



Haverford Civic Association

Lower Merion Township

December 2024 Newsletter

Greetings, Haverford neighbors!

'Tis the season ...

- to be jolly?
- to deck the halls?
- to don our gay apparel?
- to pay your 2025 dues?
- to attend the annual meeting?

and the answer is: **All of the above!**

Annual Meeting: Mark your calendar now for our Annual Meeting featuring Lower Merion Township's new Police Superintendent, Andrew "Andy" J. Block. We'll also hear from Haverford Commissioners Anthony Stevenson, Ray Courtney and Scott Zelov. Join us Thursday, January 16, in the Sun Lounge of the Merion Cricket Club, 325 Montgomery Avenue, starting at 7 p.m.

GUEST SPEAKER

Andrew J. Block

Police Superintendent

Lower Merion Township



AND HAVERFORD COMMISSIONERS

Anthony Stevenson, Ray Courtney & Scott Zelov

Dues News: Check out our expanded dues structure that lets you tailor your support to your interests: Household and business/institutional memberships are still \$30 and \$100, respectively. A new \$80 Birdwatcher membership includes one year's dues and helps

support Sharpe Park Bird Sanctuary. And the new \$145 Snowflakes membership includes one year's dues and helps support the snowflake lights on Lancaster Avenue. As always, unrestricted gifts of any amount are welcome. We accept dues and donations by check, credit card or PayPal.

If you paid in October or November, don't worry, we'll credit you for 2025. Otherwise, click [here](#) to pay online now or access a PDF form to pay by check.

Township Commissioners' Updates

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

Will the Tax Grinch Show? Commissioners were scheduled to vote December 18 on a final budget for 2025, so you may by now be wondering what your next tax bill will look like, assuming a rise was passed as expected. It would be the first township tax increase in 13 years.

Although the township manager recommended a 5 percent increase, a recent committee vote upped that to 6.5 percent. But the smart money is still on the lower levy when the final vote is taken. There is some hesitation to go higher, since Montgomery County appears set for a 9 percent hike and Lower Merion School District has already inked its 4.69 percent increase.

(Lower Merion real estate taxes are levied independently by three different taxing authorities: the school district, which accounts for most of the tax residents pay, the county and the township.)

Palmed Off: Onsite programs for the 55-and-over crowd at PALM (Positive Aging in Lower Merion) are moving to the Ardmore Avenue Community Center while construction is underway on a major renovation. The disruption is expected to last until the end of January 2026.

Traffic Calming: Lower Merion Police are reportedly planning to "up the enforcement" on the Haverford stretch of Montgomery Avenue. Plus, PennDOT has approved an additional four intersections for red-light cameras, lifting the total to seven. The township's Ad Hoc Traffic Calming Committee, formed in the spring, is still incommunicado.

Federation of Civics

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

Dues Paid: The Association approved payment of Federation dues of \$50 for 2025.

Rain Check: The monthly Federation report was deferred until January.

Minutiae

(Highlights from the December 10 HCA Board Meeting.)

History Beckons: Lower Merion Historical Society President Kate Jiggins and her colleague Jamie Singer came looking for opportunities to collaborate. Gearing up from a pandemic-induced lull, the [Historical Society](#) hopes to renew and expand ties with local civic associations. They are also broadening their mandate to include the history of previously marginalized communities and to bring representatives of those groups on board.

Jiggins pointed out that the Society, founded 75 years ago, maintains a trove of records and artifacts at their headquarters in the Lower Merion Academy building at 506 Bryn Mawr Avenue in Bala Cynwyd. The collection of maps, books, vintage photos, property records and more spans 300 years and is open to the public from 7 to 9 p.m. on Wednesday nights.

The Academy building will also be open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on January 19 for a special vintage photography exhibition. The event is free but there's a \$55 fee to have your picture taken with an old-timey tintype camera.

Haverford Civic Association is looking forward to exploring collaborative projects with the Historical Society.

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 haverfordcivicasociation@gmail.com.

Stay connected!

January is going to be a bit hectic at the Association. The Annual Meeting on January 16 follows hard on the heels of our next regular Board meeting on January 14. (Of course you are invited to both, but if you have time for only one, I'd suggest the Annual Meeting for the chance to hear from the new police superintendent and the Haverford Commissioners.) In any case, stay informed and involved. Your voice matters in making Haverford a better place for all!

Tuesday, January 14, 7:00 p.m.
Merion Room of the Merion Cricket Club
351 Montgomery Avenue
Haverford PA 19041

Warm regards,
The Haverford Civic Association Board

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