

MEMORANDUM

To: Residents of Lower Merion Township, Ward 3

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

Re: Lower Merion Township, Ward 3 Report #34

Date: Nov. 3, 2019

CURRENT EVENTS

Congratulations and Thank You to the BELMONT HILLS FIRE COMPANY, which celebrated its 100th anniversary during a festive banquet on October 19, 2019. State Representative Pam DeLissio and I had the privilege of presenting commendations from the State and Township to Chief P.J. Fusaro and the Fire Company to show our appreciation of the Fire Company's longstanding service and dedication to the community.



(FROM LEFT TO RIGHT, ME, FRANK LUTZ, ROCCO BURDO, PAT FUSARO & ERNIE BAFFA)

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 Belmont Hills Library Board has asked for a program which would allow it to be open on a 6th day (likely Fridays) in 2020. Library attendance is much higher now than it was before the library closed for renovations in 2017, and I absolutely support a 6th day. The Township allocates library hours based upon **usage**, so please show that Belmont Hills Library deserves a 6th day by visiting and using our great library.

The Fire Company is not the only venerable Belmont Hills institution celebrating a milestone. The Belmont Hills Library is turning 50 and will celebrate on **Saturday, Nov. 9, 2019** with trivia night at, where else, but the Belmont Hills Fire Company. The cost is \$25 per person (age 21+) which includes food, drinks and trivia. Register here:

<https://interland3.donorperfect.net/weblink/weblink.aspx?name=E99974&id=13&fbclid=IwAR35IaRpIIGJ10EyM3zd-AgjcDHpx3skfZsHHWAt4HeAce5RvAhnDSv0Gus>

MEDICAL MARIJUANA UPDATE

McKee Group (PharmaPenn, LLC d/b/a MedGarden) recently submitted an application to open a medical marijuana facility at **232 Rock Hill Rd** (next to CVS). Separate from the Township application, McKee Group will need the State of Pennsylvania to issue it a permit in Phase III of the State's medical marijuana program before it can go forward at 232 Rock Hill Rd. News outlets reported that McKee Group applied for a permit for a Delco facility near a quarry in 2017 but fell slightly short: http://www.delconewsnetwork.com/news/region/delco-s-medical-marijuana-bids-fall-short/article_05242f08-c635-5436-aa47-b30bc301d273.html

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 tentatively scheduled to go before the Planning Commission on **Dec. 2, 2019**.

UPDATE RE: SENIOR LIVING CENTER – 211 BELMONT AVE



LCB is constructing a 6-story, high end senior living center at the intersection of Rock Hill Rd and Belmont Ave (opposite to the CVS) in place of the old mill and flower outlet. On Nov. 1, the Township issued a Minor Grading Permit with a “Construction Sequence” requiring control measures which must be installed and inspected by the Township before a demolition permit can be released. There is no demolition date as of now for the old mill/outlet.

The structure is in poor condition which has been described as “demolition by neglect.”

The General Election is November 5. Any registered voter can vote (in the primary, a person must be registered to a political party to vote in that party's primary election). Polling places are 3-1 (Belmont Hills Library), 3-2 (Welsh Valley Middle School), and 3-3 (Belmont Hills Fire Company). Polls are open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

5 School Board positions are open, and 7 commissioners spots for the odd-numbered Wards are also open. Commissioner terms are 4 years. From Nov. 6-12, you can drop-off old campaign signs at the Koegel Complex (1300 N Woodbine Ave) as part of a sign recycling program.

PX Pill Take Back: On October 26, the LMPD collected 151 pounds of unused or expired medications for safe disposal. I'm glad these items are out of homes, where they could be taken by friends or strangers and used in dangerous ways.

JEFFERSON STREET UPDATE

The water main work is complete. Contractors are currently performing trench restoration, which is a permanent patch and seal to improve road appearance and function. The estimated completion date for this work is Nov. 11, 2019.

Due to funding, timing, and weather, Jefferson Street cannot be repaved this year.

Jefferson Street is scheduled to receive a full pave in 2020 (likely the summer).

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 public works.

THANK YOU TO THE RESIDENTS FOR YOUR PATIENCE AND TOLERANCE DURING THIS PROCESS

SLOWER MERION!

A Belmont Hills resident has started a traffic calming petition for **Ashland Avenue** to reduce speeding and increase safety. Per Township policy, the petition requires signatures from 80% of the homes on Ashland to qualify for traffic calming. If you reside on Ashland and support the petition, I strongly encourage you to sign it. If you need to get in contact with the resident who is handling the petition, please let me know or contact the Belmont Hills Civic. Information about the petition policy is here: <https://www.lowermerion.org/services/police-department/traffic-safety-unit>

The MAIN LINE TIMES recently covered the Township's traffic calming policy on River Road (including a reference to Ashland):

http://www.mainlinemedianews.com/mainlinetimes/lower-merion-considers-traffic-calming-on-river-road/article_785b5b96-f73e-11e9-9f2c-9b9616d3c6e0.html

The Penn Valley Civic has been involved with the LMPD's Traffic Safety Unit. Penn Valley safety improvements include a speed display at Bryn Mawr and Woodbine.

ZONING CODE UPDATE: The Township is in the process of drafting a new zoning code. On Oct. 30, the Building & Planning Committee discussed further revisions to the Code. Video here: <https://lmtv.viebit.com/player.php?hash=GUiDMuhn6Sw9>

The **Neighborhood Club of Bala Cynwyd** issued a resolution expressing concern that the new zoning will cause excessive density in the eastern portion of the Township. I agree with these concerns and will work to address excessive density. The Resolution is as follows:

Resolution of the Board of the Neighborhood Club of Bala Cynwyd on Tuesday, October 15, 2019 (passed 9-0) Regarding Increased Density Under the Proposed New Zoning Code

The Board of Directors of the Neighborhood Club of Bala Cynwyd expresses concern about the New Zoning Code's unfairly and inequitably allowing increased density in zoning districts in Bala Cynwyd and the eastern part of the Township and urges the Township to readjust the Code so that any increased density is equitably distributed throughout the Township.

Restoring the native plant and tree habitat is vital to preserving biodiversity, which helps our stormwater runoff, birds, air, local environment etc. If you are planting trees, please try to plant **native species** which will fit in with our ecosystem. More info from the Penn Valley Civic here: <http://www.pennvalleycivic.org/landscape-stewardship>

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

Date	Type	Location	Comments
10/23/19	Vehicle Accident	Hollow & Sprague	
10/27/19	Vehicle Accident	Belmont & Rock Hill Rd	
10/28/19	Vehicle Accident	Bobarn & Chermar Ln	
10/29/19	Crime of Violence	Centennial Road	Simple Assault

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

UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS

Nov 3	3:00 p.m.	Penn Valley Civic Assoc. Meeting & Hike , Flat Rock Park/Mill Creek
Nov 5		General Election Polls Open 7 a.m. – 8 p.m.
Nov 6	6:00 p.m.	LM Building & Planning Committee Meeting
Nov 6	6:30-7:45 pm	Belmont Hills Civic Assoc Meeting , Belmont Hills Library
Nov 6	7:00 p.m.	Penn Valley Civic Assoc Meeting , WVMS Library Residential zoning discussion with Ed White
Nov 9	9-11 a.m.	Fall Crafts for Kids Aged 6-12 , Belmont Hills Library
Nov 9	2-5 p.m.	Social Greenway Presentation and “Motherload” Moving Screening , Sponsored by LM Safe Cycling, Stokes Hall, Haverford College
Nov 9	7-10:00 p.m.	Belmont Hills Library 50th Anniversary Trivia Night , B.H. Fire Hall
Nov 11		Veterans Day
Nov 11	6:30 p.m.	LMT Planning Commission Meeting , multiple Bala projects https://www.lowermerion.org/Home/ShowDocument?id=22671
Nov 11		Friends of the Cynwyd Heritage Trail Annual Meeting
Nov 12	9:30 a.m.	Oral Argument for School Board Appeal of Tax Lawsuit Ninth Fl, Rm 1, Widener Bldg, 1339 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia, PA
Nov 12	7:30 p.m.	Neighborhood Club of Bala Cynwyd Annual Meeting Academy Building https://balacynwyd.org/
Nov 13	6:00 p.m.	LM Committee Meetings and Board of Commissioners
Nov 14	6:30 p.m.	Twilight with Dara Lovitz , discussion of parenting twins Belmont Hills Library
Nov 14	7:00 p.m.	Narberth Food Bank Compost Session , 201 Sabine Ave
Nov. 16-17	8:30 a.m.	Cynwyd Heritage Trail Clean-Up Weekend Barmouth Station Trailhead
Nov 18	6:00 p.m.	Police Department Briefing re: Body Cameras , Ardmore Library To be followed by a Police & Minority Relations Comm. Meeting
Nov 20	6:30 p.m.	Township Meetings re: Budget and Capital Improvement Plan First public hearing for proposed budget
Nov 28		Cynwyd Trail Thanksgiving Morning Bike Ride
Dec 4		Township Meetings re: Budget and Capital Improvement Plan
Dec 11	6:00 p.m.	LM Building & Planning Committee Meeting
Dec 18	7:30 p.m.	LM Board of Commissioners Meeting

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