



Haverford Civic Association

Lower Merion Township

April 2026 Newsletter

Greetings, Haverford neighbors!

April is Earth Month, when we celebrate our stewardship of the environment - an annual reminder of our fiduciary duty to protect and preserve the planet we live on. And we have the perfect way to celebrate.

This is the second year of a multi-year [habitat restoration and beautification project](#) at our own little corner of paradise, Sharpe Park (officially known as Sharpe Bird Sanctuary). This month and next, The Garden Workers and Haverford Civic Association are sponsoring community workdays there. Add your energy to the effort. No experience needed. Just grab your boots and gloves, a water bottle, and join your neighbors on these days and times:

Sharpe Park Community Workdays Schedule



Volunteers donated their time and energy to further the habitat restoration and beautification project at Sharpe Park during Earth Month. Looks like they had fun!

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 – March 35 (February 70)
- Warnings – March 35 (February 45)
- Equipment notices – March 28 (February 36)

In addition, there were 838 school bus stop-arm violations issued in March.

Commissioner Zelov also said police had recovered six cars and arrested multiple teenagers after a rash of vehicle thefts.

Sewer Fees Rising: After a run of 14 years with no increase in sanitary sewer fees, Commissioner Zelov announced, the township will likely raise rates 35 percent over a three-year period due to an increase in charges from the Philadelphia facility that treats the township's waste water. He offered a tip to property owners with a pool or an irrigation system, noting they can install separate meters and have water used for those purposes deducted from their bills.

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 Anthony Arechevala reported on the following topics and speakers at the April 13 Federation meeting:

- Lower Merion Dog Walker Watch fundraiser May 12 at the Ardmore Fire Station.
- Proposed increase in Lower Merion Township's solid waste fees.
- Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission staff summary of the scope and purpose of the commission's activities.
- Brandon Ford, assistant manager of Lower Merion Township, on the recently completed Montgomery Avenue traffic study.
- PennDOT has sole authority over traffic lights and other traffic and pedestrian control measures at all signalized intersections regardless who owns the affected roadway.
- Solar panel installation at Penn Wynne Recreation Center.
- Tax credit for qualified Lower Merion firefighters set at 100% for township and county property taxes and a \$1,500 cap on property taxes levied by the Lower Merion School District.
- Ardmore's Schaufele Plaza master-plan report received by Lower Merion commissioners with no immediate commitment of funds or further action. The project is estimated to cost approximately \$9 million, including \$2.6 million in renovations to Cricket Terrace.
- Lower Merion Parks & Recreation Department to seek \$500,000 grant for facility improvements.

Minutiae

(Highlights from the April 14 HCA Board Meeting.)

Haverford Train Station Update:

The HCA Board will convene a small working group to plan community visioning sessions to identify restoration/redevelopment opportunities for the historic transit depot. Immediate next step is for President Charlie Davis and Lower Merion Commissioner Scott Zelov to meet with Chris Leswing, the township's Building and Planning director.

Party in the Park Preparations:

Vice President Catherine Abrams outlined plans for HCA's community festival scheduled for October 17 in Sharpe Park and the accompanying campaign to recruit business sponsorships. She noted the importance of an early start to enlist volunteers, coordinate activities and assign tasks. Click [here](#) to sign up.

Snowflake Lights:

HCA has kicked off a fund drive to pay for new seasonal snowflake lights along the Haverford stretch of Lancaster Avenue. Charlie Davis is awaiting a quote for 10 new, 5-foot diameter, commercial-grade fixtures to replace some of the aging ones no longer functioning properly. The cost to replace all the deteriorating lights is estimated at more than \$10,000. HCA will raise money this year and next and request a grant from Lower Merion Township for half the amount. You can help by becoming an HCA member at the \$145 Snowflake level or earmarking a donation for the Snowflake Fund. Click [here](#) to join or donate online.

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

- **Montgomery Avenue Traffic Study** - Lower Merion Township Assistant Manager Brandon Ford gave an update at the Federation of Civics April meeting:
 - The township logged over 2,500 survey responses from residents as of 3/1/26. The two most common mentions were left turn challenges and road diets.
 - Staff are evaluating potential corridor improvements in March/April.
 - A public meeting, planned for late May, will let residents review and provide input on potential improvements.
 - Montgomery Avenue is showing increased use, although still below pre-pandemic levels.
- **Red Light Cameras** - The first red light cameras in Lower Merion Township went live on April 6, at the Lancaster Avenue/Remington Road intersection. A warning period ends at midnight on June 5, after which violators will get \$100 citations in the mail.
 - Implementation of red light cameras at Lancaster Avenue/Haverford Station Road and Montgomery Avenue/Airdale Road is planned for later this year. Dates have not been announced.
 - Other municipalities implementing red light cameras include the city of Philadelphia and Abington, Bensalem, Bristol, Montgomery and Warrington townships.
 - Commonwealth red light camera programs will expire in July 2027 unless the legislature acts.
- **Circulation (Traffic Calming) Committee** - Commissioner Craig Timberlake, chair of the Lower Merion Township Ad Hoc Circulation Committee, announced the following priorities at the township commissioners' annual priority-setting meeting in March:
 - Finish updates to the township's traffic calming policy and present a draft to the board for adoption,
 - Assist with completion of the Montgomery Avenue traffic study and
 - Test low-cost, flexible traffic calming solutions.

Membership Report - From HCA secretary Charles Ault:

- **Membership** - HCA now has 95 dues-paying members for 2026. Help us get to 100. Click [here](#) to sign up.
 - **Social Media**
 - Our email list is growing, now reaching 249 recipients.
 - The website added 2 new subscribers for a total of 30. (Never miss an important new post to our website. Just go to our [Subscribe](#) page and add your email address.)
 - **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.)
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After a six-year wait and \$59 million spent, a new and much improved Ardmore Train Station opened on March 23, to the great relief of commuters and local businesses. For more details and a photo gallery, follow the link to

[The All New Ardmore Train Station](#)

Bits & Pieces

(A miscellany of factoids from various sources.)

Primary Primer: The primary election is May 19. The last day to register to vote is May 4.

Pennsylvania has a closed primary, so you can vote only for your party's candidates.

Click [here](#) to see if you are registered, [here](#) to see your party's sample ballot, [here](#) to find your polling place and [here](#) to get a mail-in or absentee ballot. Polls are open on election day from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. [StandUp4LM]

ICE Breakers: Hard on the heels of a similar document from the Lower Merion Police Department, township commissioners warned federal Immigration and Customs Enforcement officials that any illegal conduct here will not be tolerated. Commissioners said they “will not stand for violence, lawlessness or persecution of any kind and will do everything in our power to protect and support all our residents.” The statement was adopted unanimously at the commissioners’ April 8 board meeting. *[LMT Notice]*

Rite-Aid Redux: The former Rite Aid in the Ardmore West Shopping Center is no more. But work is nearing completion on new shops to replace it: CORE Power Yoga, Just Salads, a radiology lab and a veterinary clinic, all of which plan to open by summer. *[Downtown Ardmore District]*

Power Failure: PECO has rescinded its latest proposed rate hike for Philadelphia area customers after pushback from legislators. The local utility had wanted to raise residential rates for electricity by 12.5 percent and 11.4 percent for natural gas, starting in 2027. That would have been on top of double-digit rate hikes in both 2025 and 2026. *[Patch]*

Healthy Ranking: Two Main Line Health facilities, Lankenau Medical Center and Bryn Mawr Hospital, made Newsweek magazine’s list of the world’s best hospitals. Among U.S. hospitals, Lankenau ranked at number 131 and Bryn Mawr at 201. Both were also lauded for infection prevention and patient experience. *[Newsweek]*

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, May 12, 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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