



Haverford Civic Association

Lower Merion Township

March 2026 Newsletter

Greetings, Haverford neighbors!

Certain as death and taxes this time of year – are community work days at Sharpe Park!

It's the community's chance to put some sweat equity into our very own neighborhood nature preserve and bird sanctuary. Think of it as a green investment opportunity that pays ecological dividends now and for generations to come. We all have a fiduciary responsibility to protect and preserve the environment.

Under the expert guidance of The Garden Workers, a local affiliate of the Garden Club of America, members of the Haverford Civic Association, neighborhood residents and volunteers from local schools and churches will get to spend some quality time with Mother Nature. Six work days are scheduled this spring, with two-hour sessions slated both mornings and afternoons (see the schedule below). So, grab your gloves and don your boots – garden tools are provided – and get down and dirty with your fellow nature lovers.

Sharpe Park Garden Work Days

Haverford Station Rd and Montgomery Ave

Saturday, April 18 from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm

Tuesday, April 28 from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm

Thursday, April 30 from 9:30 am to 11:30 am

Saturday, May 2 from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm

Tuesday, May 5 from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm

Thursday, May 7 from 9:30 am to 11:30 am

**Come help the Garden Workers prepare Sharpe Park for Spring!
Remember to bring work gloves and water!**



This spring marks the second year of The Garden Workers' multi-year habitat restoration and beautification project at Sharpe Park. It's an ambitious effort to fulfill the vision of the late Catherine Dixon Sharpe, herself a member of The Garden Workers, who gifted the property to Lower Merion Township in 1963. To read a short history of The Garden Workers' long-term association with Sharpe Park, click [here](#).

Township Commissioners' Updates

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

Road Report: Commissioner Scott Zelov emailed the monthly Road Report summarized below:

- Citations – 70
- Warnings – 45
- Equipment notices – 36

Commissioner Zelov also reported that the Penn Road underpass at the Wynnewood train station has reopened after a truck struck one of the supporting girders. The reopening may be temporary, however, as work continues on tracks that might have been knocked out of alignment. Installing hazard-warning markers on the support girders similar to those at the Airdale Road underpass was suggested.

Restoration of the wrought iron fence around the township parking lot across from the Bryn Mawr train station is complete, the commissioner said. There will be a ceremony April 13 to unveil a plaque honoring the William Dietrich Foundation for its generous contribution to the restoration effort. In addition, he noted, four Level 2 EV charging outlets are now operational in the lot. Parking is free while charging.

Commissioner Zelov announced that two proposals for the conversion of Ardmore's Schaufele Plaza and an adjacent parking lot into a public green space will be presented at an upcoming meeting of the township Building and Planning Committee. He said he had concerns about the cost of the project.

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.)

Federation Delegate Anne Mezey could not attend HCA's March board meeting but emailed the following report on the Federation's March meeting:

Lower Merion Ward 1 Commissioner Dan Bernheim, Esq., was the featured speaker. Ward 1 includes areas in Penn Valley, Gladwyne, Merion Park and Wynnewood.

Commissioner Bernheim said Lower Merion has six fire companies. First-level volunteer firefighters must complete 180 or more hours of training. Those who meet specific requirements receive a 100 percent rebate of their Lower Merion Township real estate taxes. Lower Merion will continue offering the rebate as a recruitment and retention incentive. There are 47 firefighters who meet the threshold requirements for the rebate.

Commissioner Bernheim said he has tried for several years to convince the Lower Merion School District to offer a yearly school-tax rebate to the volunteer firefighters. The school tax amounts to 80 percent of the total real estate levy that township residents pay annually. Currently, LMSD offers volunteer firefighters a \$1,500 credit on their school tax, but Bernheim wants the credit raised to \$3,000. He will continue lobbying for the increase and is looking for support from the civic associations.



Now Arriving! The long-awaited opening of the new Ardmore train station is set for Monday, March 23 (of this year!). Pictured above is an architectural rendering of the train station. At right is the multi-level, mixed-use parking garage that is proposed but not yet funded. The township is expected to apply for a \$2.5 million federal grant.

Minutiae

(Highlights from the March 10 HCA Board Meeting.)

Haverford Train Station Update:

There was further discussion of the ongoing maintenance and water intrusion issues at the Haverford train station. Complaints and photos documenting conditions there have been forwarded to SEPTA, and HCA has asked Lower Merion Township officials for help raising the issue with the regional transit agency.

Addressing the deteriorating condition of the historic site is complicated. Although SEPTA rents space there, the property is owned by AMTRAK, which has deferred remedial action while pursuing an ambitious multi-use development opportunity. AMTRAK has kept at it for years without success and the property continues to decline.

Some HCA board members said they believe the absence of a clearly articulated community vision for Haverford station is hampering negotiations with AMTRAK. After further discussion, a consensus emerged that a township-led planning process would be beneficial, and Lower Merion Commissioner Scott Zelov said township staff may be available to support such an effort.

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

- **Lower Merion Traffic Stop Report**
 - In 2025, citations or warnings were issued to 8,580 drivers. Township residents made up 24 percent (2,038) of the total and non-residents 76 percent (6,542). Whether resident or non-resident, there was a three-to-one ratio of warnings to citations. The number of non-resident drivers who

received warnings and/or citations could pose a challenge to efforts to introduce a traffic safety culture in the township.

- There was a 51 percent increase in citations and warnings in 2024 over 2023. the numbers declined slightly in 2025.
- **Traffic Calming Measures**
 - Philadelphia's Vision Zero Plan has resulted in the implementation of a broad range of traffic calming measures: rumble strips, speed tables, traffic lane separators, speed cameras, red light cameras and road diets.
- **Vehicle Speed and Pedestrian Risk of Death**
 - As reported by the U.S. Department of Transportation, small increases in speed significantly impact pedestrian death rates. At 23 mph, the risk of death is 10%; 32 mph – 25%; 42 mph – 50%; 50 mph – 75%; 58 mph – 90%.

Membership Report - From HCA secretary Charles Ault:

- **Membership** - HCA just topped 90 dues-paying members for 2026. Can we get to 100? If you haven't signed up yet, click [here](#).
- **Social Media**
 - Never miss an important new post to our website. Just go to our [Subscribe](#) page and add your email address.
 - We now have 130 Facebook followers.
 - Due to growth in subscribers, we had to boost our Mailchimp service to handle the extra load.
- **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 haverfordcivicassociation@gmail.com. (P.S. We can also use some technical assistance with the website.)

Bits & Pieces

(A miscellany of factoids from various sources.)

Plaza Plan Prevails – On an 8-3 vote, Lower Merion Commissioners “received” preliminary designs for the transformation of Ardmore’s Schaufele Plaza and an adjacent parking lot into a verdant town square. The vote came at a March 11 committee meeting after more than 50 speakers offered nearly two hours of public comment. A central element of the Ardmore Master Plan, the price tag for the project is estimated at \$9.38 million, with \$2.6 million already in hand for part of the work. The decision allows for continued refinement of designs and a search for grants and other potential funding sources, but doesn’t commit the township to any particular design or the expenditure of any monies not already allocated. *[HCA Newsletter report]*

Nickel for Your Thoughts - Citing a nationwide penny shortage, state Rep. Nathan Davidson introduced in the Pennsylvania House “legislation that would allow cash transactions to be rounded to the nearest nickel.” The U.S. Mint stopped making pennies

last year after President Trump called for their demise due to the cost of manufacturing the coins – 3.7 cents per penny. *[Patch]*

Priceless at the Pump - A Wynnewood Sunoco station recently sold a winning PA Lottery ticket worth \$5.9million. The winning numbers were 3-5-8-10-30-47. If you're holding that ticket, quickly sign it on the back. You have year to claim your prize. *[Patch]*

Fraudulent Pair - A pair of fraudsters were arrested earlier this month for running one or more fake businesses in Lower Merion Township. The pair operated under the name of PJS Paving & Masonry Corp. and possibly "Orchard Paving" and "Perfect Paving LLC" as well. Call Lower Merion Police if you think you were victimized.

Financial Literacy - WSFS Bank sold the neo-classical former Bryn Mawr Trust building on Lancaster Avenue in Bryn Mawr. Purchased by local investor Jonathan Karp, the building will be transformed into a nonprofit financial literacy center, offering classes and exhibits on money management for students and adults. A WSFS branch will remain on site. *[Philadelphia Business Journal]*

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, April 14, 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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