



*"Crossroads of the
American Revolution"*

2022- Q4

Hopewell Township Newsletter

The Town Crier



From the Mayor- Hopewell Township Celebrates Local State Investments



Hopewell Township sits right in the center of the great state of New Jersey. It truly was at the Crossroads of the American Revolution, and therefore of American history. In 2022, the Township has seen significant investment by the State of New Jersey, in recognition of the Township's important place in history, our dedicated first responders, and our vibrant community.

In November, Governor Phil Murphy traveled to Hopewell Township to announce a \$25 million investment in ten New Jersey historic sites ahead of the Semiquincentennial anniversary in 2026, which will mark 250 years of our nation's independence. Our own Washington Crossing State Park, where George Washington and his troops landed after they crossed the Delaware River on their way to the Battle of Trenton, will be a cornerstone project in this investment. We are thankful for the Governor's investment in protecting and honoring our history. Our State, and our local community, has a great, storied history of facing and overcoming enormous obstacles. Washington and his soldiers faced inadequate supplies, a cold, unforgiving winter, and a deadly enemy. But they got in their watery boats and faced the challenge with determination, bravery, and a commitment to each other and to our uniquely American ideals. We all have faced extraordinarily difficult challenges over the past several years. We are proud to celebrate these historic accomplishments within our borders. Preserving this historic site gives the next generation a place to gain an understanding that they, too, can face and overcome challenges with togetherness, idealism, and bravery.

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

But the state's investments in Hopewell Township are not limited to the park. Thanks to the diligent work by our state representatives, Senator Shirley Turner and Assembly Members Verlina Reynolds-Jackson and Hopewell's own Anthony Verrelli, we also were awarded grants to upgrade our 911 Dispatch Center and to build a Bandshell in Woolsey Park.

Our 911 Dispatch Center was in great need of upgrades and modernization. The grant will allow us to bring our technology up to current standards by replacing communications equipment and renovations to the facility itself. Last fall, during Hurricane Ida, we were reminded of just how important our 911 system is to the community during a major emergency. That night alone, the dispatch center received over 400 emergency calls for help, in addition to several hundred calls to the non-emergency line. These improvements will allow integration with various systems, including text to 9-1-1, pinpoint GPS locations (as detailed as the room where a caller is located in a large commercial building), and the ability to forward GPS locations directly to the first responders on the street.

We are eagerly looking forward to the new bandshell in Woolsey Park, set to break ground in early 2023. The bandshell will provide a place for outside gatherings of all kinds, such as concerts, lectures, plays, and movies. Our community already congregates at Woolsey Park multiple times a year for events, and the park is used extensively by our Recreation Department for camps and activities. Now we will have a stage to enhance and improve the experiences.

We are grateful to the State of New Jersey and our State elected officials for working with us to help our community become safer, more inclusive, and cohesive with these funds. Exciting times are coming. After the construction of the bandshell is completed, we will be having a celebration to mark its grand opening. I hope everyone will join us.

Help Us Improve Cellular Service in Hopewell Valley

Is your cellular service poor at home or work? Do you experience dropped calls or have difficulty hearing someone in parts of the Township? The Hopewell Township Committee is working to improve Cellular Service across Hopewell Valley and needs your help to gather data. We then plan to work with Verizon, AT&T, T-Mobile, and other cellular companies to improve coverage where there are gaps.

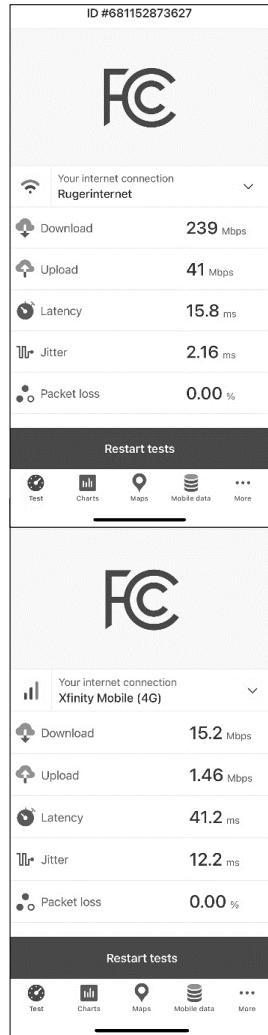


It's simple to get started. The FCC, through its new Measuring Broadband America initiative, has created a free smartphone-based technology that gathers anonymized cellular service data from participating volunteers. Just download the **FCC Speed Test** app for Android and iOS devices. The app will then guide you through how to test your cellular coverage in your home or at work – to get an accurate read of your cellular connection you **must turn off your WiFi** before running the test.

Our goal is to have at least 500 Township residents download the app and test their cellular coverage by the end of 2022. Please email our communications and outreach manager, Reba Holley at rholley@hopewelltwp.org once you've taken the speed test, so that she can keep a tally of how many residents have participated.

And if you're comfortable sharing your results, even better. Take a screen shot after you've completed the speed test and send it along with the location/address of where you conducted the test to our township engineer at engineer@hopewelltwp.org. This will help him identify problem spots within the Township. All submissions will be treated confidentially.

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



New Jersey ANCHOR Benefit Program Provides Property Tax Relief for New Jersey Homeowners



Some Hopewell Township residents may be eligible for a property tax reduction. The ANCHOR Program, offered by the State of New Jersey Division of Taxation, provides rebates to New Jersey homeowners and renters.

Now through January 31, 2023, the state is taking applications for tax year 2019, based on one's primary residence on October 1, 2019.

If, in 2019, you were a New Jersey homeowner, occupied and paid property taxes on your principal residence, and had

a New Jersey gross income of less than \$250,000, you can apply. The benefit is \$1500 for income below \$150,000, and \$1000 for incomes between \$150,001 and \$250,000. Condominium and co-op owners, and people who live in continuing care communities paying a portion of property taxes, are eligible. Rental properties, vacation or second homes, and homes that are exempt from property taxes, such as the homes of certain totally and permanently disabled war veterans, are not eligible. Information and applications

can be found at <https://www.state.nj.us/treasury/taxation/ANCHOR/home.shtml>.

If you were a renter in New Jersey, you may be able to receive \$450. Your 2019 NJ gross income must be no more than \$150,000, you must have paid rent on your primary residence on October 31, 2019, your name must appear on the rental agreement or lease,

and the rental property must have been subject to local property tax. A residential rental unit must have a separate kitchen and bathroom. You can be eligible if you resided in a senior housing facility or shared an apartment. There are some exceptions, such as campus or other tax-exempt housing. Information and applications can be found at <https://www.state.nj.us/treasury/taxation/ANCHOR/tenant.shtml>.

Applications can be made online, by paper, or by phone at 877-658-2972. This program is separate from the Senior Freeze program (<https://www.state.nj.us/treasury/taxation/ptr/index.shtml>). Benefits will arrive by the end of May, 2023.

If you are eligible, be sure to apply by January 31, 2023.

Michael Ruger, Hopewell Township Deputy Mayor,
mruger@hopewelltwp.org



The image is a promotional flyer for the ANCHOR (Affordable NJ Communities for Homeowners & Renters) program. The top left features the word 'ANCHOR' in large, bold, white letters, with 'AFFORDABLE NJ COMMUNITIES FOR HOMEOWNERS & RENTERS' in smaller text below it. An anchor icon is to the right. The top right corner contains 'HISTORIC PROPERTY TAX RELIEF' and details about tax relief amounts for different income brackets. A circular photo of a family is in the center. A large 'DEADLINE EXTENDED' stamp is overlaid on the right. The bottom right shows a house with a 'NEW' tag. The bottom left contains the seal of the State of New Jersey.

Hopewell Township Small Businesses are an Essential Part of our Local Economy and Community

On November 28th, the Hopewell Township Committee passed a resolution in support of Small Business Saturday, which is a day that encourages shopping at local small businesses and is held annually on the Saturday after Thanksgiving.



We did this because small businesses are an essential part of our local economy and community. Small businesses not only make up 47% of all U.S. employment, but are a major driver of economic growth. In fact, small businesses have accounted for 2 out of every 3 jobs created in the U.S. in the past 25 years.

Even beyond their economic impact, our local small businesses are a one of many defining parts of our character and what makes us uniquely Hopewell Township. Whether it's frequenting our favorite pizzerias or ice cream shops, buying produce, poultry, or meat from our amazing local farms, using the services of our talented service professionals, and more, we have a rich local economy and many longstanding businesses that are a part of our history. This is why the Township Committee is committed to supporting all businesses in the Township, big and small.

Over the past several years, you've heard a lot about our focus on growing the Township's Innovation Economy, with particular success with the redevelopment of the BMS campus and attracting new Pharmaceutical companies like BeiGene, PTC Therapeutics, Passage Bio, and Gennao Bio.

We are also committed to supporting and growing our local small businesses. And much of this support will come from the recently constituted *Tourism & Economic Development Advisory Committee*, which Township Committee Member Kuchinski and I both sit on. Among the many areas this Committee focuses on, supporting our essential local small businesses is paramount.

To that end, the entire Township Committee is always listening and we encourage residents and business owners to reach out with any feedback or suggestion. Additionally, the *Tourism & Economic Development Advisory Committee* deliberately has vacancies to provide the opportunity for members of the community to join. If you are interested in volunteering please reach out to Laurie Gompf, the Township Clerk, at lgompf@hopewelltwp.org or 609-737-0605 x6760.

David Chait, Hopewell Township Committee Member, dchait@hopewelltwp.org

Scouting Helps Youth Gain Confidence and Leadership Skills



The Township Committee welcomed Brownie Troop #70498 to the Committee meeting on November 28th, during which they led the Pledge of Allegiance. The Brownies, from Bear Tavern Elementary School in Titusville and Lore Elementary School in Ewing, were very energetic. It was obvious they were excited to be there, and it was a pleasure to have them join us.

Troop #70498 visited the Committee as part of their activity for their Democracy Badge. One of the requirements is to learn about local government. Creating awareness of civic services and how democracy works at an early age could spark interest in community service and being a good citizen.

My Girl Scout journey started with my daughter when she was in 2nd grade. She was a Scout for almost 10 years. For many years I served as the Leader of her Troop #70383. Her days as a Scout kindled her current interest and helped her advance her career in Public Health, focusing on educating new mothers and infants about health and nutrition values. While participating in Girl Scout activities we both became aware of our community's needs and our personal obligation to give back. As a Leader, I engaged with members of the community and gained a sense of purpose by learning how I could serve. Being a Girl Scout leader was one of the most rewarding experiences in my life, and I credit it for developing my own leadership skills, leading me to become an elected official, and to serve on the Hopewell Township Committee.

Girl and Boy Scouts expand their horizons with experiences and exploration. As it's said, it takes a village to raise good citizens. Our community, with its schools, churches, businesses, and organizations, does just that. Hopewell Valley has a nurturing



environment and provides the support that's needed for our youth to excel.

The Girls and Boys Scouts of the Hopewell Valley have always been involved in the community's social initiatives. Recently they participated in the Township's Clean Communities fall event where they earned money for their Troop by collecting litter from our streets and parks. They organized regular food collection drives to contribute to the Hopewell Valley Mobile Food Pantry. Scouts have baked and donated cornbread to the Trenton Area Soup Kitchen included in their Thanksgiving baskets. Last summer, the Brownies of Pennington created inspiring welcome signs and decorated the sidewalk with chalk drawings to welcome our Seniors back to the newly reopened Hopewell Valley Senior Center. The Seniors loved it! The Girl and Boy Scouts are always proud to participate in uniform in the local Memorial Day Parade to show their dedication to the community. Other activities revolved around world hunger, saving the owls, providing comfort to hospitalized children, and helping young mothers in the city.

The Girl Scout and Boy Scout organizations offer unlimited opportunities for the children to develop interests and build confidence, courage, and character while working on merit badges and in their everyday lives. I watched my daughter, and the other girls develop forever friendships, learn to work as a team, and develop critical problem-solving skills while having fun and making an impact on this community and the world.

I am grateful to our community partners, which include the Hopewell Valley YMCA and local schools, churches, and businesses, for providing safe places to meet and conduct activities. Special appreciation goes to the dedicated Girl and Boy Scout Leaders who give countless hours to guide the children toward becoming strong members of this very caring community. Together we take action to change our community for the better and strengthen our youth!

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



Public Works Snow and Ice Control: Helpful Tips and Information

The Township of Hopewell Public Works Department is responsible for snow and ice control on 296 municipal streets, municipal parking lots, along with walkways around municipal buildings. The primary objective is to permit the travel of emergency vehicles. The secondary aim is to restore the roadways to reasonably safe conditions for commuters and commerce in a realistic time frame. Successful snow and ice control is a coordination of efforts between Public Works and residents.

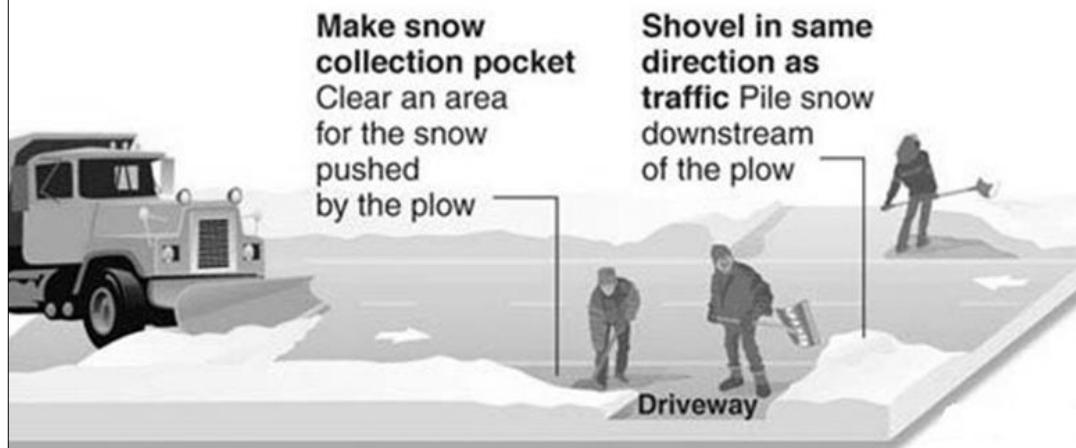
First, pretreated salt is applied to the roads during the beginning of snowfall to prevent snow from bonding to the pavement. Snow plowing usually begins when 2" or more of snow has accumulated. Main roads are plowed first, and neighborhoods are plowed second. The plows clear a path in each direction to keep roads open for emergency vehicles. Snow plowing to the curb will start near the end of the snowfall and may continue for an additional 6-24 hours. The curb pass is necessary for vehicle clearance and proper drainage of melting snow. Finally, an additional application of pretreated

salt may be applied when snow plowing is completed. Every storm is different. Consequently, procedures are adjusted to achieve optimal results.



Residents are an essential part of the snow and ice control program. Mailboxes should be secured, and rotten posts replaced prior to winter. Basketball hoops, trash cans, and recycling cans should be removed from the road to prevent damage to these items and Township equipment. Parking on the street is prohibited when two or more inches of snow have accumulated. Remaining off the roads until clear is safer and permits Public Works to complete operations more quickly. Shoveling an area before your driveway creates an area for the snow to unload off the plow, reducing the amount of snow deposited in your driveway.

How to reduce the possibility of getting a huge pile of snow in your driveway opening when snowplows clear your street:



Snow and ice control is an emergent operation that can take place any day and at any time.

Please monitor the Township of Hopewell Facebook page and website for additional information. The dedicated Public Works employees partner with residents in the responsibility of successful winter operations.

George Snyder, Township Administrator and Director of Public Works,
gsnyder@hopewelltwp.org



PHOTO CONTEST

Anita Bhala
Anthony Dolhon
Andrew Mather
Cathy Fortenbaugh
Craig A. Reed
Gabrielle M. Casieri

Jennifer Hirsh
Jeanne Imbrigiotta
Lauren Turner
Mike Chipowsky
Susan Danser
Sari DeCesare
Uccelli Photography

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE WINNERS!

Questions?
rholley@hopewelltwp.org



www.hopewelltwp.org

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Join the Recreation mailing list! www.hopewelltwp.org/RecEmailList

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