



*"Crossroads of the  
American Revolution"*

# The Town Crier



2022- Q2

*Hopewell Township Newsletter*

## From the Mayor- Welcome BeiGene to Hopewell Township

As New Jersey continues to lead in the 21st century innovation economy, Hopewell Township is poised to

become a world-class center for pharmaceutical research and the creation of life-saving medicines. A key part of this is the revitalization of the large property on Pennington Rocky Hill Road, formerly occupied by Bristol Myers Squibb (BMS), and now known as the Princeton West Innovation Campus.



On April 29, 2022, international pharmaceutical company BeiGene broke ground on a 42-acre site on the campus. They purchased the site in November 2021, and with more than thirty offices on five continents, they are making a significant investment to build their flagship site in the United States right here in Hopewell Township. When completed, the site will include the manufacture of life saving medicines and clinical research and development, with a focus on developing innovative and affordable medicines to improve cancer treatment outcomes. The facility will employ hundreds of people and is expected to open in late 2023.

Officials from around the state, including Governor Phil Murphy, Congresswoman Bonnie Watson Coleman, and Mercer County Executive Brian Hughes were in attendance to help the Hopewell Township Committee welcome BeiGene to our community.

BeiGene joins three other pharmaceutical companies that chose Hopewell Township in the last year- PTC Therapeutics, Passage Bio, and Gennao Bio. "BeiGene's plans for hundreds of new jobs in New Jersey

speak to our efforts to grow our state's business-friendly environment and our commitment to fostering innovation," said Gov. Phil Murphy. "We are proud to welcome BeiGene to the Princeton area and look forward to the company manufacturing innovative cancer medicines in its new state-of-the-art facility."

"Our planned flagship U.S. R&D and manufacturing center supports our commitment to fight for life for people living with cancer around the world through state-of-the-art commercial-stage biologic pharmaceutical manufacturing, late-stage research and clinical development capabilities," said John Oyler, Co-Founder, Chairman and CEO of BeiGene. "The Princeton-Hopewell area is an excellent location for BeiGene and the thriving life science community, with a deep talent pool as we continue to advance our pipeline of innovative cancer medicines and work to diversify our global supply chain."

The Hopewell Township Committee enthusiastically welcomes BeiGene and our other new corporate neighbors to the Township. With our central location, the thriving life sciences community in central New Jersey, and the abundance of highly qualified potential employees in the area, the West Innovation Campus should continue to grow. The Township Committee will continue to be a responsive local government that works hard to attract these businesses to our community. While BMS moving provided us with a challenge, we are well on our way to becoming even better off than we were before the move, and we look forward to new opportunities in the future.



**Courtney Peters-Manning, Hopewell Township Mayor**  
[cpeters-manning@hopewelltwp.org](mailto:cpeters-manning@hopewelltwp.org)

# Hopewell Valley Senior Services

Hopewell Valley Senior Services offers a wide variety of programming and there is something for everyone. You can participate in a variety of exercise classes, play games, take a trip, make new friends, and more! Most activities are held at either the Hopewell Valley Senior Center in Pennington or the Hopewell Township Municipal Building.



Hopewell Valley Senior Services began in 2006 with a grant from Princeton Health Care to fund a Senior Services Coordinator. This wonderful vital department was a joint effort between all three Hopewell Valley communities, Hopewell Township, Pennington Borough, and Hopewell Borough. Senior Services Coordinator Randi Knechel has been leading the department since November 2016.

Senior Services collaborates with many community partners to provide programs and events for our seniors. Our Senior Picnic and Birthday Breakfasts are a few of our favorite yearly events offered. Our partnership with the School District and Hopewell Valley Education Foundation invites our seniors to a preview of the plays offered by our talented students and a complimentary lunch. Mercer County Nutrition Project offers a discounted lunch program at our Senior Center Monday through Friday. Senior Services collaborates with businesses and resources to host educational presentations on topics benefitting our seniors.



The Senior Services webpage contains all the information you need to get involved and can be reached by scanning the QR code on the left or typing [www.hopewelltwp.org/SeniorServices](http://www.hopewelltwp.org/SeniorServices). You can also contact Randi with questions about the Senior Spirit newsletter, or any of the activities and programs listed at 609-537-0236 or by email at [seniorservices@hopewelltwp.org](mailto:seniorservices@hopewelltwp.org).

## Township Committee Now Offering Hybrid Format for Meetings

Over the last two years, due to the COVID pandemic, the Township has been conducting business over Zoom®. As the danger of the virus wanes, we are attempting to make a move towards normalcy. The Township Committee is now offering meetings in a hybrid format, allowing residents to attend either in-person at the Municipal Building or from home by Zoom. Live participation is available for all.

Participants present in the auditorium will participate using the normal, pre-COVID procedures. If you are an online participant, you will be able to see and hear the Township Committee and any projected presentations over Zoom. You can raise your hand and participate in the Public Comment section, or you can submit questions ahead of the meeting by emailing [lgompf@hopewelltwp.org](mailto:lgompf@hopewelltwp.org) by noon on the day of the meeting. Participants present in the auditorium will be able to hear the Zoom comments.

The meetings can also be viewed live with a 30-second delay, on Comcast 95, Verizon FIOS 30, and TelVue ([www.HopewellTwp.org/LiveStream](http://www.HopewellTwp.org/LiveStream)). However, active participation, such as comments and questions, cannot be taken from people attending in this manner.

For members of the public unable to attend in-person, all Township Committee meetings are recorded and can be viewed at [www.HopewellTwp.org/CommitteeMeetingRecordings](http://www.HopewellTwp.org/CommitteeMeetingRecordings). The most recent Township Committee meeting is also broadcast on the Township channels on Wednesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays at 5:30 pm.

To learn more about the Township Committee and meeting procedures, visit <https://www.hopewelltwp.org/TownshipCommitteeMeetingInfo>.

Due to the fluctuation of COVID-19 transmission rates, the Township reserves the right to conduct municipal meetings via Zoom or similar technology in lieu of in-person meetings to balance the need to conduct public business with the personal safety of those wishing to attend. In such case(s), within one business day of the decision to conduct the meeting via Zoom, the Township will post the Municipal Complex Main Entrance and Official Bulletin Board in the Municipal Building, publish notice on the Township website and Facebook and other social media platforms and provide an electronic copy of said notice to all persons who request a copy.



# Volunteers Provide Valuable Insight and Help Our Township Run

Among our many duties as members of the Township Committee is the privilege of working directly with nearly 100 residents who serve on the Township's various citizen volunteer boards, committees, and commissions.

These boards, committees, and commissions provide invaluable input and counsel and we are incredibly grateful to those who volunteer their time and expertise.

As Committee Members, we serve as liaisons to - and often members of - these important boards, committees, and commissions. As a part of our commitment to transparency and to help you better understand how our Township functions, please see below for a brief overview of many of these bodies. You can also learn more at <https://www.hopewelltwp.org/>.

- **Affordable Housing Committee.** The Affordable Housing Committee monitors the long-term compliance of the Township's lower-income housing obligation within housing developments containing low/moderate-income housing.



- **Agricultural Advisory Committee.** The Agricultural Advisory Committee is vested with the responsibility of promoting and preserving agriculture as a viable economic activity within Hopewell Township.

- **Board of Health Advisory Committee.**

The Board of Health Advisory Committee provides expert counsel to the Board of Health as they strive to achieve the goal of protecting, improving, and promoting the health, productivity, and wellbeing of all Hopewell Township residents.

- **Citizens Equity Advisory Committee.** The Citizens Equity Advisory Committee conducts a systematic review of existing and proposed Township regulations and practices for potential discriminatory effects and offers suggestions on how to remedy such effects.

- **Deer Management Advisory Committee.** The Deer Management Advisory Committee plans and implements the Township's Deer Management Program.

- **Environmental Commission.** The Environmental Commission is charged with keeping an index of all open areas, publicly or privately owned, to obtain information on the proper use of such areas and may make recommendations to the Planning Board.

- **Historic Preservation Commission.** The Historic Preservation Commission is charged with developing regulations governing the designation, establishment, and preservation of historic landmarks and districts within the Township.

- **Open Space Advisory Committee.** The Open Space Advisory Committee works with partner municipalities on a long range program to acquire and preserve natural resources, manage the pace of growth, and enhance the quality of life for the residents of Hopewell Township, Hopewell Borough, and Pennington Borough.

- **Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee.** The Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee provides advice and assistance in the planning, coordination, and implementation of parks and recreation development in Hopewell Township.

- **Planning Board.** The Planning Board develops and updates the Master Plan of the Township, which guides land use and development. They also maintain and recommend changes to the Official Zoning Map and the Land Use and Zoning Ordinance. Additionally, the Planning Board reviews and controls the creation of land subdivisions, site plans for permitted non-residential uses, and conditional use applications within the Township.

- **Senior Advisory Board.** The Hopewell Valley Senior Advisory Board supports and promotes programs and projects that maintain the dignity and independence of Hopewell Valley senior citizens.

- **Woolsey Park Advisory Committee.** The Woolsey Park Advisory Committee advises the Township on long-term uses of Woolsey Park to ensure that proposed uses are compatible with each other and with the long-term interest of Woolsey Park and the Township.

- **Zoning Board of Adjustment.** The Board of Adjustment has the power to grant variances and other relief from the zoning ordinances of the Township.

We are always in need of more volunteers. Learn more by scanning the QR code. If you would like to lend your time and expertise to any of the organizations listed above, please send a letter of interest to the Township Clerk Laurie Gompf at [lgompf@hopewelltwp.org](mailto:lgompf@hopewelltwp.org).



**David Chait, Hopewell Township Committee Member,** [dchait@hopewelltwp.org](mailto:dchait@hopewelltwp.org)

# Hopewell Township Pet License Fees Are Past Due!

The State of New Jersey requires that all dogs ages six months or older be licensed annually, and proof of rabies vaccination is required for the license to be issued. Hopewell Township residents are required to license their cats as well.

Belinda Ogitis, the Township's Animal Control Officer, reminds residents that if you have not yet licensed your pet, please do so as soon as possible. Municipalities require licensing for pets to ensure the health and safety of the community, as well as animals. Hopewell Township collects license fees for three main reasons: to help identify lost pets, ensure that rabies vaccinations are up-to-date, and help fund the animal shelter.

Hopewell Township's pet licensing fees are \$22.20 for your spayed or neutered dog, and \$21 for spayed/neutered cats. If your animal is not spayed or neutered, the fee is \$3 more. Pet owners received a notice back in October, with a deadline for payment at the end of January. Each month the payment is late accrues a \$10 late fee. Late notices have been issued over the past three months and summons to Municipal Court will begin in July.

If you haven't yet licensed your animal(s) for 2022, please get your application and fees in now! You'll be helping our community and your beloved pet.



## Township's 2022 Budget Holds the Line on Taxes

Each year, the Hopewell Township Committee conducts a thorough review of the municipal budget. This includes working with our Department Heads to zero-base their budgets and to deliver the services our residents expect for less. As a result, the recently adopted municipal tax rate for 2022 will essentially be flat vs. 2021 (+0.2%), despite significant inflationary pressures. This is a tremendous achievement and I would like to take a moment to thank our Township team and professionals and my fellow Committee Members for their assistance during this year's budget development.

I also thought it would be helpful to highlight several examples of the cost-savings programs and other innovative ideas we've deployed in partnership with our Township team to do more with less:

- 1) Our police force has begun the transition to hybrid patrol vehicles. These vehicles are not only more efficient on the road, but their battery can also power all of the in-car systems when the vehicles are not in motion. This reduces engine wear significantly and is projected to save over \$30,000 per vehicle in the first five years, due to lower fuel consumption (@\$4.99 per gallon);
- 2) We've aggressively pursued state and federal grant programs to help fund Township operations, securing monies to support surge capacity in our Health Department as well as monies for new body-worn cameras for our police officers;
- 3) We conducted a thorough review of our Township Health Plans and identified new options that deliver the coverage our employees need, while saving money on monthly premiums for both the Township and our employees; and
- 4) Our Township Administrator did a review of administrative support across the Township, and identified an opportunity for pooled support across several

departments.

Looking ahead, we are focused on three longer-term financial initiatives to help reduce taxes.

First, we are working to reduce the Township's debt. This is important as debt service currently consumes almost 1-in-4 dollars in the municipal budget, with interest



alone on notes and bonds costing Township residents \$1.1M. In the next 2-3 years, we expect contributions from BeiGene towards our Affordable Housing fund will enable us to eliminate the debt from Pennytown (which is currently subsidized by General Fund taxes).

Second, we are working to continue the successful redevelopment of the BMS and Merrill Lynch campuses and to attract the right mix of other new small businesses to our community. This is important as increasing the non-residential ratables in the Township will help lower the tax rate for residents. Importantly, these efforts will continue to be guided by our Master Plan (e.g. avoid "big box" stores and Amazon-scale warehouses).

Finally, we expect our PILOT agreement with BeiGene to generate significant incremental revenues for the Township in the coming years [for more details on BeiGene, please see the accompanying article in this newsletter from Mayor Courtney Peters-Manning].

As always, we welcome ideas from the community on how we control spending and hold the line on taxes.

**Kevin D. Kuchinski, Township Committee Member and Financial Liaison, [kkuchinski@hopewelltwp.org](mailto:kkuchinski@hopewelltwp.org)**

# Be Safe: Having Fun in the Sun!

## It's summertime!

It's getting warm, and everyone is excited to spend more time enjoying their favorite outdoor activities such as picnicking, swimming, bicycling, going to the beach, and more. Keeping everyone safe from exposure to ultraviolet (UV) radiation is extremely important, especially for young children.

UV radiation is emitted by the sun and is invisible. It is essential for making Vitamin D, which helps regulate the amount of calcium and phosphate in the body, and you should have 5-15 minutes in the sun, 2-3 times per week, to obtain what is necessary. Vitamin D helps keep your bones, teeth, and muscles healthy. Sun exposure is not all good, though. Too much UV radiation can be dangerous.



As little as 15 minutes of UV exposure from the sun or an indoor tanning booth can damage your skin, resulting in a painful sunburn. Sometimes the damage is not even visible and can lead to serious health problems such as skin cancer, premature aging, and possibly immune system suppression. It may cause cataracts and other eye-related damage. More than 3.5 million new cases of skin cancer are diagnosed annually and can be prevented by following a few simple steps:

- ✿ **Use Sunscreen Everyday-** Regardless of skin tone, sunscreen protects from skin damage and sunburns caused by exposure to the sun's rays. Sunscreen should be applied to all exposed skin areas at least 15 minutes before going outside. Use sunscreen with Sun Protection Factor (SPF) 15 or more, and one which provides broad-spectrum protection from both ultraviolet A (UVA) and ultraviolet B (UVB) rays. Protecting from UV rays is important year-round. Even on cloudy and cold days, when it doesn't feel "sunny," UV radiation can cut through. Sunscreen should be applied every two hours, even on cloudy days, and after swimming or sweating.
- ✿ **Wear Protective Clothing-** It is highly recommended to wear protective clothing, such as a long-sleeved shirt, pants, a wide-brimmed hat, and sunglasses to limit the exposure. Children's clothing with UV protection is readily available.
- ✿ **Time Outdoor Activities-** UV rays are strongest between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. and the risk of skin damage is greater during these hours. Avoiding outdoor activities during peak hours can also help reduce sun exposure. Water and sand reflect damaging sun rays, making the danger greater, so be extra cautious if you are on the beach and use an umbrella or tent to create a shaded area.
- ✿ **Check the UV Index-** The National Weather Service and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) provide a daily UV index forecast. Planning activities during the low UV range minimizes exposure.

## Special Consideration for Babies and Children

The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends avoiding sun exposure for babies under 6 months old. Dressing in long-sleeved shirts and brimmed hats may help reduce the exposure.

Although many recent dermatological research studies have shown that sunburns from outdoor or indoor tanning significantly increase the risk of developing skin cancer, early detection and medical intervention may save lives. Talk to your doctor if you notice new or abnormal moles, as they might have a chance of turning into skin cancer.



Enjoy the fun in the sun. And be safe!!!

Additional resources ~<https://www.epa.gov/sunsafety/action-steps-sun-safety>  
~<https://blogs.cdc.gov/yourhealthyenvironment/2017/06/26/summer-sun-safety-protect-yourself-from-uv-radiation/>



**Uma Purandare, Hopewell Township Committee Member, [upurandare@hopewellwp.org](mailto:upurandare@hopewellwp.org)**

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# Woolsey Park Bandshell Update

By this time next year, we will have a bandshell in Woolsey Park.

Thanks to the efforts of Assemblyman Anthony Verrelli of Hopewell Township, in 2021 the State of New Jersey awarded Hopewell Township a \$500,000 grant to construct a bandshell at no cost to the Township. Earlier this year, the Township issued a Request for Proposal for planning and construction. The contract was awarded to Suburban Consulting Engineers, Inc.

The Woolsey Park Advisory Committee has been instrumental in making recommendations about the bandshell and shared their collective vision with the Township Committee and the community at a meeting on March 21. Last month, Russ Graznow, representing the Woolsey Park Advisory Committee, and Township staff met with Suburban to present their thoughts.

“Our vision is that Woolsey Park be a place to honor our heroes, celebrate our holidays, and enrich our community with social events, arts programs and entertainment. The bandshell will be a cornerstone of this vision while still maintaining the idyllic and historic heritage of its unique



setting,” said Graznow, who serves as the Co-Chair of the Woolsey Park Advisory Committee.

“Bringing on a landscape architect with experience with this type of amenity will help fulfill the vision we have for Woolsey Park,” noted Jim Hutzelmann, the Director of

Community Development and Township Engineer.

Later this year, Suburban will present its final recommendations. Once the recommendations are accepted, construction can begin.

Many thanks to the Woolsey Park Advisory Committee members for volunteering their time to work on this effort. The members are Russ Graznow, Mike Chipowsky, Jim Gambino, Carol Lipson, Chris Pazdan, Karin Poveromo, and Dave Guerard.

**Michael Ruger, Hopewell Township Deputy Mayor,**  
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