

MEMORANDUM

To: Residents of Lower Merion Township, Ward 3

From: Michael McKeon, Ward 3 Commissioner

Re: Lower Merion Township, Ward 3 Report #25

Date: May 18, 2019

CURRENT EVENTS

ZONING CODE UPDATE

The Township unveiled its most recent draft of the new Township zoning code on May 17, 2019. **This draft contains the fire rebuild protection language which I discussed previously that will preserve rebuild rights for owners of non-conforming residential properties in Belmont Hills. See section 11.5 (p. 31), which is accessible here:**

https://www.lowermerion.org/home/showdocument?id=22092&fbclid=IwAROP7ssFfNEVjBfzgBUNXM3TUOm8A-IHpPPL0pMBKegzclVONFROxiPr_4

The code's projected completion date was extended for further edits/improvements. A hearing to authorize the code for advertisement is now scheduled to occur on **July 31, 2019**, and the Board of Commissioners is scheduled to vote on whether to adopt the code on **September 18, 2019**.

NEW PUBLIC MIDDLE SCHOOL

On May 8, 2019, the Commissioners approved the School District's Tentative Sketch Plan for the **new public middle school** by a vote of 11-3. I voted in favor of the Plan and also supported several amendments on the bases of safety, walkability and historic preservation as the Commissioners attached numerous conditions of approval. The school will be located at 1860 Montgomery Avenue in Villanova (Ward 6) and will educate approximately 1,200 students per year in grades 5-8. It should provide enrollment relief for our crowded public elementary and middle schools and is scheduled to open in the fall of 2022. The next stage in the land development process is the Preliminary Plan. Video of the May 8 meeting is here: <https://lmtv.viebit.com/player.php?hash=RDo4gbmoLAg0>

Please watch video of the **May 9, 2019 School Board candidate forum** hosted by the Merion Civic Assoc. to learn about the candidates. Video link:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=youtu.be&v=8qqz5INCHJI&fbclid=IwAR1W4CzShux5tedFf7MOTwAQd4C_Ru70SdzgAuH7NKg5GE2GTbjrtsFJd1o&app=desktop

THE MUNICIPAL PRIMARY ELECTION is **MAY 21, 2019**. The polling center for **Precinct 3-1** has returned to the **Belmont Hills Library**. The other Ward 3 polling locations will remain the same (**3-2 at Welsh Valley Middle School**, and **3-3 at the Belmont Hills Firehouse**). Voters must be registered to a political party to vote in that party's primary. A new voter-marked paper ballot system will be used (<https://www.montcopa.org/3112/New-Voting-System>) so please allow extra time at the poll.

I maintain a Facebook page. To receive updates in your Facebook feed, like/follow my page:
<https://www.facebook.com/LowerMerionWard3Commissioner/>

Thank you to the **PENN VALLEY CIVIC ASSOCIATION** for hosting a **tree planting event** at Penn Valley Elementary School on April 27. We planted 3 native trees which will fit in with the environment and live up to 400 years. When planting trees, it is important to use non-invasive species which will conform with our ecosystem. The Civic's website lists some recommended tree species for the area: <http://www.pennvalleycivic.org/recommended-trees-for-our-area>



We had a **packed house** at the **BELMONT HILLS CIVIC ASSOCIATION'S May 6 meeting**. It is very encouraging to see the increased attendance and engagement.

The next meeting will be on **June 3 (7 p.m.)** at the **Belmont Hills Library**. Among other things, we will try to work on **traffic calming measures** to reduce speeding and increase pedestrian safety. **This process requires a coordinated effort from the Civic association, commissioner and residents.**



If you cannot attend the next meeting, you can access the Civic's website here and get in touch via email: <http://belmonthillscivic.org/>

The civic relies heavily on donations. There are only 74 members out of the 564 properties in Belmont Hills (14%). Please help the Civic!



The **NEIGHBORHOOD CLUB OF BALA CYNWYD** is seeking **commercial and personal sponsors** for its 103rd annual **4th of July parade and festival**. There are opportunities to sponsor vehicles in the parade, events, banners etc. and there is a sponsorship booklet. Please contact Li Halpern (July4@LiHalpern.com) or Maxine Goldberg (Maxine.goldberg@foxroa.ch.com) for more details



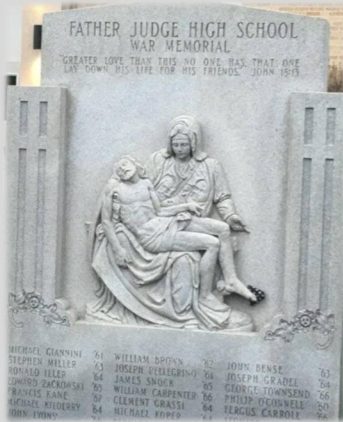
The Neighborhood Club's website is here: <https://balacynwyd.org/>

There are many great **MEMORIAL DAY events** in and around Lower Merion on **May 27**. The **American Legion** will hold a **ceremony** at **Belmont Hills Elementary School** to honor residents who died while serving in World War I and II. The service starts at **9:30 a.m.**, with residents beginning to gather around 9:15 a.m.

There is also a **parade in Ardmore** which begins at **10:30 a.m.** on **Lancaster Avenue/Greenfield Ave** and ends with a service at **St. Paul's Cemetery (Argyle Rd)**.



On the topic of Memorial Day, I invite you to watch the documentary "REMEMBER THE 27 CRUSADERS," on Fox 29 on **Sunday, May 26** from **4:00-5:00 p.m.**



The documentary film recounts the lives, military service and deaths of 27 Father Judge High School graduates who fought in the Vietnam War. Father Judge H.S., in the Northeast section of Philadelphia, suffered more fatalities in Vietnam than any other Catholic or private high school in America that still exists today. The film explores the impact to the families and community by the loss of its sons.

27 Crusaders Trailer:

<https://youtu.be/gzsgAsh2Qzw>



I want to thank Township staff and the LMPD for quickly placing permanent "No Stopping or Standing" signs on the westbound side of the **1300 Block of Flat Rock Rd**. The Commissioners unanimously approved these signs in April. Vehicles are no longer permitted to park on this side of Flat Rock Rd during certain week night and weekend hours, because excessive vehicle parking can cause traffic delays and possible safety hazards. **If you are attending Welsh Valley Middle School for a week night or weekend event, please obey these signs or you may be ticketed.**

AQUA SUMMER WORK (Ward 3) – On or about **May 20, 2019**, Aqua will begin installing **NEW WATER MAINS IN BELMONT HILLS**. The \$1,160,000 project to install the water mains/service lines is anticipated to take 12 to 16 weeks to complete, with final restoration to be completed by Aqua in the Fall 2019, weather permitting. The work hours will be between 8am and 4pm. Any questions or concerns can be directed to Mike Staerk, Aqua’s Superintendent of Construction, at 215-659-2505, ext. 56005. Affected streets include:

- **Jefferson Street from Mary Waters Ford Road to Ashland Avenue.**
- **Price Street from Jefferson Street to Ashland Avenue.**
- **Ashland Avenue from Lyle Ave to Jefferson Street.**
- **Highland Avenue from Jefferson Street to Jones Street.**
- **Jones Street from Highland Avenue to the dead end on Leedom Avenue.**
- **Ebenezer Avenue from Price Street to Highland Avenue.**

You may have noticed a recent Aqua water main break on **Woodbine Avenue** which caused bumps and patchiness in the road. Aqua has been restoring the road and is nearly finished. This is not a final pave as PECO plans to replace its main early next spring.

The PA Dept of Health recently issued the first approval for a **Medical Marijuana Dispensary** in Lower Merion Township. The location is the space previously occupied by Viking Pastries on 35-39 Cricket Ave in **Ardmore**. Occupancy cannot occur until the operator completes renovations and complies with all state and local requirements.

CRIME & POLICE ACTIVITY REPORT Below is a summary of recent police activity in Ward 3:

Date	Type	Location	Comments
4/27/19	Vehicle Accident	Belmont & Jefferson	
4/29/19	Vehicle Accident	Jefferson & Hyland	
5/1/19	Theft	260 Rock Hill Rd (CVS)	\$50 to \$200 - Retail
5/3/19	Vehicle Accident	101 Belmont Ave (Sunoco)	
5/4/19	Criminal Mischief	Unit Block Cornell Rd	Automobile
5/7/19	Vehicle Accident	Belmont & I-76 Entrance	
5/8/19	Vehicle Accident	Belmont & Jefferson	
5/9/19	Vehicle Accident	Belmont & Rock Hill Rd	
5/10/19	Family Disturbance	Gainsboro Rd	Domestic
5/11/19	Family Disturbance	Ashland Ave	Domestic
5/11/19	Vehicle Accident	Rock Hill Rd & Consh St Rd	
5/13/19	Vehicle Accident	101 Belmont Ave (Sunoco)	No injury- private property

- **PLEASE LOCK YOUR CAR DOORS!** Theft from unlocked cars is a significant issue in the Township. As the **weather gets warmer**, thieves are more inclined to seek easy scores from unlocked car doors.
- During the April 27 National Prescription Drug Take Back Day, LM police officers collected **78 pounds** of unused/expired drugs for disposal.
- Also on April 27, a man was found allegedly overdosing on **heroin** at the **Bala Train Station**. <https://www.tapinto.net/towns/lower-merion-and-narberth/articles/heroin-overdose-man-found-in-bala-station-charges-pending>



I am sad to report that my next-door neighbor and longtime Belmont Hills firefighter **GREG EFFRON** will be moving out of the area. Greg has been a super neighbor and great friend to my family. Greg plans to stay involved with the Belmont Hills fire company and noted that the most difficult part of the move will be missing the camaraderie of his fellow firefighters. We are happy for Greg and wish him the best of luck in his next step in life.

McMoran Park Playground officially re-opened on May 15. Although contractors may perform some final work (cutting grass/adding topsoil), the Playground is available for use and we hope everyone enjoys it!

As an update for the **senior living center** which is to be built at 211 Belmont Ave, the developer expects to be in a position to commence construction activities in the **late summer of 2019**.

UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS

May 18	8:00am-2:00pm	Cynwyd Heritage Trail Clean Up (Meet at Barmouth) For more info, email Kitty at: rapmill@msn.com
May 18	2:00 p.m.	“Remember Paoli!” Discussion of the Paoli Massacre (Sept. 1777) Ludington Library
May 19	3:00 p.m.	Meet Ray Courtney, the Newest LM Commissioner Hosted by former Ward 5 Commissioner Cheryl Gelber and her husband Richard, 330 Aubrey Rd, Wynnewood 19096
May 20	6:30 p.m.	Police & Minority Relations Committee Meeting , Ludington Library
May 21		Sydney Harper Foundation 2nd Annual “Light It Up Pink”
MAY 21		MUNICIPAL PRIMARY ELECTION
May 22	6:00 p.m.	Building & Planning Committee Meeting , re: New Zoning Code
May 26	9:30am-3:30pm	Kosloff Torah Academy Color Run on the Cynwyd Trail (rain date 6/2)
May 27		MEMORIAL DAY
	9:30 a.m.	Service at Belmont Hills Elementary School (BH firehouse if rain)
	10:30 a.m.	Parade in Ardmore
June 1	10:00a.m.-3p.m.	Alex’s Lemonade Stand Event , Penn Wynne Elementary School https://www.alexlemonade.org/event/268/register
June 3		Planning Commission , Edits for New Zoning Code
June 3	7:00 p.m.	Belmont Hills Civic Meeting , Belmont Hills Library
June 5	6:00 p.m.	Building & Planning Committee Meeting , Zoning Code Discussion
June 12	6:00 p.m.	LM Committee Meetings
June 15-16	9:00am-noon	Cynwyd Trail Summer Clean Up Email Kitty at: rapmill@msn.com
June 19	7:30 p.m.	Board of Commissioners Meeting
July 4		Neighborhood Club of Bala Cynwyd 4th of July Festival 9:30 a.m.- Parade begins near Bala Firehouse/149 Montgomery Ave 10:00 a.m.- Festival at Bala Park (398 Trevor Lane)
July 31		Building & Planning Committee Meeting and Board of Commissioners Meeting – Authorization to Advertise New Code
Sept 18		Board of Commissioners – Hearing re: Adoption of Zoning Code

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