

## MEMORANDUM

From: Michael McKeon, Ward 3 Commissioner (email: [mmckeon@lowermerion.org](mailto:mmckeon@lowermerion.org))

Re: Lower Merion Township Report #64

Date: March 6, 2021

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### Library Fundraising

Lower Merion's libraries depend heavily on fundraising and the COVID-19 crisis has caused fundraising and budgetary issues for our libraries. The Belmont Hills Library Board reported a successful yearend reconciliation for 2020 thanks to a reduction in expenses and successful fundraising. **THANK YOU** to the residents who made some extremely generous donations to help our libraries.

### Tax Forms at the Belmont Hills Library

Tax season is approaching and some residents with limited computer access have typically relied on libraries to print tax forms. This year, the Belmont Hills Library can set aside the following tax forms for residents through contactless drop-off: **PA-40, Federal 1040 and 1040-SR forms, booklet, and instructions**

The library can handle related print jobs within reason, but cannot perform large print jobs.

### Lower Merion Township job postings

A list of Township job postings is available here:

<https://www.lowermerion.org/services/human-resources-department/job-opportunities>

### Traffic Calming

On February 17, 2021, the Board of Commissioners reviewed four traffic calming applications in various places in the Township, including a transverse rumble strip application on Ashland Avenue (Belmont Hills). The Board voted on each project individually and unanimously approved all four. The Ashland application was the least expensive, and including labor, the project is expected to cost \$1,000-\$2,000. The rumble strip is comprised of ground grooves and typically causes vehicles to reduce their speed by 1-4 MPH. The Lower Merion police superintendent does not expect the impact to be significant enough to divert cars onto other streets. 75 households in and around Ashland Avenue previously signed a petition asking for traffic calming measures on Ashland, and it is hoped that the strip will make a modest but important impact.

### Pothole Patrol

It is the time of year when **potholes** start to emerge. You can report potholes to the Township by dialing: 610-645-4782 or through the LM REPORT-IT App, which you can access through the App Store: <https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/citysourced/id1099969167>

### FENCE UPDATE

The **Lower Merion Planning Commission** is meeting on **March 15** to discuss fence regulations, including **fence material prohibitions**. I have previously expressed my support for **loosening fence material restrictions**. The Planning Commission is an advisory board that will make recommendations to the Board of Commissioners, and the Board of Commissioners will later vote on fence amendments. To participate/leave comment, go here:

<https://www.lowermerion.org/Home/Components/Calendar/Event/13219/53>

### **LCB Senior Living Center Update (Ward 3)**

Construction is ongoing at the new high-end senior living center located across the street from the CVS on Rock Hill Rd. A leasing office is open at 230 Rock Hill Rd. The building will contain 84 total units, purposed for memory care (22 units) and independent/assisted living (62 units), and plans to open around **December, 2021**. More info here:

<https://www.lcbseiorliving.com/communities/residence-at-bala-cynwyd/>

### **PUBLIC WORKS PIPELINE !**

Join Paul McElhaney, Al Augustine and me for the newest episode of the PUBLIC WORKS PIPELINE on LMTV, which features a discussion of the **Sanitary Sewer** division as well as storm recovery, the noise ordinance and other issues. Video here:

<https://lmtv.viebit.com/player.php?hash=aq5q4vFDX5xP>

And for those who are interested in binge-watching the PUBLIC WORKS PIPELINE, you can catch our last episode about the (1) **Electrical** (street lights) and (2) **Facilities** (Township buildings) divisions, also featuring the dynamic duo of Paul and Al, here:

<https://lmtv.viebit.com/player.php?hash=zvpHF1Dq3l0w>

### **PROPOSED PAVING LIST (WARD 3)**

The 2021 proposed paving list for Ward 3 is as follows:

Helen Circle	Centennial Road to Cul-De-Sac
Caranel Circle	Centennial Road to Cul-De-Sac
Centennial Road *	Mary Waters Ford Road to Conshohoken State Road
Woodbine Avenue *	Greentree Lane to Hillcrest Road
Woodbine Avenue *	Hillcrest Road to Greentree Lane
Woodbine Avenue *	Greentree Lane to Koegel Complex Entrance
Woodbine Avenue *	Koegel Complex Entrance to Mary Waters Ford Road

**Mary Waters Ford Road** was initially scheduled for a full pave in 2021 but the work was deferred for one year because Aqua must perform water line work in the area this year. The full paving is now scheduled to occur in 2022, once Aqua's work is done. Interim repairs can continue this year. For more information on the paving schedule, you can watch the March 3, 2021 Public Works Committee meeting beginning at the 1 hr 17 minute and 8 second mark:

<https://lmtv.viebit.com/player.php?hash=WBMSejjEP0PL#>

The **Neighborhood Club of Bala Cynwyd** seeks a new board member. You can email Civic President Ricky Guerra for more info: [rguerra77@gmail.com](mailto:rguerra77@gmail.com)

The **Penn Valley Civic Association** met on February 25, 2021 to discuss **land stewardship**. The main page of the Civic's website features a series of helpful land stewardship links.

<http://www.pennvalleycivic.org/>

### **The Ironworks at Pencoyd Landing (Ward 9)**

The new hotel on Righters Ferry Road has opened, and the first-floor café expects to open to the public in a few weeks to serve breakfast and lunch. The hotel's rooftop restaurant/bar ("Lark") is still under construction.

### **Mary Waters Ford Road Traffic Island (Ward 3)**

The Belmont Hills Civic Association is in the process of partnering with the Township to maintain the traffic island at Mary Waters Ford Rd. As part of the agreement, the Township will provide funding in the amount of \$250 to the Civic for plantings. Thank you to the residents and Belmont Hills Civic for making this possible.

### **Aqua Work Main in Penn Valley (Wards 2 and 3)**

Aqua will be replacing 7,700 feet of pipe on portions of Sprague Rd, Fawn Hill Rd and June Ln. The work is scheduled to begin on **March 10, 2021** and will last approximately 16 weeks. Aqua is sending letters to impacted residents with more details. Neighbors can also call Michael Staerk, Aqua's Superintendent of Construction, at 215-659-2505 for more information about the project.

### **COVID-19 UPDATE**

Lower Merion has reported 2,588 positive cases and 104 deaths as of March 4, 2021. Montgomery County has reported 1,233 COVID deaths. Pennsylvania has recorded 941,439 COVID cases.

Montgomery County has set-up two COVID tests sites for appointment-only testing. The sites are located at 114 W. Lancaster Avenue in Ardmore (610-970-2937), and 352 Righters Mill Rd in Gladwyne (610-649-1100).

COVID remains a fluid situation. The Township is working on a public pool protocol and plans to open **pool registration** in early April. **Township libraries** are open for contactless services but are otherwise closed to the public. Township libraries may re-open to the public around early April, subject to social distancing. The Parks and Rec department has issued permits to applicants who wish to use **Township fields** for spring/summer sports.

Lower Merion Township has **CARES Act** public service grants and will accept applications through **March 8, 2021**. The funds are available to support non-profit public service organizations who are working to prevent, prepare for and respond to the COVID-19 pandemic by providing new and/or additional services related to food resources, senior programming and community programming. To apply visit: <https://www.lowermerion.org/cdbg>

### **VEHICLE RESCUE (MARCH 5, 2021)**



Engine 24, Rescue 22, Rescue 21 and 313 responded to Conshohocken State and Mill Creek Road for a vehicle rescue. Crews had one subject in the car over the embankment. It was a successful rescue and great job by all on scene.



<p><b>RECYCLING SCHEDULE</b></p> <p>It can be difficult to keep track of the refuse collection schedule, especially with the recent snow storms.</p> <p>To the right is the <b>recycling schedule</b> for 2021</p>	<b>Paper</b>	<b>Commingle</b>																																																			
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**CRIME & POLICE ACTIVITY REPORT** Below is a summary of recent police activity in Ward 3:

Date	Type	Location	Comments
2/4/21	Vehicle Accident	Belmont & Rock Hill Rd	
2/5/21	Vehicle Accident	Belmont & Levering Mill	
2/5/21	Disorderly Conduct	100 Block Pencoyd Ave	State Law Violation
2/6/21	Vehicle Accident	Belmont & I-76	
2/9/21	Vehicle Accident	Unit Block of Jefferson Street	
2/9/21	Vehicle Accident	193 Belmont (Wawa)	Private property/no injury
2/12/21	Vehicle Accident	Belmont & I-76	Injury
2/15/21	Vehicle Accident	193 Belmont Ave (Wawa)	Private property/no injury
2/16/21	Vehicle Accident	Belmont & 100 Belmont	
2/23/21	Vehicle Accident	Belmont & I-76	
2/26/21	Vehicle Accident	1300 Woodbine Ave	No injury/on Township property

**UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS**

March 8	7:00 p.m.	<b>Belmont Hills Library Board Meeting</b> via Zoom
March 10	6:00 p.m.	<b>LM Committee Meetings</b>
March 15	7:00 p.m.	<b>LM Planning Commission Meeting</b> via Zoom re: Fences
March 17	7:30 p.m.	<b>LM Board of Commissioners Meeting</b>
March 18	7:00 p.m.	<b>Penn Valley Civic Meeting</b> via Zoom <a href="http://www.pennvalleycivic.org/">http://www.pennvalleycivic.org/</a>
March 19	10:30 a.m.	<b>Pam DeLissio 104<sup>th</sup> Town Hall</b>
April 5	6:30 p.m.	<b>Belmont Hills Civic Meeting</b> via Zoom <a href="http://belmonthillscivic.org/">http://belmonthillscivic.org/</a>
April 6	7:30 p.m.	<b>Neighborhood Club of Bala Cynwyd Meeting</b> <a href="https://balacynwyd.org/">https://balacynwyd.org/</a>
April 17	9-11a.m.	<b>Pam DeLissio Free Shred Event</b> Magisterial District Courthouse, 925 Montgomery Ave, Narberth
April 24		<b>Penn Valley Civic Tree Planting</b> Pencoyd Park
May 3	6:30 p.m.	<b>Belmont Hills Civic Meeting</b>
May 18		<b>Primary Election Day</b>

To receive FACEBOOK updates about Township issues, you can “like” or “follow” me here: <https://www.facebook.com/LowerMerionWard3Commissioner>