

# TOWNSHIP OF Haverford est. 1682 PENNSYLVANIA

## 2020 Fall Newsletter

### Letter from Steve D'Emilio



Hello Neighbors,

I hope this update finds you well! It seems like an eternity since we last met at my 1st Ward meeting back in

March.

This continues to be both a challenging and unprecedented year but I want to take this time to thank some of the people who make a difference each and every day – **ESSENTIAL WORKERS**. The people who work the front lines and whose commitment to job and community never waivers. The people who leave the safety of their homes and love of their families to work in the storm of COVID-19. They are doing the jobs that we completely depend on. Maybe we once took these jobs for granted – but sometimes it takes a crisis to open our eyes.

To maintenance workers, bus drivers, trash collectors, volunteer firefighters, mechanics, emergency medical responders, delivery drivers, police officers, teachers, doctors, nurses, front line medical office staff, food preparers, bank employees, and the list goes on and on -- here's to you!

When this virus first reared its ugly head, grocery employees showed up every day to keep stores open so we could feed our families and provide some sense of normalcy. Maybe we didn't pay much mind to those who stocked the shelves or sanitized carts

while we instead frantically asked them when the toilet paper, disinfected sprays and wipes were going to be available. We see you and appreciate you!

Maybe some had dual roles – like our volunteer firefighters. Whether it was responding to a fire alarm in your home or driving emergency vehicles to bring some joy in honoring a family member for a milestone birthday or a graduation, we thank you!

But maybe most of all, medical professionals stepped up to honor us with their service. With nursing homes being hit especially hard, we should thank all the nursing home caretakers, nurses, and CNAs, who watched over and became family to elderly or medically handicap patients. Medical professionals not only put their lives on the line to care for our sick but in many cases shared final moments of life with patients whose family members could not be there.

Personally, I will never forget the images of nurses after a tough work shift. Scared, exhausted and with the imprint of masks still clear on their faces, they cared for and comforted patients battling the virus. It reminded me of how the firefighters looked after the 9/11 attacks. We honor you!

This year also brought about flooding throughout the township and indeed, in the 1st Ward. At the August 10th Board of Commissioners meeting, I asked to have our engineer, Pennoni Associates perform a comprehensive study on how and why this is happening.

I also emailed State Representative Mike Zabel regarding the damage some of you experienced with both storm water and sewage to determine if we can acquire FEMA grants. As soon as I receive more information, I promise I will relay that to you as quickly as possible. You may send me your email at [sdemilio@havtwp.org](mailto:sdemilio@havtwp.org)

Americans have faced many adversities in its history. Today is very different but we must remember that we are all Americans. If we are to continue as a nation, then we must be better than what we are now.

Throughout its history, America has had both a glorious and atrocious past. We accomplished many great achievements and equally, many failures. We cannot, and should not, forget those accomplishments nor the failures. We have witnessed the best and the worst that humanity has to offer. We should never forget our history no matter how much happiness or sorrow it has bestowed on us. We state in the Pledge of Allegiance.....“One Nation under God, Indivisible, with Liberty and Justice for All”. These words give us a foundation to constantly build on.

We must commit ourselves to ensuring that we are always “One Nation” and that we ensure “Liberty and Justice for All.”

God Bless You!

*Steve D'Emilio*

Steve D'Emilio  
1st Ward Commissioner

# Board of Commissioners

Haverford Township is led by nine Township Commissioners who are elected by Ward residents. Commissioners elect their own President and Vice President at the beginning of each new year. The Commissioners appoint a Township Manager who then oversees a sizable staff. Regular meetings of the Board of Commissioners are held the 2nd Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. The Commissioners communicate directly with their constituents through emails and social media. Please contact them directly to be placed on the communications and receive up to date information on your particular Ward.

Meetings are broadcast live on the Township Cable Channel (Cable TV channel 38 on Verizon and channel 5 on Comcast) and replay everyday at 9:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.

1st  
Ward



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9th  
Ward



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## Police

The Police Department is available 24 hours a day. If you wish to make a report, you can dial 911 for emergency and non-emergency calls, or you can stop by the Police Station at 1010 Darby Road.

Over the summer we had an increase in reported thefts from motor vehicles. Typically, these thefts are crimes of opportunity occurring during the overnight hours. Take away the opportunity by locking your vehicles and placing any valuables out of view.

Please be aware of suspicious calls, emails and texts you may receive. We have reports of residents being victimized via communication devices. One such scam involves receiving a text or email from someone you know. The person asks for money in the form of gift cards and it appears legitimate. However, criminals are hacking your device or “spoofing” a phone number to steal money by deception. We encourage you to speak to the person before any money is exchanged. Always be leery if the form of payment is electronic/gift cards/wire transfer. Visit [https://www.havtwp.org/Police\\_Department](https://www.havtwp.org/Police_Department) or contact the police if you suspect you are a victim of a phone scam.

On June 26, 2020 we celebrated the retirement of Officer Mark Semerad and his K9 partner Kato. Officer Semerad served the township for 26 years and had the honor of being the department’s first K9 officer. Officers Semerad and Kato were partners for 8 years. Thank you both for your service to the residents of Haverford Township.



We would also like to congratulate Officer Thomas Murtha on his appointment to the position of Police Officer. Officer Murtha graduated from Kutztown Univ. with a degree in Criminal Justice and has three years experience as a police officer. Officer Murtha was sworn in on June 26, 2020.

The Officers of the Haverford Township Police Department have been working diligently throughout the COVID-19 pandemic to provide the consistent level of service township residents expect. During this time we have protected ourselves and the community by practicing CDC recommendations of social distancing, personal protective equipment and sanitization of equipment. We would like to thank the residents of Haverford Township for their patience and continued support.

## Finance

### COVID-19 FINANCIAL UPDATE

When the COVID-19 pandemic hit, we all were faced with unprecedented concerns. The Township is a business too – a special, service-oriented business – but a business nonetheless. We too had to take a hard look at our finances and prepare as best we could as we entered an unknown. We curtailed spending where we could, reevaluated staffing, and while we had to temporarily close two of our larger revenue generating operations - the recreation program and the Skatium, all of the Township’s essential services kept going strong. The news has reported that many cities and towns across the country currently find themselves with unprecedented financial challenges due to the pandemic. It’s important to note that many of those cities and towns are largely dependent on a sales/wage tax or are in tourist areas of the country that heavily rely on travel/entertainment industries.

Luckily for Haverford, our economic makeup does not rely on those severely impacted revenue streams. However, we, like every other business have areas that we are closely watching. Along with lost revenue from our closed programs, we lost revenue from plummeting interest rates, suspended parking meter enforcement and general lack of most revenue generating activities for a few months. Our real estate tax collection rates are strong but we are still awaiting receipts from our business tax returns (extended until July 15 in conjunction with the IRS filing extension). We also saw strong performance in our code enforcement department and our local real estate market proved its resiliency with reduced but stronger than expected realty transfer tax returns. Business taxes account for \$2.75M of our general fund budget. Since our business tax is based on prior year gross receipts, we will see some financial impacts of the pandemic in 2020, but possibly even more so, in 2021. Our business community will continue to rebuild along with the rest of the country. While the world continues to navigate through the COVID-19 pandemic, we too are weathering the storm. Our healthy reserves, strong cash position, and timing of our tax calendar all played in our favor and we continue to be on stable financial ground.

### TOWNSHIP REAL ESTATE TAX UPDATE

As of September 1, the Township enters the penalty phase which was extended from June 1. Please remember that Citizens Bank is unable to accept real estate tax payments on our behalf. Please mail all township real estate tax payments to the Township building at 1014 Darby Road, Havertown, PA 19083.

### TOWNSHIP BORROWING UPDATE

Back in March as we prepared to

refund our 2014 General Obligations bonds, the Township had its credit rating evaluated by Moody's Investor Services. We are so proud to announce that the Township received a Aaa rating for the first time in the history of Haverford Township. Moody's cited our "robust and improved financial position, sizeable and growing tax base, and manageable debt burden". While it was delayed due to the daily changes in economic conditions, we were able to successfully refund our 2014 General Obligation Issue in June. This refunding will save \$1.995M dollars over the course of the debt issue.

### COUNTY REASSESSMENT UPDATE

Property owners should have received their final assessment values from the County in July. These values will go into effect on your 2021 property tax bills from the county, township and school district. Please visit the Township website, social media and YouTube for several presentations made by the Township to help property owners understand and prepare for this process.

### Parks & Recs

Fall Registration will begin online on September 14.

**THE HAVAGOOD TIMES** will be available to view online on September 14 and will be mailed to homeowners by September 21.

### FALL PREVIEW

Fall Field Hockey League  
This league blends fun drills and games to help kids build their skill level and confidence.

Grades 1 & 2, Time: 10:30-11:30am (Sun), Fee: \$70  
This league provides skilled instruction and intramural league

play for both beginners and developing players.

Grades 3 & 4, Time: 10-11:30am (Sun) and 6-7:15pm (Mon),  
Fee: \$95

Grades 5 & 6, Time: 10-11:30am (Sun) and 6-7:15pm (Tues),  
Fee: \$95

Dates: 9/13-10/18  
Location: Haverford Reserve

### HAVERFORD TOWNSHIP DAY

Due to COVID-19, Haverford Township Day will be cancelled this Fall. We will see everyone in 2021.

### THE CREC IS OPEN FOR RENTALS

The CREC at Haverford Reserve can be the perfect place for your family event, birthday party or baby shower. We will follow CDC guidelines and still give you the chance to celebrate life events.

Questions?

Email CRECRental@havtwp.org

### Historical Society

Unfortunately, due to these uncertain times, the Historical Society had to cancel our two biggest fundraisers which are the Heritage Festival and the December Holiday House Tour. We will not have the summer Sunday open houses either. We are planning to hold Octoberfest on October 2nd and a Holiday Open House on December 13th. This being said, the plans could change at any time so please follow our website (Haverfordhistoricalsociety.org) for the most updated information.

Nitre Hall and The Federal School have both gone through major restoration over the past seven months. All future events and especially, the Colonial Living program, will enjoy the complete kitchen update at Nitre Hall. We are very excited to show off our

beautiful buildings and to share them with the community.

### HADA



You will see a new bronze statue on Darby Road this fall, located where the road forks near Eagle Rd. The statue was crafted by a

CA artisan to memorialize all our friends, neighbors, and relatives of the Township, that have passed away due to the opioid crises over the past few years. A HADA team, made up of parents that lost children to the epidemic, chose the design to depict their lost loved ones as the loving children they will always be in their collective minds and hearts.

HADA also hopes the beautiful sculpture will be a reminder to the community that addiction can strike any family and we must all work together to educate our young family members about the dangers of drug and alcohol use.

### Bon Air Fire

Bon Air has been devoted to serving Haverford Township and our neighboring communities since 1918 and now, more than ever,

**We need YOUR help!**

The Commonwealth has recognized the lack of volunteers as an issue in its recently published Senate Resolution – 6 report. Pennsylvania has lost over 230,000 volunteer members over the last thirty years!  
Volunteer fire companies save taxpayers millions of dollars every year by donating time serving their

neighbors and community. Being a member of Bon Air Fire Company has many incentives as well. A 20% Township real estate rebate for Township homeowners, free parking at parking meters, discounted rates at the Skatium, and free access to the CREC to name only a few! The camaraderie of the fire service is one unlike any you will ever be a part of.

If you don't have the time, please support us in our annual fund drive! That money goes directly to gear, maintenance, and our life-saving tools that you or a loved one may need one day. For inquiries on membership, e-mail [BAFCrecruiting@gmail.com](mailto:BAFCrecruiting@gmail.com) to have your personal questions answered.

From all members of the Bon Air Fire Company, we thank our entire community for their continued support and we look forward to serving you when you call.

## Historical Commission

As reported previously, the Haverford Township Historical Commission received a \$16,000 grant through the Certified Local Government program of the PA State Historic Preservation Office. The grant will be used to assist the Commission in meeting its obligation under Township Ordinance No. 2580-2009, to "Maintain and update the Historic Resource Survey and Inventory of Historic Resources." In June, after a competitive proposal process, the Township retained the professional consulting firm of Richard Grubb & Associates to update photographs of existing buildings

sites on the Historic Resources Survey (not updated since 1994!), and to identify historic resources that could be added to the Survey to promote preservation of Haverford Township's historic character. Work on this project began this summer and expected to be completed by the end of the year.

## HPED

HPED (Haverford Partnership for Economic Development) is committed to supporting local businesses, especially our family-owned businesses, during the COVID-19 crisis.

We know that Township residents are also eager to support our businesses at this time. We continue to post information about the status of businesses in the Township on our [DiscoverHaverford.org](http://DiscoverHaverford.org) website. Please use this guide to see which businesses are open, open for pick-up and delivery only, and who has outdoor dining and/or indoor dining.

Next time you need to purchase a birthday or holiday gift, give the gift of a strong community by buying a gift card to your favorite restaurant or store!

We ask that businesses email [info@HPED.org](mailto:info@HPED.org) so that we will have the most accurate and current information to post.

## Library

**Overdrive/Libby:** Download titles 24/7 to play on your PC, tablet, ereader or smart-phone. Maximum 7 checkouts per person at any time.

**Hoopla:** Instantly borrow free digital movies, music, audiobooks, comics and more. 3 checkouts per person, per month. Checkout periods: 3 weeks for books, comics & audiobooks; 1 week for music; 3 days for

movies.

### RBdigital:

Get full digital copies of your favorite magazines. With a free RBdigital account you can view magazines on your computer or mobile device.

<https://haverfordlibrary.org/books/more/>

### Virtual Programming on Facebook, Instagram and YouTube

Library programming and virtual service videos are on Facebook, Instagram and YouTube. You can watch many programs on Facebook live, but you can also view them as videos anytime!

[www.facebook.com/Haverford-TownshipFreeLibrary](https://www.facebook.com/Haverford-TownshipFreeLibrary)  
[www.youtube.com/haverfordtownship-free-library](https://www.youtube.com/haverfordtownship-free-library)

## EAC

Haverford Township is doing its part to fight climate change, are you? Residents and businesses produce the vast majority of greenhouse gas emissions – here is how to do your part!

3 simple things you can do to make a big impact:

- Switch to Green Power – view our "Demystifying Buying Cheap Renewable Power" video (url below) to avoid the pitfalls or go to [www.makebenproud.com](http://www.makebenproud.com). Consider installing solar on your home or business.
- Buy a Green Vehicle – Hybrids have the lowest lifetime cost of ownership!
- More Meatless Meals - If everyone adds 1 or 2 more meatless meals each week, it has a big impact!

**Climate Webinar Series:** All free! For live events, visit <https://m.facebook.com/FriendsofHaverfordEAC/events>.

For videos, see <https://www.gotostage.com/channel/6d3a2d4f2fc-c480092eabfc9c60ad0d8>.

## EAC Cont'

All webinars focus on simple actions that can save you money or be a great return on investment.

- Conquering Your EV/Plug-In Fears
- Solar Home Virtual Tour Video and Live Q & A
- Divesting from Fossil Fuels for the Rest of Us
- Understanding the Impact of Your Food Choices
- Making Your Home More Energy Efficient

**End of Solar PV Tax Credits:** For 2020 you can receive a 26% federal tax credit paid to you on your 2021 taxes. This credit is reduced to 22% if installed in 2021 and will be gone in 2022. Don't wait! Act now! We can help you assess if Solarize Delco's selected vendor and a significant discount over market rates is right for you. Email [solarizedelco@gmail.com](mailto:solarizedelco@gmail.com) with name, address and phone or see <https://www.facebook.com/SolarizeDelco/>

**Haverford EAC Speaks to DelCo:** See the guest column in the Delaware County Daily Times. Visit [https://www.delcotimes.com/opinion/guest-column-delco-bootstraps-and-its-battle-against-climate-change/article\\_5fe5e668-9891-11ea-a3cd-4386d027e082.html](https://www.delcotimes.com/opinion/guest-column-delco-bootstraps-and-its-battle-against-climate-change/article_5fe5e668-9891-11ea-a3cd-4386d027e082.html)

**Help your Neighbors Fight Climate Change!** You can get a motivational lawn sign to help move the needle in your community. Sign up at <https://forms.gle/NtUQzrU2T4d-VTTYb7>. If any problems, send an E-mail to [havswitch@gmail.com](mailto:havswitch@gmail.com) with name, address, phone number and the subject: I want a lawn sign!

**Hav-A-Rain Garden:** Haverford residents and businesses can request a free rain garden (some sweat equity required) to "slow the flow", improve stream water quality and reduce flooding by emailing us with your address and phone

**Join EAC!** EAC encourages those with environmental skills and anyone committed to our mission help us promote environmental stewardship. To volunteer time or ideas, email [aurora.dizel@gmail.com](mailto:aurora.dizel@gmail.com) or come a monthly meeting, normally the 1st Tuesday of each month at 7:30 PM in the Township building meeting room C. During the pandemic we meet virtually - to join us email us at [Havswitch@gmail.com](mailto:Havswitch@gmail.com) for the online access link.

## Adult School

Haverford Township Adult School will be adding virtual classes to its Fall 2020 curriculum. Semester begins the week of September 21. A digital copy of our brochure is available at [www.haverfordadult-school.org](http://www.haverfordadult-school.org). Registration opens August 17.

Explore classes in the arts, history, dance, exercise, languages, and more.

Please note that registrations will only be accepted by mail, our website, [www.haverfordadult-school.org](http://www.haverfordadult-school.org). or by telephone, 610-853-5919. There will be NO walk in registrations at the Oakmont administration building on Eagle Road.

HTAS, it's the place for you to learn, grow, connect, SAFELY!

## Skatium

The Haverford Skatium has been the premier winter sports facility in Delaware County since it opened its doors in 1974. Proudly serving Haverford Township, the rink offers the best NHL regulation sized rink with year round ice hockey, figure skating, camps, clinics, skating lessons, public skating and special events.

In addition to our facilities and

programs, the rink features the Have-A-Burger restaurant and Hockeytown Pro Shop. Both features are privately owned and valuable parts of our facility.

**Fall and Winter Public Skating Hours:**

All times subject to change due to COVID-19 regulations. Please call or check our website or Facebook for the most up to date schedule.

**Prices:**

Adult: \$8.00

Child (6 & Under): \$6.00

Seniors: \$3.00

Skate Rental: \$2.00

Skate Helpers: \$3.00

Cash, Credit (Visa or MasterCard) or Check Accepted!

**Skatium Passbooks:**

10 Admission Passbook for use at any of our Public Skating Sessions

- \$65.00 for Township Residents (\$75.00 with Skate Rental)
- \$70.00 for Non-Residents (\$80.00 with Skate Rental)

**Private Ice Rental and Group Outings:**

The Skatium has ice available to rent at an affordable cost. We also offer Group Rate Pricing for Scout Troops, School and Church Groups and other organizations. For more info, please call 610-853-3252 or email us at [rturnbull@havtwp.org](mailto:rturnbull@havtwp.org)

**Learn to Skate Program:**

For private and group skating lessons please contact our Skating Director, Kristin Caparra at 610-853-2085 or email at [kc.skatium@yahoo.com](mailto:kc.skatium@yahoo.com). Lessons are offered on Tuesday and Thursday from 4pm-5pm and Sunday from 3pm-5pm. A hockey clinic is also offered on Sundays from 1:55pm-2:55pm. More information can be found on our website under the "Learn to Skate" tab.

Visit the website at [www.havtwp.org/Skatium](http://www.havtwp.org/Skatium) to more information



## Sewer Alert

Sewer backups and flooding can cause devastating property damage and are not covered by standard homeowners' insurance policies. The majority of these claims are the responsibility of the property owner. Sewage from sanitary sewer lines occasionally back up into houses through drain pipes. These backups not only cause extensive water damage that is difficult and expensive to repair, but also create health hazards.

Haverford Township is not responsible for damages caused by sewers, drains and sump pumps except under limited/special circumstances provided by the PA Municipal Immunity laws.

Township residents must be aware that they should review their homeowner's, flood and sewer backup insurance coverage with their agent/insurance companies in order to properly protect their personal residence—probably the most valuable tangible asset that we all have.

Our Township Code states that all sewer service laterals from the Township's sewer, regardless of location, are the property of the customer and/or owner and shall be maintained by him in good condition and repair.

## Information

**HAVE YOU LOST INCOME DIRECTLY DUE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC & HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO MAKE RENT, MORTGAGE OR UTILITY PAYMENTS?**

Haverford Township has received CDBG funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development through the CARES Act and may be able to provide assistance to you if you are at, or below the income limits set by

Congress listed below:

- 1 Person Household - \$54,150.00
- 2 Person Household - \$61,850.00
- 3 Person Household - \$69,600.00
- 4 Person Household - \$77,300.00
- 5 Person Household - \$83,500.00
- 6 Person Household - \$89,700.00
- 7 Person Household - \$95,900.00
- 8 Person Household - \$102,050.00

Income is the total gross income for all sources, including but not limited to wages, social security, welfare, unemployment, interest, pensions, workers compensation, and any and all income earned by household members.

The Program is administered on behalf of Haverford Township by the Delaware County Community Action Agency. Please call them at 610-874-8451 to schedule an appointment for an interview and application. You will need to provide proof of income and proof that your income loss was a direct result of the COVID-19 Pandemic.

**ATTENTION HOMEOWNERS & RESIDENTS OF ALL AGES**  
If you meet the 2020 Income Limits\* above, you may also be eligible to receive assistance with home repairs, including heater & roof replacement and other items:

\* Current total income from all sources and for all deed holders and residents.

This is a Federally funded program operated by Haverford Township. If you are eligible upon receipt of your application, you will be added to the waiting list and notified by letter.

To apply call Anthony J. Dunleavy Associates, Inc. @ (610) 352-5555 and ask for a Rehabilitation Program Application.

Assistance is offered on an EQUAL OPPORTUNITY BASIS. If you need language assistance due to a Limited English Proficiency, please request it when you call.



Hockeytown Pro Shop is your stop for all ice hockey equipment needs, t-shirts, screen printing and embroidery for any team or company event.

Skate sharpening by Frank's Sharpening, performance edges, now available before & during all hockey games. Appointments available, call Frank @ 267-432-4280

Hockeytown coordinates all of our hockey leagues from Mite thru Men's leagues, HTHL, SHSHL, SHL.



Have-A-Burger  
<http://www.haveaburger.com>  
Best Burgers in Havertown!  
For birthday party information, Please call Have-A-Burger at 610-853-4637 or email @ [FreshBurgers@HaveABurger.com](mailto:FreshBurgers@HaveABurger.com)

## Multimedia Corner:

At the beginning of 2020, the IT Department launched a new website for the Township. The goal was to make things easier to find, with a more modern look and easy access to important information. Instead of having to scroll we made quick easy access landing pages for the Township Departments, Resident Resources, Business Resources and Quick Links page. So we need your feedback. If you are having problems finding things, questions or comments, please reach out to us directly at [multimedia@havtwp.org](mailto:multimedia@havtwp.org). We will respond within one business day of your email.

For a couple of quick website tutorials visit the link at:

- [www.havtwp.org/Video\\_Library](http://www.havtwp.org/Video_Library) and click on the website tutorial link

The IT Department also has launched its very own podcast. So far we have released 4 episodes with topics about COVID-19 and its effect on the Township. We got a chance to sit down and speak with the Director of EMS, Jim McCans, 8th Ward Commissioner Dr. Hart, Brian Barrett the Parks & Recreation Director and Zoning Officer Kelly Kirk.

Check out all our episodes at:

- [www.havtwp.org/Podcasts](http://www.havtwp.org/Podcasts).

And finally, we have brought the Commissioner's newsletter completely in house here in the IT Department. We have trimmed down the pages, taken out the ads, all so that you can focus on the important events, news and updates around the Township. At any time, you can opt out of getting this newsletter by going to [www.havtwp.org/Township\\_Newsletter](http://www.havtwp.org/Township_Newsletter) and select to the link under the "Help us Go Green". Electronic versions with Ward specific introductions by elected Commissioners are available on the website.

Here in the IT Department we pride ourselves on pushing the Township to new levels. We have introduced new forms of social media, our new modern website and launched our new podcast. We want our residents to know they have access to information 24/7.

We look forward to your comments or questions. Email us at [multimedia@havtwp.org](mailto:multimedia@havtwp.org).

\*\*Christina Mann-Multimedia Specialist, Webmaster

\*\* Jeff Hancock-Communications Manager