



# Haverford Civic Association

## Lower Merion Township

## March 2025 Newsletter

Greetings, Haverford neighbors!

Spring has come and Winter's done! We're marching to the beat of a quickening drum; feeling the heat of a lengthening sun. Here's a taste of what's to come:



**Last Chance:** April is the month the HCA treasurer sends out those annoying reminders to members who haven't yet paid their 2025 dues. So, this is your last chance to re-up and smugly delete those dunning emails!

We offer several categories of membership for your donating pleasure:

- **Household - \$30** (basic annual dues)
- **Birdwatcher - \$80** (helps support improvements to Sharpe Park Bird Sanctuary)
- **Snowflake - \$145** (helps pay for the snowflake lights on Lancaster Avenue)
- **Business/Institutional - \$100** (shows your commitment to the community)

Click [here](#) to keep your civic association active and strong so we can continue to support Sharpe Park, host our annual Party in the Park, hang the sparkly lights on Lancaster Avenue, bring you this monthly newsletter and foster community dialog and engagement.

## Township Commissioners' Updates

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

**Capital Ideas:** Facing an imposing number of major renovation projects this year and next, the township has issued \$25 million in new debt at a historically high interest rate of 3.7 percent to fund its two-year, \$64 million capital budget. Fortunately, about half that amount will come from outside sources, such as the federal American Rescue Plan passed in 2021. The funds will be used for renovations to PALM (Positive Aging in Lower Merion), the Ardmore Community Center, parks and recreation and storm water management.

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

- Seven citations, 5 warnings and 4 equipment notices were issued to motorists on Montgomery Avenue, for speeding, aggressive driving and stopped school bus infractions.
- The federal grant to fund a comprehensive traffic study the length of Montgomery Avenue has been signed, but the township has not yet attempted a drawdown. Assuming the funds are accessible, Pennoni, the township's consulting engineers, will first conduct a transit analysis, followed by a needs assessment.
- A township traffic calming policy involving "speed cushions" is slated for review.
- Jeremiah Woodring has replaced Andrew Gavrin as chair of the Ad Hoc Traffic Calming Committee.

## 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.)*



**Healthy Debate:** Tom McConnell, president of the Seminary Neighbors' Association reported on the latest twists to Main Line Health's St. Charles Borromeo Project, which envisions developing a Health and Wellness Village on the 72-acre former seminary site. The Neighbors' Association fears the project is too ambitious, currently slated to comprise senior living, apartment and condominium complexes, medical offices, retail shops and a hotel. They want Main Line Health to conduct an analysis of the project's impact on traffic, site lines and the environment and to ensure the area remains safe for pedestrians and bicyclists.

They may have some leverage, since the development needs multiple zoning waivers to proceed. On the other hand, Main Line Health has made several design changes in response to these concerns, including downsizing to reduce development density, making traffic and parking enhancements, and squeezing construction activity into two, rather than four, phases, to complete the majority of work in two years instead of 10 to 15.

**Piazza Proceeding:** The Piazza development is back on after deteriorating market conditions almost scuttled the project last year. Slated to start this summer, the plan calls for the construction of over 100 apartments and condos rising four to five stories above Lancaster Avenue between Ardmore and Greenfield avenues.

## Minutiae

*(Highlights from the March 11 HCA Board Meeting.)*

**A Bang-Up Year?:** Looks like 2025 is shaping up to be a bang-up year for traffic accidents. Two more people were hospitalized after recent crashes, including HCA Treasurer Lee Tabas. On March 11 he was riding his bicycle in front of the 429 Apartments along Montgomery Avenue when a car jumped the curb and knocked him

from his bike. Fortunately, he wasn't seriously injured and was able to begin recovering at home after a night in the hospital. At 8:30 a.m. the same day, a two-car accident at the intersection of Lancaster and Woodside avenues sent one driver to the hospital. And last month, a two-car crash in front of Churchill Court on Montgomery Avenue resulted in one driver being hospitalized.

**Sharpe Park Workdays:** HCA Vice President Catherine Abrams announced this spring's community work days at Sharpe Bird Sanctuary:

- **Saturday, April 26** – 1 to 3 p.m.
- **Saturday, May 3** – 10 a.m. to 12 noon

The Garden Workers, our local affiliate of the Garden Club of America, will be there and they also welcome volunteers to join them on their work days:

- **Wednesday, April 23** – 1 to 3 p.m.
- **Tuesday, May 6** – 1 to 3 p.m.
- **Wednesday, May 28** – 9 to 11 a.m.

If you know how to handle pruners, a shovel or a hoe, don your boots and grab your gloves to join your friends and neighbors and The Garden Workers for a ground-breaking experience!

**Traffic Calming:** HCA Board member Barbara Cohen reported on a traffic safety program in Delaware County, where volunteer Safety Ambassadors facilitate community dialog with DelCo's planning department. Cohen will contact the program administrator to explore whether such an initiative would be something HCA might advocate for.

She also reported on the Lower Merion Township Ad Hoc Traffic Calming Committee's 2025 priorities:

- Red light cameras
- School bus cameras
- Montgomery Avenue traffic study
- Possible revision of the township's traffic safety policy

**HCA Influence Grows:** HCA Secretary Charles Ault reported the Association's email list now tops 193 subscribers and paid membership stands at 79, including nine local businesses and institutions. About three dozen members who paid dues in 2024 have yet to renew.

## Bits & Pieces

*(A miscellany of factoids from various sources.)*

- **Club Studio Fitness**, a posh, upscale fitness chain will open a facility in the Wynnewood Shopping Center this spring.
- **Bond Vet**, a veterinary clinic chain has opened a new location in Metropolitan Narberth Square at 650 Montgomery Avenue.



- The **PA Department of Transportation's** biennial update to its 12-Year Transportation Program is open for comment until April 30. Tell the state about your transportation needs by completing this [survey](#).
- **HCA Board Meetings** will no longer offer a Zoom link, except when in-person attendance is not feasible.

**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](mailto: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, April 8, 7:00 p.m.**  
**Merion Room of the Merion Cricket Club**  
**325 Montgomery Avenue**  
**Haverford PA 19041**

Warm regards,  
The Haverford Civic Association Board

**JOIN / DONATE**