



Haverford Civic Association

Lower Merion Township

February 2025 Newsletter

Greetings, Haverford neighbors!

Punxsutawney Phil didn't do us any favors this month. With the mercury barely topping freezing, Phil turned tail and doomed us to another six weeks of winter! Even Saint Valentine couldn't coax a little love out of the thermometer. Still, with the Philadelphia Flower Show less than two weeks away, Spring can't be far behind.



Township Commissioners' Updates

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

In-N-Out Burglars: Yet another in a string of rapid-fire, in-n-out residential burglaries took place in a Haverford home on February 1. A surveillance video caught the crime in progress at the unoccupied residence on Cheswold Lane. It took the robbers about two minutes to cut a deer fence, smash the rear French doors, grab a stash of jewelry and flee the property. The break-in fit the modus operandi of a South American Theft Group preying on Main Line homes since October.

Less than a week later, a rare carjacking took place in the Bryn Mawr business district. A Philadelphia man, reportedly with mental health issues, shoved the driver out of the car but crashed attempting to escape. The perpetrator was arrested within minutes and jailed.

Traffic Stats: Commissioner Scott Zelov has agreed to report monthly on traffic metrics compiled by the Lower Merion Police Department.

PennDOT is expected to approve the installation of red-light cameras in April at four locations in the township, he said, with the possible addition of three more. The intersection of Haverford Station Road and Lancaster Avenue, one of Lower Merion's most dangerous corners, is on the list.

Several citations were issued for various violations on Montgomery Avenue over the last reporting period but, remarkably, no speeding tickets were written on the route's Haverford stretch.

For all of 2024, citations and warnings were up 50 percent over 2023, nearing pre-pandemic levels.

Minutiae

(Highlights from the January 14 HCA Board Meeting.)



Winter Wonderland: Winter weather can, indeed, be wonderful, especially when snow graces our own Sharpe Park. Check out this [gallery of photos](#) taken after the December snows. For best viewing, click on the picture of the Sharpe Bird Sanctuary sign to start a full-size slide show.

Road Report: Board member Barbara Cohen got an update from LMT Commissioner Andrew Gavrin, chair of the ad hoc committee studying traffic calming. Commissioner Gavrin said the future of Lower Merion's \$250,000+ traffic study grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation is up in the air due to the uncertain status of the Trump Administration's various funding freezes.

Cohen pointed out that the initial grant is intended to fund a traffic analysis of the Montgomery Avenue corridor, leading to the development of a comprehensive safety action plan. Should the plan call for any subsequent changes in public education, enforcement efforts or roadway engineering, the township may want to apply for an implementation grant in the 2026 round of funding.

Walk Audit: Cohen also noted that neighboring Delaware County has conducted 15 "walk audits," a tool developed by AARP (American Association of Retired Persons) that might also be useful in Lower Merion Township. According to AARP, "A walk audit is a simple activity in which an individual or a team observes and evaluates the walkability of a location to document how and if pedestrians can safely travel along a street, navigate an intersection and get from point A to B, C and so on." Cohen said it's possible residents could conduct a road audit in the township using Community Watch as a model.

Arboretum Collaboration: Looks like we're growing a relationship with Haverford College Arboretum. HCA Vice President Catherine Abrams has been in touch with Jenny Kelly, the Arboretum's program coordinator, to talk about how the two Haverford organizations can collaborate by promoting each other's events. HCA's long-standing support of Sharpe Bird Sanctuary and the Arboretum's past efforts there would seem to bode well for a cooperative relationship.

Abrams is also coordinating neighborhood work days at Sharpe Park with The Garden Workers, a local affiliate of the Garden Club of America that has the park as its primary community project. HCA has a long history of encouraging community participation in park maintenance and beautification. In addition, Abrams is talking with the Arboretum and The Garden Workers to arrange work days at the park for Haverford College students over the summer.

Transit Survey: Although SEPTA's proposal to eliminate the 44 bus route on the Main Line is currently on hold, local officials are pondering worst-case scenarios. GVF, a nonprofit specializing in transit issues, is working with Lower Merion Township to explore alternatives. Maureen Farrell, GVF's deputy executive director, asked if HCA would survey its members to help determine whether a shuttle service would be a good alternative. If so, plans are for it to serve Gladwyne, Bryn Mawr, Haverford, Ardmore and Penn Valley.

"I know we will be including Suburban Square/Trader Joe's, but I am curious to know from each of the communities if they have specific destinations, such as senior centers, doctor's

offices,” Farrell told HCA Secretary Charles Ault. The Association agreed to send out the survey, which will likely be distributed by email sometime in March.

Calendar of Events: Don’t miss out. Mark your calendar!

- **Party in the Park** (Sharp Bird Sanctuary)
 - Saturday, October 18: 11 a.m.–1 p.m.
- **HCA Annual Meeting** (Merion Cricket Club)
 - Tuesday, November 11: 7–8:30 p.m.

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 haverfordcivicasassociation@gmail.com.

Stay connected!

Don’t miss our next meeting to stay informed and involved. Your voice matters in making Haverford a better place for all!

Tuesday, March 11, 7:00 p.m.
Merion Room of the Merion Cricket Club
325 Montgomery Avenue
Haverford PA 19041

Warm regards,
The Haverford Civic Association Board

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