Haverford Civic Association
Lower Merion Township

October 2026 Newsletter

Greetings, Haverford neighbors!

Fall is officially here, as we can readily tell by the shorter days and cooler nights, and community affairs are crowding the calendar. First, Saturday's Party in the Park (Oct. 17) drew an enthusiastic crowd, despite competing with rival activities on the same day. Then, the long-awaited recommendations from the Montgomery Avenue Traffic Study will be presented at a public meeting on Monday, October 26, 6 p.m. in the Lower Merion Township Building. And, finally, Haverford Civic Association's annual meeting is set for Thursday, November 19, at the Merion Cricket Club. Come out and join us for a look back at what we accomplished in 2026 and what is planned for 2027.



Another Terrific Party in the Park

This year's Party in the Park enticed friends and neighbors to brave chilly and blustery weather to frolic in Sharpe Park, our little woodland wonderland. The live music, free food and activities soon put everyone in a cheery mood. Thank you to our local businesses who donated a generous trove of gifts for HCA's fundraising raffle and membership campaign. Special thanks also to our local first responders who came out to meet the public: Lower Merion Police, Merion Fire Company of Ardmore and Narberth Ambulance. Click these links to see **more pictures** from the event and a **Thank You list** of sponsors.

Township Commissioners' Updates

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

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

Speed Enforcement by Lower Merion Police

Emphasized the need for both stronger traffic enforcement and roadway design improvements to address speeding and safety concerns. Township officials have repeatedly stated that increased police staffing should lead to more traffic enforcement. The community should hold them accountable for delivering those results.

Montgomery Avenue Traffic Study

- Encouraged residents to closely review the preliminary plans, which are still subject to public input and engineering review.
- Noted the proposed improvements include a westbound lane drop at certain locations, signal timing, intersection redesigns and a bump-out at New Gulph Road intended to slow turning vehicles and reduce speeding.
- Raised concerns about potential unintended consequences, particularly the possibility that traffic-calming measures on Montgomery Avenue could divert vehicles onto residential streets such as New Gulph Road, which already experiences speeding problems and resident complaints.
- Discussed implementation considerations, noting that lower-cost improvements such as signal timing adjustments and pavement markings could be completed more easily than expensive infrastructure changes like bump-outs.
- Expressed support for using temporary pilot projects to test major changes, such as lane reductions, so that their effects can be measured before permanent installation.

The Haverford School

The private school in Haverford on Lancaster Avenue proposes to raze two school-owned houses, close Panmure Road in Haverford Township, construct additional athletic fields and a new one-level parking deck near the existing baseball field. The project is intended to improve internal campus traffic circulation by connecting

parking areas and to reduce parking spillover onto neighborhood streets. The proposal must first secure zoning relief and road-closure approvals in Haverford Township before moving forward in Lower Merion, making the entire plan contingent on Haverford's approval.

Della Porta Developments

Developer David Della Porta plans to move forward with two long-approved apartment developments in Haverford and Bryn Mawr after securing financing. The Haverford project will replace vacant office buildings on Lancaster Avenue near Haverford College with a residential development and underground parking. The Bryn Mawr project will redevelop a long-vacant site at Lancaster and Bryn Mawr Avenues into apartments, also with underground parking. Construction could begin soon and is expected to last about 18 months. Both projects will have significant construction impacts on nearby residents, businesses, and traffic.

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.)

From HCA Federation delegates Anne Mezey and Anthony Arechevala:

Lower Merion Commissioner Craig Timberlake (Ward 8, Ardmore) spoke at the Federation's October meeting. He gave an update on the Montgomery Avenue traffic study and noted that preliminary recommendations are expected to be available online before the scheduled October 26 public presentation. There was a discussion of the role of PennDOT in approving future improvements resulting from the study and the availability of state and federal grant funding. The Federation encouraged attendance at the October 26 public presentation of the study's preliminary results.

There was also word that a long-awaited development at Barker's Mill in Gladwyne is now proceeding. It's a 33-unit condominium project by a local developer that would be constructed on Mill Creek Road at the site of a former armory. The development would not need the township's blessing, since a zoning request was approved several years ago.

Minutiae

(Highlights from the October 13 HCA Board Meeting.)

Pollinator Gardens:

HCA vice president Catherine Abrams introduced a Riverbend Environmental Education Center grant opportunity that provides funding, plants and design assistance for community pollinator gardens. The program requires a group willing to maintain the garden over time. The Haverford Train Station was mentioned as a possible location, but the lack of a water source makes it difficult at present.

Participants suggested promoting the opportunity through the HCA newsletter to reach condo associations and other local groups that may have suitable space and interest. The Garden Workers, who are leading the revitalization of Sharpe Park, were mentioned, but they are already working with Jenkins Arboretum.

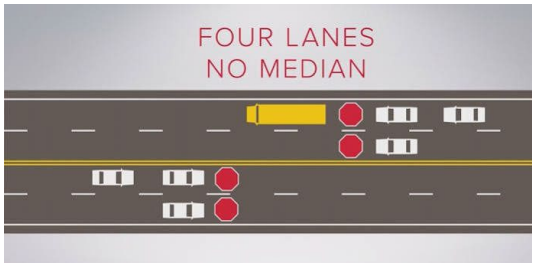
Traffic Calming Report - *From HCA board member Barbara Cohen:*

Preliminary recommendations of the Montgomery Avenue traffic study include several proposed improvements affecting Haverford:

- **Booth Lane** - street lighting improvements near crosswalks
- **Old Lancaster Road and Grays Lane** - signal modernization and addition of leading pedestrian intervals, allowing pedestrians to start crossing before turning vehicles receive a green signal
- **Haverford Station Road and Montgomery Avenue** - high-visibility crosswalk upgrades, improved signage and potential buffer zones between vehicles and pedestrians
- **Cheswold Lane** - proposed high-visibility pavement markings and signage
- **Woodside Road and Montgomery Avenue** - signal modernization and leading pedestrian intervals to improve pedestrian safety

Cohen expressed continued interest in strategies specifically aimed at reducing vehicle speeds and encouraged residents to attend the public presentation of the preliminary Montgomery Avenue study recommendations on October 26.





She also summarized information from township reports:

- Red-light cameras are in operation at Lancaster Avenue and Remington Road (1,207 citations since July 13) and there are planned new installations at the intersections of Haverford Station Road and Lancaster Avenue (in 30 to 45 days, weather permitting) and Montgomery Avenue and Airdale Road (by the end of January).
- 12,486 violations have been issued since the school bus camera program began. Some drivers incorrectly believe four-lane roads exempt them from stopping requirements. A public education effort is planned.
- 2026 year-to-date speeding violations are roughly unchanged from 2025. Lower Merion Police Superintendent Block noted that enforcement capacity was reduced due to the transition to a new records management system and the need to train new recruits.

Membership Report - *From HCA secretary Charles Ault:*

Social media outreach resumed in September:

- Mailchimp – 2 mailings to 246 subscribers, Community Workdays (59% open rate) and September Newsletter (69% open rate)
- Facebook – 9 posts (265 views, 134 followers)
- Website – 2 posts (271 visitors, 426 page views, 1 Like, 30 subscribers)

Jim Sturdivant has set up a site for HCA on Instagram, which went live in September. The link is: **https://www.instagram.com/haverfordcivicassociation/** 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 **haverfordcivicassociation@gmail.com**. (P.S. We can also use some technical assistance with the website.)

Annual Meeting:

Two consulting engineers for Lower Merion Township have agreed to speak at the Haverford Civic Association annual meeting on Thursday, November 19, at the Merion Cricket Club. Joseph Mastronardo is Lower Merion's township engineer and Joe Keaveney is the township's traffic engineer. Both are associate vice presidents of Pennoni, a nationally recognized consulting firm, and have been responsible for overseeing the Montgomery Avenue traffic study as well as drafting the preliminary recommendations coming out of that study.



Joseph Mastronardo, Township Engineer



Brian Keaveney, Traffic Engineer

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 **haverfordcivicassociation@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.

Next Board Meeting is Tuesday, November 10, 7:00 p.m.
Merion Room of the Merion Cricket Club
325 Montgomery Avenue
Haverford PA 19041

Annual Meeting is Thursday, November 19, 7:00 p.m.
Sun Lounge at the Merion Cricket Club

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.)