

NEW GARDEN TOWNSHIP

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610-268-2915
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Ahtziri Romo

Communications & Receptionist

MEETING SCHEDULE

Board of Supervisors

3rd Monday- 7:00 PM

Parks & Recreation Board

2nd Tuesday- 5:30 PM

Open Space Review Board

2nd Tuesday- 7:00 PM

Historic Commission

1st Wednesday- 7:30 PM

Planning Commission

4th Wednesday- 7:00 PM

Public Safety Commission

2nd Thursday- 7:00 PM

Zoning Hearing Board

As needed



MANAGER UPDATE

Happy New Year! The month of January is a special one as it not only represents a fresh start to a new calendar year but also marks my first anniversary of joining the Township. I want to start by recognizing how rewarding it has been to serve this community and lead a motivated and professional organization.



Reflecting on the previous year, I would like to highlight a few initiatives that reflect the Township's commitment to providing excellent services, starting with the FY23 paving program. Last year's program successfully replaced 2.3 miles of critical roadway, mostly along Starr Rd and several other sections, at a total cost of \$1.14m, representing a 150% funding increase from historical averages. Looking forward, the Township is committed to continually funding critical road repairs with a plan to invest an additional \$5.1m over the next four years (FY24-27) inclusive of Hillendale and Pemberton Rd.

Other highlights include establishing the Community Development & Life Safety Department, which now has a full-time Code Enforcement and part-time Fire Marshal position that performs preventative life safety inspection services for all eligible residential rental properties and commercial buildings. Each inspection program adopted by resolution during the Summer of 2023 ensures that quality-of-life and safety standards are enforced for all residents and businesses.

Lastly, thanks to everyone who provided input throughout the FY24 budget planning cycle. Listening to your concerns while providing context surrounding the Township's financial position was critical in approving a tax rate increase of 1.05 mills, which raised the overall rate from 1.72 to 2.77. While there is still room to improve the Township's revenue position, primarily through economic growth, the decision was vital to ensuring the long-range solvency of the Township's cash reserves while adding much-needed flexibility for future financial planning.

Looking ahead to FY24, I encourage residents and businesses to remain engaged as some major initiatives are planned for public review to include:

- Smedley Preserve Master Plan
- New Garden Hills Master Plan
- Baltimore Pike / Newark Rd Intersection Plan
- Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance Project

Thank you, and we look forward to hearing from you in the new year.

Christopher Himes

INCLUDED IN THIS VOLUME:

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Recycling & Hazardous Waste

By Patti Lynn, Recycling Resources Manager

HAPPY NEW YEAR! LET'S RESOLVE TO BE TRASH SMART

What does it mean to be Trash Smart? It means to be more thoughtful and engaged in how you manage solid waste in your everyday life. It is behavior. If you buy that new thing, what will you do with the old thing? How can you stop wasting food? What does "away" mean when we throw stuff away? This Trash Smart series will address different household waste streams, and today we start with recycling.



We make about 30,000 decisions in a day. If we consistently make the right decisions about recycling, then recycling right becomes a good habit, and your mind can focus on other decisions. **How can you recycle right?**

- First, go to your municipal resources or your private recycling hauler and print out the list of acceptable and unacceptable materials for recycling where you live. It may also include the collection schedule. **Post that list in a spot near your recycling container.** Don't know what to do with that plastic takeout box? Look at the list! Done!
- Yes, plastic is confusing. At least know that you should be recycling plastic bottles that have a neck (think water, milk, juice, detergent). It's the other plastic containers that give us a headache. **If in doubt, check it out. Not everything can be recycled!**
- **Universally NOT accepted** in your recycling bins: batteries, food waste, plastic bags, any hangers, wire, diapers, scrap metal. Look at your list! And throw away anything smaller than a credit card; this includes bottle caps.

Why is it important? Chester County is a scenic, diverse community of 534,000 people. Some benefits of our collective recycling efforts:

- Municipalities earned nearly \$1M from PA Recycling Performance grant awards in 2021.
- Our two local landfills, Lanchester and SECCRA, have more years to take your trash. More than 310,000 tons of recyclables were diverted in 2021.
- That's the equivalent of saving 33M gallons of gas.

You can **RECYCLE RIGHT** if you know what goes where.

HOW?

- 1 Get your YES and NO list of recyclables from your municipal website or private hauler. Post that list in a spot near your recycling container.
- 2 Empty, clean, dry, and loose materials only - NO PLASTIC BAGS, BATTERIES, FOOD WASTE, DIRTY STUFF.
- 3 If in doubt, check it out. Not everything can be recycled.

To sum it up, get your local recycling list and post it up. Focus on what is acceptable. Empty, clean, dry, and loose materials (not bagged; but paper bags for paper are OK). And over and over again. It's not hard – it's Trash Smart!

Plastic Bag Recycling

Interested in learning how to recycle your plastic bags? Check out the website below to see where the closest drop off location is!

<https://bagandfilmrecycling.org/view/fdod>

Did you know...

"Current Pennsylvania law bans certain types of electronics from being placed in a landfill with municipal waste. Instead, all such electronics must be recycled in an approved recycling facility."

Check out **SECCRA** for information on acceptable landfill & recyclable drop-off items.

<https://seccra.org/what-do-i-do-with>

Chester County Solid Waste Authority

Make sure to check out the Solid Waste Authority's site in March of 2024 for the full list of upcoming dates and locations for the 2024 Household Hazardous Waste events.

Public Service Announcement: New Website!

New Garden Township will be rolling out the new, re-designed website in the early 2024 months. Stay up to date to learn about the new tools that will soon be available at your fingertips by following our [Facebook page](#) and by visiting our [current site](#).

Codes Corner

By Robert Weer, Director of Community Development & Safety

Asst. Director of Community Development & Safety

Matt Littlejohn comes from the Eastern Shore of Maryland. He attended Salisbury University where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Geography. Matt has previously worked for Cecil County, Maryland as a Planner; he has 6 years of Land-Use Planning experience. Matt's hobbies outside of work include hiking, cycling and watersports. Matt will be joining the Community Development & Safety department where his duties include zoning, permitting, and tracking a variety of community development programs.

mlittlejohn@newgarden.org
610-268-2915 ext. 135

Grants Coordinator & Finance Analyst

Linda Rivera grew up in Kennett Square, PA. She then moved to Oxford in 2011 and has been there ever since. Linda is a mother of three boys. On her free time, Linda enjoys going to her local church, cooking, and spending time with her friends and family. Linda's experience includes grant writing, budgeting, and managing and tracking various financial accounts.

drivera@newgarden.org
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RESIDENTIAL RENTAL INSPECTION PROGRAM

In August of 2023, the Board of Supervisors adopted Ordinance #261 authorizing inspection of all rental properties within New Garden Township. The ordinance went into effect on January 1st, 2024. The Ordinance provides for the ability for the township to inspect residential rental units, requiring landlords to file reports listing all residential rental units, authorizing the code enforcement officer to inspect the condition and use of such units and to enforce compliance with applicable ordinances and regulations. The primary objectives of the Ordinance are the following:

- To enhance the quality of life and living conditions within New Garden Township for residents engaged in a landlord tenant lease.
- To reduce loss of property or life within rental units by implementing an inspection program based on nationally accepted code standards by utilizing the International Property Maintenance Code (IPMC), as published by the International Code Council.
- To reduce unsightly or blighted rental properties by means of effective inspection and enforcement of the IPMC.
- To provide appointed Code Officials and Code Officers a means to inspect properties or violations of adopted codes and initiate remedial action or prosecution, against offenders of municipal ordinance.

The rental inspection process requires the landlord or their representative to file an application form with the township. The form includes critical information to include, Tax Id, property address, property owner, types of units, number of units and number of tenants. There are associated annual fees to administer and perform the inspections. The township will then provide a permit and perform an inspection of the property and units. A few of the inspection items include:

- The exterior conditions of the property are safe and clear of debris, rubbish, garbage, etc. and have visible proper premise identification.
- The interior conditions are safe with properly operating smoke and carbon monoxide detectors, heat is maintained at a minimum of 68 degrees, electrical wiring is in good condition.
- The kitchen area has a properly working stove, proper fire extinguisher, GFI outlets, proper functioning plumbing, hot and cold water.
- The bathroom area has a exhaust fan or operable window, GFI outlets, properly functioning plumbing, hot and cold water.
- The basement area clear of any unapproved sleeping areas, safety valve on hot water heater, dryer vent to exterior and clean, proper functioning plumbing.
- Multi-unit Facilities have annual fire suppression and alarm systems properly operating and inspected, emergency lighting and exit signs are properly maintained and operating.

The rental inspection program is intended to enhance the quality of life and living conditions for residents of New Garden Township. We appreciate landlords or their representatives submitting the rental registration forms and ensuring the rental units are safe for any occupants.

Link to the registration form:

https://www.newgarden.org/sites/g/files/vyh1if3531/f/pages/rental_registration_for_m.pdf

New Garden Public Works

By Kenny Reed, Public Works Director

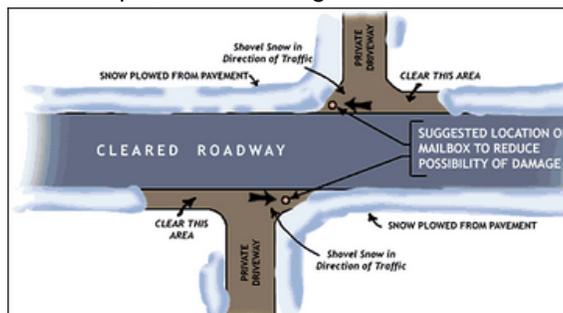
Like it or not, winter is here.

It's been a while since we have had any significant snowfall in our area and we would like to give everyone a quick overview of our winter operations.

The Public Works Department is called in as soon as the first flake starts to fall in most cases. They work many long, exhausting hours to keep the roads as clear as possible during the storm and then continue working after the storm to get everything pushed back and cleaned up. New Garden Public Works is responsible for about 62 miles of roadway which equates to almost 125 lane miles. Each drive has a dedicated truck and route to help make the process as efficient as possible. Our priority during the storm is to keep the main Township maintained roads open and passable, then concentrate on the lesser traveled and development roads. During smaller snow storms in which we only receive a few inches of snow and the temperatures are reasonable, the roadways are treated with a mixture of salt and anti-skid material to melt the ice and snow and keep it from freezing to the roadway. Under normal circumstances, that application takes two and half to three hours to complete. As temperatures drop the salt becomes less effective and another round of salt is needed to complete the deicing process.

There are a few tips to make it through the snowy season with as little headache as possible.

- **If you don't need to be out, DON'T GO OUT!!** The less traffic on the road, the quicker and safer we can do our job of removing the snow and ice from the roadway.
- **Don't park vehicles on the street before or during a snow storm.** Many of the roads maintained by the Township are narrow and/or on hills. If the plow truck can't safely pass the vehicle the street will not be plowed until the vehicle is removed, at the owner's expense if it needs to be towed.
- **Wait to clear your driveway until after the snow plow goes through!!** No one likes to clear their driveway in the first place, let alone twice. There is nothing more frustrating than clearing your driveway and have it pushed back in when the plow comes through. While we do our best to minimize plowing in a resident's driveway, there is one place we have to push snow and that is on the side of the road.
- **While clearing your driveway, sidewalk, mailbox area, use this picture to help reduce the chance of getting plowed back in.**
- **Do not shovel, throw, or push snow into the roadway.** Snow put on the roadway from your driveway or sidewalk can be a safety hazard and can cause an accident. Instead of putting it in the street use the picture above and pile snow with the direction of travel.
- **Be sure your mailbox and post are in good condition.** All the plow drivers do their best to not cause damage to anyone's property. However, snow coming from the plow of a truck driving down the road can easily bring down mailboxes and posts. The bigger the mailbox the more likely they are to break. The Township policy regarding mailboxes is simple, if we damage the box with the truck or plow, we will reimburse the property owner up to \$50. However, if the damage is caused by the snow coming from the plow the property owner/ resident is responsible for the repairs.



Generator Safety

As we enter the winter, the chance of power outages due to storms increases. Power can be knocked out by limbs falling on the lines in a wind or ice storm, the lines themselves can fall from the weight of snow and ice, or poles can be damaged from vehicles sliding into them during inclement weather. While power outages are definitely an inconvenience, they can also be very dangerous. Below are generator tips and safety precautions that must be followed, if not followed they can be very dangerous and can threaten the lives of your family and neighbors, as well as the utility workers trying to get the power restored to the area.

- Always read and understand the manual supplied with the generator to ensure proper operation.
- Never "back feed" the panel through an outlet. Not only is it illegal, it is very dangerous and can cause shock, electrocution, and/or a fire.
- NEVER run your generator in an enclosed area such as in a basement/crawl space or a garage, even if the door is open. The generator puts off carbon monoxide (CO) which is an odorless and colorless gas that can cause sudden illness and death.
- Generators should be operated at least 20 feet from buildings and even at that distance there still is the possibility of the CO entering the building through windows/doors, or attic vents, especially with the use of fans to pull in "fresh" air. Also, keep the generator as level as possible. If tilted, the engine oil can be kept away from the oil pump and cause engine failure.
- Always keep a working carbon monoxide detector in any occupied building and remember most of them are good for five (5) years. After that they can give false positives, or even worse, not notify you in the event of a high level of CO in a building.
- Always shut down and allow the generator to cool before refueling it.
- Keep the generator as dry as possible to reduce the possibility of being shocked or electrocuted.

Facebook Page

To stay updated on road closures, employment opportunities, news, etc., follow the official New Garden Public Works page:



<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100084187477404>

Avondale Fire Company

By Lieutenant Ulises Aguilera

Donate Today!



Our volunteers rely heavily on donations to supplement financial obligations for purchases of a variety of needs including firefighters' gear and equipment, training, new fire apparatus, and maintenance of the firehouse.

Please contribute and help us protect our community.

Donate to @AvondaleFireCo in the Venmo app.

Donations are also accepted via PayPal on our website, or via mail/drop-off at our station!

Board of Supervisors



Top row: Troy Wildrick, David Unger (Chair), Ted Gallivan (Vice-Chair)

Bottom row: Stephen Allaband, Kristie Brodowski

Agendas and Minutes

Did you miss the last Board of Supervisors meeting?

View our live streams on our YouTube channel.

<https://www.youtube.com/@NewGardenTownship/featured>

Check out all the agendas and minutes posted on www.newgarden.org, under 'Minutes/Agendas'.

<https://www.newgarden.org/minutes-and-agendas>



AVONDALE FIRE COMPANY COMMUNITY,

The members of the Avondale Fire Company would like to thank you for taking the time to read our second third community update!

Our goal is to provide targeted information to the residents of the township that is pertinent to the specific services rendered in New Garden Township. While we post important information and updates on both our social media and website as it develops on scene of emergency incidents. We would like to take this opportunity to provide summary statistics on what things our volunteer crews have been up to on a quarterly basis.

While we start off on this journey, we welcome feedback on what information YOU in the community would like to see us report on. Please reach out to Lieutenant Ulises Aguilera uaguilera@afc23.org.

DID YOU KNOW?

Winter storms can happen almost anywhere. They can cause us problems. Know what to do before, during and after a storm. This will help keep you and your family safe from a winter fire.

- Test all smoke alarms. Do this at least once a month. This way you will know they are working. Install carbon monoxide alarms in your home. Test the alarms.
- Plan two ways out of the home in case of an emergency. Clear driveway and front walk of ice and snow. This will provide easy access to your home.
- Make sure your house number can be seen from the street. If you need help, firefighters will be able to find you.
- Be ready in case the power goes out. Have flashlights on hand. Also have battery powered lighting and fresh batteries. Never use candles.
- Stay aware of winter weather. Listen to the television or radio for updates. Watch for bulletins online.
- Check on neighbors. Check on others who may need help.

Generators should be used outdoors. Keep them away from windows and doors.

Do not run a generator inside your garage, even if the door is open.

- Stay away from downed wires. Report any downed wires to authorities.
- Be ready if the heat stops working. Use extra layers of clothes and blankets to stay warm. If you use an emergency heat source, keep anything that can burn at least 3 feet away.
- Turn portable heaters off when you leave the room. Turn them off when you go to bed.

The Avondale Fire Company has responded to **500 + FIRE CALLS** and **1600 + EMS CALLS** for service between January and ember. As community members you many view our post incident NEWS by simply visiting our website www.afc23.org/apps/public/news.

Southern Chester County Regional Police Department

By Chief of Police, Joseph F. Greenwalt

SCCRPD UPDATES

In the last Newsletter, I shared several changes and transitions that were planned for the year, including the department's status surrounding the shortage of police officers and the need for new leadership. Since then, the Public Safety Commission approved the hiring of those officers and promotions to fill the need for leadership. On July 13th, I was officially sworn in as the Chief of Police and my first request to fill the positions of Lieutenant, Sergeant, and to have the new officers that were selected sworn in. Below, I am going to provide the community with a little bit about each of those positions and persons which are crucial to the department's ability to provide the level of service expected when called upon.

Chief Greenwalt began his law enforcement career in 1998 with Widener University's Campus Safety Department. In 2001, he was hired by Brookhaven Borough Police Department and then by the City of Chester Police Department in early 2002. Chief Greenwalt was hired by the New Garden Township Police Department in 2007. While employed by New Garden Township, Chief Greenwalt held the following positions; Firearms instructor, Taser Instructor, Field Training Officer, member of the County Emergency Response Team, Active Shooter Response instructor and Accreditation Manager.



Chief Greenwalt was promoted to the rank of Corporal in 2011, Sergeant in 2017 and in 2019 he was promoted to Lieutenant. Chief Greenwalt served as the department's 2nd in command and had oversight of both the patrol division and the criminal investigations division. Chief Greenwalt is a graduate of the NJSACOP Command and Leadership program, FBI Mid-Atlantic Law Enforcement Executive Development Seminar, and the FBI National Academy, Session #280. Greenwalt was named Acting Chief of Police in December of 2022 until being promoted to the rank of Chief in July of 2023.



Lieutenant Versagli began his law enforcement career with the New Garden Township Police Department in December of 2011. Lt. Versagli has held the following positions; Rangemaster, Field Training Officer, Armorer, Firearms instructor. Lt. Versagli is a graduate of the NJSACOP Command and Leadership program and the FBI Mid-Atlantic Law Enforcement Executive Development seminar. Lt. Versagli served as the department's detective until being promoted to the rank of Corporal in 2015. Lt Versagli oversaw A-Platoon

and was the senior patrol supervisor until being named Acting Lieutenant in December of 2022. Lt. Versagli was officially promoted to the rank of Lieutenant in July of 2023 and now oversees the Criminal Investigations Division and Patrol Division. He now serves as the department's 2nd in command.

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Knox Box Ordinance

Who is required to have a Knox Box?

- Commercial or Industrial Structures, protected by an alarm system, suppression system or if access is restricted during an emergency.
- Multifamily residential structures, with common corridors for access to living units.
- Governmental, Schools, and Nursing Care Facilities are all required to abide by the Knox box ordinance.
- If you do not fall under any of these structures, there is no further action needed. If you do, please follow the steps below.

For any questions, contact New Garden Township Fire Marshal, Charlie Owens, at cowens@newgarden.org

Typical Knox Box to order is the 3200 series.

Order via Avondale Fire Company web page. click on Knox Box tab on left side of web page www.afc23.org.

Install within 6 feet of main entrance and 5 feet above walking surface.

Contact New Garden Fire Marshal once Knox Box is installed for inspection.



Southern Chester County Regional Police Department

By Chief of Police, Joseph F. Greenwalt

Find Us Here:



<https://www.facebook.com/SCCRPD>



<https://chester.crimewatchpa.com/sccrpd>

New Garden Flying Field

Check us out!

<https://www.newgardenflyingfield.com/>

We are just as excited to announce our 2024 Future Aviators Camp for both July and August. We are looking forward to another fun-filled summer!

Our dates for 2024

- July 8th - 12th
- August 5th - 9th

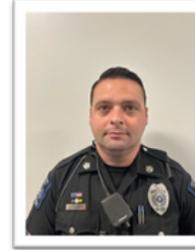
Registration is not open at this time. Please check out the airport's Facebook and website for future details.

Also coming back this year is the Air Show Evening of Aviation! The Air Show will take place on June 25th and will feature both afternoon and evening demonstrations with fireworks. Information about ticket sales will soon be available.



MEET OUR NEW POLICE OFFICERS

P.O. David Madonna P.O. Jose Alvarez P.O. Christopher Galle P.O. Joshua Dewees



On 7/13/2023, the Public Safety Commission approved the official swearing-in of the above pictured police officers. Below, is a brief introduction for each of them.

P.O. David Madonna was employed as a Part-time Officer with the department from 2018 through 2021. Officer Madonna resigned to focus on his assignment in the Army National Guard. In June of 2023, Madonna applied for the position of Full-time Police Officer and now serves in the Traffic Safety Unit. The TSU is responsible for commercial vehicle enforcement, speeding and traffic related concerns, serious traffic collisions, fleet management, and quality of life concerns.

P.O. Jose Alvarez came to our department after serving 13 years in the Chester City Police department. Officer Alvarez is certified through the National Association of School Resource Officers (NASRO) and is the Department's School Resource Officer assigned to the Kennett Consolidated School District. We are excited to staff the schools with an officer which will ultimately build upon relationships with area youth and enhance the safety of students and staff in the event of an incident. Officer Alvarez is a skilled outreach communicator and specializes in event planning. He is responsible for Kennett Middle School, Bancroft Elementary and New Garden Elementary Schools.

P.O. Chris Galle was previously with Oxford Borough Police for 6 years and Newark Delaware Police Department for 1 year. He brings to the department social media and community outreach skills which further aid our drive to connect with and inform the communities we serve. P.O. Galle is assigned to the Patrol division as the C&D platoon mid-shift.

P.O. Joshua Dewees came to our department after serving 18 years with the Chester City Police Department. P.O. Dewees retired with the rank of Captain. P.O. Dewees is a certified juvenile officer, certified in incident command through NIMS and command leadership, Field Training Officer, and Bike Patrol Officer. P.O. Dewees has overseen the Juvenile division, Patrol Division and School Resource Officer program while employed with the City of Chester and is eager to use those skills and experience while employed with our department.

In closing, and on behalf of all members of the Southern Chester County Regional Police Department, we wish you a safe and prosperous New Year! Also, do not forget we offer a safe medication disposal/drop box in the lobby of both our headquarters, located at 8934 Gap Newport Pike, and our sub-station, located at 117 Rosehill Ave, West Grove Borough.

Parks & Open Space

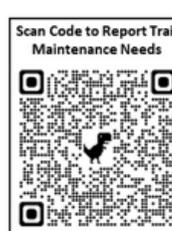
By Mike Buck, Parks & Open Space Superintendent

Hello New Garden and beyond!

The New Garden Hills Phase I nature trail is open! Kaolin Trail, at New Garden Hills, provides public access to the former Saint Anthony's in the Hills site for the first time since the property was acquired in 2018! The trail is open 7 days a week, dawn till dusk, unless otherwise posted. All park rules & regulations are in place and enforceable.

Trailhead parking is located at 6742 Limestone Road, Avondale PA, 19311. The main trail corridor utilizes an abandoned service road and loops through an old soccer field, circling back to the limestone road trailhead. While exploring the old soccer field, trail goers pass through a recently completed riparian buffer where they can experience live-stake plant nurseries in action!

Please note that while the trail is open, the interior of the park is still closed. Restricted areas are clearly marked. Trail goers are asked to stay on the trail. Thank you and we look forward to seeing you on the trail!"



Kennett Library

We're excited to start 2024 in the new Kennett Library & Resource Center!

Since we opened over the summer, the response from the community has been positively overwhelming. The building has quickly become a gathering place for all, and we are filled to the brim with gratitude.

We have some exciting programs planned for this winter, including Monday Movie Nights, Meadowitos Speaker Series and Workshops, rotating art exhibitions in our Art Gallery, STEAM Saturdays and Maker Mondays in the makerspace, and The Chester County Imagination Library Children's Book Club & Storytime to name just a few.

Learn more about our winter programs [online](#) or pop by the library to pick up the latest issue of From The Desk of Alice, our seasonal magazine of library programs and happenings.

We are a place to meet, a place to learn, to teach, to share, to connect, a place to build, to expand horizons.

There's a little something for everyone at the library.

Learn more at KennettLibrary.org.

