



Haverford Civic Association

Lower Merion Township

September 2026 Newsletter

Greetings, Haverford neighbors!

Welcome to the first fall 2026 issue of the Haverford Civic Association newsletter. The sultry summer season is winding down, but before you get too busy squirreling away chestnuts for winter, here's a chance to catch up on local affairs and check out our autumn agenda.

Party
IN
THE PARK

FREE FOOD, ACTIVITIES, LIVE MUSIC

**SATURDAY,
OCTOBER 17, 2026**

RAIN DATE
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18

11:00 AM - 2:00 PM

**SHARPE PARK,
MONTGOMERY AVE AND
HAVERFORD STATION ROAD**

SPONSORED BY HAVERFORD CIVIC ASSOCIATION AND LOCAL BUSINESSES

Don't Miss Our Annual Party in the Park

Make Saturday, October 17, a red-letter day on your calendar so you won't miss this fall's Party in the Park. The popular event held in picturesque Sharpe Park (a bird sanctuary!) runs from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Stroll the leafy woodland and admire its colorful fall foliage. Munch on the free food, groove to the classic and alt rock sounds of Lincoln Drive. Take a chance on a raffle ticket. Bring the kids, paint a pumpkin, check out an ambulance or fire truck and get acquainted with your neighborhood first responders. The festival is sponsored by Haverford Civic Association and our local business community. (Rain date Sunday, October 18.)

Township Commissioners' Updates

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

Commissioner Scott Zelov attended the September HCA board meeting and offered these updates:

- The public presentation of the Montgomery Avenue Traffic Study is likely delayed until October, rather than September, because the township is seeking alignment among commissioners and neighboring stakeholders, including Narberth. The most controversial recommendation remains the proposed road diet that would reduce westbound Montgomery Avenue traffic to one lane. Scott stated that he opposes this proposal and does not believe the traffic modeling supports it. Other likely recommendations include dedicated turn lanes at major intersections. He noted there had been no substantive commissioner discussions about the traffic study over the summer.
- Regarding declining traffic enforcement statistics, township staff attribute this largely to police staffing and training demands. New officer recruitment required existing officers to spend significant time on training activities. However, staffing has been approved to reach the budgeted level of 136 sworn officers, a target that had not been achieved for several years, and traffic enforcement should improve going forward.
- The police superintendent does not support Flock license plate recognition cameras, making their adoption unlikely.
- The township's first 2027 budget workshop is imminent and the upcoming budget year will be challenging. Factors include:
 - Simultaneous expiration of two union labor contracts.
 - Rising healthcare costs.
 - Increased costs associated with expanding police staffing.
 - Proposals to create new positions, although existing positions are unlikely to be eliminated.
- Bryn Mawr Day will be held September 19 in the parking lot across from Luddington Library and the train station.

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.)

The Federation met too late for a report in this month's Newsletter.

Minutiae

(Highlights from the September 8 HCA Board Meeting.)

Haverford Train Station:

Elizabeth Horwitz, Lower Merion Township's newly hired economic development specialist, outlined what's happened since HCA board members met with township Planning Department officials over the summer. That meeting kicked off HCA's efforts to develop a coherent vision for revitalizing the historic train station, with the advice and assistance of the township's professional staff.

Horwitz said the township hopes to bring on staff in the fall to begin an existing conditions report, which is the project's first step. If staffing is delayed, work may begin early next year.

Facade Grants for Local Businesses:

In the meantime, Horwitz continued, private businesses in the project area – principally those in and around the Haverford Square shopping district – will be eligible to take advantage of the township's facade grant program. On offer are 50-percent matching grants for permanent building improvements, up to \$5,000. Historical preservation is a priority, but not a requirement.

Sharpe Park Community Work Days:

At HCA's request, the Lower Merion Parks and Recreation Department replaced the teetering split rail fence along Montgomery Avenue over the summer, and Sharpe Park is ready for a big cleanup effort in preparation for October's Party in the Park. Please join The Garden Workers, HCA members and your neighbors for this fall's community work days. Parks & Rec is supplying the tools, so grab your gloves, slip into your work shoes – and don't forget a water bottle.

Here are the dates for the HCA community work days:

Saturday, September 26, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Saturday, October 3, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

The Garden Workers will be on site:

Thursday, September 17, 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Wednesday, September 23, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.



*Garden Workers Catherine Bell (left) and Brooke McInnes
in Sharpe Park with Jayden Thomas.*

Eagle Scout Sighted in Bird Sanctuary

Eagle Scout Jayden Thomas has been busy this summer. The Haverford School senior planned, organized and led a team of volunteers on an impressive improvement effort at Sharpe Bird Sanctuary (Sharpe Park) in August. To learn more about Jayden's work, click [here](#).

Party in the Park:

HCA vice president Catherine Abrams reported that local businesses asked for help publicizing a holiday shopping event when they were contacted about supporting HCA's Party in the Park. Abrams will let them know the board supports the shopping event and will also put them in touch with Elizabeth Horwitz to learn how to apply for facade grants.

Abrams also said plans for the October 17 Party in the Park are progressing and that board members Hala Imms, Lee Tabas, Charlie Davis and herself have canvassed local businesses, several of which have either joined HCA as business/institutional members or donated raffle prizes.

Preparations are ongoing. Help is needed for additional canvassing of businesses, distributing flyers, set-up, staffing tables and clean-up. To volunteer, email HCA at haverfordcivicasassociation@gmail.com. To make a donation to support the event, click [here](#). (Please type "Party in the Park" in the comment box.)

Snowflake Lights:

HCA thanks Lower Merion Commissioner Scott Zelov for facilitating the township's donation of \$2,460 to cover half the cost of new seasonal Snowflake lights for our stretch of Lancaster Avenue. The Association bought 10 new lights in June at a cost of around \$4,700 to replace nearly half of the existing lights, which have seen brighter days. The plan is to raise another \$5,000 or so to finish the job before this upcoming holiday season. If you would like to help "spread the light," click [here](#) to make a donation. (Please type "Snowflakes" in the comment box.)

Traffic Calming Report - *From HCA board member Barbara Cohen:*

"[Traffic Calming: What's It All About?](#)," an HCA primer, has been updated to include photographs illustrating various types of traffic calming interventions. The revised version will be distributed before the township presents the results of the Montgomery Avenue traffic study.

Here are the key findings from a review of publicly available Lower Merion traffic statistics and some recommendations for additional monitoring metrics:

2025 vs. 2024

- Total crashes were fewer but more people were injured. Deaths dropped from 5 to 3.
- All enforcement indicators declined, except for parking, which spiked up.

2021-2025

- Enforcement levels fluctuated.
- Personal injury crashes and number of people injured rose most years.

Recommendations

- Add crash contributing factors such as speeding, distraction, impairment, roadway conditions.

- Note whether the injured were pedestrians, bicyclists or vehicle occupants.
- Note crash location as intersection or mid-block and crash type such as angle, rear-end, head-on or fixed-object.

The full LMT traffic data can be found [here](#).

State Rep. Tim Briggs announced that Lower Merion got a \$397,200 Green Light-Go grant, with a 20-percent local match, to modernize traffic signals and improve traffic flow at 24 intersections along Lancaster Avenue and three on Wynnwood Road. Targeted intersections in Haverford include Haverford Station Road, Booth Lane and Woodside Road.

The automated red-light enforcement (ARLE) camera at Lancaster Avenue and Remington Road racked up 663 violations since the warning period ended August 24.

Membership Report - *From HCA secretary Charles Ault:*

There were no Newsletter or Haverford Bulletin mailings to our membership over the July-August hiatus and no change in our paid membership count, which stands at about 95. Postings to our Facebook account and website continued, but at a slower pace. We did, however, add three new Facebook followers, bringing the total to 133.

Great News - Jim Sturdivant has volunteered to manage a new social media site for HCA on Instagram! The link is: <https://www.instagram.com/haverfordcivicasassociation/> and the handle is: @HaverfordCivicAssociation.

Help Wanted - HCA still needs help with our Facebook 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 haverfordcivicasassociation@gmail.com. (P.S. We can also use some technical assistance with the website.)

Annual Meeting:

The Haverford Civic Association annual meeting will be held Thursday, November 19, at the Merion Cricket Club. Featured speaker to be announced.

Bits & Pieces

(A miscellany of factoids from various sources.)

Ardmore Openings: Five new businesses to check out -

Mango Mango, 36 Greenfield Ave, Asian-inspired dessert cafe serving sweet treats, mango specialties, tea and more

Half A While, 22 W Lancaster Ave, Asian influenced bakery focusing on low sugar treats, pastries and high quality tea

Maivie, 74 Rittenhouse Pl, hands-on pressed flower art studio offering classes and workshops

Just Salad, 167 W Lancaster, Ste 90, fast-casual spot offering custom, made-to-order salads and wraps

Ogyu Japanese BBQ, 60 Greenfield Ave, all-you-can-eat Japanese cuisine cooked tableside

[Downtown Ardmore District]

Changing Menu Venues: **Bart's Bagels**, a New York-style bagel shop, has taken over the Bala Cynwyd location of the former Bravo Pizza at 272 Montgomery Avenue and is taking orders. A few doors down, at 281 Montgomery, the owners of **Aldar Bistro** plan to

convert the Lebanese-inspired cafe into a white-tablecloth Southern Italian *ristorante* called **Bruzi**. [*Phila Inquirer*]

Lower Merion Historical Society: LMHS is preparing for its Inaugural Fundraising Gala & Silent Auction on November 14, 2026, at the Cynwyd Club. [*LMHS*]

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 haverfordcivicasassociation@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, October 13, 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 / RENEW / DONATE

Annual membership is on a calendar-year basis, due in January.
(Dues paid early accrue to the following year.)