

Liberty Township Newsletter

349 Mountain Lake Road, Great Meadows, NJ 07838 www.libertytownship.org

Spring 2024

Liberty Township Officials

Mayor

John Inscho

Deputy Mayor

Dan Grover

Township Committee:

Peter Karcher

Dave Rogers

Wayne Spangenberg

Municipal Clerk/Administrator

Diane Pflugfelder

Tax Collector

Cynthia Eckert

Tax Assessor

Penny Holenstein

Zoning Officer

George Boesze

CFO

Jennifer Breslin

DPW Supervisor

Jeff Snyder

DPW Crew:

Dan Drennon

Joel Meixsell

Environmental Commission Chair

Larry Supp

Land Use Board Chair

Eric Tibak

Recreation Commission Chair

Michele Warren

Liberty Township governing body and all department heads began working on the 2024 budget in the Fall of 2023. The budget includes the calendar year 2024 as well as planning for future projects. We plan for future projects to avoid unexpected large expenses that may cause increased taxes.

The municipal portion of your tax bill is one of the smallest portions of your tax bill. We at Liberty Township take that small portion and stretch it to cover many services for the needs of our residents. Our Department of Public Works budget covers scheduled and emergency road repairs as well as the acquisition and maintenance of equipment to conduct such road repairs. The municipal portion of your 2024 tax bill also includes expenses for the new state mandated stormwater requirements.

Of course, Liberty Township has also incurred increased operating costs for utilities, supplies, and insurance premiums just like our residents have had to face in your personal expenses.

Liberty Township prides itself for not having a large tax increase, and in 2024 we were faced with an increase of 1.3 cents. This small increase means an approximate annual increase of \$42.00 dollars on a home assessed at \$300,000. As a frugal municipality we have no debt to carry from prior years. In 2024 there is the consideration to bond for road repair/maintenance and we shall be incurring debt for the first time in this decade. County and school taxes will most likely increase, and information on those will be available on your next tax bill issued in August.

In Dedication to Ron Petersen

Committeeperson from 2000 - 2017



The Liberty Township Municipal Clerk's office dedicates our final Trex bench project to the memory of Ron Petersen. It was our privilege and honor to work with such a gentleman. Thank you, Ron.

The bench was obtained through the collection of 1,000 pounds of plastic from resident donations and local vendors.

Meeting Schedule:

Committee: 1st Thurs. 7 pm

Environmental: 3rd Thurs. 7 pm

Land Use: 3rd Wed. 7:30 pm

Recreation: 4th Mon. 6:00 pm

There are open positions on Recreation, Environmental and Land Use boards. Contact the Municipal Clerk at 908-637-4579 if you are interested in serving.

Environmental Commission

Greetings from the Liberty Township Environmental Commission (LTEC). Our mission is to provide guidance and education to the public as well as assistance and advice to the Township Committee on matters of environmental concern. For example, we give recommendations to the Township Committee on aquatic weed control for the beach and boat ramp areas and some of our members participate in the Mountain Lake Community Association's water quality monitoring program. When you are near the pavilion at the lake, take a stroll over to our pollinator "Peaceful Garden." You can join our Facebook group of volunteers in the field who keep the wildflowers and grasses under control!

LTEC meetings are open to the public on the third Thursday of each month, at 7 p.m. at the Municipal Building. Join us there if you can. Our members are appointed by the Mayor, and currently we have some vacancies. Let us know if you are interested in volunteering or simply fill out an application, available at the Municipal Building. Meanwhile, you can check out our pages on the Township website and see the latest news on our Facebook page.

Saturday, May 11th at 8 a.m. Our 2nd Annual Bird Walk. If you are a bird watcher, experienced or novice, don't miss this. We'll meet at the Pequest Fish Hatchery's Rt. 46 parking lot. (rain date 18th).

Community Day – 75th Anniversary of Mountain Lake Fire Company

Come out and celebrate with Liberty Township and Mountain Lake Fire Company for our Community Day this year on Saturday, August 17. This date is Mountain Lake Fire Company 75th Anniversary. Truck judging will be from 12:00 pm – 4:00 pm with trophies awarded at the end. Food trucks, beer garden, vendors and bands will be present along with community activities for the kids from 3:00 pm – 7:00 pm. We will continue Community Day festivities with a fishing derby at 2:00 pm, Poker Stroll at 3:00 pm, and an egg toss at 4:30 pm. A slide show and trophies will be on display in the fire house to view. Mountain Lake Fire Company is also selling t-shirts and coins. Better than ever fireworks will be on display at Mountain Lake at 9:00 pm. Enjoy the comradery of the community in celebrating a milestone!

Upcoming Events

- May 1: 2nd quarter property taxes due
- May 6 – 11: Spring Clean Up Week. Vouchers available as of April 22
- May 11: 2nd Annual Bird Walk – 8:00 am Pequest Fish Hatchery lot
- May 19: Household Hazardous Waste @ PCFA 8:00 am – 12:00 pm
- June 4: Primary Election Day 6:00 am – 8:00 pm
- July 1 – Aug 2: Summer Recreation Camp
- July & August: Mountain Lake Beach scheduled to open
- August: New tax bills mailed. 3rd quarter property taxes due
- August 17: Community Day celebrating 75 years Mountain Lake Fire Co
- October 14-19: Fall Clean Up Week. Vouchers available September 30
- November 1: 4th quarter property taxes due
- November 2: Free Rabies Clinic, DPW Garage, 10:00 am – 12:00 pm
- November 2: Free Paper Shredding event, DPW Garage 10:00 am – 12:00 pm
- November 5: General Election Day 6:00 am – 8:00 pm



Department of Public Works

In 2023 Liberty Township welcomed two new DPW staff members. Joel and Dan have been with us through the 2023-2024 winter season and provided the residents of Liberty Township with some of the best snow plowing within Warren County. Thank you, gentlemen, for keeping our roads clear and safe.

Due to past practices of some Liberty Township residents and/or contractors during snow storms it was necessary for the governing body to introduce the following Ordinance at the March 2024 meeting. As a reminder, whether you plow your own driveway or secure a contractor, the homeowner/tenant are responsible for the terms and conditions of this Ordinance.

ORDINANCE #2024.003

SECTION I:

§ 100-22.2. Placing Snow on Plowed Roads Prohibited.

During the periods of snowfall, no person shall throw, shovel, push or blow snow from a driveway onto the main portions of the roads plowed by the Twp Department of Public Works. Any person violating the provisions of this Section shall, upon conviction thereof, be subject to the following fee schedule:

- First Offense: – Warning Letter;
- Second Offense: – One Hundred Dollar (\$100.00) Fine;
- Third Offense: – Five Hundred Dollar (\$500.00) Fine.

This ordinance took effect 7 March 2024 upon its final passage and publication as provided by law.



DPW Equipment purchased with American Rescue Plan Funds

Trucks were purchased using funds from the American Rescue Plan which saved tax payers money.



Zoning News

Please welcome our new Zoning Officer, George Boesze.

Office hours are Tuesdays, 2:30 – 5:30 pm.

Spring is a popular time for work around the house (i.e., additions, sheds, fences, decks, garages, pools, etc.). A zoning permit is required to make sure the work is approved through the Zoning Office. If it is not, the work would need a variance from the Land Use Board, which is a longer process that requires a public hearing. With the volume of zoning permit applications submitted in the spring and summer, it's good to prepare well in advance of when you'd like the work completed.

There is a new Soil Importation Ordinance for Liberty, requiring a soil import permit prior to bringing in fill to your property for various projects. Make sure the soil you purchase is from a reputable source that can provide a certification of clean fill.

PET WASTE AND WATER POLLUTION



Liberty Township has adopted and enforces an ordinance that requires immediate and proper disposal of solid pet waste. Pet waste is carried by rain, melting snow, and ice to storm drains that empty into rivers and Mountain Lake. Pollution due to pet waste negatively impacts swimming, boating and fishing in our lake. Pet waste contains microorganisms that can cause bacterial diseases, roundworms, and parasitic infections. In addition, pet waste contains harmful levels of nutrients which promote excess algae and plant growth. This can rob Mountain Lake of oxygen potentially killing all aquatic life in the area. Such nutrient pollution also causes Mountain Lake to become cloudy and green. For more information see;

NJDEP Municipal Stormwater Regulation https://www.nj.gov/dep/dwq/msrp_home.htm

EPA– Polluted Runoff: Nonpoint Source Pollution [https:// www.epa.gov/nps](https://www.epa.gov/nps)

Lead-based Paint Inspections for Rental Dwelling Units

If you are a landlord and rent out a dwelling, you are required to test for lead-based paint by July 22, 2024. The method of inspection for Liberty Township is a visual inspection. If lead-based paint hazards are identified, the owner of the dwelling shall remediate the hazards through abatement or lead-based paint hazard control mechanisms. Property owners must also report all tenant turnover activity to the municipality. Lastly, property owners must provide a copy of N.J.A.C. 5:28A, any lead-safe certifications, and the accompanying guidance document, Lead-Based Paint in Rental Dwellings, to any prospective owners of the dwelling during the real estate transaction, settlement, or closing.

TEST YOUR NEW JERSEY KNOWLEDGE!

1. How many Electoral College votes does New Jersey have to cast for President?
2. There have been 31 Presidential elections since 1900. How many times did the Republicans win? How many times did the Democrats win?
3. What was the largest snowfall amount ever recorded in New Jersey?
4. What was the highest rainfall amount ever recorded in New Jersey?
5. When did the Miss America pageant leave Atlantic City? How many years was it hosted by Atlantic City?

See answers on last page of newsletter

Recreation Commission (LTRC)

The LTRC meets every fourth Monday of the month at 6:00 PM at the Municipal Building. The group handles youth sports, adult recreation, and community events. Volunteers and new ideas to promote enrichment of our community and residents are welcomed and encouraged by all.

The LTRC is now using TeamSnap for online registration, payments, scheduling, and ease of communication using the app.

Baseball is currently run by Colonial Little League. For more information, please visit their website at www.coloniallittleleague.org

Spring Soccer is currently underway and registration for Fall Soccer is anticipated for June through July.

Summer Recreation - Registration is now open via TeamSnap. The program is a half-day summer camp that runs for five weeks from July 1, 2024 through August 2, 2024. See flyer below for more details.

Mountain Lake Beach - Open mid-June through Labor Day. Beach is FREE. Certified Lifeguards on staff and beach toys available for kids to use. Beach is located at 137 Lakeside Drive West. Mountain Lake provides various recreational opportunities from boating to fishing and swimming. A boat launch is available on Lakeside Drive West and a \$5 fee is imposed to anyone that uses the launch. Envelopes and fee box are located right at the launch site.

The Mountain Lake Pavilion adjacent to the beach and boat launch is available for rent. Please see the town website for more details.



2024 Liberty Township Summer Recreation Program

5 Week Program

Monday, July 1st – Friday, August 2nd

9:00 – 12:00

Ages 5-12 (Must be 5 by July 1, 2024)

Registration for Liberty Residents: April 8th – April 21st
Registration for Non-Liberty Residents opens April 22nd

Registration Fees:
Liberty Resident - \$200
Non-resident: \$250
Program space limited ...first come-first serve basis...

Enjoy sports, games, arts, crafts, theme days, special events and more!
Monday – Thursday camp is held at the Free Union Fields at 349 Mountain Lake Road.
Swimming is every Friday at either the Mountain Lake Beach or Oxford Furnace Lake.

Check out our pictures at www.libertytownship.org
Questions? Email libertyec17@gmail.com or call 908.637.4579 ext

Scan QR Code or visit here to register and pay online
www.go.teamsnap.com/forms/423348

The flyer features two smiling sun icons at the top, a QR code in the center, and illustrations of a child with a kite and sports equipment (basketball and soccer ball) at the bottom.

Stormwater Pollution: What Do You Think?

- You may think littering is no big deal (it is)
- You may think that whatever runs into the storm drains gets treated before it reaches local rivers and streams (it isn't)
- You may think motor oil and other hazardous materials doesn't harm the water very much (it does)

Pollution seeps into the ground and is carried by stormwater (rain and snow) directly to our drinking waters, streams, lakes and oceans. Contaminated stormwater is the #1 cause of water pollution in New Jersey. Simple things, like proper clean-up after oneself and careful use of chemicals in the home, office and yard, are helpful ways for businesses and residents to protect the water.

Liberty Township has ordinances aimed at reducing pollution from litter, fertilizer, oil, pesticides, detergents, animal waste, grass clippings and other debris. For details, see <https://www.libertytownship.org/municipal/stormwater/index.html>

Thank you for keeping them in mind and doing your share

Stormwater Management

As of 1 January 2023, the State of New Jersey has reclassified Liberty Township from a Tier B to a Tier A municipality. This reclassification means all of New Jersey municipalities are now subject to permitting obligations dictated by federal regulations, which include more stringent requirements set forth in the Clean Water Act.

The MS4 (Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System) permitting program is required by both federal and state regulations to address water quality, as well as flooding concerns related to poor design and improper maintenance.

Liberty Township was required to create a WIP (Watershed Improvement Plan) to address nonpoint source pollution.



ANSWERS FROM PAGE 4:

- 1) Fourteen (14). One for each of the 12 Congressional Districts and 2 for each of the US Senate Seats.
- 2) Republican won 16 times and Democrat won 15 times.
- 3) According to the National Weather Service, 26-27 December, 1947, Long Branch, NJ recorded 29.7 inches of snow during a 24-hour period.
- 4) The greatest 24-hour rainfall was 14.81 inches in Tuckerton, NJ on 19-20 August, 1939.
- 5) Starting 1921, Atlantic City hosted the event each year until 2004. It returned 15 September 2013 for the last time.