



"Crossroads of the
American Revolution"

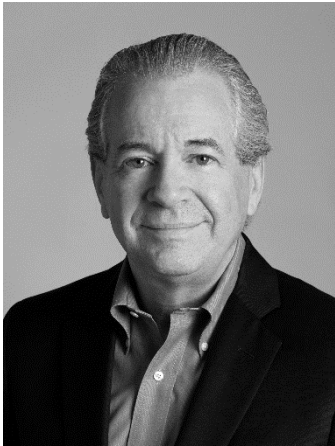
The Town Crier



2023- Q1

Hopewell Township Newsletter

From the Mayor- The Year Ahead



Hello, Hopewell Township!

Every year the Hopewell Township Committee chooses one member to serve as mayor for the year. I am honored that my colleagues chose me as mayor for 2023.

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself and explain what I see as our Township priorities for this year.

My association with Hopewell Township began in 1992 when I married Tracy Vogler. We met in Washington, DC, and decided to hold our ceremony in Harbourside, near Tracy's childhood home. We knew we wanted to live here some day and in 1998 we made the move. Time passes and our oldest son, Teddy, graduated from Hopewell Valley Central High School and our twins, Bobby and Billy, are currently seniors there.

This is my sixth year serving on the Township Committee and I am extremely fortunate to work with my fellow Committee members. We all have different life experiences and bring our different perspectives to every Committee meeting, but are united in one goal—to do our best for everyone in Hopewell Township.

There is also a team at the Township Building working every day to help all of us. Led by Township Administrator George Snyder, these dedicated folks keep the Township running. With over 17,000 residents to serve and nearly 59 square miles to cover, they do a tremendous job.

Every year the Township Committee has a number of issues to address. One of our most important duties as a Committee is to develop and deliver a responsible, realistic budget. We started work on the capital budget in December and introduced it in February, and are now working on the operating budget. I want to ensure we are getting maximum value for every dollar of your money that we spend.

Over the past few years the Township Committee has worked to increase non-residential property tax revenue. For example, the reimagining of the former BMS campus was the result of hard work by a number of parties. And the benefits will soon be apparent with increased rates and tax revenue. In the near future, we'll start to see PILOT revenues that will far exceed what the Township would have otherwise received in property taxes.

I am looking forward to the construction and dedication of the grant funded Woolsey Park Bandshell later this year. I hope this will become a gathering place for the community and further enhance the uses of Woolsey Park. And we will see our 911 system upgraded as well.

I am also looking forward to continuing work on the Senior and Community Center. I am hopeful we will see significant progress this year, made possible in part by the fact that the Township received over \$16 million in consideration for the sale of the Zaitz tract.

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This year, we will see the first phases of construction of affordable and market rate housing move to completion, the next step in the implementation of our bipartisan settlement agreement. I know we will be able to work together as a community to include these changes as part of the over 300 year history of Hopewell Township and welcome our new neighbors.

And we will always work to find new ways to keep you informed. Our Township Committee meetings are now held in person and on Zoom. With this technology, people who could not previously attend a meeting in person can fully participate, including asking questions during the public comment periods. If you do not want to watch on your computer, meetings are still televised on Comcast Channel 95 and Verizon Channel 30.

If you ever have any questions, thoughts or concerns, please let me know. You can reach me by email at mruger@hopewelltwp.org or by phone at (609) 577-1247 (and if I do not answer, please leave a voicemail or a text).

I look forward to the year ahead.

Michael Ruger, Mayor

Persistence Pays Off: Speed Limit in Front of Bear Tavern Elementary Lowered to 25 mph

After many years of community input and a renewed request in October 2022 from the Hopewell Township Committee, Mercer County finally will be lowering the speed limit in front of Bear Tavern Elementary School to 25 miles per hour.

The ordinance also adds a new, larger speed zone from 1000 feet north of Maddock Road to Washington Crossing-Pennington Road (County Route 546), reducing the speed limit there from 45 mph to 35 mph. Within this



new speed zone is the Bear Tavern Elementary School Zone, where the speed limit will be 25 mph when flashing. Flashing lights will be operating during recess, or while children are arriving at school or leaving school. New signage showing the new speed limits will be added.

In light of the new traffic circle and other traffic calming measures in front of Johnson Park Elementary School on Rosedale Road in Princeton, we renewed our efforts to have a similar safety change made for Hopewell Township. After a productive meeting with County officials, we are thankful that the immediate change of adding a lower, buffer speed zone as described above was able to be implemented quickly and

without the delays and the extensive permitting and construction timeline that something like a traffic circle would need.

We want every school child in Mercer County to have the same opportunity to get to school safely, and this new, lower speed limit achieves that for the children of Hopewell Township. We

appreciate the support from our County Commissioners, especially Hopewell's own Kristin McLaughlin, along with former Chair Nina Melker, John Cimino, and current chair Lucy Walter. Thanks also go to the County Engineer and other members of the County Administration who finally were able to get this change across the goal line.

We're thrilled to see this important safety change at Bear Tavern moving forward. We are heartened to see what we can achieve with continued persistence and collaboration.

Courtney Peters-Manning, Deputy Mayor,
cpeters-manning@hopewelltwp.org

Kevin D. Kuchinski, Township Committee Member and Financial Liaison, kkuchinski@hopewelltwp.org



Hopewell Township launches monthly email newsletter as part of commitment to transparency and communication



The Township Committee and all of the Township professional staff have a steadfast commitment to transparency and open communication. As a part of this commitment, it is important to provide a diversity of communication channels to ensure residents can be reached in whatever mediums you already engage in and are most comfortable with.

To this end, we're thrilled to announce that starting in March 2023 the Township now has a monthly email newsletter. This new email newsletter provides residents with key upcoming information and Township updates. Regular email newsletters will include:

- Dates of upcoming Township Committee, Boards, and Commission meetings
- Upcoming Township and partner events
- Recent Township news from the Township Committee and professional staff.

This new email newsletter is part of our broader commitment to open communication and new ways to reach all residents. In conjunction with the new email newsletter, we've taken many steps in recent years to ensure regular and transparent communication. This includes ensuring *The Town Crier*, our mail newsletter (which you're reading now), is published quarterly, our annual Township Calendar is published in a timely fashion, as well as ensuring our website and social media channels are updated regularly.

As previously shared in *The Town Crier*, in 2022 the Township Committee also adopted a hybrid format to all Committee Meetings. While Township Committee meetings have always historically been broadcast on local television and videos posted online, hybrid meetings allow residents not physically at the Municipal Building to not only watch meetings on Zoom, but also to fully participate including the ability to provide Public Comment.

We're very excited about the new email newsletter and we invite you to subscribe by going to www.hopewelltpw.org/EmailUpdate or using the QR code to the right..

As Communications Liaison for the Township Committee, I also invite your feedback on the newsletter or any suggestions on how we can further enhance communication. Feel free to email me directly at dchait@hopewelltpw.org.



David Chait, Hopewell Township Committee Member

There Will Be No Interruption in Ambulance Service

With the upcoming closure of the Pennington First Aid Squad on February 28, 2023, we want to assure residents that the Hopewell Township Fire District and officials from Hopewell Township have been working in close coordination with our career staff in the Hopewell Valley Emergency Services Unit, as well as volunteers at the Union Fire Company and Rescue Squad and the Hopewell (Borough) Fire Company, to ensure that there is no interruption in ambulance service.

Career staff from the Township Emergency Services Unit, along with per diems and volunteers from Titusville and Hopewell Borough, will cover the former Pennington First Aid Squad service area between March 1 and April 3. These services will be staged at the Pennington First Aid Squad facility.

Starting April 3, the Fire District has contracted with Capital Health to provide one ambulance to the Hopewell Valley 24/7. This cost will be shared by the local municipalities and fire districts. The Capital Health ambulance will be supplemented by volunteers and career staff as necessary.

We would like to give special thanks to the volunteers who are going above and beyond to ensure the safety of Valley residents during the month of March. They are true community heroes.

Go Red for Women[®] and Heart Health Awareness

On February 3rd, Hopewell Township staff and committee members supported the Go Red for Women initiative by wearing red to raise awareness of cardiovascular disease in women.

Based on data reported by the American Heart Association, heart disease is the number one cause of death for one in three women in the United States. However, the good news is that 87% of cardiovascular diseases may be prevented with education, action, and awareness.

Women are mothers, daughters, sisters, wives, and the heartbeat of the family. While juggling family responsibilities and professional lives, women often ignore their own health, and early warning signs of heart-related issues can be overlooked or misdiagnosed. Initiatives such as Go Red for Women can help educate more women about their risk of heart disease.



In December 1963, Congress recognized February as American Heart Month to bring attention to the ongoing fight against cardiovascular disease. There has been extensive research over the years in this area, and a great deal has been learned about heart disease and its contributing factors. Simple lifestyle changes can reduce heart disease risk significantly. Consider incorporating daily physical activity and healthy eating habits, avoiding tobacco and alcohol use, and regularly monitoring and treating high blood pressure and high cholesterol to protect your heart health. Additionally, practicing positive self-talk and incorporating mindfulness and meditation to maintain overall happiness can reduce stress, anxiety, and depression, and help lower heart disease risk.

The Hopewell Township Health Department offers free blood pressure screenings on the third Thursday of every month, at the Municipal Building Lower Level Health Clinic from 9-11am. No appointment is needed. Please visit www.hopewelltpw.org/Health for additional information.

As part of its mission to keep the community physically active, Healthy Bones, chair yoga, and Qigong classes are offered regularly at the Municipal Building through Senior Services. More information about these and other ongoing programs can be found at www.hopewelltpw.org/SeniorServices or by calling 609-537-0236.

Many resources are available on the Health Department's website, where seminars and workshops offered by surrounding communities and nearby hospitals are listed. These valuable resources educate the public about healthy lifestyles and managing chronic health conditions. Professionals from the Health Department are available to present educational programs and videos to clubs and organizations. To learn more, call 609-737-0120 or visit www.hopewelltpw.org/Health.

Remember- it is easier to care for others if you can first care for yourself!



Uma Purandare, Hopewell Township Committee, upurandare@hopewelltpw.org

Are you a hunter? Apply for your 2023-24 Hopewell Township permit!

The application period for deer hunters who would like to hunt in the Hopewell Township Deer Management Program is open!

Hopewell Township will be accepting individual permit applications for the Township's municipal Deer Management program for the 2023-24 hunting season March 6-May 12. All applicants must be fourteen (14) years or older, have a valid New Jersey hunting license, and maintain \$1 million general liability insurance for the entire hunting season. Confirmation of insurance is required. There is a \$35 non-refundable application fee. Please note there are a limited number of open hunting spots. A lottery process will fill available spots and successful applicants will be notified. Once notified, successful applicants are required to participate in a hunter orientation safety course and pay an additional \$70 to receive their hunting and parking permits. Permits will be valid for the entire 2023-24 white-tailed deer hunting season.

Licensed hunters who are interested in participating in the program should visit www.hopewelltwp.org/DeerManagement for an application form and for parcel location maps. The maps include information on the maximum number of hunters for each parcel, and permitted sporting arms, rules, and regulations. Paper copies of these applications are also available in the township's municipal building lobby. All applications and required documents must be submitted in person by the applicant to the Hopewell Township Police Department, 201 Washington Crossing-Pennington Rd, Titusville, NJ 08650, by Friday, May 12, at 4pm. Applications will be accepted from 9am-4pm, Monday-Friday. Only completed applications that include required documents will be processed. For any questions, please email deermanagement@hopewelltwp.org.

If you were a participant in the 2022-2023 program, be sure you have reported all your harvests to the Township, and have completed your end-of-year survey at www.hopewelltwp.org/EOYDeerSurvey22-23.



www.hopewelltwp.org





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