



*"Crossroads of the  
American Revolution"*

# The Town Crier



2024- Q1

*Hopewell Township Newsletter*

## New Hiring Process in the Hopewell Township Police Department

Historically, the Hopewell Township Police Department has hired new officers who had already been through the Police Academy and were therefore already fully trained Police Officers.

In 2021, however, Mayor Julie Blake worked with then-Police Director Robert Karmazin to develop a new process: hiring candidates before they were trained and putting them through the Police Academy at Mercer County Community College. The hope was that the Township would have a broader applicant pool and would not only get high quality candidates, but also would be able to attract more diverse applicants, including candidates from the Hopewell Valley. This process has the additional benefit of allowing Hopewell Township police leadership to be involved in the training of our officers right from the start, thereby allowing the Department to build a culture that values community policing, teamwork, and empathy. Former Mayor Blake adds, "While it can be more expensive and is a longer process, we determined that the benefit of building a stronger Department over the long run was well worth it."

Today, Chief of Police Jim Rosso has fully embraced this new hiring process. He says, "Hiring the right officers is one of the most challenging tasks in this profession. This new hiring process has allowed us to recruit more local and diverse recruits, who we can instill our values in at the beginning of their careers. This enables us to build a culture of officers who are committed to our mission and values of teamwork, community policing, and empathy."

On January 26, the first class of Officers hired under this new process graduated from the 21-week training class at the Mercer County Police Academy. This intensive program consists of academic coursework in the law and the criminal justice system, driving, basic EMS training, firearm use and safety, physical fitness, and more. Upon their graduation, Officers Michael Enriquez, Ryan Finnegan, Robert Halmi, and James Stanton are now at work full time in the Hopewell Township Police Department, completing an additional 12 weeks of field training, where they ride with and learn from experienced officers. By May, they will be fully trained and ready to patrol like all other officers in the HTPD.

Sergeant Nicholas Sparaco has been coordinating the training and

mentoring the new recruits, along with the support of all of the current sworn officers in the Department. He says, "As the Field Training Officer (FTO) Coordinator, I oversee the Field Training & Evaluation Program. But I'm not just coordinating; I'm actively involved in preparing our new recruit officers even before they enter the police academy. From patrol duties and physical training to firearms training and community building, we leave no stone unturned. What sets us apart is our commitment to getting recruits as equipped as possible before they enter the academy, ensuring they're ready for the real challenges of police work upon graduation. Seeing their progression and accomplishments is definitely rewarding, and I look forward to continuing the program so we can keep adding great officers to become members of this community."



Two additional Academy Candidates were hired in January and began their training at the Academy in February. They are set to graduate and begin their HTPD field training in July. The Department also will open a new hiring process in April. Information on requirements and how to apply can be found at [hopewellpolicenj.gov/info/recruiting](http://hopewellpolicenj.gov/info/recruiting).

Congratulations and welcome to Officers Enriquez, Finnegan, Halmi, and Stanton, and best of luck to the new recruits currently at the Academy. We look forward to celebrating your graduation this summer.

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

# Anyone Can Be a Victim of Online Scams

The Federal Trade Commission has reported that consumers lost \$10 billion to fraud in 2023. The most common fraud is an impersonator scam.

An impersonator scam is when someone pretends to be someone they are not. The scammer may say they are with a government agency like the IRS, Medicare or Social Security, or even a local court. They may pretend to be from a company like Amazon or Apple, or “tech support.” Or they may assume the identity of someone you think you know.

Generally, the scammer will threaten that something bad will happen (and this can range from a package not being delivered to having your Social Security number “deactivated” to being arrested) if you do not do something immediately (like provide a password, Social Security number, bank account number, gift cards or cryptocurrency).

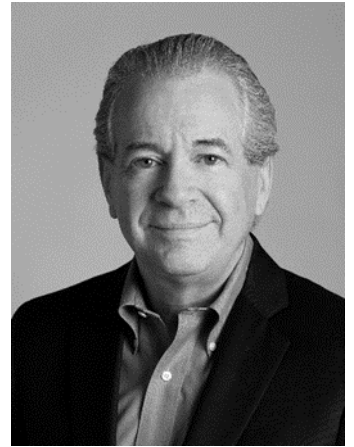
Fortunately, there are some steps you can take to protect yourself as well as critical things to be aware of.

- No government agency will ever call, text or email you and demand that you provide a password, Social Security number, or bank account number. If you get a request like this, delete the email or text and block the phone number.
- No legitimate company will ever insist that you pay for something by gift cards or cryptocurrency.
- No government agency or legitimate company will ever tell you to move your money from a bank account to another place in order to “protect it.”
- Don’t rely on caller ID to be accurate. This information can be faked.
- The more urgent the email or text message (“act immediately” or “you have to do this within 24 hours”), the more likely it is fraudulent.
- If you get an email or text about a product or service asking you to click a link or enter a password to solve a problem, be sure to check that it is legitimate. Look at the return address of the company. If it does not end with “@companyname.com,” for example, it may be fraud. Do not click any links. Instead, go to the website of the product or service and log in to your account to see if there is a problem.
- If in doubt, call or email the government agency or company using information you find on the agency or company’s website. Do not rely on a link or phone number provided in the call, text or email.
- You can also go to a search engine to look for examples of fraud from an agency or company. A search for “Social Security email fraud,” for example, provides considerable information.
- If you think you have received a fraudulent communication, report it to report [fraud.ftc.gov](https://www.ftc.gov/secure/identitytheft/identitytheftreport).

No matter how careful we are, anyone can become a victim. Recently, a financial columnist reported being conned out of \$50,000 by scammers posing as Amazon, the Federal Trade Commission, and the CIA. No age group is immune. Last year, for example, adults aged 20 to 29 lost \$41.2 million to government impostors. Adults 60 to 69 lost \$102.5 million. The Hopewell Township Police Department blotter at [www.hopewellpolice.nj.gov](https://www.hopewellpolice.nj.gov) routinely reports local incidents of online fraud.

If you believe you were the victim of online fraud, don’t be embarrassed. You wouldn’t hesitate to report that your house was robbed. Treat online fraud the same way. Call the Hopewell Township Police Department at the non-emergency number of 609-737-3100 and press 0 to speak with a dispatcher. Our police are skilled at dealing with these cases and can provide assistance.

**Michael Ruger, Committee Member, [mruger@hopewelltp.org](mailto:mruger@hopewelltp.org)**



@HopewellTownshipNJ



@hopewelltownshipnj



@TwpofHopewellNJ



@hopewelltpnj



[www.linkedin.com/  
company/hopewelltpw/](https://www.linkedin.com/company/hopewelltpw/)

# Recycling is a way of life in Hopewell Township



Hopewell Township is surrounded by beautiful rolling hills, gorgeous vistas, and the scenic Delaware River. The Township and its residents take great pride in preserving and protecting environmentally sensitive areas, waterways, native plant species, and animal habitats to keep it that way and protect Hopewell's identity by maintaining a

sustainable landscape.

Recycling, reusing, and reducing are critical elements for sustainability and demonstrate our commitment to the environment. By recycling, reusing, and reducing, residents help save energy, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and avoid sending millions of tons of material to landfills and other disposal facilities. Furthermore, these activities help create a healthier planet for us and conserve natural resources for future generations.

Hopewell Township has a robust recycling program which is promoted on social media and the municipal website. Public happenings include information sessions and events throughout the year. Hopewell Township conducts two Valley-wide recycling events to collect electronic waste and paper for shredding. Residents can recycle a wide range of products such as camera equipment, computer parts, copiers, TVs, phones, etc. Paper shredding allows each Valley resident to bring in up to five boxes of paper. On average the Township collects four tons of paper shredding per event! Appliances containing Freon can be picked up every month ([www.hopewelltpw.org/freon](http://www.hopewelltpw.org/freon)). Credit goes to the Township Public Works Department for always smooth and successful recycling events.

Hopewell Valley has a Green Team, comprised of members from Hopewell Township and both Hopewell and Pennington

Boroughs, which promotes "green" initiatives. On February 10th, the Hopewell Valley Green Team and Hopewell Township conducted a Valley-wide Metal Recycling event and collected more than 15,000 pounds of mixed metal!

In Hopewell Township, curbside recycling collection is managed by the Mercer County Improvement Authority and collected every other Tuesday. Many residents understand the benefits of recycling but get confused about what items can be recycled and if they need to be sorted. Mercer County is fortunate to have single-stream recycling, which means that no sorting is necessary. It's a very user-friendly system that allows residents to place all acceptable recyclable materials into one container. As a result, Mercer County has a high rate of recycling, 91% of the recycled material collected gets recycled! A complete list of accepted recycling materials can be found at [www.mcianj.org/recycling](http://www.mcianj.org/recycling). Containers can be obtained from Public Works.

Preserving and protecting natural resources is a shared responsibility and this mission can only be accomplished by the combined efforts of local government, residents, businesses, and the environmental community. Please

visit the Township website for additional information (<https://www.hopewelltpw.org/recycling>).

All the recycling events are held at the Hopewell Township Public Works building at 203 Washington Crossing-Pennington Rd, Titusville, NJ 08560. Call Public Works with questions at 609-537-0250.

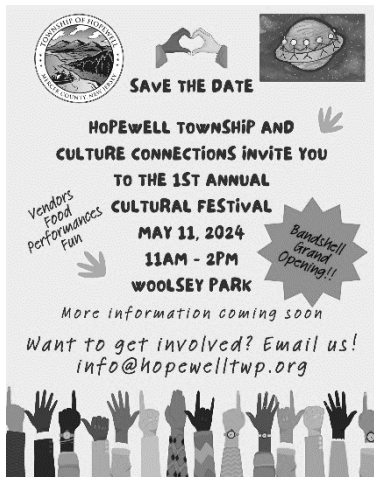
**Uma Purandare, Deputy Mayor,**  
[upurandare@hopewelltpw.org](mailto:upurandare@hopewelltpw.org)



## Coming Soon! Hopewell Township Cultural Festival

Mark your calendar! May 11, 11am – 2pm, Hopewell Township's 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Culture Festival at Woolsey Park. We'll be celebrating the opening of the Bandshell, as well as our neighbors' and friends' cultures! More information is coming soon! We are looking for performers, information tables, food trucks, vendors, and more.

To get involved, contact [info@hopewelltpw.org](mailto:info@hopewelltpw.org).





# Youth Advisory Board Gives Township Youth a Voice



In Hopewell Township, every resident's voice matters, including our youth. Recognizing the significance of youth perspectives, the Township Committee reaffirmed its commitment to inclusivity by reconstituting the Youth Advisory Board in 2023, ensuring the concerns and needs of young residents are not only heard but actively addressed.

hiatus amidst the challenges of the Coronavirus Pandemic. Recognizing the continued need for youth perspective, the Township Committee - in conjunction with our partners from the School District - was thrilled to reconstitute the Board for the 2023-24 school year.

The Board is composed of up to 12 students ranging from 8th to 12th grade who live in Hopewell Township, Hopewell Borough, or Pennington Borough. Monthly meetings serve as a platform for both guest speakers and student-driven discussions and projects. Recent speakers have included Township Administrator George Snyder, Police Chief James Rosso, and Hopewell Valley Municipal Alliance Chair Heidi Kahme.

Initially established in 2003, the Youth Advisory Board serves as a vital link between the Township and our students, offering insights and recommendations on matters affecting them. Responsibilities of the Board include advising on pertinent issues, collaborating with various stakeholders to provide service and leadership opportunities, and promoting community pride.

The students on the Board are actively working on projects aimed at addressing broader student community needs and even attended a recent Township Committee meeting, where they shared preliminary insights and recommendations.

Like many organizations and initiatives, the Board went on

Overall, the reconstituted Youth Advisory Board is one piece of the Township Committee and Staff's commitment to our youth and overall community.

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



## Are you a hunter? Apply for your 2024-25 Hopewell Township permit!

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

Hopewell Township will be accepting individual permit applications for the Township's municipal Deer Management program for the 2024-25 hunting season through May 1. 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 2024-25 white-tailed deer hunting season.

Licensed hunters who are interested in participating in the program should visit the Deer Management page at [www.hopewelltwp.org/DeerManagement](http://www.hopewelltwp.org/DeerManagement) for an application form and 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 Wednesday, May 1, 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](mailto:deermanagement@hopewelltwp.org).

If you were a participant in the 2023-2024 program, be sure you have reported all your harvests to the Township, and have completed your end-of-year survey at [www.hopewelltwp.org/DeerSurvey24](http://www.hopewelltwp.org/DeerSurvey24).

# Answering Your Questions, Plus a Few Timely Recreation and Historic Tourism Updates

I wanted to start this month by thanking Township residents for their feedback, both positive comments and constructive suggestions, on my last newsletter article on new Trail and Recreation amenities coming to Hopewell Valley.

I thought it would be helpful to address some of your questions and comments:

1) First, on connecting existing neighborhoods to the Lawrence-Hopewell Trail, Woolsey Park and other Preserved Open Space tracts and Parks across the Township. We have a number of projects being worked. Several examples:

a. We are studying new access paths that would take residents safely from the Todd's Ridge neighborhood to planned recreation areas off of Scotch Road as well as to a safe crossing that would allow access to Woolsey Park;

b. We have been working with local land trusts and environmental organizations to develop a continuous walking trail from Jacob's Creek to the Woosamonsa Ridge Preserve as well as an additional parking area on Harborton-Woodsville Road;

c. We are supporting several new "Safe Routes to School" proposals, creating safer walking and biking paths for our children;

d. Our Public Works team is working to create a small parking area near Kate's trail, and exploring if we can connect it to the Elm Ridge Park neighborhood;

e. We are hopeful that we can also get help from the County to create better access to the Lawrence Hopewell Trail, Mercer Meadows and Rosedale Park from surrounding neighborhoods;

f. And yes, the Township is requiring that the newer developments in the Valley create trail connections and/or walking-biking trails, so that these residents also have access to active and passive recreation.

Please continue to share your thoughts and ideas on where we should expand our trails and recreation network.

2) I also received a question on the potential for new sidewalks. While Hopewell Township does not build or

maintain sidewalks in residential neighborhoods, we have convened working meetings for specific areas of the Township. If there is a clear consensus amongst residents, our professionals can help you understand what may be possible technically and provide ballpark cost numbers of what it would take to install new sidewalks.



Turning now to some news and other updates. First, on Recreation, the new Turf athletic field at Twin Pines is almost complete! This will be a great resource for our various athletic leagues and we are evaluating additional security and safety systems for the area. We also are in the planning phase for one or more additional grass fields in Independence Park, repurposing an under-utilized recreational area to support our growing soccer and lacrosse programs.

Second, in preparation for the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution, a new Museum/Visitors Center will be built in Washington Crossing State Park. The Park Association is working in conjunction with the other "Ten Crucial Days" sites in Trenton and Princeton to coordinate planning for the 250th. This was a dramatic turning point in the Revolutionary War, starting with the crossing of Washington's Army into Hopewell Township, on his way to beat the Hessians in the first battle of Trenton.

There will be a plethora of supporting programs and activities coming to our area in 2026 and I look forward to seeing the Township recognized for its pivotal role in history.

That's it for this month. Thanks again for your support and continued feedback.

**Kevin D. Kuchinski, Committee Member,**  
**[kdkhopewelltwp@gmail.com](mailto:kdkhopewelltwp@gmail.com)**

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visit [protecthopewellvalley.com](http://protecthopewellvalley.com), or contact us at  
[recruitment@protecthopewellvalley.com](mailto:recruitment@protecthopewellvalley.com).

**FIREFIGHTERS & EMT'S WANTED**



# Summer Camp Registration is Open!

Summer Camp Registration is here and officially open! You can register online, or during business hours, 8:30am-4:30pm, by phone or in-person.

All of our camp information can be found on our website at [www.hopewelltwp.org/SummerCamp](http://www.hopewelltwp.org/SummerCamp). The Spring/Summer Program Guide also has the details. The link to the guide can be found at [www.hopewelltwp.org/recreation](http://www.hopewelltwp.org/recreation).

All camp flyers and registration forms, including travel camp schedules, can be found in the Municipal Building lobby and on the Recreation page.

You should have received your copy of the Spring/Summer Program Guide in the March Issue of the Hopewell Express! It is full of great programs, clinics, events, and fun for everyone of ALL ages! Leaf through the pages and you will find something that is right up your alley! Pop by the Recreation office if you need a copy.

Please feel free to reach out with any questions or to register at 609-737-3753 or [recreation@hopewelltwp.org](mailto:recreation@hopewelltwp.org)!

Looking forward to a fun and fabulous summer, full of sunshine and GOOD TIMES!!

**Karin Poveromo, Director of Parks & Recreation, [recreation@hopewelltwp.org](mailto:recreation@hopewelltwp.org)**



**Hopewell Township Recreation**  
**Summer Camps & Clinics**  
**Register NOW!**  
**Don't miss out on all the fun!**

- Rec Camp
- Nature Explorers Camp
- Junior and Teen Travel Camp
- Pre-K Camp
- Mad Science Camp
- Magic Camp
- Art in the Park
- Performing Arts
- Speed & Agility Camp
- Baseball Camp
- Basketball Camp
- Field Hockey League
- Soccer Conditioning Camp
- Multi-Sports Camp
- Tennis Camp
- Track & Field Clinic

[www.hopewelltwp.org/SummerCamp](http://www.hopewelltwp.org/SummerCamp)  
[recreation@hopewelltwp.org](mailto:recreation@hopewelltwp.org)  
**609-737-3753**

HOPEWELL TOWNSHIP  
Parks & Recreation Department



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201 Washington Crossing - Pennington Road  
Titusville, NJ 08560-1410