



"Crossroads of the  
American Revolution"

# The Town Crier

2024- Q3

Hopewell Township Newsletter

## Hopewell Township Celebrates BeiGene's Grand Opening



It was with great anticipation for a better future for cancer patients all around the world that Hopewell Township celebrated the grand opening of BeiGene's new \$800 million, 400,000 square foot, 42-acre research and pharmaceutical manufacturing facility on July 23. After three years of construction, CEO, Chairman, and co-founder John V. Oyler cut the ribbon at BeiGene's US flagship facility with Governor Phil Murphy, County Commissioners Kristin McLaughlin and Lucy Walter, Mayor Courtney Peters-Manning, Committee members Kevin Kuchinski and Uma Purandare, Hopewell Township Police Chief Jim Rosso, and other dignitaries and invited guests. The facility will make cutting-edge cancer treatments right here in our hometown.

Cancer is a disease that touches all of us. It ravages people regardless of race, religion, political affiliation, socio-economic status, or country of origin. Every family has been touched by its devastating effects. BeiGene, a leading global oncology manufacturing company, has more than 30 medicines in clinical trials or in commercial production. Together, these treatments address roughly 80 percent of the world's cancers with innovative solutions.

Further, BeiGene will not only provide significant new revenues to the Township, thereby reducing the tax responsibility for residential taxpayers, but it also will make a large upfront payment towards our Affordable Housing fund, which will allow the Township to retire old debt over time. The new facility also will create hundreds of high-paying tech jobs, and it is expected that the company will be one of the largest employers in Hopewell Township when the facility is fully operational. These new employees will patronize our restaurants, shop in our stores, and become a part of our community.

BeiGene chose Hopewell Township for its central location, depth of talent, and welcoming attitude. Our community is a wonderful place to live, work, and raise a family, with our plentiful open space, abundant shops and restaurants, excellent schools, and the real sense of community that permeates everything we do. Hopewell Township, with its deep history yet forward-looking attitude, is proud to welcome BeiGene to our community, and we look forward to continuing our partnership for many years to come.



To learn more about BeiGene's grand opening, go to <https://www.beigene.com/hopewell/grand-opening/>.

**Courtney Peters-Manning, Mayor, [cpeters-manning@hopewelltwp.org](mailto:cpeters-manning@hopewelltwp.org), cell 609-577-3312**  
**Kevin D. Kuchinski, Committee Member, [dkhhopewelltwp@gmail.com](mailto:dkhhopewelltwp@gmail.com)**

# Welcome Gary Dorsi, our new Health Officer!

## Overview of the Critical Role of the Health Department

Hopewell Township is excited to welcome Mr. Gary Dorsi as our new health officer!

Mr. Dorsi brings a wealth of experience in public health and a strong dedication to promoting community well-being. For the past 10 years, he has worked in Bergen, Essex, and Passaic counties in Local Health Departments, and most recently as the Assistant Health Officer for the Northwest Bergen Regional Health Commission, before joining the team at Hopewell Township.

He describes this vision for the Hopewell Health Department as follows: "Looking ahead beyond the COVID-19 pandemic, I see an opportunity for us to glean valuable insights from our experiences. This is a moment to refocus our efforts on community well-being and shape the future of public health. Through enforcement, prevention, health education, and support from existing programs and partnerships, our goal is to address health inequities amongst our residents to create a healthy, thriving community."

Currently, the Hopewell Township Health Department is responsible for ensuring the health of the entire Hopewell Valley, including Hopewell Borough and Pennington Borough, after the Township Committee entered into shared services agreements with both Boroughs in April of 2023, and providing health services and animal control. This saves taxpayer money while allowing us to elevate the services available through the Health Department.

## The Health Department has many areas of responsibility.

The Health Department is dedicated to promoting and safeguarding the safety and well-being of the community. To fulfill its mission and commitment to public safety, the department focuses on a wide range of health surveillance activities. They comprise public health nursing and education, social support and outreach, environmental protection, animal control, and vital statistics. The Health Department's role also extends to ensuring the safety of the food served in restaurants, the quality of drinking water, the cleanliness of swimming pool water, and the safety of day camps, schools, daycares, and nursing homes, just to name a few.

The Department offers information and recommendations for properly maintaining water treatment devices and conducting annual water testing for pH, nitrate levels, and bacterial contamination to ensure water safety. On the public water side, the Hopewell Valley is served by multiple public water systems, and the Health Department organizes educational forums and Q&A sessions to ensure tap water is safe to drink. Water quality testing and reports are accessible on the Township website (<https://www.hopewelltwp.org/738/Public-Water-Systems-Serving-the-Hopewell>). The department has also collaborated with the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) to organize presentations raising awareness of PFAS and addressing related concerns. The Registered Environmental

Health Specialists (REHS) conduct regular inspections, including those related to real estate transactions. These inspections include tests for per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) levels according to local standards and the NJ Private Well Testing Act.

The Health Department has additional key



responsibilities, including preventing communicable diseases, providing guidance, and investigating sources of community outbreaks. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the Department and all staff members worked hard and collaborated with community partners and key agencies to provide accurate information, and it organized multiple vaccine clinics for all ages. Additionally, the Health Department routinely conducts health care screenings and flu vaccine clinics. Recently, it organized Shingles vaccine clinics, with more than one hundred people receiving their vaccine. As part of adult health services, the Department offers free blood pressure screenings and runs Project Healthy Bones to prevent osteoporosis and related risks. Numerous resources and educational materials are available to promote an active and healthy lifestyle and to manage tobacco and alcohol addictions. The Department also secured a grant and has been offering in-house radon testing kits to limit exposure to harmful gases as well as water testing kits to monitor well water. Additionally, the Office of the Registrar of Vital Statistics manages the accurate permanent records and the issuing of birth, death, and marriage certificates.

Concerning animal control efforts, the department conducts free rabies vaccination clinics several times a year throughout Hopewell Valley. Additionally, a door-to-door campaign is conducted to ensure pets are registered and properly vaccinated.

Finally, local health departments collaborate with Emergency Management and other local officials to proactively build a plan to respond to natural disasters, novel disease outbreaks, and bioterrorism threats that may significantly impact the local community.

Hopewell Township is fortunate to have community members serving on the Board of Health Advisory Committee and engaging in active discussions to further our mission. They include a doctor, a veterinarian, representatives from the local food service community, and more. I would like to recognize the time commitment of all volunteers and appreciate them sharing their expertise to strengthen community bonds.

The Hopewell Township Committee members and I admire the dedication of the entire staff who are on the front lines to fulfill the responsibility of protecting the community. We welcome Mr. Dorsi and look forward to seeing him implement his vision for a safe and healthy Hopewell Valley.

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

# Dealing with the Aftermath of the Emerald Ash Borer

In 2002, a small beetle was discovered near Detroit, Michigan. Over the past 22 years, the beetle—the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB)—has spread to 36 states and the District of Columbia, as well as Canada.

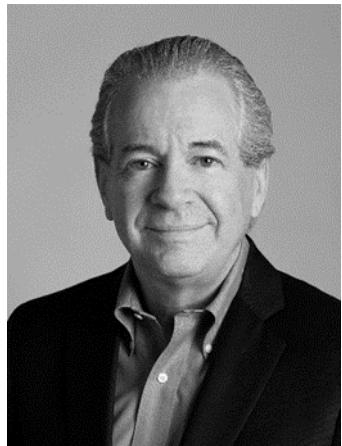
The EAB lays its eggs on ash trees. After hatching, the larvae burrow into the trees to feed, ultimately killing the tree. Tens of millions of ash trees have died in the past two decades.

The EAB was first found in New Jersey in Somerset County in May 2014, and quickly spread throughout the state. Virtually all ash trees that have been attacked by the EAB, unless treated, have died.

This is not the first time a species of tree has been nearly wiped out. During the first half of the twentieth century, virtually all chestnut trees were killed by chestnut blight. Most elm trees were subsequently killed off by Dutch elm disease.

The results in Hopewell Township are evident. There are many dead trees throughout the Township that are still standing. And they can present a potential hazard.

If dead trees are located on municipally owned property, like Woolsey Park, Hopewell Township Public Works will take care of them. If they are on county or state property, removal is the responsibility of the county or state, respectively. Municipal tree removal is prioritized according to the health of the tree, its potential hazard, and Public Works' capacity to remove it.



**HOPEWELL TOWNSHIP  
CLEAN SWEEP  
LITTER CLEAN-UP DAY**

 Help your community and earn money for your organization!

**Saturday, October 5, 9am - 1pm**  
Hopewell Township Public Works Building  
Registration not required  
Groups, Couples, and Individuals welcome  
Protective gear provided  
Rain or shine!!

\*Optional\*  
Choose your spot in advance!  
[www.hopewelltwp.org/  
CleanSweep](http://www.hopewelltwp.org/CleanSweep)


For more information, email Melissa at [MLaing@hopewelltwp.org](mailto:MLaing@hopewelltwp.org)

Trees on private property are the responsibility of the property owner. Sometimes, as a precaution, Public Works or a tree removal service hired by the Township will remove a tree that presents a hazard if it is in a right of way to prevent it from falling into a roadway and blocking emergency vehicles. Power companies are responsible for handling trees near power lines. Public Works will not cut down a healthy tree or trees within ten feet of a power line, but may on occasion assist a utility company working on a tree.

Trees cut down by Public Works are run through woodchippers. The chips are stored behind the Municipal Building next to the skate park and are available to any Township resident who wants them.

Senior Road Foreman Bob Ongradi says "We appreciate the community letting us know when trees have fallen so we can tend to them."

If you see a tree that needs the Township's attention, please contact Public Works through the SDL Portal, <https://www.sdlportal.com/>, by email at [publicworks@hopewelltwp.org](mailto:publicworks@hopewelltwp.org), or by calling 609-537-0250.

**Michael Ruger, Committee Member,**  
[mruger@hopewelltwp.org](mailto:mruger@hopewelltwp.org),  
**cell 609-577-1247**

# Hopewell Township Public Works: Champions of Community Service & Improvement



The Hopewell Township Public Works Department has long been a cornerstone of our community, operating with an unwavering mission to enhance the quality of life for residents, visitors, and businesses. Through their tireless efforts, they maintain over 144 miles of roads and manage park facilities, ensuring that Hopewell Township remains a safe, beautiful, and welcoming place for everyone. Their responsibilities are vast, including mowing grass, clearing storm drains, and conducting routine maintenance on municipal buildings, among many other tasks.

## A Year of Accomplishments

2024 has been an impactful year for the Public Works Department, showcasing their hard work and dedication through several key initiatives and accomplishments.

The Public Works department successfully completed the 2024 street sweeping program. This initiative involved meticulously planning routes and schedules and providing dump trucks for debris removal. While a contractor partner cleaned the streets, the Public Works team efficiently staged dump trucks to collect and transport the debris to a disposal site. This comprehensive effort has prevented sand, leaves, brake dust, tire dust, and dirt from entering the storm drain system, contributing to a cleaner and more beautiful Hopewell Township for all residents.

Additionally, the hazardous tree removal program is actively underway, a proactive initiative aimed at removing dangerous trees before they have the chance to fall and block roadways. This program is vital for maintaining the safety and accessibility of our community's thoroughfares, ensuring that residents can travel safely and without disruption.

The Public Works Building and Grounds Department has also completed the rehabilitation and upgrade of the Police Department locker rooms and restrooms. This project involved cleaning, recoloring, and sealing the tiled walls and floors, installing new fixtures, and replacing lockers. The result is a modernized and safe facility for our dedicated police officers, reflecting the department's commitment to providing top-notch infrastructure for all municipal services.

The Public Works Department also remains committed to open communication with residents. Utilizing platforms like the SDL Portal ensures transparency and accessibility for all residents, with the ability to stay informed and engaged with the ongoing efforts to improve our township.

George Snyder, Township Administrator and Director of Public Works, shares "Our Public Works team ensures that Hopewell Township remains safe and beautiful with steadfast dedication and a diverse set of skills. The staff is responsible for municipal parks, open space, sewer service, fleet maintenance, building maintenance, Township roads, signs, trees, and stormwater conveyance systems. Their commitment to the community is the cornerstone of our Township's well-being."

The Public Works Department's hard work and recent updates have not only addressed immediate needs but have also set the stage for long-term benefits for all who call Hopewell Township home. I personally am grateful for their hard work and dedication and recognize how pivotal the Public Works team is to our residents.

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



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# Hopewell Township Committee Statement Regarding the PILOT Agreement

As a part of Hopewell Township's state-mandated plan to meet its affordable housing obligation, and to ensure that neighborhoods that include an affordable housing component are financially feasible, the Township entered into a Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) agreement with Lennar, the builder of the new inclusionary neighborhood at Hopewell Parc. In light of the Hopewell Valley Regional School District (HVRSD) Referendum that will be in front of voters in September, residents have raised questions about the PILOT and how it may impact the HVRSD. Here, we aim to answer these questions and clarify some misconceptions that are circulating in the community.

The HVRSD and the Board of Education have noted that their bond Referendum contemplates improvements at all schools in the District, including roof and HVAC maintenance that have nothing to do with growth from any of the planned inclusionary neighborhoods. It also includes replacement of the trailers at Bear Tavern Elementary School, which have been housing students since 1994, with the construction of a new wing. This new construction will allow for expanded pre-K programs, in

addition to accommodating additional students from our new inclusionary neighborhoods.

The estimated cost of construction of the new Bear Tavern wing is \$17.1 million, which represents approximately 19.6% of the total amount of the Referendum.

The Hopewell Township Committee noted in 2016, and has reinforced over the years, that it is committed to using a significant portion of the funds from the PILOT to offset any costs of improvements at Bear Tavern Elementary School that may, at least in part, stem from any additional students that will come from our court-approved affordable housing plan. In fact, the PILOT agreement with Lennar itself specifically notes using PILOT funds to support the HVRSD and the new Senior and Community Center.

The roadblock in putting specific numbers to this commitment is the current pending litigation initiated by Hopewell Borough and Pennington Borough against Hopewell Township (Hopewell Borough, Pennington Borough et al. v. Hopewell Township et al.) that seeks to invalidate the PILOT agreement. The Township has already won the case in the lower court, but the case is currently on appeal to the Appellate Division. So long as there is ongoing litigation surrounding the PILOT agreement, the Township Committee is unable to commit to any specific funding plan.

If the Referendum passes, and the appeal is decided in Hopewell Township's favor (and is not appealed further), the Township can have substantive conversations with the HVRSD about a specific dollar amount for a contribution towards improvements at Bear Tavern.

Finally, outside of the Referendum, it is important to note that the HVRSD sets their annual operating budget and the amount to be raised by taxes each year, and the tax collector raises these funds from taxpayers, both residential and commercial, and sends them to the HVRSD. The PILOT has no impact on this process, and the District receives 100% of the amount requested, no matter what.

The Hopewell Township Committee, the HVRSD, and the Board of Education collectively have a productive working relationship, including our recent partnership on a joint demographic study, and we look forward to continuing to work together for all of the residents of the Hopewell Valley.

For more information about the HVRSD bond Referendum, the District has provided information at [www.hvrsd.org/vote](http://www.hvrsd.org/vote).

## FLU SHOT CLINICS

**2024 Fall Schedule**

**HOPEWELL TOWNSHIP HEALTH DEPARTMENT**  
Serving Hopewell Township and The Boroughs of Pennington & Hopewell

Vaccination open to children ages 3+ with parent/guardian

**Standard quadrivalent and Senior Doses available**

\*Residents should bring all insurance cards, Prescription and Medical\*  
\*Seniors: Medicare B and all prescription cards\*

Uninsured? Vaccination is free for residents of Hopewell Valley (with proof of residency)  
\$40 non-residents (credit card only)

**Friday, September 6th - 10am - 2pm**  
Hopewell Township Municipal Building  
(201 Washington Crossing-Pennington Rd, Titusville)

**Friday, September 13th - 2pm - 5pm**  
Hopewell Valley Senior Center  
(395 Reading Street, Pennington)

**Tuesday, October 1st - 3pm - 7pm**  
Hopewell Township Municipal Building  
(201 Washington Crossing-Pennington Rd, Titusville)

**Tuesday, October 15th - 3pm - 7pm**  
Pennington Borough Municipal Building  
(30 North Main Street, Pennington)

**Questions?** Email [nurse@hopewelltwp.org](mailto:nurse@hopewelltwp.org) or call 609-537-0238



# Self-Defense for Women with Hopewell Twp Police Dept.

The Hopewell Township Police Department (HTPD) is excited to announce that it will be hosting our first Rape, Aggression, and Defense (R.A.D.) self-defense course this October. This course is FREE of charge and is exclusively available to female residents of Hopewell Township.

Our R.A.D. program is a comprehensive 12-hour course, delivered in 3-hour sessions every Tuesday in October. The course includes classroom lectures, physical demonstrations, and ample repetitive practice. The final session features a simulation exercise, which is encouraged but not mandatory. However, attendance at each session is required for full participation.

In recognition of October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month, HTPD is committed to supporting women by offering this course to empower them with the skills and confidence they need to protect themselves.

!!□ Dates: Every Tuesday in October

!!□ Time: 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm.

!! Location: Hopewell Township Municipal Building

!!□ Must be a Hopewell Township resident and at least 16 years of age.

The last day to register is Tuesday, October 1, 2024.

If you are interested in participating, please contact Officer Maria Gavdanovich at (609) 737-3100 x5510 or [mgavdanovich@hopewelltwp.org](mailto:mgavdanovich@hopewelltwp.org)

Penn Medicine  
Princeton Health



COMMUNITY WELLNESS

## Self-defense for Women

### Personal Empowerment Safety Program

Tuesdays

October 8, 15, 22 & 29

6 - 9 p.m.

Hopewell Township Municipal Building  
201 Washington Crossing Pennington Rd  
Titusville

FREE for Hopewell Twp residents. Register through the police department by emailing [mgavdanovich@hopewelltwp.org](mailto:mgavdanovich@hopewelltwp.org).

Empower yourself with RAD Women®, a national self-defense course designed to increase your confidence. With the FBI estimating that 1 in 3 women in the U.S. will experience assault in their lifetime, this course helps you become more aware of potential dangers and how to protect yourself. RAD Women® is a practical, 12-hour program spread over four evening classes. It includes lectures, safety drills, muscle memory exercises, and physical defense techniques. Suitable for women of all ages and fitness levels. Please wear sneakers and comfortable clothing. This series is provided in collaboration with the Hopewell Township Police Department.

For a full calendar of programs, visit:  
[www.princetonhcs.org/calendar](http://www.princetonhcs.org/calendar)



Community Wellness | 1.888.897.8979



Titusville, NJ 08560-1410  
201 Washington Crossing-Pennington Road  
TOWNSHIP OF HOPEWELL