

Alex's Corner // A MESSAGE FROM THE BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR

The budget and the City's finances are a big part of why the position of a Business Administrator was created, and why someone with my background was hired. Previously, I held the same position of BA in Leonia, Bergen County (\$15m budget, 10,000 people). Prior to that, I was the mayor of my hometown in Essex County, South Orange (\$33.5m budget, 20,000 people). I've been a consultant and program manager for nonprofits and civic organizations for about eight years, and I have taught an experiential local government-focused class I designed in Seton Hall's master of public administration program for the last six years. In each of these positions, I've found ways to

implement significant budget controls, introduce new programs, and help improve communication and transparency. I have the background to ensure we find a way to work together to address our budget concerns and I hope you will engage with the city as we tackle these issues! For the budget, for example, we have created public meetings where departments actually present their budget publicly, created a much more collaborative process internally, and have already started to put together detailed public information on our finances - you can see an overview video the Mayor and I recorded at Lambertvillenj.org/2020Budget.



I am excited to work with Mayor Fahl to develop strategies, tactics, and tools to help make our government work better, budget and beyond. Transparency is so important not just on principle, but because it can provide a way for people who live in the community to get more involved, which we hope many will do. Again, I'm thrilled to be in Lambertville supporting the Mayor, Council and all the fabulous City Staff and community members in this mission. Feel free to contact me if you want to learn more about the budget or anything else!



Historic Preservation Commission

Sights No Longer Seen... This handsome, ivy-covered brick home of the Victorian era (the Closson mansion) stood at the northeast corner of Main and Bridge Streets. The expanding popularity of the automobile in the early 20th century changed the landscape throughout the nation including Lambertville. The site is currently the home of Cifelli's Sunoco.

This newsletter has been printed on recycled paper. If you prefer to go paperless, please let us know at Lambertvillenj.org/paperless

CITY OF LAMBERTVILLE

City Hall
18 York Street
Lambertville, NJ 08530

LambertvilleMatters

CITY OF LAMBERTVILLE MUNICIPAL NEWSLETTER • OCTOBER 2019

Hello Lambertville! Welcome to the inaugural edition of Lambertville Matters, a newsletter showcasing how your government is working for you. Here you will find information regarding events, projects, and happenings of Lambertville's governing body, boards & commissions. I'm working to connect with you! This is just one avenue to improve communication between my office & the residents of Lambertville. I'm also creating other ways for you to be heard:

- Doubling the number of public council meetings
- Adding office hours for one on one resident meetings
- Hosting Facebook live events with q & a opportunities

Your voice is vital as we continue to plan & implement our vision.

One important issue we must address is our city budget. We are implementing a new budget process to create a transparent and healthy long-term budget. We have already begun hosting public discussions to address our current budget realities. We will be working with members of our departments and the governing body to create a six-year plan that addresses our concerns and puts the city on a more stable financial path. I encourage you to visit our website for more about the budget process - and how you can be involved.

When I was sworn in this January, I asked the question, "How can I help?" I promise to continue finding new ways in which that question can be asked and answered throughout my first term. Thank you for all that you do to make Lambertville the thriving community we all know and love.

The Route 29 Improvement Project



Photo Credit: Alex Torpey

This project is an incredible example of state and local government working together on practical, effective solutions that **directly** improve the quality of life for the residents of Lambertville. Having safe streets impacts everyone.

Our community has been talking about improving pedestrian safety and slowing traffic on Route 29 for a most 20 years. Moving from talk to action has been one of my top priorities, and I am proud to have found willing partners in Governor Murphy and Commissioner Guierrez-Scaccetti. I look forward to continuing to make our southern entrance into town one that is safe, beautiful, and something our residents can be proud of. -Julia



Photo Credit: Chris Gifford

-Julia Fahl

Congratulations to Lambertville Goes Wild on the City's official designation as a Community Wildlife Habitat by National Wildlife Federation. Lambertville joins only 125 communities nationwide and is the 4th in NJ to receive this honor. The group's stellar work continues to create a community where people and wildlife can flourish.

Photo Credit: Kari Osmond



Office of Emergency Management

Lambertville has been effected by several power outages lately (storm and non-storm related). In the event of a power outage:

- Call JCP&L's Outage Reporting Line at 1-888-LIGHTSS (1-888-544-4877)
- Report at firstenergycorp.com from your desktop computer, laptop or mobile device
- Text OUT to 544487 (LIGHTS)

Check out Ready.org for more resources.

Local Economic Assistance

General Assistance is a state-funded program that offers temporary assistance to persons in need of support and who meet the state's eligibility requirements. For more information, contact Bambi Kuhl, publicassistance@lambertvillenj.org

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- OCTOBER**
- 1** Working Session: Landlord Registration @ City Hall, 7pm
 - 9** Mayor's Office Hours @ City Hall, 7:30 - 9:00 am
 - 17** Governing Body Meeting @ Justice Center, 7pm
 - 19** Fall Flower Pot Parade, 11:30 am (Rain date: 10/26)
 - 23** Mayor's Office Hours @ City Hall, 6:30 - 8:00 pm
 - 25** Art Exhibition Opening Reception, Louise Fore @ Library, 5pm - 8pm
 - 27** Fall Flower Parade, 7pm
- NOVEMBER**
- 5** Mayor's Office Hours @ City Hall, 7:30 - 9:00 am
 - 12** Working Session: Budget Presentations @ City Hall, 7pm
 - 14** Working Session: Budget Presentations @ City Hall, 7pm
 - 18** Mayor's Office Hours @ City Hall, 5:30 - 8:00 pm
 - 26** Governing Body Meeting @ Justice Center, 7pm
 - 28** Delaware River Towns Turkey Trot, 7:15 am - 9:15 am
- DECEMBER**
- 3** Working Session: Capital Budget, Parking Study Planning @ City Hall, 7pm
 - 5** Mayor's Office Hours @ City Hall, 7:30 - 9:00 am
 - 7** Holiday Tree Lighting @ corner of S. Union and Bridge Streets
 - 18** Mayor's Office Hours @ City Hall, 6:30 - 8:00 pm
 - 19** Governing Body Meeting @ Justice Center, 7pm

UPDATES FROM BOARDS + COMMISSIONS

Environmental Commission

In May, the Environmental Commission (EC) received a \$20,000 Sustainable Jersey grant funded by the PSEG Foundation to support the Ditching Disposables initiative. Along with supporting the implementation of the City's ordinance limiting the use of single-use plastics (bags, straws, and polystyrene foam food containers), Ditching Disposables focuses on community outreach & education around the harms of plastics usage as well as alternative options.

The EC welcomes Dann Connelly to the waste stream sub-committee. A program manager at Janssen Pharmaceutical, he will be working to support the City's food waste recycling program.



At T-Shirts to Totes in June, residents learned how to up-cycle old t-shirts into reusable shopping bags. Dozens of bags made at the event were donated to local food pantries. In July, the Sustainable Business Forum brought together local business owners to exchange ideas, learn more and offer resources in the transition to eco-friendly products when the single-use plastic ban goes into effect January 1, 2020.

For upcoming events, volunteer opportunities including Community Canvassing Day this fall, please follow us on Facebook, visit our website, or email us at environmentalcommission@lambertvillenj.org.

Right: In March the EC partnered with Fairfax Hutter from the AmeriCorps NJ Watershed Ambassadors Program to host the Make Your Own Rain Barrel Workshop. Residents retrofitted 55-gallon drums into rain barrels that they were able to take home.



Recreation Commission

The Recreation Commission is proud to report many accomplishments in partnership with great partner organizations, the residents of Lambertville, and supplemental funding from several grants. Here are some highlights:

- On 9/21, a wildlife-friendly riparian buffer was planted along the south side of Cavallo Park with the help of volunteers. Partner: Lambertville Goes Wild. Funding: Lower Delaware Wild and Scenic River.
- With the help of volunteers, a wildlife garden will be planted at the North Union-Cherry Street Park on Saturday, 10/12. A drainage swale that was overrun by invasive species will be renovated. Partners: Environmental Commission and Lambertville Goes Wild. Funding: ANJEC.

- Approved renovation of the Lambertville Learning Garden at Ely Park, spearheaded and managed by Chelsea Gardiner, teacher and garden coordinator at Lambertville Public School. Funding: LAEF.
- Hosted a 5-week summer camp, with lunch provided through a partnership with Fisherman's Mark.
- Continued improvements at Ely Park, including a new announcer's booth/videographer platform, press box and fence.
- Spring softball/baseball programs for 200+ players.
- Fall cheerleading/football for grades K-8 for 120+ kids.
- Planned upgrades to Mary Sherman Park in partnership with the estate of Jamie Fox.
- Rain garden renovation plan adjacent to Cavallo Park.
- Footbridge replacement on the Lambertville Nature Trail.

Lambertville Free Public Library

Call in advance to reserve passes to the Museum of Modern Art in NYC, Grounds for Sculpture in Hamilton, the Bucks County Children's Museum, the Museum of the American Revolution in Philadelphia, or the Elmwood Zoo in Norristown, PA.

- Bouncy Booktime:** fun & exciting reading sessions for kids on Tuesdays 10-11 am.
- French:** Free! French beginner class; 4 weeks 9/9 at 4:30 pm. Registration required; email wendyfrancais@gmail.com
- Art Exhibition:** Photography by Louise Fiore; Oct. 25 - Dec. 6; Opening reception Friday, 10/25, 5-8 pm // Lambertville resident Louise Fiore has studied with the renowned photographer Arthur Leipzig. The Library is developing a 5-year plan to improve its offerings & services. Questions? Ideas? Contact: Amy Connelly amyconnelly546@gmail.com; or Matt Larkin mplarkin1@gmail.com. The Library is open 7 days a week from 1 to 5 pm. Visit lambertvillelibrary.org.

Municipal Utilities Authority

- Capital Projects Update:** Work is set to begin on the collections system rehabilitation project. The project calls for the installation of a special lining in the sewer main. The 3 rehabilitation areas include: N. Union St. between Delevan St. & York St. and Bridge Street & Church St.; Swan St. between S. Union Street & S. Franklin St.
- Sewer Rate:** The LMUA held a rate hearing on 6/4 for proposed user and connection fees rates & fees. There were many factors taken into consideration before approving the fee increases, including a 10-yr plan based on current debt service, aging condition of the treatment facilities, total operational costs, and the proposed capital improvement project. Increases began 7/1/19. Find rate schedule here: lambertvillemua.com/services.
- Using Bugs to Remove Grease:** Thomas Horn, E.D. at the LMUA explained, "the concept is that you create bacteria to feed into the wet well that can eat oils and breakdown the grease." This past spring, the LMUA conducted a test by the wet well at our Coryell Street pumping station. So far we have seen some progress & hope to see a greater improvement that will enable us to reduce the amount of time & equipment spent physically removing grease from the wet wells.

Citizens Against PennEast Pipeline

The Citizens Against the PennEast Pipeline has been active in the fight against the PennEast Pipeline since August 2016.

The PennEast Pipeline is a 114-mile natural gas pipeline that has been planned for the Delaware Watershed since 2014. Due to the successful efforts of homeowners resisting surveying, the project has been delayed several times. CAPP believes the project is unnecessary and poses threats to the water quality in our area, specifically due to its proximity to your main water sources, the Swan Creek Reservoir and Delaware River.

PennEast has not been approved. CAPP is currently fighting at the state level and needs your help to provide public comments. The next town-wide update is November 18, 2019, at 7 PM at the Justice Center.

Planning Board

The City of Lambertville's Master Plan establishes the vision for the preservation, growth, and stewardship of our beloved river town. It is more than a guide; the plan enables the ordinances, or local laws, for the City's zoning. A Reexamination Report is required every 10 years to consider the ideas and policy guidelines contained in the Master Plan and how it applies considering changes in demographics, housing, and opportunities. The Planning Board adopted the Reexamination Report on June 5, 2019. Maintaining the City's "small town" character and protecting its environmental resources were top-of-mind.

Notable since the 2009 Reexamination Report was the adoption of Community Design Guidelines to ensure infill development is compatible with the historic nature of the City's buildings. Other prominent items included: a steep slope ordinance, entry into the FEMA Community Rating System, the Historic District expansion, and the Housing Element, Fair Share Plan and Affordable Housing Ordinance. Changes in state policies, including multiple shifts in affordable housing obligations, are detailed in the Report.

The 2019 Master Plan Reexamination Report, along with elements of the Master Plan and the Community Design Guidelines, can be found on the City's website at lambertvillenj.org/boards/planning-board.

Shade Tree Commission

STC is proud to announce the adoption of its 2019 ordinance, making it easier for residents and the commission to maintain, protect, and better understand the STC "Jurisdiction Zone," which is particularly important to understand when submitting a Tree Action Request. Find the new ordinance on the City's website (Government tab under ordinances). Many thanks to several longtime commission members for their tireless work to complete it and get it passed.

Right: Did you enjoy our parklet this summer?



Drop off recyclables at City Hall and the Public Library (to start) during normal business hours. These will be recycled in partnership with Trex.



Police

The Lambertville Police recently welcomes Patrolman Tyler Clark on the Bicycle Patrol Unit.

Submit Your Photos!

We are proud to share resident photos on our website and Facebook pages. Submit your photos for a chance to be featured: <https://bre.is/yVm6cahCi>



The legendary Lambertville Halloween Parade: October 27th!