

# **EAST LAMPETER TOWNSHIP**

## Newsletter

Summer 2025

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East Lampeter Township
2250 Old Philadelphia Pike
Lancaster PA 17602
Ph: 717-393-1567
F: 717-393-4609
www.EastLampterTownship.org
Hours: M-F 8AM-4PM

Police Department
Non-Emergency: 717-291-4676



Ralph Hutchison and his Family at his retirement party

# A Message from Ralph Hutchison to the East Lampeter Township Community

I have been very fortunate in my professional life. Without question the highlight for me has been my years as Township Manager in East Lampeter Township. I am truly grateful to the members of the Board of Supervisors that hired me in 1991 and for all of the Board members who allowed me to continue serving for more than 33 years.

East Lampeter is a very special community located in the center of a very special County and this is because of the people that live, work and serve here. For me the best parts of my professional work have been the truly wonderful relationships that I have been able to have with Township officials, Township Volunteers and the best staff of Township employees anyone could ask for. Working together each day to pursue community goals while addressing the everyday challenges of providing vital services has been very fulfilling for me. The successes have far outnumbered the disappointments.

I have also enjoyed getting to know the people who live and work in the Township and to assist them when they are interacting with the Township. I have learned a lot from all of you which I believe has helped me to improve in my work.

No one accomplishes anything alone. I have been a part of many Township related accomplishments none of which would have been possible without the support and contributions of family, friends, Board leadership and Township coworkers. I appreciate all of you.

One of the best feelings in my journey as the first East Lampeter Township Manager has been the process of transitioning from this role into retirement. The community should have every confidence in the completion of this process with Tara Hitchens now in the role of Township Manager and the very capable staff she is now leading. Please continue to support Tara and the entire Township staff as they work to make community improvements and face the challenges of the future.

I depart with a full and grateful heart. Thank you.

— Ralph Hutchison, Township Manager, December 1991 to May 2025

# **New Sewer and Stormwater Payment Address**

Sewer and stormwater fee payment instructions have changed; the mailing address for these payments and payment stubs have been updated to:

#### PO Box 4098, Lancaster, PA 17604-4098

Please carefully review the remittance information included on your bill and make sure that you are sending your payment to the correct location. If you use a bill payment service through your own bank, please be sure to make the appropriate changes with your bank so that payment is being sent to the correct remittance address. We apologize for this inconvenience and appreciate your attention to this change.

## **Street Light Billing Changes**

For all street lighting in the Township, our electric utility, PPL, charges the Township for this street lighting service. If you have street lighting along the street(s) bordering your property, the Township charges a fee for this service. Not all streets in the Township are provided with street lighting service. These fees are charged to all property owners on streets where this service is provided, and is not limited to those properties where the actual lighting fixtures are located. The fee schedule established for this service determines the fee amount for each property based upon the type of fixture and the amount of "frontage" of the property along the street(s) where service is provided. Frontage is determined by the length of each property along each street from property line to property line. Please note that PPL charges the Township

based upon the type and number of each fixture. It is not a metered service. Therefore, even if a fixture is not working, the Township is still being charged. If you notice that a fixture is not working, please report this to the Township office.

In years prior to 2025, this fee was billed on an annual basis at the beginning of each year, typically in February. We will now be including this fee on the same quarterly bill form issued for sanitary sewer and stormwater fees. For 2025 only, this fee amount will be evenly split between the quarterly bill issued at the beginning of July and the quarterly bill issued at the beginning of October. Beginning in 2026, the fee amount will be split evenly among the usual four quarterly billings issued, which include charges for sanitary sewer service and stormwater service.

### Visit us on Social Media



#### Facebook @EastLampeterTownship



## You Tube @ East Lampeter Township 542

#### **Public Meeting Information**

#### **BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

Meets 1st and 3rd Monday of each month except for February, April, July, September and November when they only meet on the 3rd Monday of the month. All regular meetings begin at 7 pm.

#### **PLANNING COMMISSION**

Meets 2nd Tuesday of each month at 7 pm.

TOWNSHIP OFFICE PHONE: **717-393-1567** 

#### **SEWER AUTHORITY**

Meets 2nd Wednesday of each month. All regular meetings begin at 4 pm.

#### **PARK BOARD**

Meets 4th Wednesday of each month at 4 pm. (NO MEETINGS in November and December.)

#### **ZONING HEARING BOARD**

Meets 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month at 7 pm, when necessary. (NO MEETING on 4th Thursday in November and December.)

# Are you interested in supporting your community? Advertise in our Newsletter

This newsletter is funded by
the sale of advertising.
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Township and our residents.
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# Employee Spotlight: Steph Leakway

Steph Leakway started working for East Lampeter Township in April of 2019. She is currently the Administrative Assistant for the Public Works Department and helps in other departments when needed. Her depth of knowledge about Township operations means that she is, indeed, often needed and appreciated by other departments! Steph is a graduate of McCaskey High School. She enjoys spending time away from work camping, visiting the beach and spending time with friends and family, especially her husband John and daughters Sydney and Rylee. Thank you, Steph, for your dedication to East Lampeter Township!

# New Director of Planning and Zoning Officer: Jacob Bowen

Jacob Bowen is the new Director of Planning and Zoning Officer for East Lampeter Township. He brings experience in planning at both the county and city levels within Pennsylvania and most recently completed a two-year term with the Peace Corps in the nation of Timor-Leste. Jacob holds a bachelor's degree in Community, Environment, and Development from Pennsylvania State University and a Master's Degree in Urban Management and Development from Erasmus University Rotterdam. In his free time, he enjoys traveling and spending time with family. He currently lives in the city of Lancaster with his wife. Jacob is excited to begin his new role with East Lampeter Township and looks forward to supporting the community in planning and managing its future growth.





# East Lampeter Township Recreation (ELTR) is excited to share the following recreation opportunities with you.

# Senior Scam Prevention: Protect Yourself and Your Loved Ones

Scams targeting older adults are on the rise, but knowledge is your best defense. Join an educator from the PA Attorney General's Office for an informative session designed to help seniors and their families recognize, avoid, and report fraudulent activity. Learn common scam tactics, red flags to watch for, and where to turn for help if you or someone you know is at risk.

This program is ideal for older adults, caregivers, and anyone interested in protecting their family from fraud.

When: Thursday, July 17, 1 p.m.

Where: East Lampeter Township Public Meeting Room

2250 Old Philadelphia Pike, Lancaster, PA

Cost: Free

Registration is required to attend.

Stay informed and empowered—your safety matters!

#### Yoga in the Park

A welcoming yoga class for all levels, blending foundational poses, mindful breathing, and relaxation. Beginners build confidence with guidance, while advanced practitioners deepen their practice. Bring your mat and join us!

When: Session I: Tuesdays, July 1-August 5, 6-7 p.m.

Session II: Tuesdays, Sept 2-Oct 7, 6-7 p.m.

Where: East Lampeter Township Community Park, meet at Lions Pavilion. 2330 Hobson Rd, Lancaster

Cost: \$30 for resident/\$39 non-resident (covers the full 6-week session). Join for any individual single class for \$8 resident/\$11 non-resident

Registration is required to attend.

#### Chair Yoga: A Gentle Fitness Option for All

Discover the benefits of Chair Yoga, a modified style of yoga that can be practiced while seated or using a chair for support. This approach incorporates traditional yoga elements such as breathing techniques and gentle physical poses, helping to improve flexibility, muscle tone, and stress relief.

Open to all ages and skill levels, Chair Yoga is especially great for seniors and individuals with mobility challenges.

When: Session I: Thursdays, July 10-August 14, 10-11 a.m.

Session II: Sept 4-Oct 9, 10-11 a.m.

Where: East Lampeter Township Public Meeting Room

Cost: \$30 for residents/\$39 non-resident (covers the full 6-week session).

Join for any individual single class for \$8 resident/\$11 non-resident

#### Registration is required to attend.

Join us for this 60-minute weekly class and experience a supportive and engaging way to enhance your fitness and well-being!



Please go to
https://EastLampeterTownship.org
to register for programs.
We continually update the site with
new programs. Check back often!









#### Night of the Fireflies at Community Park

Join us for an enchanting summer evening as we explore the magical world of fireflies! This all-ages program, led by a naturalist from Lancaster County Parks, will introduce participants to the fascinating lives of these glowing beetles that light up our Pennsylvania evenings. Learn fun facts about fireflies, how to safely catch and release them, and then take a walk through the park to witness their dazzling display firsthand.

Don't miss this unforgettable night under the stars!

When: Thursday, July 17, 8:30–9:30 p.m.

Where: East Lampeter Township Community Park, 2330 Hobson Rd,

Lancaster

Cost: \$5 resident/\$7 non-resident Registration is required to attend.



#### **Our Family Movie Night Series Continues**

We're excited to bring families together for more fun under the stars! Our Summer Kickoff Movie Night on June 13 was a great success, featuring *The Sandlot*—a big thank you to Alliance Towing for generously providing FREE hot dogs for the evening.

Mark your calendars for two more upcoming movie nights at Flory Park

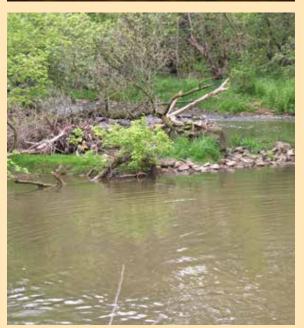
When: Thursday, August 15 at 8 p.m. Enjoy a relaxing summer evening with a family-friendly movie.

and **Thursday**, **October 24 at 7 p.m.** Get cozy for a cool-weather showing of a Halloween-themed feature.

Where: Flory Park, 416 Dohner Drive—Greenland Drive entrance

Movie titles will be announced soon—be sure to check our website and Facebook page for updates. Don't forget your lawn chairs, blankets, and snacks!

No registration required. We hope to see you there!



#### Mill Creek Exploration: A Hands-On Stream Study

Discover the wonders of Mill Creek with a guided stream study led by a naturalist from Lancaster County Parks. Participants will learn about the physical, chemical, and biological characteristics of the creek before stepping into the water to investigate its quality firsthand. This engaging program is ideal for all ages and anyone interested in the vital waterways that support our ecosystems.

When: Sunday, August 10, 2:00–3:30 p.m.

Where: Gibbons Park at Nolt Mill,

2557 Old Philadelphia Pike, Bird-in-Hand

Cost: \$5 resident / \$7 non-resident

Please wear water shoes or old sneakers—participants will be entering the stream.

#### **East Lampeter Township Recreation (ELTR) recreation opportunities (continued)**

#### **How to Protect Yourself Against Identity Theft**

Identity theft affects millions of Americans each year, often resulting in financial loss, damaged credit, and emotional stress. Join an educator from the PA Attorney General's Office for an informative program designed to help seniors and their families understand how identity theft happens—and how to prevent it. Learn practical "Dos and Don'ts" to safeguard your personal information, recognize warning signs, and take action if your identity is compromised.

Open to all, this session is especially helpful for older adults and caregivers who want to stay protected in an increasingly digital world.

When: Wednesday, August 20, 1 p.m.

Where: East Lampeter Township Public Meeting Room

2250 Old Philadelphia Pike, Lancaster, PA

Cost: Free

Registration is required to attend.

Stay one step ahead—learn how to protect what matters most.



Explore the wonders of the universe with us during this special evening of astronomy, presented in partnership with the NASA Solar System Ambassador program and the Lancaster County Library. Begin the evening indoors with a fascinating introduction to the solar system, including planets, moons, and celestial phenomena, along with helpful tips for observing the night sky and identifying summer constellations. Then, head outside to Flory Park for hands-on stargazing and apply your new knowledge under the stars. Perfect for beginners and seasoned stargazers alike! Several telescopes will be provided.

When: Wednesday, August 27, 8–10 p.m.

Where: Instruction at East Lampeter Township Public Meeting Room

2250 Old Philadelphia Pike, Lancaster, PA, followed by observation at Flory Park

Cost: \$10 resident/\$13 non-resident Registration is required to attend.

Presented in partnership with the NASA Solar System Ambassador program and the Lancaster County Library.

#### Zumba

Join us for an exciting Zumba class that's perfect for all skill and fitness levels! Whether you're a beginner or a seasoned pro, this class is designed to get you moving, having fun, and breaking a sweat. Zumba combines infectious music with easy-to-follow dance routines, giving you a full-body workout that improves strength, endurance, and flexibility. Our instructor will offer modifications for all abilities. Come for the fitness, stay for the fun – you'll leave feeling energized, empowered, and ready for more! No experience required—just bring your enthusiasm and get ready to dance!

**When:** First Class, Wednesday, Sept 10, 6–7 p.m.; Second Class, Wednesday, Oct 8, 6–7 p.m.

Where: Lafayette Fire Company Hall, 63 Lafayette Way, Lancaster, PA

Cost: \$5 resident/\$7 non-resident per class

Registration is required to attend.











#### Fall Migration Bird Walk: A Beginner-Friendly Birding Adventure

Celebrate the changing seasons with a beginner-friendly bird walk at East Lampeter Township Community Park, led by an expert from the Lancaster County Bird Club. This program is perfect for all ages—whether you're new to

birding or looking to refine your skills. Participants will learn how to use binoculars, field guides, and birding apps to make the most of their birdwatching experience. Expect to see a variety of resident and migrating birds as they pass through on their fall journey.

Please bring binoculars if you have them—a limited number will be available to borrow.

In case of inclement weather, cancellations will be announced the day before and registered participants will be notified. Presented in partnership with the Lancaster County Bird Club and East Lampeter Township Recreation.

When: Saturday, September 14, 4–6 p.m.

Where: East Lampeter Township Community Park

**Meeting point:** Lions Pavilion

Cost: Free

Registration is required to attend.

#### East Lampeter Township 2nd Annual Fall Festival

Join us on Saturday, October 4, 2024, from 10 a.m. to Noon at East Lampeter Township Community Park (2330 Hobson Rd, Lancaster) for our 2nd Annual Fall Festival!

This free event is packed with fun fall activities for children ages 2–12, including pumpkin painting, leaf crafts, and more seasonal surprises. Don't miss this festive morning of autumn fun!

No registration required.



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1940 Old Philadelphia Pike Lancaster, PA 17602

## **New York City Holiday Bus Trip**

Experience the magic of New York City during the holiday season! Travel in comfort aboard a deluxe motor coach and enjoy a full day to explore the city at your own pace. Stroll past dazzling holiday window displays, twinkling lights, and festive decorations throughout Manhattan. Whether you're interested in world-class museums, Broadway shows, iconic landmarks, diverse dining, or endless shopping, NYC has something for everyone this time of year.



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(717) 872-1989

When: Saturday, December 13, 2025

**Departure/Return Location:** East Lampeter Township, 2250 Old Philadelphia Pike, Lancaster, PA 17602

#### **Itinerary:**

7 a.m. Departure time

11 a.m. Approximate arrival in New York City

near Bryant Park

7 p.m. Depart for home

10:45 p.m. Approximate return time

Cost: \$89 for residents / \$115 for non-residents

Registration is required to attend, space is limited. Register by October 24 to reserve your seat!







## **National Night Out**

National Night Out is hosted annually to recognize and support First Responders in our community. Join us for the 8th Annual National Night Out on Tuesday, August 5, 2025, from 6 PM to 8 PM at The Shops @ Rockvale. Bring the whole family to a FREE night of fun and get to know the people who are keeping our community safe! All activities are FREE and sponsored by The Shops @ Rockvale. Food Trucks will be available and are pay as you go.

Greg & Jeff Adams





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#### YOUR VOLUNTEER VOICES

Here is where your local volunteer fire company members will answer questions, provide event dates, offer ways to get involved, and most importantly, reconnect with our communities.

# PRESENTING OUR FIREFIGHTERS



# Want to learn more about your hometown heroes?

Here are four outstanding local residents who come to the aid of their neighbors in their strongest hours of need.

Each Firefighter of the Year is chosen by his or her own Chief. From rookie to seasoned, these firefighters serve East Lampeter Township at the following fire companies: Hand-in-Hand, Ronks, Witmer and Lafayette.



#### **Gary Nissenzone** LIEUTENANT FIREFIGHTER LAFAYETTE FIRE CO.

Gary has become a integral part of the Lafayette Fire Company team. Often providing his years of operation knowledge to the team but introduction new ideas and tackling new challenges faced by the Company. Gary shows a commitment to running dayside (7am-7pm) calls, a timeframe where many of our volunteers are away at work. Gary has participated heavily in the Conestoga Valley High School Internship, a program that teaches high school aged students the skills and complexities of being a fire fighter. Gary continues to show the core values of Lafayette Fire Company through Loyalty to his fellow firefighters by responding to 100s of calls in 2024. Faith in each of his brothers and sisters to do their job on the fireground and get the job done. Charity as Gary has



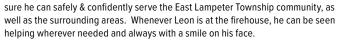
given countless hours to Lafayette Fire Company through responding to fire calls to being part of the chicken team during our annual BBQ. Gary was given the rank of Lieutenant for the 2025 year and has joined the Line Officers in helping ensure that East Lampeter Township receives the best services possible.



#### Leon Fisher Jr. INTEROIR FIREFIGHTER

Hello fellow ELT community members! My name is Don Boyer, Chief of the Hand-In-Hand Fire Co. It is my pleasure to announce our Firefighter of the Year for 2024. This award is voted on by the over 60 active members of the department for over 30 years. The department votes for a peer who demonstrates the core values of the Hand-In-Hand Fire Company; trust, stability, and integrity. At our annual banquet this January we presented the Firefighter of the Year award to Leon Fisher, Jr. Leon joined the fire company in 2022 as a Junior Firefighter, when he took a job with a local business.

In his short time at Hand-In-Hand Leon focused on becoming an interior firefighter when he turned 18. He spent over 200 hours completing the training to make



Leon displays one of our core values, Integrity, at all times. He is always willing to work along the side of his fellow firefighters and junior firefighters, passing on his knowledge. From his time with Ronks Fire Co, Leon has trained in vehicle rescue and has led several projects at Hand-In-Hand Fire Company to increase our capabilities to provide better and more efficient response to MVA's in our area.







#### **Dereck Gerlitzki** FIREFIGHTER

WITMER FIRE PROTECTIVE ASSOCIATION

Throughout the year, Dereck has shown remarkable leadership, bravery, and professionalism both in the field and behind the scenes. Whether responding to emergencies, training fellow firefighters, or participating in community outreach programs, Dereck has consistently gone above and beyond in their duties. We are thankful for constant dedication to Witmer and our community.





#### **RONKS MEMBERSHIP**

**RONKS FIRE CO** 

Ronks Membership joined to help all neighbors out on the worst day of their life. All Ronks Members offered countless hours of their time responding to fire calls, maintaining station readiness and interacting with our local community.

We appreciate all local support over the last year and hope to see many new faces and continued support this year.

We look forward to what 2025 may bring and are honored to serve the East Lampeter Township Community





#### **BLOOD DRIVE**

Tues. March 25th Hnad in Hand Fire Co.

#### LAFAYETTE ANNUAL BBQ Saturday, April 12 11am-sold

at the Lafayette Fire Company

#### CHICKEN BBQ

Sat. May 24th Hand-in-Hand Fire Co.

#### BIRD-IN-HAND HALF MARATHON, 5K & KIDS FUN RUN

Fri. & Sat. September 5 & 6 bihhalfmarathon.com

#### CHILD PROTECT

Tues. June 10 at Witmer Fire Protection Association

#### **LAFAYETTE CADET CAMP**

Augest 1st and 2nd at Lafayette Fire Company

#### WITMER OX ROAST

Sat. April 26

at Witmer Fire Protection Association





Witmer Fire Protective Association 455 Mt. Sidney Rd, Lancast

455 Mt. Sidney Rd, Lancaster witmerfire.com 717-393-1259



Hand-in-Hand Fire Co.

313 Enterprise Dr, Bird-in-Hand bihfire.com

Station: 717-392-0112 Paul Fisher: 717-380-1109



Lafayette Fire Co.

63 Lafayette Way, Lancaster lafayettefire.com joinlafayette.com 717-392-5097



**Ronks Fire Co** 

134 North Ronks Road, Ronks ronksfirerescureinfo@gmail.com Steve Gribble: 717-368-5585



## **Thank You for Flower Donations 2025**

The East Lampeter Township Board of Supervisors and Parks and Recreation Board would like to thank the following businesses for their donations to beautify the Township parks for 2025:

Conestoga Valley Greenhouse ■ Emerald Coast Growers

Ken's Gardens ■ Shenk's Greenhouse ■ Zook's Greenhouse

We invite the public to enjoy the parks and the wonderful landscaping this summer thanks to the work of the East Lampeter Township Public Works Department and our generous donors.



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