



Haverford Civic Association

Lower Merion Township

June 2024 Newsletter

Greetings, Haverford neighbors!

Welcome to the June-Moon-Croon-Spoon issue of our neighborly newsletter, the last before a two-month hiatus over July and August. Relaxed and refreshed, your Editor will be back at the keyboard again in September. But before the break, here's a rundown of what's been happening this month.

Township Commissioners' Updates

(Anthony Stevenson, Ray Courtney and Scott Zelov each represent a part of Haverford)

Capital Ideas: Commissioners will workshop Lower Merion's capital improvement plan on June 26. It's your chance to let the commissioners know what your own capital improvement priorities are. The meeting will be held in the Board Room of the Township Administration Building, starting at "approximately" 6 p.m. You can attend in person, but if you want to attend via Zoom or comment via email, contact Jody Kelley, Township Secretary, at (610) 645-6145 or publiccomment@lowermerion.org before noon on the day of the meeting.

Piazza Development Still Developing: The proposed development of the property along the south side of Lancaster Avenue in Ardmore between Ardmore and Greenfield avenues has hit a rough patch. Piazza Auto Group, which owns the Acura and VW dealerships currently sited on the parcel (there's also a shuttered I-HOP), will likely be looking for a new partner after Toll Bros. pulled out earlier this year.

Once slated to be Ardmore's biggest apartment complex, the development is looking to downsize and diversify. But the clock is ticking. If work isn't underway in time, the development will have to meet more restrictive code requirements adopted in 2020 that would no longer permit the 5- and 6-story structures originally planned.

Redistricting Redux: After Montgomery County rejected Lower Merion's attempt at redistricting last year, the issue is back on the table. Redistricting happens every 10 years, after the U.S. Census figures are released. The lines of political subdivisions are redrawn to account for any geographic redistribution of the population, with the aim of keeping the population of districts roughly equal.

The 2020 U.S. Census showed the township's population grew by almost 6,000, to 63,633, necessitating a redistricting of its 14 wards. The 14 township commissioners each represent one ward. Lower Merion hired an expert consultant to help draw new ward boundaries, but the county said the new maps "did not respect magisterial district boundaries" and had to be redrawn.

Here Comes the Sun: At their May 23, 2024, meeting, the Montgomery County Board of Commissioners announced the awardees of the 2024 round of Montco 2040 Implementation Grant funding. Lower Merion Township was awarded the maximum quantity of \$250,000 for the Ludington Library Solar Installation Project.

The project will result in the installation of a photovoltaic (PV) solar array on the lower roof of the library, as well as two ground-mounted PV solar canopies over portions of the library parking lot. The green roof located on the upper roof of the library will remain intact.

This project will be the Township's second solar project, the first being a 156.2 kW (184,000 kWh) system at Penn Wynne Library that is expected to be completed in Fall 2024.

[From the June 7 Lower Merion Township Sustainability report.]

Federation of Civics

(Haverford is a member of the township-wide Lower Merion and Narberth Federation of Civics. We send a-delegates to their meetings and report back on what's doing.)

Here's to Your Health: The Federation of Civics was the latest stop on Main Line Health's traveling rollout of its mega development on the site of the former St. Charles Borromeo Seminary. Having bought the 73-acre campus in 2019 from the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Philadelphia, the suburban health system wants to erect a "health and wellness village" there, including a sizeable commercial component, over the next decade.

Nearby residents worried about increased traffic and other potential adverse consequences have voiced their concerns at previous presentations. Main Line Health has responded by downsizing some components of the development and changing traffic patterns.

While preserving the historically protected buildings and nonreligious statues on the former campus, the "village" is expected to include

- medical offices
- senior housing
- condos
- multifamily housing
- a boutique hotel
- retail shops
- trails & open space

You can stay informed at www.seminaryneighborsLM.org or visit Main Line Health's project site at www.stcharlesproject.com.

Rising Waters? Aqua Pennsylvania has notified customers that it wants to raise rates by 20 percent or more for the average customer, citing the cost of infrastructure upgrades. The Pennsylvania Utility Commission is reviewing the rate hike request. If approved, the new rates could take effect as early as next February.

Minutiae

(Highlights from the June 11 HCA Board Meeting.)

You Can Make an Impact: There's an urgent need for volunteers to help plan and promote the Association's fall festival at Sharpe Park in October. Your time and talents can make a big difference! We need folks to solicit local business sponsors, prospect for vendors of all types and handle the logistics necessary for a successful event. Our event planning group will set you up with all you need to succeed! Reply now to haverfordcivicassociation@gmail.com.

Calming Coalition: The Association Board voted to invite the Federation of Civics, individual civics and other stakeholders to form a Coalition to address traffic calming on dangerous township roads, Montgomery Avenue and Conshohocken State Road (PA 23) foremost among them. A formal proposal will go out in September. The timing is auspicious, given the Township Commission recently formed an Ad Hoc Traffic Safety Committee and the new Superintendent of Police is said to be open to prioritizing traffic safety. Not to mention the township's Traffic Safety Unit is working up a list of hazardous intersections to be considered for installation of red-light cameras.

Night Out: This year's National Night Out Festival will be held Tuesday, August 6, from 6 to 9 p.m. in the Wynnewood Shopping Center. Wow! So much to do and see: music, food, carnival rides, face painters, jugglers, magicians and more! And of course plenty of impressive police and fire equipment. If you go, please bring a bag of nonperishables to benefit ElderNet's Food Pantry.

Subscribers Wanted: The Association's monthly newsletter is a project of the Membership Committee to reach out to the broader community and foster greater engagement with our membership. We encourage subscribers to our email list to share the newsletter with their friends and neighbors. Subscription requests can be sent to haverfordcivicassociation@gmail.com.

Top Up Your Tech Chops: We're looking for volunteers to help with a refresh of the Association website. This is a great opportunity for job seekers and college-bound students to amplify their tech resumes with a community service project. We'd love to hear from anyone familiar with web design and administration. Experience with WordPress would be a plus. Minimal time commitment. Contact haverfordcivicassociation@gmail.com.

Stay Connected!

Don't fall behind! Mark your calendar now for our September meeting after the summer break. Stay informed and involved. Your voice matters in making Haverford a better place for all!

**Tuesday, September 10, 7:00 p.m., in the Merion Room
Merion Cricket Club
351 Montgomery Avenue
Haverford PA 19041**

Warm regards,

The Haverford Civic Association Board

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