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*Deadline for the
next newsletter*
May 12, 2016

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Hanoverview

A NEWSLETTER PUBLISHED BY HANOVER TOWNSHIP, NORTHAMPTON COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

STATE OF THE TOWNSHIP

John N. Diacogiannis, Chairman – Board of Supervisors

Just when I thought I wouldn't have much to say in my year-end report, I saw several city water department trucks pass by my house and assemble around the corner. A number of sinkholes opened up in a few front yards and the water department was in the process of making water pipe repairs. My mind traveled back a number of years ago when a large sinkhole opened up a few doors away, endangering neighborhood homes and closing the street for nearly six months. In view of recent notable sinkholes in the city and the township, it's evident that the problem continues to rear its ugly head all around us. It's time to reintroduce an article that I had written about the risk of sinkholes and how to recognize the telltale signs of pending problems, along with strong risk insurance advice. More on this topic in a companion article elsewhere in this newsletter.

The year 2016 saw a very tumultuous presidential election that has and continues to garner our attention. Hugh warehouses and distribution centers all around us and their resulting impacts primarily on our roadways, are finally demanding our attention. This is a



subject for serious discussion throughout the region. I expect Lehigh Valley wide dialogue on this important issue. Nationally, we saw the deterioration in the relationship between law enforcement and the public. Fortunately, we have not seen very much evidence of this locally, however the effects are felt regardless. The effects of international terrorism, civil strife and an unimaginable refugee crisis continue to be felt across the World. Comparatively, the state of our township is very well indeed. We are very fortunate to have had a relatively uneventful year. We are also very fortunate that our finances continue to be in great shape. Cost of our local government continues to be among the lowest in the Lehigh Valley.

This spring we will be dedicating First Responders Park, a beautiful soccer complex along Airport Road. The park will be dedicated to our township first responders including fire, emergency medical, police and emergency management personnel. This is in recognition of the dedicated and unselfish contributions that they make to our commu-

continued on page 3

FIRST RESPONDERS PARK DEDICATION

April 29, 2017 • 11:00 a.m.

As a result of a suggestion by Supervisor Prendeville and with the support of the Board of Supervisors through the adoption of a Resolution Village View Park was renamed **First Responders Park** in 2016.

Village View Park, around since 1960's existed as a small pocket park. Over the past few years through land acquisition and a Recreation Contribution from the Lehigh Northampton Airport Authority the park has been transformed into a twenty-five acre site. Over the past four years four playing fields and parking areas have been developed and in the Spring of 2017 two of the fields will be ready for use. Over the next few years we hope to obtain additional grants for a field house and additional parking at the site.

Please join us on April 29th at 11:00 a.m. as we officially dedicate the park honoring our first responders followed by games.



B·U·D·G·E·T M·E·S·S·A·G·E

by John J. Finnigan, Jr., Township Manager

The 2017 Budget adopted at the Board of Supervisor meeting on December 20, 2016 maintains the Tax Rate at 3.90 mills including the Fire Tax of .5 mills for the tenth consecutive year. To put that in perspective, in 1994 the mill rate was 3.25, from 1995 to 2005 (11 years) it was 4.25 mills and in 2006 and 2007 it was 4.67. Since 2008 the mill rate for general taxes has been 3.40 and a Fire Tax of .50 mills. The fire tax has allowed the Township to purchase five (5) vehicles for the Hanover Township Volunteer Fire totaling \$2,535,228 between 2009 and 2016 without incurring any debt.

Even more impressive is the fact that during 2015 the Township paid off the debt on our share of the Colonial Regional Police Headquarters sixteen (16) years early and in 2013 paid off the debt on the Community Center, three (3) years early. The Township is one of the few municipalities in the area, and for that matter in the Commonwealth, that is able to be in that position.

The Township remains on sound financial footing as a result of the dedication and commitment of the Township staff that has helped Hanover Township become and continue as a premier location to live and work in the Lehigh Valley.

We continue to cut expenses that allows us to absorb an eight point four (8.4) percent increase in medical coverage for Township staff; offset by employee contributions, and a five point nine (5.9) percent increase in the cost of police protection and the continuing decrease in state funding.

During 2017 Hanover Township estimates receiving \$8,657,369 in General Fund Revenue, which equates to a **.9155 increase** of \$78,536 and a similar **increase** in expenditures for the year. Sources of revenue include, but are not limited to real estate taxes, fire tax, waste & recycling fees, earned income tax, local services taxes, mercantile taxes, real estate transfer taxes, grants, and building & inspection fees. The General Funds expenditures include costs associated with Public Works, Administration, Planning & Zoning and Inspections, Colonial Regional Police, Hanover Township Volunteer Fire Company No. 1, Refuse & Recycling and the Bethlehem Area Public Library.

The majority of expenditures in the General Fund are recurring costs with the most significant costs being for public safety (police, fire and EMS) waste and recycling collection costs, offset by fees, and wages & benefits. 2017 is year five, of the five year escalating agreement with Republic Services. We will be re-bidding that contract mid-year 2017. As a result the base rate for single family residential accounts will be two-hundred and sixty five



(\$265); multi-family container service one hundred and forty (\$140) and multifamily container and totter two-hundred and ten (\$210). A discount period will still be offered in 2017 as it has in the past.

During 2017 Hanover Township estimates receiving \$839,346 in Recreation revenues, which is a **.0446 increase** over 2016.

Sources of revenue include, but are not limited to, memberships, season pool passes, rental of facilities, daily pool receipts, swim lessons, fundraising, program fees, catering, advertising – newsletter, children's services fees, programs and fundraisers. The 2017 Recreation expenditures include costs associated with salaries, operating expenses including utilities, supplies, equipment, pool and park maintenance and training, fundraising costs and services. Commencing in 2008 the Recreation Budget includes allocation of all costs that historically have been captured in the General Fund, including Township pension obligation, payroll processing costs, park maintenance wages, workmen's compensation insurance, liability, accident, commercial, professional, and crime insurance coverage, and employee benefits.

Capital Reserve Expenditures in 2017 will include monies appropriated for municipal facilities, an ambulance, and improvements to First Responders Park.

During 2017 road resurfacing will be completed on four roads: Stone Park Drive, Overlook Drive, Briarstone Road and Valley Center Parkway. Micro surfacing will be completed on Orchard Lane and Steuben Road.

I would also like to thank the Treasurer, Secretary, Public Works and Recreation Director who worked tirelessly as we visited and revisited revenues and expenses. Together we prepared the most comprehensive and detailed budget possible, providing the services required and demanded by our residents and businesses, while recognizing our common desire to provide those services as economically feasible as possible.

Note 1: The mill rate, also referred to as the millage rate, is a figure representing the amount per \$1,000 of the assessed value of property, which is used to calculate the amount of property tax. The term "millage" is derived from a Latin word meaning "thousandth," with 1 mill being equal to **1/1,000th** of a currency unit.

Note 2: Also contained in the Winter Hanoverview are spreadsheets that detail the Tax Burden on a Hanover Township Resident by the three taxing authorities, the Township Tax Rate History for the past twenty-four (24) years and How Hanover Township Taxes Compare with other Municipalities.

STATE OF THE TOWNSHIP *continued from page 1*

nity. Our new soccer pitches will be dedicated on April 29th at 11 a.m. Everyone is welcome to join us for the first kick.

I'm sure many of you are as troubled as I am about the disrespect, animosity and outright attacks suffered by law enforcement agencies throughout the nation. The attacks on police are unfathomable. We are heartbroken every time a police officer is targeted and loses his or her life to a senseless and unprovoked attack. When these occur, we need to double down our efforts to respect and support our own Colonial Regional Police Department officers. Their job is difficult enough without the support of our community. This past year we made an effort to show our moral support in the form of personal outreach, blue lines painted in front of the police station and the naming of First Responders Park. As a member of the Police Commission, we initiated an effort to raise funds for special ballistic vests designed to be worn over an officer's full-time body armor. Because of the immediacy of the need and to avoid budgetary delays, a fund raising plan was deemed appropriate. During my initial fundraising effort, I was pleased and pleasantly surprised by the outpouring of genuine support for our police. This included offers of financial support for the unbudgeted needs of police such as the ballistic vests. Fortunately, Hanover Township was able to secure a gaming money grant to buy the vests and we no longer needed a special fundraiser. The vests have recently been received as noted in another article in this newsletter.

The Police Commission is currently initiating efforts to create a foundation that will allow us to raise tax deductible contributions that could be used for similar unbudgeted needs of the department and officers. It should be established sometime this year. We will be seeking citizen involvement in this worthwhile effort. Please let me know if you can help in any way.

How can we sum up 2016? Let's see! Hillary vs. Donald, Flint Michigan water crisis, Zika virus, terror attacks, Brexit, hacked emails, exploding smartphones, Standing Rock standoff, Castro gone, Cuban hope, police practices, attacks on law enforcement with at least 20 officers killed. This is the environment that framed my thoughts on our municipal experiences and the condition of our Township. Compared to all of this, our condition is very good, if not excellent. We continue to enjoy long-term financial stability. Our tax structure remains unchanged and among the lowest in the bi-county area. Our staff and operational employees do an outstanding job, are innovative and responsive to the needs of our citizens. We have been very fortunate to not experience the issues and tragedies regarding law enforcement officers that have plagued certain parts of the nation. We can attribute this to the outstanding professionals of our own Colonial Regional Police Department, as well as the overwhelming majority of the law enforcement officers throughout the nation. Take time to thank them for their service any time that you can.

Tactical Ballistic Vests Colonial Regional Police Department

by Roy D. Seiple, Chief - CRPD

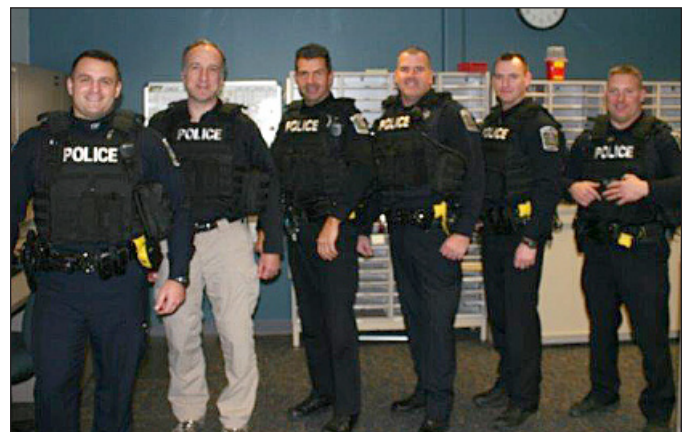


In the spring of 2016 Hanover Township Supervisor John Diacogiannis and Township Manager Jay Finnigan recognized the increasing threat posed to the law enforcement officers throughout the country. They took on a mission to seek funding to provide Tactical Ballistic Vests for the officers of the Colonial Regional Police Department.

In January 2017 the CRPD took delivery of 25 Pro Tech Tactical Responder Ballistic Vests. Each officer was issued a vest which will supplement their current body armor in any situation which poses a threat of gunfire. The vests weigh approximately 25 lbs. and have a Level IV protection capable of stopping a strike from a high powered rifle bullet. Each vest is equipped with extra pistol and rifle magazines as well as a medical pouch which contains equipment designed to treat traumatic injuries.

The cost of the vests were \$500.00 per unit. Hanover Township received a grant in the amount of \$11,655.00 from the Northampton County Gaming Commission to make the purchase. Hanover Township in the past several years has also provided the CRPD with five vehicles to be included in our fleet.

The officers of the Colonial Regional Police Department would like to acknowledge the continued support that Mr. Diacogiannis, Mr. Finnigan and the Hanover Township Board of Supervisors have shown towards the safety of their police department and thank them for providing this potential lifesaving equipment.



Insights from a Freshman Supervisor | by Michael J. Prendeville

As I look to begin year 2 of a 6 year term, I thought I would share a short perspective of my first year as a member of the Hanover Township Board of Supervisors. As with college, the freshman status is everything it is cracked up to be, and more. Listen, learn, do your homework, research, and ask as many questions as you can, and more research, do more homework, etc. Thankfully, and as anticipated, the Board was always willing to provide guidance and answer my many questions. My first term syllabus included attending a "boot camp" for newly elected officials sponsored by the Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors as well as attending a 4 day Supervisors conference in Hershey, PA. I was also required to be certified in two (2) FEMA sponsored courses, National Incident Management System ICS-100 and IS-700.

As a freshman, I was seated next to Jay Finnigan who was there to guide me along as needed. The amount of collective knowledge of the Board as a whole is mind numbing and it became quickly apparent to me that participating in a local government body while effectively representing constituents is no easy task. I was heartfelt in my approach as I needed to live up to a promise that I made to myself to continue the Glenn Walbert legacy.

I have always held the Board of Supervisors in high regard that view remains steadfast after my freshman



term. I am impressed by the professionalism of the Board, its professional legal and engineering staff, as well as the employees of the Township. There is a sense of pride and dedication that defines a culture that promotes excellence everywhere you look. I honestly believe that this culture defines who we are as a Township and that culture is strong. This was evident from the Township road crew muscling through a blizzard for 24 hours without uttering a complaint, to the Township Community

Center providing excellent services and events for the Township residents, to the sound fiscal approach by the Board. Perhaps most impressive is the Townships ability to have a proactive mindset in all Township matters.

Personally, I look back at the past year with a sense of accomplishment and pride. I was delighted that the Board approved some of my suggestions to include the acquisition of new digital signs and honoring our first responders by remaining Village View Park to First Responders Park. Furthermore, I am always humbled by the many comments I hear from people outside of the Township who mention how efficient the Township is managed. I smile and reflect on our culture that has and will continue to define us as a community. Needless to say, I am grateful for this opportunity to serve and look forward to serving our residents for many years to come.

KEEP FLUSHABLE WIPES OUT OF THE SEWERS

Stop flushing "flushable wipes" down the toilet. These "flushable wipes" do not break down, they end up clumped together to form "fat bergs" which clog the sewer system. Every two to three months, Hanover Township employees pull up our two sewer pumps and clean them. The average cost to pull and clean these pumps is \$500.00. The repair bill to repair a clogged pump can climb to \$6,000.00 and can cost up to \$12,000.00 for a replacement pump. It is not just the wipes that are wreaking havoc on the sewer systems, you should also never flush; floss, cotton swabs, tampons, hair, or condoms.



Pictured above: the clogged sewer pump; and a fat berg pulled from the pump.

Hanover Township Community Center

Recreation News

www.hanovercommunitycenter.com



HTCC

Hanover Day Community Carnival

Wednesday, May 20: 6 pm-9 pm

\$20 per child Ride Special, Live Music

Thursday, May 11: 6 pm-9 pm

\$20 per child Ride Special, Live Music

Friday, May 12: 6 pm-10 pm

Live Music, Penn State Nittany Lion Appearance

Saturday, May 13: 4 pm-10 pm

Live Music, Pony Ride and Petting Zoo

Food * Games * Rides * Clowns * Balloon Artist * Basket Raffle * Live Music * Knecker Ball * Pony Rides * Petting Zoo

***Basket Raffle includes over \$3000.00 in prizes mixed into 15 plus themed baskets.**

Baskets are displayed at the Community Center starting March 1st and end May 13.

Stop by today and buy tickets!



Upcoming Events

Easter Egg Hunt

March 25

Pampered Chef Bingo

June 1

Pool Opens

June 10

Camps Start

June 7

Parks Start

June 19

Registration is open for Parks, Camps and Pool Memberships, Swim Lessons and Programs

MARCH 1st



Fit4Mom&Me

A fitness class for adults and kids to promote a healthy lifestyle. Workout program designed for you to be active with your child (ren) in a fun environment! Baby carriers or strollers are encouraged for little ones!

Wednesdays

2:15-3pm



Attention Moms!!

Drop in Open Gym Class - ages 2-4

Tuesdays 9:30-11 am or Fridays 10:45-12:15

April through May

\$5 per visit - This is a drop-in program. You do not need to register in advance to participate.

Come enjoy some play time in the HTCC gym with your child. Children and their parents will be able to socialize and explore together in the gym.

Red Cross Babysitting Training Class

To provide youth who are planning to babysit with the knowledge and skills necessary to safely and responsibly give care for children and infants. This training will help participants to develop leadership skills; learn how to develop a babysitting business, keep themselves and others safe and help children behave; and learn about basic child care and basic first aid. The recommended age for this course is **11-15 years old**. Please send a packed lunch with your child. You must pre-register for this class either over the phone, in person at HTCC or online.

Saturday, April 29 & Sunday, April 30

9 am - 3:30 pm • Cost: \$70

Lifestyle Programming

Lifestyle programs continue almost all year round. We offer many different opportunities for our 55+ members to meet new people, expand their social circle, and have fun!

Movies, educational classes, cards and games, and luncheons with live entertainment are offered.

Participating is a great way to maintain a healthy and active lifestyle!

RSVP for special afternoon activities and programs.



Community Bingo

First Thursday of *every* month!

6:30 pm Early Bird/ 7 pm Start

Please join us for a fun evening at HTCC. **Cash Prizes.** Each month a different local non-profit partner is highlighted!

Vera Bradley Bingo

Sunday, April 16, 2017

1 pm @ HTCC

Come play for fun!

Play for a cause! Play to win!

Raising awareness for Breast Cancer

Tickets: \$15 through April 1st

\$20 after April 1st & at door

Regular Programming

Afternoon Matinee

Every Monday at 1pm

Members: \$1 Non-members: \$2

Bridge

Mondays at 1pm

Members: FREE Non-members: \$1

Quilting

Tuesdays at 1pm

Mahjongg

2nd, 3rd, 4th Wednesdays at 1pm

Members: FREE Non-members: \$1

Cooking with Joan

2nd Tuesday of every month at 1pm

Members: \$3 Non-members: \$6

Pinochle

Thursdays at 1pm

Members: FREE Non-members: \$1

Most Lifestyle afternoon programming is suspended June through August.

2017 AARP Safe Driver Courses

May 16 & 17

11:30am-4pm

4-Hour Refresher Course June 1

11:30am-4pm

Cost: \$15 for AARP Members / \$20 for Non-Members

MUST Pay at Front Desk by May 12th / May 29th

Includes Complimentary Lunch

Special Events

FREE Lunch & Learn Series



Lehigh Valley Health Network

Better Medicine Conversations

Thursday, March 16th Noon-1pm

Don't Pass the Salt: Help Your Heart with Your Diet with Dr. Ronak Patel

Must pre-register my March 14th at LVHN.org/HTCC or call 610-402-CARE (2273)

Thursday, May 18th Noon-1pm

Colon Cancer: Yesterday, Today & Tomorrow with Dr. Ranju Gupta

Must pre-register my March 16th at LVHN.org/HTCC or call 610-402-CARE (2273)

Spring Social

Sponsored by: ?????

Wednesday, April 19, 2017 1pm

Appetizers and soda provided

Entertainment The Magic of Ari Paul

Members: \$6 Non-member: \$12

Must pre-register at front desk by April 16th!

Soup & Salad and a Movie!

Sponsored by:



Monday, May 15, 2017

Lunch at 12:00 pm and Movie at 1:00 pm

"Mother's Day" (2016)

with Julia Roberts, Jennifer Anniston, & Kate Hudson

Members: \$4 Non-members: \$8

Must pre-register at front desk by May 12th!

First Strides Program and Annual Women's 5K Run/Walk

Do you sometimes imagine yourself fit and strong - striding effortlessly down the road during an easy workout or a 5K race?

This gradual 12-week program will help you comfortably progress from the couch to walking, jogging or running at a pace that's right for you.

First Strides meets twice a year at Hanover. In the spring program, we have the honor of hosting the goal event for all the First Strides programs in the area. Last year we hosted 400 women in this amazing event. The best thing about First Strides is the education and satisfaction of supporting each other as each participant improves their abilities.

First Strides Hanover will be meeting on Thursdays; starting on March 23rd at 6 pm.

Registration is taken through the Community Center – either by mail, fax, walk in or internet registration.

**Fees: \$45 members &
early registration thru March 7th
\$50 March 7th and after
Hanover Women's 5K Walk/Run**

- Saturday, June 3rd @ 9 am

\$20 First Stride participant/early bird registration through 5/27- \$25 5/28 and beyond. Gift to the first 200 women who register.



Year Round Karate Programs

Lower Northeast Karate

At the Hanover Township Community Center

Mondays and Wednesdays

6:00 - 7:15 pm - Youth 7:15 - 8:45 pm - Teen/Adult

5 years old- Adult

Instructor - Sensei Tim Heinsinger

Fees: (new families, 1st month is free!)

	Member	Nonmember
3 Month	\$105	\$165
6 Month	\$190	\$300
1 Year	\$360	\$560

Current Families have the option to pay monthly fee until end of 2017



John Phillip Sousa Concert
Sunday, April 30th
Hanover Township Community Center
Start Time: 2:00 p.m.

Come listen to the patriot sounds of the Liberty Alumni Band and Easton Municipal Band inside the Community Center. Light refreshments provided!



Easter Egg Hunt

The Easter Bunny returns to HTCC to enjoy an afternoon with the children. The bunny will bring **2000 filled** eggs to be hide between the three different age groups. Please note that registration will be limited in each age group in order to ensure all participants are able to collect enough eggs. We encourage you to register early in order to ensure a spot for your child/children. In case of inclement weather, the egg hunt will be held inside the Community Center.

Date: Saturday - March 25, 2017

Price: \$6 per child

Age Divisions:

0 - 2yrs - Hunt starts @ 12pm

3 - 5yrs - Hunt starts @ 12:30pm

6 - 8yrs - Hunt starts @ 1pm

12 - 1:30pm - Activities with the Easter Bunny!



Egg Hunt Includes: Filled Easter eggs, a chance to meet the Easter Bunny, and coloring activities!

Pool Opening and barre3 day !

Mark your calendars! \$4

June 10 @ 12pm

Bring a yoga mat, water , swim suit and a friend! Held inside pool! Welcome to swim after class!

New Classes forming at the Center!

Mondays- 7:30pm

Wednesdays- 10am

Free thru end of March!

barre3 class works strategically to build strength and flexibility for optimal body balance and improved posture.



Hanover Township Community Center Programming Weather Policy-PLEASE NOTE

Fitness Classes: Morning Classes will follow the Bethlehem Area School District (BASD) schedule. When BASD is cancelled classes are cancelled – no exceptions; when there is a two (2) hour delay classes are a one (1) hour delay classes are cancelled.

The status of Evening classes will be decided by 4:00 p.m. depending upon weather conditions. Cancellations or status will be posted on the HTCC website and/or the HTCC Facebook page.

Preschool Age Programming: Preschool programs follow the Bethlehem Area School District policy. When school is cancelled all Preschool Age Programming is cancelled. When there is either a one (1) or two (2) hour delay all programs will start at 10 a.m. and follow normal schedule subsequently.

After School Programming: If the HTCC is open, classes will go on as scheduled unless an instructor cannot attend at which point we will call and cancel. All decisions will be made by 4 p.m. If the building closes early, information concerning programming will be posted on the HTCC website and/or the HTCC Facebook page. HTCC staff will do its best to notify class registrants whenever possible.

DO YOU HAVE THAT SINKING FEELING?

by John Diacogiannis

Have you ever had that sinking feeling, but you're not on a river, lake or ocean? You may be experiencing a sinkhole. "A sinkhole collapse is the sudden settlement or collapse of earth resulting from subterranean voids created by the action of water on limestone or similar rock formations." Sinkhole development varies in different areas of the country, depending on geologic conditions. Quite often, surface water makes its way through openings in rocks and soil and begins to dissolve the underlying limestone. Surface disturbances may compound or accelerate the problem. Poor or improper drainage often concentrates the water at the wrong place. Water pipe leaks can also contribute to or actually be the root cause of the problem, as can underground water streams.

Limestone deposits underlie much of the Lehigh Valley. We may not be a hotbed for sinkhole activity like Florida and Kentucky, but many of us have seen the effects of sinkholes all around us. Sinkholes sometimes cause extensive damage to structures and roads resulting in costly and often uninsured repairs. Perhaps the worst area for sinkhole damage in the US is Florida. It seems as if every year there's a car or two and even a whole house disappearing into a Florida sinkhole. Locally, the most publicized and perhaps the most costly sinkhole event was the 1994 collapse and eventually leveling of a modern office building in downtown Allentown. Most recently in the last year, sinkholes occurred in the City of Bethlehem that resulted in significant property damage, including the destruction of three homes. Sinkholes can also be deadly. In 1993 a 100-foot wide, 25-foot deep sinkhole formed under a parking lot in Atlanta. Two people died and numerous cars were destroyed in the collapse.

It's important that you recognize the early signs of a sinkhole and are aware of what to do when they become apparent.

Pre-collapse Sinkhole Indicators:

Water runoff is ponding where it had not previously.

Cracks begin to appear on the ground surface, driveways, sidewalks or streets

Posts, fences or trees begin to tilt.

Small preliminary holes begin to appear on the ground or macadam.

Vegetation is wilting in a localized area, while surrounding area is fine.



Nearby well water begins to experience turbidity.

What to do if a sinkhole opens on or near your property

Realize that there is some time little or no warning that a sinkhole will open up. The ground surrounding the hole can be very dangerously unstable. Keep others, especially children well clear of the hole. The subsurface void can be far larger than the surface opening. If a public road is threatened, contact the township office as

soon as possible. If the road surface has already collapsed, also immediately contact the Colonial Regional Police Department. If your area is serviced by UGI and you detect a gas smell, immediately evacuate the area and call UGI when safely away. If your home is threatened, also contact your homeowner's insurance company (hopefully you already have sinkhole coverage). Take steps to limit further damage and to correct the situation as soon as possible. Seek professional help - a truckload of dirt is not going to solve the problem.

DO NOT IGNORE A SINKHOLE, no matter how small or insignificant it seems. The problem can worsen over time. That time could be a matter of days, but perhaps only a matter of minutes. Every pre-collapse indicator should be investigated for a possible developing sinkhole.

A word about insurance coverage for sinkhole damage.

Damage caused by sinkholes is not covered by standard homeowner's insurance. Sinkhole damage coverage can usually be added to your policy for a minimal cost. This covers the physical damage to dwellings and personal property caused directly by sinkhole collapse. Contact your insurance company or agent to determine if your policy includes sinkhole coverage and consider obtaining it if it doesn't.

I strongly urge everyone to review their insurance coverages. Honestly in my opinion, ALL property owners in the Lehigh Valley where there is carbonate bedrock (which includes 47 municipalities of both counties) SHOULD buy sinkhole insurance. Damage to your home resulting from a sinkhole can be significant and very costly.

Note: This is an updated reissue of an article that was in the Fall 2002 Hanoverview. Not much has changed since 2002, except for many more sinkhole occurrences in the Lehigh Valley and a stronger insurance advice.

A LOOK INTO THE NEW YEAR

BY STATE REP. MARCIA HAHN, 138TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

While we have barely scratched the surface of 2017, the state of Pennsylvania has already passed the halfway point in its fiscal year...and we have some work to do. According to the Pennsylvania Department of Revenue, General Fund collections through December are more than \$367 million below estimate. Sales tax receipts (more than \$133 million below estimate) and Personal Income Tax revenue (nearly \$126 million less than anticipated) make up more than 70 percent of the deficit.

That \$367 million figure is expected to balloon to approximately \$600 million. In addition, the General Assembly's nonpartisan Independent Fiscal Office has projected a \$1.7 billion deficit come July 1, 2017.

Gov. Tom Wolf's budget address on Tuesday, February 7th should have been an interesting one. I am encouraged to hear the administration is committed to doing everything it can to avoid a major tax increase. I can also tell you a broad-based tax increase will not draw my support, and I don't think there are enough votes in the House and Senate to pass such a measure.

I will have a front row seat to the process in my new appointment to the House Appropriations Committee. This bipartisan group considers legislation dealing with expenditures of money by state government. Our first responsibility will quickly follow the governor's address, when we hear testimony from various state agencies that are funded by the budget. We will have the opportunity to question them about practices related to spending, in an effort to gauge levels of future appropriation. I look forward to working with new Majority Chairman Stan Saylor from York County on this committee.



Rep. Marcia M. Hahn

I will also serve as a deputy whip during the 2016-17 session. This appointment carries a variety of responsibilities in the House, including assisting with member head counts and helping to promote certain tough issues facing the House Republican Caucus. I am also charged with keeping Majority Whip Bryan Cutler of Lancaster County informed about problems that members may have, or issues that might have an effect on the legislative agenda and on the caucus as a whole.

I have also been appointed to serve as a deputy chairman of the House Republican Policy Committee. The committee travels across the state, conducting hearings and roundtable discussions about important issues to gather testimony and information from key stakeholders. I will attend these hearings and work with my colleagues to develop policies to address the issues that matter most to Pennsylvania citizens.

Passing a state budget is far from the sole responsibility of the General Assembly. But filling a hole as large as the anticipated budget deficit will take some doing. One thing is for certain – we cannot exclusively tax our way to prosperity. We must find ways to grow the economy. It's easy to slap a tax increase on something. But if that increase deters positive economic activity, the anticipated revenues decline. Discovering ways to stimulate growth will result in increased consumer spending.

These are challenging times in which we live. As my roles and responsibilities in the state Legislature increase, I'm looking forward to taking on the challenges for not only the good of the 138th District, but for the good of all Pennsylvanians.

2016 Real Estate Tax Bills

Your real estate tax bill will be mailed to each property owner by the first week in February. If you do not receive your bill by mid-February or if you have any tax questions, please call Berkheimer Tax Administrators at 866.300.1714 or 610.599.3143. Payments will not be accepted at the Township's Municipal office. You may pay your bill in person at Berkheimer Outsourcing, 1530 Valley Center Parkway, Suite 200, Bethlehem, PA 18017 from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM Monday through Friday only.

2016 Residential Waste & Recycling Bills

Your Residential Waste & Recycling bills for services for the 2017 calendar year will be mailed to each residential property owner in late December. If you do not receive your bill by the middle of February please call the Municipal office at 610.866.1140 extension 231 for Jodi. Our office will accept payments during our normal business hours of 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM Monday through Friday, by mail, or deposited into our mail slot during non-business hours.

EMS CORNER

by Karen Van Why, EMS Captain

YTD EMS Call Statistics for 2017:

Medical Emergencies	1832
Motor Vehicle Accidents	152
Fire Support	203
Total calls for the year	2187



HEROES AMONG US

I would like to personally thank all of the dedicated men and women who make up the Hanover Township volunteer fire company and their families. Each of our volunteers gives so much to our community. These are people who live in our community, they are your neighbors and friends. They work full time jobs, go to high school, college, work part time jobs and they still find the time to help serve our community. The level of dedication is apparent as our members are trained to the highest standards and the training doesn't stop. Our members train weekly every Monday night and as required to continue to provide a high level of service for our residents. This is done not only through hands on drills, but through classroom education, attendance at seminars and through training with other area companies.

What is a volunteer fire company member? They are the people who leave their own families no matter what is going on. They may be eating dinner, watching a movie, or playing a game with their families. When the pager alerts them to an emergency they stop everything they are doing to go help you, our residents. These people get out of a warm cozy bed and quietly sneak out of the house so they don't wake their families to go help someone in need no matter what time of the night it is, if it is raining, snowing, freezing cold whatever the weather conditions.

It takes a lot of time to manage the fire company. Our administrative officers, elected officers and appointed officers spend countless hours working on projects and tasks that allow the organization as a whole to function. Without these dedicated people leading our organization, we would not be here today.

It takes a special person to be a volunteer. The experiences our dedicated members endure make our organization much like a large family. The comradery is shared in the good, the bad and the ugly. Often our members are tasked with seeing people at their worse and it's through these experiences that the bond amongst them strengthens. These people risk their own lives for others in the community and for that I am thankful to be a part of this organization and grateful to have the opportunity to lead these brave men and women.

FIRE COMPANY NEWS

THANK YOU

A great big Thank You to all our residents for your generous donations and treats you gave Santa and his elves. Our members look forward to this day every year. It is so much fun to see how excited everyone gets young and old to see Santa.



FUNDRAISING

Our annual fund drive is sent out in April. These gracious donations go towards the fire companies annual operational expenses.

This year we are also doing a special fundraising mailing. We have sent letters out to the businesses within our Township in hopes to receive enough donations to purchase an electronic LED sign for the entrance to the fire house. This sign will enable us to alert the community to township emergency situations such as road closures, detours, hazardous materials incidents, and restricted areas, severe weather alerts, public service announcements and lots more. If you would like to donate to our sign fund please specify LED sign on your donation.



JOIN OUR TEAM

We are always looking for new volunteers to help serve our Township. If you may be interested in joining our team or learning more about what is involved in volunteering stop by our station. We have training every Monday night at 7 p.m. stop in and see what we are all about. All required training and equipment is provided FREE of charge.

Visit our website: www.htvfc.org

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK

<https://www.facebook.com/HTVFCPA>



Storm Response and Wire Down Safety



The Hanover Township Volunteer Fire Company is staffed with an EMS crew twenty-four hours a day. But the firefighters generally respond from their homes to the station when there is a call for help. A 'manned' station is not a requirement for a volunteer fire company.

The exception to this would be during major weather events when the potential for a call-out

is much greater. At times where the forecast is calling for adverse weather such as; snow and ice storms, hurricanes, high-winds, flooding, etc. the volunteer firefighters will be staffed at the station for the duration of the storm. By being at station, we achieve much faster response times and our members do not have to drive their personal vehicles in the storm to get to the firehouse.

A great example of this was Hurricane Sandy in 2012. On September 29th from 6:00 pm to September 30th at 12:00 pm, the Fire Company responded to 37 calls for service during the height of the storm. Most of these calls were for trees down on wires and houses or for plain wires down in the roadway.

To ensure your safety when you come across a downed wire follow these "rules to live by."

- Do NOT assume that a downed wire is safe simply because it is on the ground or is not sparking.
- Do NOT assume that all coated, weatherproof or insulated wire is just telephone, television or fiber-optic cable.
- Low-hanging wires still have voltage potential even if they are not touching the ground. So, "don't touch them." Assume that everything is energized until tested to be de-energized.
- Never go near a downed or fallen electric power line.
- Electricity can spread outward through the ground in a circular shape from the point of contact. As you move away from the center, large differences in voltages can be created.
- NEVER drive over downed power lines. Again, assume that they are energized. And, even if they are not, downed lines can become entangled in your vehicle.
- If contact is made with an energized power line while you are in a vehicle, remain calm and do not get out unless the vehicle is on fire. If possible, call for help.
- If you must exit any vehicle because of fire or other safety reasons, try to jump completely clear, making sure that you do not touch the vehicle and the ground at the same time. Land with both feet together and shuffle away in small steps to minimize the path of electric current and avoid electrical shock. Be careful to maintain your balance.



Armed Forces Day

Hanover Township will celebrate Armed Forces Day on Saturday, May 20, 2017. An event is in the planning stages for the ceremony to be held at Armed Services Park at the corner of S.R. 0512 and Hanoverville Road starting at 10:00 a.m.

FYI

YARD WASTE

Hanover Township delivered the 2017 Yard Waste Calendar to the Post Office for Bulk Processing and Delivery in December 2016 for distribution to the residents of the Township. The calendar is also available on the Township website.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS NOTES

HELP WANTED

Pool, Parks & Camps

The Township is currently accepting application for life-guards, gate guards and pool staff for the 2017 summer. Camp and park counselor openings are also being filled. If you are interested in any of these positions, please contact Nichole Hamburg at the Community Center, 610.317.8701

RECYCLING NEWS

The Hanover Township Public Works Department collected approximately 1,165 tons of Leaves and 540 tons of Yard Waste in 2016. In 2015 the department collected 1,000 tons of Leaves and 575 tons of Yard Waste.



**Nominations for the
Northampton County Outstanding
Senior Awards**

On Thursday, April 27, 2017

**We're looking for Northampton County residents
(age 60 or over) who volunteer their time and talent for
the benefit of others in our community.**



Deadline for submission: March 24, 2017

**For more information and nomination forms,
Call Kim Nichol at 610-829-4519 or
knichol@northamptoncounty.org**

**The Northampton County Area Agency on Aging
2801 Emrick Blvd., Bethlehem, PA 18020**

**APPLICATIONS ARE AVAILABLE AT THE HANOVER
TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL BUILDING**

BETHLEHEM AREA PUBLIC LIBRARY

Main Library

11 W. Church Street
Bethlehem, PA 18018
610 867-3761

HOURS

Monday-Wednesday: 10AM-8PM
Thursday & Friday: 10AM-6PM
Saturday: 10AM-5PM

South Side Branch

400 Webster Street
Bethlehem, PA 18015
610 867-7852

NEW HOURS

Monday to Thursday: 11AM-8PM
Saturday: noon-4PM

The Library is closed February 20, April 14 & May 27-29.

PROGRAM INFORMATION

Phone **Main Library** at 610-867-3761 x399, **Children's Center** at 610-867-3761 x499, **South Side Branch** at 610-867-7852 OR visit **www.bapl.org** for details.

ADULT PROGRAMS

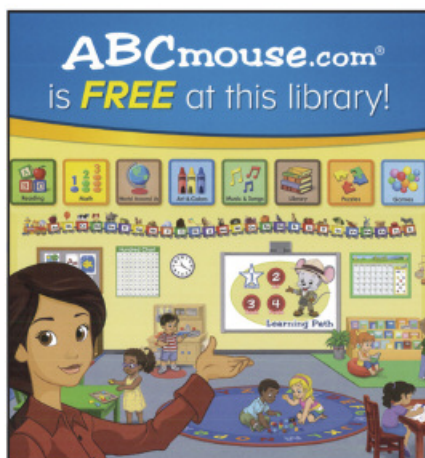
History of Hip Hop (Dr. James Peterson)
Poet Javier Avila
Yoga classes
Japanese classes
Computer instruction
Spanish classes
Adult coloring group
Knitting group
Chess club

Quick & Easy! Check out our
Online Resources at **www.bapl.org!**

**Be on the fast track to getting hired
with *LEARNING EXPRESS***

Access easy-to-use online resources
anytime, anywhere with your library card

- Math skills tutorials
- Writing and grammar skills
- Learn about in-demand careers
- Prepare for occupational exams
- ACT®, SAT®, AP® test preparation
- GED® practice exams
- Sharpen your computer skills
- Job search & workplace skills
- Citizenship practice test
- Military tests



TEEN PROGRAMS

Movie nights
3D Printer design

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

PBS39 Create with Me
Maker Space programming
StoryTimes
Read to Dogs!
Family Fun Nights
Yoga for kids
Leap into Science (STEM)
Dance & Jam

HOMEWORK HELP at the Main Library

Any grade. Any subject.

Drop in anytime,
Mondays through Thursdays · 4-6 pm

BAPL Book Sales www.bestbooksale.org

15,000 books, DVDs & CDs in great condition!

Wednesday, March 22 · noon-8PM

Saturday, March 25 · 10AM-4PM

Also May 17 & 20

Bookmobile Schedule for Hanover Township

Mondays, except where noted

A WEEK (alternate weeks beginning February 13)

11:30-12:30 Hanover Elementary School (*Saturdays*)
12:15-1:15 Cheryl Dr. at *Southland Condos* (*Thursdays*)
3:00-4:00 Hanover Township Community Center
4:05-4:50 Stonewood & Belaire
5:00-5:45 Monocacy Dr.
6:45-8:15 Chesterfield near Lord Byron

B WEEK (alternate weeks beginning February 6)

12:15-1:15 Toni Ln. at Crawford Dr. (*Thursdays*)
except Thursdays, March-May at Nitschmann Middle School
3:00-4:00 Hanover Township Community Center
4:05-4:50 Bridle Path Rd. at *Traditions of America*
5:00-5:45 Monocacy Dr.
6:45-8:15 Chesterfield near Lord Byron

Hanover Elementary School

by Shannon Patrick, PTA President

As always, there is a lot going on around here!

The students, their families, and the building staff ended 2016 with a bang!

Two-hundred children within the confines of the Bethlehem Area School District, not nearly as fortunate as we are, were given Christmas gifts that were specifically chosen by our students. What a great lesson in giving to others! Cookies were baked by several grade levels and distributed to all the wonderful people that help make our school run so smoothly (including our beloved Mr. Gene!). Songs were sung, instruments were played, and parties were had. Then we all received a much needed and deserved holiday break.

We hit the ground running again on January 3rd, and we have no signs of slowing down. While mid-year testing was being done, the sweet sounds of the Hanover Singers graced the PPL Arena during a Phantoms game. Due to our attendance numbers from last year's outing, our Singers earned the honor of performing the National Anthem, and they did a fabulous job!

While many have their fingers crossed for huge snowstorms, others are getting in shape for our annual Ice Skating and Sky Zone outings. We will even throw a Scholastic Book Fair and Author Day in the mix to sharpen those minds as well.

Nitschmann Principal Pete Mayes will be joining us at the February 7th PTA Meeting. Work has already begun on the all-important Middle School transition for our 5th Grade Class. I know many nervous parents appreciate the efforts of all involved with that. Dr. Roy, the Superintendent of BASD, will be stopping by for the March 7th PTA meeting. It will be a great opportunity for parents to get a better idea of the wonderful things happening elsewhere in the district. I encourage parents to pencil these two dates in their calendar!

But before you know it, Spring will be upon us. Which means one thing ~ The Annual Hanover Spring Festival! Keep your eyes open for more information. It is not just a school event, but also a community event! Stop by and join in! We will be launching a Fresh Produce Co-Op idea in conjunction with the City of Bethlehem's Health Bureau. This will be a great opportunity for families to introduce fresh, and maybe new, options into their daily eating habits. This will be available to our community members too! So stay tuned!

As always, thank you for all of the support you give our school. If I can be of any assistance, please feel free to reach me at shannon1016@gmail.com. Now bring on some nice weather!

Shade Tree Advisory Board

EMERALD ASH BORER



In 2002 the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) was introduced in Michigan from Asia. Since its arrival, it has killed tens of millions of ash trees. This insect was found in Pennsylvania in 2007 and has officially infested all counties except a few in the northeastern portion of the state. Northampton and Lehigh counties were officially listed as infested in 2016, which means it is here, and the best time to take action is before ash trees show signs of infection.

In Hanover Township parts of Toni Lane and Kathi Drive are planted with only ash trees. When this invasive pest arrived in the U.S., ash trees were removed from the Hanover Township Approved Tree List because we could see this problem heading our way. An untreated tree that is infested will die in two to four years. Pennsylvania has developed four options for communities to follow. Our Supervisors will have to decide which option will be best for Hanover Township.

More information on EAB can be found at the www.dcnr.state.pa.us/forestry/insectsdisease/eab/ website. Another informative article appeared in the Morning Call newspaper in 2015:

www.mcall.com/news/local/mc-ash-borer-lehigh-valley-20150827-story.html.

WHY TREES?

From the Arbor Day Foundation: Trees clear the air, conserve topsoil, protect water supplies, slow climate change by absorbing carbon dioxide, cool neighborhoods, shelter our homes so we use less energy, add value to our properties, and provide habitat for millions of species. In short, they are priceless, which is why it is so important to replace the ones we've lost. If your street tree has died, consult the Hanover Township Approved Tree List, fill out a permit, and plant a new tree. It will benefit your property and the Township for years to come.



**Happy Anniversary to the
Hanover Township Newsletter the *Hanoverview*.**

This edition is Volume 40, Number 1.

40 years of delivering timely news to
residents and the business community.

HERE'S TO ANOTHER 40 YEARS!

TOWNSHIP TAX RATE HISTORY

<u>Year</u>	<u>Real Estate</u>	<u>Fire</u>	<u>Total</u> <u>Tax</u>	<u>Increase/</u> <u>Decrease</u> <u>Rate</u>	<u>Years at</u> <u>this Rate</u>
1994	3.25	0	3.25	----	
1995	4.25	0	4.25	1.00	1
1996	4.25	0	4.25	0	2
1997	4.25	0	4.25	0	3
1998	4.25	0	4.25	0	4
1999	4.25	0	4.25	0	5
2000	4.25	0	4.25	0	6
2001	4.25	0	4.25	0	7
2002	4.25	0	4.25	0	8
2003	4.25	0	4.25	0	9
2004	4.25	0	4.25	0	10
2005	4.25	0	4.25	0	11
2006	4.67	0	4.67	0.42	1
2007	4.67	0	4.67	0	2
2008	3.40	0.5	3.90	-0.77	1
2009	3.40	0.5	3.90	0	2
2010	3.40	0.5	3.90	0	3
2011	3.40	0.5	3.90	0	4
2012	3.40	0.5	3.90	0	5
2013	3.40	0.5	3.90	0	6
2014	3.40	0.5	3.90	0	7
2015	3.40	0.5	3.90	0	8
2016	3.40	0.5	3.90	0	9
2017	3.40	0.5	3.90	0	10

Fire Tax has allowed the Township to purchase 5 vehicles for the fire company from 2009-2016 totaling approximately \$2,535,228 without incurring any debt.

HANOVER PROPERTY OWNER TAX BURDEN PER YEAR

BY TAXING ENTITY

BETHLEHEM AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT TAXES

NORTHAMPTON COUNTY TAXES

BETHLEHEM AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT TAXES					NORTHAMPTON COUNTY TAXES				
ASSESSED VALUE					ASSESSED VALUE				
\$ PAID					\$ PAID				
Tax Year	Millage Rate	50,000	100,000	150,000	Tax Year	Millage Rate	50,000	100,000	150,000
2005-2006	35.58	1,779.00	3,558.00	5,337.00	2005	10.30	515.00	1,030.00	1,545.00
2006-2007	36.58	1,829.00	3,658.00	5,487.00	2006	10.30	515.00	1,030.00	1,545.00
2007-2008	37.56	1,878.00	3,756.00	5,634.00	2007	10.80	540.00	1,080.00	1,620.00
2008-2009	39.58	1,979.00	3,958.00	5,937.00	2008	10.80	540.00	1,080.00	1,620.00
2009-2010	41.60	2,080.00	4,160.00	6,240.00	2009	10.80	540.00	1,080.00	1,620.00
2010-2011	44.17	2,208.50	4,417.00	6,625.50	2010	10.80	540.00	1,080.00	1,620.00
2011-2012	44.92	2,246.00	4,492.00	6,738.00	2011	10.80	540.00	1,080.00	1,620.00
2012-2013	47.09	2,354.50	4,709.00	7,063.50	2012	10.80	540.00	1,080.00	1,620.00
2013-2014	48.36	2,418.00	4,836.00	7,254.00	2013	10.80	540.00	1,080.00	1,620.00
2014-2015	50.99	2,549.50	5,099.00	7,648.50	2014	10.80	540.00	1,080.00	1,620.00
2015-2016	52.51	2,625.50	5,251.00	7,876.50	2015	11.80	590.00	1,180.00	1,770.00
2016-2017	54.05	2,702.50	5,405.00	8,107.50	2016	11.80	590.00	1,180.00	1,770.00

HANOVER TOWNSHIP TAXES

One of the biggest concerns is the amount of taxes individuals pay as Property Owners in the Township. When you look at the charts it outlines the taxes a Property Owner has paid since 2005. As you can see, the amount paid to the Bethlehem Area School District (BASD) has increase from 36.58 Mills in 2006-2007 to 54.05 in 2016-2017. The Mill Rate paid to the County of Northampton has increase from 10.30 Mills in 2006 to 11.80 in 2016. The Mill Rate paid to the Hanover Township had decreased from 4.67 Mills in 2006 to 3.90 in 2016. To put that in dollars and cents. A property assessed at \$100,000 in 2006 was paying a combined Tax Bill of \$5,155 in 2006 and in 2016 they paid \$6,975, which equates to a 35.31% increase. The BASD Mill Rate has **increased** 47.76% since 2006, the County of Northampton's **increased** by 14.56% and Hanover Township's **decreased** by 16.49% over the same period.

HANOVER TOWNSHIP TAXES				
ASSESSED VALUE				
\$ PAID				
Tax Year	Millage Rate	50,000	100,000	150,000
2005	4.25	212.50	425.00	637.50
2006	4.67	233.50	467.00	700.50
2007	4.67	233.50	467.00	700.50
2008	3.90	195.00	390.00	585.00
2009	3.90	195.00	390.00	585.00
2010	3.90	195.00	390.00	585.00
2011	3.90	195.00	390.00	585.00
2012	3.90	195.00	390.00	585.00
2013	3.90	195.00	390.00	585.00
2014	3.90	195.00	390.00	585.00
2015	3.90	195.00	390.00	585.00
2016	3.90	195.00	390.00	585.00

ASA PACKER SCHOOL NEWS *Sarah Lambert, News Crew Committee*

It was a busy fall at Asa Packer!! We enjoyed a visit from Hanover Volunteer Fire Company in October. They taught us some important safety tips. We held our annual Halloween Parade as well in October. The residents of our neighboring development were thrilled to see the students in costume. We also had a busy fall for field trips. The 3rd, 4th, and 5th grades attended a Lehigh Women's Basketball game. Go Hawks!! The 5th grade attended The Nutcracker at Zoellner Arts Center. Our students have been busy participating in First in Math, a national online math program. We celebrate the lead players in our school on a weekly basis.

We are still focusing on The Leader in Me and working hard to incorporate the 7 Healthy Habits into our daily routines. The 7 Healthy Habits allow our staff and students to incorporate things like being proactive and putting first things first into their activities.

Here at Asa Packer we are looking forward to an exciting winter and spring. We will be hosting our annual pancake breakfast at Applebee's where our staff serves up a fantastic breakfast to students and their families. We are looking forward to an exciting presentation from our Drama Club and our Spring concert. We also will be starting Asa Athletes, a program run by our staff. Girls in 4th and 5th grade will begin preparing to take part in a 5K later in the Spring. The 4th and 5th grade boys had their 5k in the fall. In May we will host Asa Arts Day. We have many local artists come in and spend the day sharing their talents with our students. It is a wonderful experience for everyone involved!

It's a GREAT time to be an Asa Packer Puma!!

How Hanover Township Taxes Compares with Others

Sometimes it is important to compare what we as residents in Hanover Township receive in comparison to other municipalities that either is abutting to us or are similar to us in Northampton County either in size or in services provided. This information is presented so that residents in the Township have an understanding as to how their tax dollars are used and how we compare to those in our immediate area.

ASSESSED VALUE		PALMER (2 nd Class Township)	BUSHKILL (2 nd Class Township)	BETHLEHEM TOWNSHIP (1 ST Class Township)	FORKS (2 nd Class Township)	EAST ALLEN (2 nd Class Township)	LOWER NAZARETH (2 nd Class Township)	HANOVER (2 nd Class Township)
	NOTES	1, 2, 6	2	3	2	3, 4, 5	3	1, 2, 7
↓	2017 → MILL RATE	8.25	7.50	7.09	7.00	6.50	4.15	3.90
\$150,000		1,237.50	1,125.00	1,063.50	1,050.00	975.50	622.50	585.00
\$100,000		825.00	750.00	709.00	700.00	650.00	415.00	390.00
\$50,000		412.50	375.00	354.50	350.00	325.00	207.50	195.00

Notes: (1) Hanover's Fire Tax is .5; Palmer Fire tax .065 (2) These Townships contract and bill for refuse & recycling; (3) These Townships the resident contract for their own refuse & recycling; (4) State Police protection; (5) East Allen's Fire Tax is 1.0; (6) Tax increase in 2017; (7) 10th consecutive year without a tax increase. **Bold:** Tax increase in 2017

What You Wanted to Know About Taxes ...And Were Afraid to Ask

Do you know what a mill is? Do you know how many mills of real estate taxes you pay to Hanover Township, the County of Northampton and the Bethlehem Area School District? Do you know how the assessed value of your house and the millage rates are used to compute your taxes? Everyone pays real estate taxes if they own a property, but most people don't understand how their taxes are computed or how all the verbiage about millage and assessed value translates to your wallet. Well, read on and hopefully some, if not all of your questions will be answered.

The word mill means a money amount equal to 1/10 of one cent. One mill is represented in decimal form as .001. Each year the three taxing authorities, the Township, the County and the School District establish the millage rate for the upcoming year. Currently the rates are: Hanover Township – 3.9 mills (.0039), County of Northampton – 11.8 mills (.0118) Bethlehem Area School District – 54.05 (.05405) for 2016 / 2017 up from 52.51 (.05251) in 2015 / 2016.

TAXES FOR RESIDENTS OF HANOVER TOWNSHIP

Taxing Entity	Assessed Home Value	Mill Rate	Annual Tax Bill	% of Tax \$'s
Bethlehem Area School District **	\$50,000	54.05	\$2,702.5	77.5
County of Northampton	\$50,000	11.8	\$590.00	16.9
Township of Hanover	\$50,000	3.9	\$195.00	5.6
Bethlehem Area School District **	\$100,000	54.05	\$5,405.00	77.5
County of Northampton	\$100,000	11.8	\$1,180.00	16.9
Township of Hanover	\$100,000	3.9	\$390.00	5.6
Bethlehem Area School District **	\$150,000	54.05	\$8,107.50	77.5
County of Northampton	\$150,000	11.8	\$1,770.00	16.9
Township of Hanover	\$150,000	3.9	\$585.00	5.6

**** Indicates a rate increase from 2015/2016 to 2016/2017.**

Hanover Mill Rate has remained the same since 2008. 10th consecutive year at 3.9 mills.

DELIVER AS ADDRESSED
OR TO CURRENT RESIDENT

Meetings of Boards and Commission

The following is a list of all meetings for the Hanover Township Boards, Committees and Commissions. All meetings are open to the public and are held at the Township Municipal Building, 3630 Jacksonville Road, with the exception of the Special Events and Recreation Advisory Board which are held at the Community Center, 3660 Jacksonville Road.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS: January, February, March, April, May, June, September, October and November on the SECOND AND FOURTH TUESDAY; July and August the FOURTH TUESDAY and December the THIRD TUESDAY all starting at 7:00 p.m.

PLANNING COMMISSION: February, March, April, May, June, October, November and December on the FIRST MONDAY and January, July, August and September the SECOND MONDAY all starting at 7:30 p.m.

SPECIAL EVENTS COMMITTEE: Meetings are held the THIRD TUESDAY of each month, starting at 7:00 p.m.

RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD: Meetings are held the SECOND THURSDAY of each month, starting at 7:30 p.m.

ZONING HEARING BOARD: Meetings are held the FOURTH THURSDAY of each month whenever required. Time(s) of the hearing will be announced when scheduled.

SHADE TREE ADVISORY COMMISSION: Meetings are held the LAST MONDAY of each month, except May which is held the last Wednesday of the month. Meetings start at 6:30 p.m.

CRIME WATCH: January, March, May, July, September and November on the FIRST TUESDAY. Meetings start at 7:00 p.m.