



Haverford Civic Association

Lower Merion Township

February 2026 Newsletter

Greetings, Haverford neighbors!

Well, the flower catalogs are landing daily in the mailbox, so spring can't be far behind. Not to mention all the emails about this year's Philadelphia Flower Show - a truly world-class venue right next door - opening February 28 and running through March 8.

We've also seen some stirrings of growth in local traffic calming efforts. In 2024 the Lower Merion Police Department recorded a 50 percent increase in traffic stops (the 2025 report isn't out yet), stop-bar cameras on school buses went live at the end of August 2025 and the township got PennDOT's approval to install red-light cameras at up to seven intersections, the first of which should be operational by the end of March.



But the big news is the completion of the data-gathering phase of the Montgomery Avenue traffic study. Township officials presented results of the \$350,000 federally funded project at a packed public meeting on February 3. Although any recommended changes won't be announced until later this spring, residents are invited to review the data collected and complete a survey questionnaire. Particular concerns can be raised in the Comments section. The survey is available online and in hard copy. Click [here](#) for a link. **Responses are due February 24.**

You can find Haverford Civic Association board member Barbara Cohen's summary of the study results [here](#).

Township Commissioners' Updates

(Ray Courtney, Charles Gregory and Scott Zelov each represent a part of Haverford)

Road Report: No commissioners were able to attend HCA's February board meeting; however, Commissioner Scott Zelov emailed the monthly Road Report summarized below. He also shared a statement from Lower Merion Police clarifying that the department does not enforce federal immigration law and urging calls to 911 if residents see activity by unmarked agents (click [here](#) for a link to the police statement):

- Citations – 35
 - Warnings – 31
 - Equipment notices – 26
-

Federation of Civics

(Haverford is a member of the township-wide Lower Merion and Narberth Federation of Civics. We send delegates to their meetings to exchange news and concerns.)

HCA Federation delegate Anthony Arechavala said Alec Hersh, executive director of the Ardmore Initiative, offered a roundup of recent developments at the Federation's February meeting, including:

- Tenants are moving into Coulter Place, the new multi-use development in Suburban Square.
- Piazza Project, another multi-use development, this one along Lancaster Avenue between Ardmore and Greenfield avenues, is underway, with demolition of existing structures in progress.
- Ardmore House II will offer 48 one bedroom units to qualified individuals 62 and older when it's finished later this year.
- Ardmore Train Station should be finished by the end of February.
- Ardmore Avenue Community Center will be completed by early fall.
- Rite Aid's vacated site in the Ardmore Shopping Center will be getting a raft of new commercial tenants including an eating establishment, yoga studio, health imaging center, an urgent care pet facility and a mattress store.

In other news, there was a report that the red-light camera at Lancaster Avenue and Remington Road was installed on February 9.



Snow collecting inside Haverford Train Station (left), a hole in the floor of a SEPTA-leased area (center) and the leak in the roof that caused it (right). More dreary reminders of the neglect and slow decay of this historic transit stop. SEPTA leases space there from AMTRAK, which has resisted multiple entreaties to rehabilitate and/or redevelop the property.

Minutiae

(Highlights from the February 10 HCA Board Meeting.)

Haverford Train Station Update:

There have been no further developments regarding the deteriorating condition of the station or AMTRAK's immediate plans for it, despite confirmed reports of continuing weather damage by HCA board members Michael Talarico and Catherine Abrams.

Mo Gillen, another board member, has not gotten a response to her query to AMTRAK representative Steve Segerlin about the federal transit agency's plans for the property.

A letter from HCA to the Lower Merion commissioners is pending. It will ask them to help spur SEPTA to improve conditions in the area it leases.

Traffic Calming: HCA board member Barbara Cohen's report:

- **Shuttle System Success** – AARP's Livable Communities newsletter recently highlighted Lexington, Mass.'s, Lexpress service, which offers shuttle buses to locations not served by public transit buses. Those include sites in a neighboring town, a popular grocery store, a medical center, the Lexington Library, a community center and every Lexington school. Initially expected to be used mostly by seniors, officials were surprised when teens began using the system, as well as other residents who recognized that shuttle use eliminated parking issues and driving in traffic.

The service runs Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. Riders can be picked up anywhere along the route simply by waving to the approaching bus. Fares cost \$20 annually for unlimited rides, or \$1 per ride for seniors (65 and over) and people with disabilities, or \$2 for riders aged 6 to 64. Lexpress gets some support from the Massachusetts Bay Transit Authority and the state, but fares and local taxes are the main sources of funding.

- **Red Light Cameras** – The latest word is that red-light cameras are to be installed by the end of March at three intersections: Lancaster Avenue/Remington Road, Lancaster Avenue/Haverford Station Road and Montgomery Avenue/Airedale Road.

Membership Report: From HCA secretary Charles Ault:

- **Membership** – HCA is close to tallying at least 90 dues-paying members for 2026. If you haven't signed up yet, you can be the one who takes us over the top! Click [here](#).
- **Social Media**
 - Our website subscribers are holding steady at 28. If you haven't done so already, you might want to consider subscribing and never miss an important new post. Just go to our [Subscribe](#) page and add your email address.
 - We've added three new Facebook followers, which takes us to 129.
 - We have a good-news/bad-news situation with our email contacts. We're bumping up against the 250-contact limit that Mailchimp, our email service, allows for their free service. So, we're ponying up the \$156 a year to take us to the next level, which will double our contact base!
- **Help Wanted** – HCA still needs help with our social media messaging. No writing or technical skills necessary. We'll provide the minimal training needed to post weekly updates on Facebook. If you can spare a few minutes a week for this important work, email haverfordcivicasociation@gmail.com. (P.S. We can also use some technical assistance with the website.)

Snowflake Lights Update:

The HCA board came to a consensus decision to buy replacements for 12 of the aging snowflake lights along Lancaster Avenue this year. That would provide new lights for half of the 24 available places to install them. HCA president Charlie Davis reported that discount pricing of \$500 per five-foot-diameter light plus \$250 shipping is currently available. A formal quote is due by the end of February, at which time HCA will request township funding for half the total cost. The purchase would demonstrate progress toward HCA's goal of installing 24 new lights and boost efforts to raise additional funds. Any readers moved to donate may do so [here](#).

Bits & Pieces

(A miscellany of factoids from various sources.)

Carlino's Anyone? With the demise of the Di Bruno Bros. outpost at Ardmore Farmers Market earlier this month, local foodies with a taste for Italian *mangiare* can still count on Ardmore's family owned Carlino's on County Line Road in Ardmore. *[multiple sources]*

Still Hungry? Middle Eastern restaurant Malooga opened this month in Narberth. The restaurant specializes in traditional Yemeni dishes like lamb fahsah, made with potatoes, okra, and herb fenugreek; and saltah, a potato and okra dish. *[Philadelphia Inquirer]*

Alla tua salute! Lankenau Medical Center and Bryn Mawr Hospital both recently ranked among America's 250 Best Hospitals by Healthgrades. The rankings are awarded to the top 5 percent of institutions in the nation for "overall clinical excellence." *[Philadelphia Inquirer]*

Fee of Flying: Domestic air travelers 18 and older who haven't gotten their REAL IDs or other acceptable identification began paying a \$45 fee on February 1 and suffering through additional screening. REAL ID cards have been available since last May, and you can click [here](#) to get one. Of course, a U.S. passport is the gold standard for ID verification and can be used wherever you are traveling. *[Patch]*

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 members to share the newsletter with their friends and neighbors. Subscription and membership requests can be sent to haverfordcivicasociation@gmail.com. We encourage subscribers to also become dues-paying members to help defray the cost of our email service. Click [here](#) to sign up.

Stay connected!

Don't miss our next meeting to stay informed and involved. Remember, your voice matters in making Haverford a better place for all.

Tuesday, March 10, 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](#)