

## MEMORANDUM

To: Residents of Lower Merion Township, Ward 3

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

Re: Lower Merion Township, Ward 3 Report #35

Date: Nov. 16, 2019

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### CURRENT EVENTS

#### BELMONT HILLS LIBRARY – 6 DAYS A WEEK...?

The Belmont Hills Library is open 5 days a week. All other Township libraries are open 6 or 7 days per week. The B. H. Library Board asked for a program which would allow it to be open on a 6<sup>th</sup> day (Fridays) in 2020. Library attendance is much higher now than it was before the library closed for renovations in 2017, and I wholeheartedly support a 6<sup>th</sup> day. The Township allocates library hours based upon **usage**, so please show that Belmont Hills Library deserves a 6<sup>th</sup> day by visiting our great library, which covers Belmont Hills and Penn Valley.



*The Belmont Hills Library celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a fundraiser event which included dinner, trivia, and an auction at the Belmont Hills Fire House on Nov. 9, 2019. If you are wondering, that is Burt Reynolds on the screen.*

### SEIZE THE DAIS !



I want to thank everyone who helped elect me on Nov. 5, 2019 and a special thank you to my wife Jenn and family for supporting me. I am excited to serve for 4 more years on the Board of Commissioners. **Congrats** also to Board President **Dan Bernheim** and Commissioner **Ray Courtney** (pictured to my left) who were also elected to 4 years terms. Also **congrats** to **Tiffany O'Neill** who was elected to another 4 year term. And I am looking forward to working with **Gilda Kramer**, **Sean Whalen** and **David McComb**, who were just elected and will be joining the Board of Commissioners in 2020.

## **ROCK HILL ROAD APARTMENT PROJECT(S)**

Two apartment projects were recently planned for Rock Hill Rd. Developer Hanover sought to construct a **332-unit, 5 story project** at **131/151 Rock Hill Rd**, but it has abandoned the project. It is possible that a new project may spring up at that location, and if you are concerned about the site, please keep an eye out for activity. A **34-unit, 5 story project** is planned for **21 Rock Hill Rd**. I believe the developer plans to make presentations about the project at upcoming meetings of the Neighborhood Club of Bala Cynwyd and Belmont Hills Civic Association. The application is scheduled to go before the Planning Commission on **Dec. 2, 2019**.

## **SLOWER MERION!**

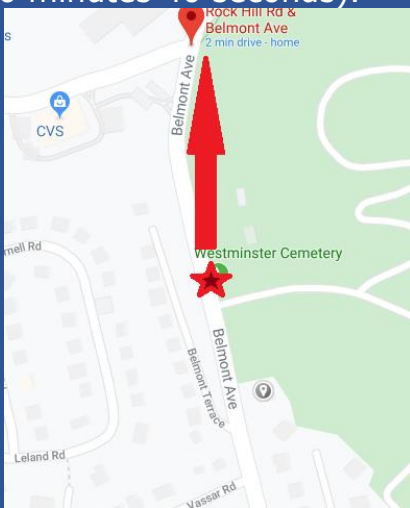
Belmont Hills residents have submitted a traffic calming petition for **Ashland Avenue** to reduce speeding and increase safety. Per Township policy, the petition required signatures from 80% of the homes on Ashland to qualify for traffic calming. This is a new policy, and a recent petition for River Road has been approved. Information about the petition policy is here: <https://www.lowermerion.org/services/police-department/traffic-safety-unit>

## **Township Meetings**

**Nov. 6 ZONING CODE UPDATE:** The Building & Planning Committee discussed further revisions to the **Zoning Code**. Video here: <https://lmtv.viebit.com/player.php?hash=7GQDMSVGB0i3>

**Nov. 14 TOWNSHIP MEETINGS** In a committee session, the Commissioners approved the School District's tentative sketch for **fields at the new middle school** with conditions by a vote of 8-6.

I voiced my support for the **E Levering Mill pedestrian/bike safety project** (2 hr 20 minutes 40 seconds).



There was a brief discussion of the status of the **Belmont Avenue road-widening project** (1 hr 12 minutes).

The road-widening is planned to begin at the location of the red star (north of the entrance/exit to Westminster Cemetery) and proceed northbound to the expressway entrance. The road-widening will be in one direction (traffic exiting the township). There is no projected start date for the construction. Video of the Nov. 14 meeting here: <https://lmtv.viebit.com/player.php?hash=BFVsO6c4rJhR>

The Township is in the process of finalizing its budget and is **not** projecting an increase for Township taxes. This will be the **9<sup>th</sup> year in a row without a Township tax increase**. A solid waste fee increase is also **not** projected.

## JEFFERSON STREET UPDATE



Jefferson Street underwent water main construction and patching this year. It is scheduled to be repaved next year.

The Township will monitor the road throughout the winter and make repairs if needed. **If you see a pot hole, large depression, cracking etc., please report the issue to LM public works.**

## WELSH VALLEY MIDDLE SCHOOL BUS PARKING

The Lower Merion School District intends to submit a plan to use the area of **St. Justin's Church** for possible bus parking. The School District purchased this property in 2012 for approximately \$2.5 million. Under the proposed plan, the former church building will remain in place. I believe the School Board can provide additional information at its **Nov. 18, 2019** meeting (8-10 p.m., LM School District Admin Bldg, Board Room).

**LEAF PICK-UP** can be delayed in the fall due to high volume weekends. If leaves are not picked up on their collection day, they should be left out. Staff will pass down streets on multiple occasions and may miss bags if they are set out and then put back inside. If several days pass and the bags are not picked up, residents can call 610-645-6150 or 610-664-1959.

The cold weather is here, so please be careful about using **rock salt**. Road salt levels in some Philadelphia streams hit toxic levels last year. Darby Creek (Berwyn) had the highest chloride level of local streams which were tested. To improve this problem, please: (1) shovel first to reduce the need for salt, (2) don't use excessive salt, and (3) sweep up after the snow melts and reuse the salt.

## **Building Fire - 1710 Oakwood Terrace, Penn Valley (Ward 2)**

On Nov. 5, 2019, the Belmont Hills Fire Company and several other stations were dispatched to a building fire at the Oakwood Terrace condominiums. Chief 22 arrived first and reported smoke and fire. Firefighters contained and extinguished the fire in a utility room which was attached to the condominiums. Prior to the fire, work was reportedly being done to a heater. The cause of the fire was accidental. No injuries were reported.

**Pedestrian Injury** (Ward 13) - On Nov. 1, 2019 at 9:14 a.m., a driver turned left from Old Lancaster Rd. to go west on Montgomery Ave, striking a pedestrian walking northbound in the crosswalk. The pedestrian suffered injuries and was transported to a hospital for treatment. The operator of the vehicle reportedly did not observe the pedestrian in the crosswalk prior to the collision. Independent witnesses reported that the pedestrian was in the crosswalk and had the signal to cross. The vehicle operator was cited.

**PENCOYD IRON WORKS**

The Lower Merion Historical Society is working with researchers to put together a book which covers the Pencoyd Iron Works, a former factory site in Bala. The book may be published In April, 2020. I have seen some photos and they truly depict a bygone industrial era.

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

<b><u>Date</u></b>	<b><u>Type</u></b>	<b><u>Location</u></b>	<b><u>Comments</u></b>
10/30/19	Disorderly Conduct	Belmont Ave	Harassment by Communication
10/31/19	Vehicle Accident	Rock Hill & Belmont	Pedestrian Injury
10/31/19	Vehicle Accident	Jefferson & Price	
10/31/19	Vehicle Accident	1300 Woodbine Ave (Koegel)	Private property
11/1/19	DUI	Ashland & Price	DUI- Alcohol and Drugs
11/7/19	Vehicle Accident	Greentree & Woodbine Rd	
11/8/19	Vehicle Accident	189 Belmont Ave (Wawa)	Private property
11/11/19	Vehicle Accident	Belmont & Rt 76 West Ramp	

**PLEASE LOCK YOUR CAR DOORS!** Theft from unlocked vehicles is a big issue in the Township.

**UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS**

Nov 16-17	8:30 a.m.	<b>Cynwyd Heritage Trail Clean-Up Weekend</b> Barmouth Station Trailhead
Nov 18	8-10 p.m.	<b>School Board Meeting</b> , Admin Bldg, Board Room Regular Business/Information re: Welsh Valley MS Bus Parking
Nov 20	6:30 p.m.	<b>Township Meetings re: Budget and Capital Improvement Plan</b> First public hearing for proposed Township budget Opportunity for public comment re: E Levering Mill ped/bike safety
Nov 21	7-9 p.m.	<b>Pam DeLissio Town Hall #90</b> , 4349 Ridge Ave, Philadelphia
Nov 28		<b>Cynwyd Trail Thanksgiving Morning Bike Ride</b>
Dec 2	6:30-7:45 p.m.	<b>Belmont Hills Civic Assoc. Meeting</b> , Belmont Hills Library <a href="http://belmonthillscivic.org/">http://belmonthillscivic.org/</a>
Dec 2	7:00 p.m.	<b>LM Planning Commission Meeting</b> , 21 Rock Hill Rd Flag Lot application
Dec 3	9-11 a.m.	<b>Coffee with a Cop</b> , Starbucks, 766 Lancaster Ave, Bryn Mawr No agenda- Just a chance to ask questions and talk to an officer
Dec 4	7:30 p.m.	<b>Penn Valley Civic Meeting</b> , Penn Valley Elementary School Library w/ State Rep Mary Jo Daley <a href="http://www.pennvalleycivic.org/">http://www.pennvalleycivic.org/</a>
Dec 4		<b>Township Meetings re: Budget and Capital Improvement Plan</b>
Dec 7	11:30 a.m.	<b>NAACP Freedom Fund Luncheon</b> , Mt Zion Church, Devon
Dec 8	Noon-4 p.m.	<b>Narberth Dickens Festival</b>
Dec 10	10:30 a.m.	<b>Music Time w/ Erin</b> , Belmont Hills Library (all ages)
Dec 10	7:30 p.m.	<b>Neighborhood Club of Bala Cynwyd Meeting</b> <a href="https://balacynwyd.org/">https://balacynwyd.org/</a>
Dec 11	6:00 p.m.	<b>LM Building &amp; Planning Committee Meeting</b>
Dec 14	2-4 p.m.	<b>Jane Austen Tea Party</b> , Belmont Hills Library. Celebrate Ms. Austen's 244 <sup>th</sup> B-day. 16+ yrs or older are welcome to come in period dress
Dec 18	8:00 p.m.	<b>LM Board of Commissioners Meeting re: Budget/Zoning Code</b> Final Township Meeting of 2019
Jan 6	6:30-7:45 p.m.	<b>Belmont Hills Civic Assoc. Meeting</b> , Belmont Hills Library

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