistance program – essentially, if we provide the materials (typically 50% of the total cost for a road project) and the County is working on an adjacent road, the County public works team will do the actual milling and paving work. Shared services will save Hopewell Township residents over \$1.25 Million this year.



HOPEWELL TOWNSHIP

Smarter About Equipment We Purchase

8 Cubic Yard Truck	16 Cubic Yard Truck	92 Cubic Yard Capacity Truck
		



We are aggressively pursuing outside grants to help cover Township services. These grants include NJ Department grants, health grants from the opioid settlement and monies from the state towards body armor replacement. At the end of 2023, we received \$2.06 Million in grants towards our new Senior + Community Center from the NJ Department of Community Affairs and Mercer County. Past grants are supporting renovations and new equipment for our 911 Dispatch Center as well as the new band shell at Woolsey Park.

A final example of how we are saving money is through smarter equipment purchases. In recent years, the Public

Works team has moved from single axle trucks to double axel trucks – these new vehicles can carry two times more salt during winter snow operations, saving significant time and money. We also recently purchased a new compactor truck which has a 92 cubic yard capacity vs. the 8 cubic yard capacity of the previous single axle trucks – this enables us to pick-up more brush on each trip, reducing labor and fuel costs. Here’s a simple example – a round trip to Mountain Church and Hopewell Wertsville Roads is 24.2 miles and takes 44 minutes; one day of hauling with our new compactor truck saves 484 minutes of staff time and 266 total vehicle miles. This translates to a \$134 reduction in fuel costs, in addition to the staff costs.

Similarly, our Police are in the process of shifting their fleet to hybrid patrol vehicles. We are already seeing significant savings as these hybrids are achieving +50% better fuel mileage versus traditional police vehicles. Importantly, the hybrids can also power the onboard electrical equipment via battery power, reducing engine wear and tear – on average, engine hours are down by 52%. This should help extend the useful life of each patrol vehicle.

Looking ahead, one key area of focus will be to diversify the Township’s revenue base and reduce our reliance on residential property taxes. This includes new monies from our PILOT programs on the new developments on Scotch Road and the former BMS campus. In 2024, we will realize \$400,000 in new revenues from PILOTs. Additionally, we are anticipating a \$5.2 Million payment from Beigene towards our affordable housing fund – this will enable us in future years to fully cover the debt service on Pennytown, freeing up monies to support core Township operations.

I hope this article gives you a better sense of how we are working to get the best value for your dollar. I would like to thank our Township staff and professionals for their help in delivering a responsible budget.

Kevin D. Kuchinski, Committee Member, kdkhopewelltwp@gmail.com

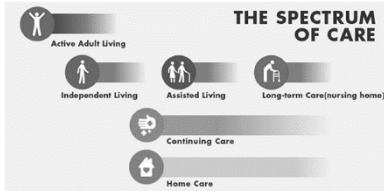


Levels of Home Care

Friday, August 2 @ 10:00am
Hopewell Borough Hall
88 East Broad Street, Hopewell



Join us as we discuss with Paul Euell from Synergy HomeCare, the different levels of Home Care offered and what would work best for us as we age.



Registration Requested, Senior Services,
609-537-0236 or
seniorservices@hopewelltp.org



In Honor of National Senior Citizen's day...

Friday, August 23
1:00pm - 2:30pm
Hopewell Township Building

Register with Hopewell Valley Senior Services.
609-537-0236 or seniorservices@hopewelltp.org
Space is limited.

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GrandPals

Building relationships with Elementary Students through the power of reading.

The GrandPals program builds friendships between elementary school children and seniors in their community. In this program, an older adult is matched with two to three young learners, providing a wonderful opportunity for different generations to get to know one another and share a love of reading. As they read stories together, talk about books, pets, what life was like when their GrandPal was young, and so on, a bond develops between generations.

GrandPals provides older adults with an opportunity to share their experiences, skills and interests, while the children get a chance to listen to and talk about stories, have their questions answered, and learn how to relate to an older adult.

We are expanding our program to three elementary schools during the 2024-2025 school year: Bear Tavern, Stony Brook and Toll Gate! The program will take place at the schools weekly during the school year. The GrandPals will meet with the kindergartners for about 30 minutes.

We will be hosting an information session over the summer for all GrandPals old and new who are interested in participating in the 2024-2025 program. If you are interested in volunteering or have any questions about the program, please do not hesitate to contact Randi.

Randi Malkiewicz, Senior Services Coordinator
seniorservices@hopewelltp.org
or (609)537.0236

Contact Randi Malkiewicz, Senior Services Coordinator
seniorservices@hopewelltp.org
609-537-0236
www.hopewelltp.org/seniors

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