

Alex’s Corner // A message from the Business Administrator

You already know the expression: Boy, does time fly when you are working on municipal budgeting and long-term capital planning!

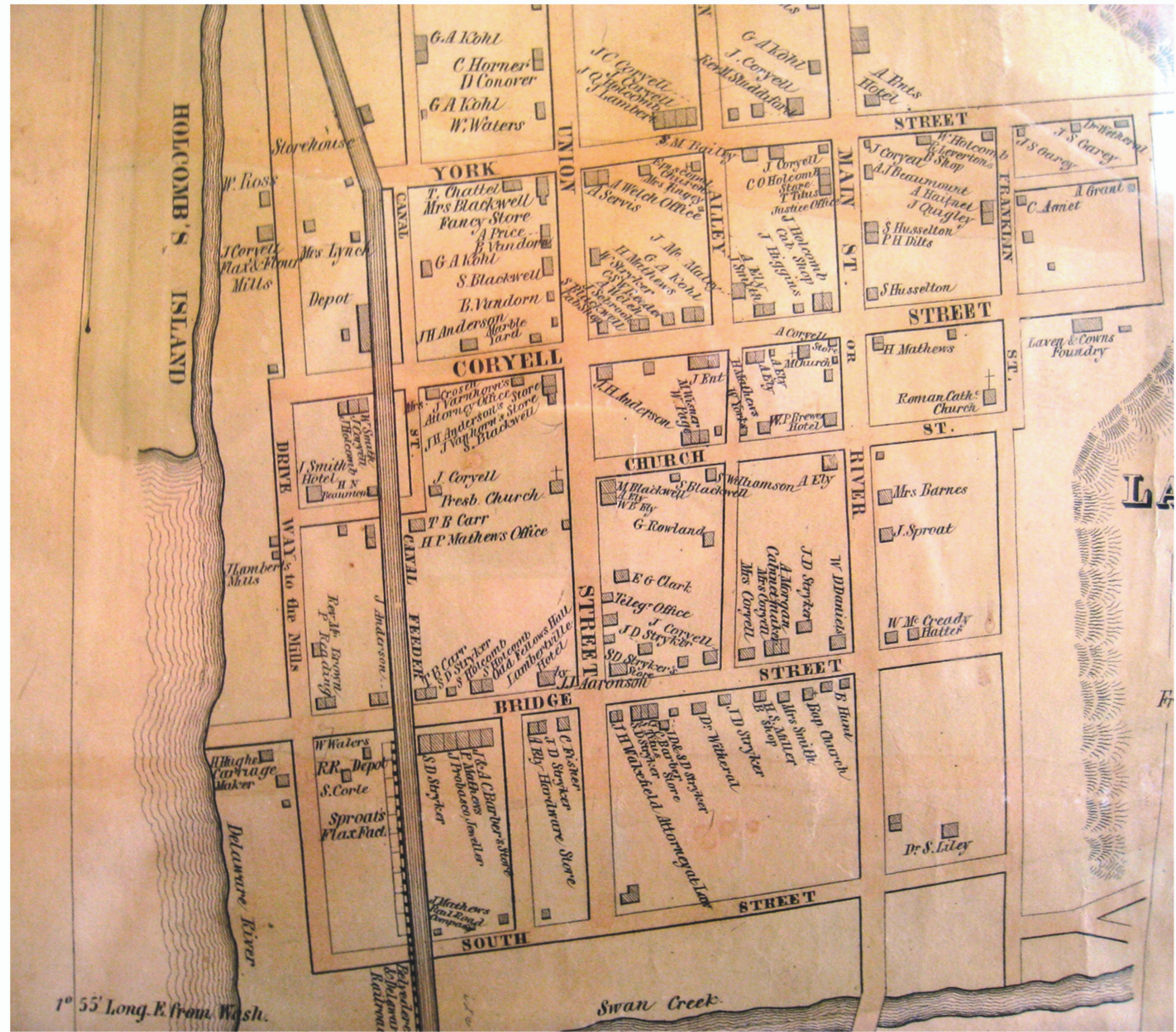
This has been an exciting year. I have been working with our staff to reorganize the City's daily operations under a more centralized management structure, which is creating efficiencies and helping to save money. We've put in place new budget control measures that have already netted approximately \$1.5 million in savings over the next six years. The City has hired a new CFO and is reorganizing the City's financial team, which will help us find more long-term savings through better strategic planning. We have begun to expand DPW's service by hiring several permanent positions in place of per-diem workers. We've begun the Trex plastic bag recycling program, gotten approved for energy efficiency upgrades as part of a state-subsidized program that will net us over 50,000 kwh hours of energy savings per year from our aging city facilities, and I have secured a grant for two electric vehicle chargers from the NJDEP, furthering our commitment to sustainable choices. At the same time, I have been working with the Mayor and Council to implement many more long-term plans, including on flood mitigation, affordable housing, and future rateable development.



This is coupled with creating a strategic debt management plan that will help us better control future costs as well as get more value out of our capital spending on facilities, roads and other infrastructure.

Visit [lambertvillenj.org/2020Budget](http://lambertvillenj.org/2020Budget) (Part Three) to find more information on what your new Business Administrator has been up to this year and keep an eye out for office hours in 2020!

SIGHTS NO LONGER SEEN



CITY OF LAMBERTVILLE

City Hall  
18 York Street  
Lambertville, NJ 08530

In 1849, the Town of Lambertville was established, set apart from West Amwell. In 1850, the U.S. Census enumerated 1,417 residents. In 1851, the same year as the Belvidere Delaware began service between Trenton and Lambertville, this map was created. While showing a small segment of town, the vast majority of its population lived here. The five major churches appear with the “Roman Cath. Church” (St. John's) and the Episcopal Church (St. Andrew's) at their original locations on Church Street at N. Franklin and York at George.

While Lambertville Hotel (House) still serves visitors, at least three other hotels are depicted.

Thanks to Lambertville Historical Society for sharing!

Tree Lighting

Hundreds of attended the 2019 Tree Lighting this holiday season. Festivities included a visit from Santa, a screening of the Muppet Christmas Carol at ACME, and a toy drive in partnership with Fisherman's Mark.



LambertvilleMatters

CITY OF LAMBERTVILLE MUNICIPAL NEWSLETTER • DECEMBER 2019

Hello Lambertville! As a City, I'm proud to say that we have accomplished a lot in 2019. Along with the Governing body, volunteer boards, committees, and city departments, I have been working everyday to better the City of Lambertville. You can learn more in this edition of our newsletter or by checking out [lambertvillenj.org/2020budget](http://lambertvillenj.org/2020budget) to see the presentations from our volunteers and staff.

My key focus this year has been a holistic review and public dialogue about our municipal finances and budget. This includes creating the position of Business Administrator to manage city finances, the creation of a new public budget process to review municipal spending and long-term financial planning, and hosting budget talks within constituent homes to talk about the state of our finances in Lambertville.

2020 provides us with an opportunity to continue this work and to engage with the big questions that our City faces. How can Lambertville build a sustainable budget, reinvest in our infrastructure, and guarantee our government can provide the necessary services to our community, all while ensuring the City remains an affordable place to live? This process will require that we continue to engage the public with this conversation while connecting these discussions with the daily work of our City Government.

The opportunities ahead of us are exciting and I am thrilled to welcome 2020 with all of you. May your families have a safe, healthy, and Happy New Year!

Community Development Fair

Join the Mayor, Governing Body and various City staff on February 1<sup>st</sup>, from 10 am to 2 pm, to learn about the different ways the City (and community members) are investing in the future of Lambertville. We will have booths set up with City officials and staff on topics such as the City's affordable housing obligations, redevelopment, historic preservation, sustainability, future needs of City facilities. We will present on how you can take advantage of new policies to save money on work you do on your home, and much more. We will be at the Justice Center from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM to talk with you and answer your questions. Please visit: [lambertvillenj.org/communitydevelopmentfair](http://lambertvillenj.org/communitydevelopmentfair) to learn more and RSVP!



Parklet

Attention Lambertville Business Owners! If you are interested in hosting the parklet during Summer 2020, please apply at [lambertvillenj.org/hostparklet](http://lambertvillenj.org/hostparklet)



Photo Credit: Kari Osmond

Follow our links to all budget presentations and more information about the City's finances at: [lambertvillenj.org/2020Budget](http://lambertvillenj.org/2020Budget)



City Hall Update

We have worked to make your government more accessible by increasing City communication, creating Mayors Office Hours, and doubling the number of governing body meetings; but there is more to do. Beginning in January 2020, City Hall will be changing its hours of operation - with evening hours every Tuesday until 7:30 PM. This is just one more step to make the City work better for you.

Office of Emergency Management

BY AMANDA BURD

Lambertville's volunteer Office of Emergency Management (OEM) is available in times of emergency to coordinate the City's response to major incidents affecting City Residents and Businesses. We encourage everyone to sign up for notifications at [lambertvillenj.org/swift911](http://lambertvillenj.org/swift911). City updates regarding emergency situations may be available on Facebook, the City Listserv and SWIFT911.

Reminder! In the event of a power outage:

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

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](mailto:publicassistance@lambertvillenj.org)

Mark Your Calendar

JANUARY  
7 City Council Reappointment Meeting, 6 pm @ Justice Center

18/26 Winterfest  
21 Governing Body Meeting, 7 pm @ Justice Center  
25 Drag Queen Story Hour. Registration Required, 10:30 am @ Public Library  
29 VITA Free Tax Preparation, 8:30 am - 8:30 pm @ Justice Center  
31 Mayor Fah's State of the City Address, 6 pm - 7 pm, Lambertville Public School

FEBRUARY  
1 Community Development Fair, 10 am - 2 pm @ Justice Center  
4 Work Session, 7 pm @ Justice Center  
20 Governing Body Meeting, 7 pm @ Justice Center  
29 10 am - 2 pm - Thomas the Tank Engine Day @ Justice Center

MARCH  
3 Work Session, 7 pm @ Justice Center  
19 Governing Body Meeting, 7 pm @ Justice Center

COMING SOON

- Shad Fest 2020 - April 24-25<sup>th</sup>, 2020
- New Hope Celebrate Pridefest - May 16, 2020

This newsletter has been printed on recycled paper. If you prefer to go paperless, please let us know at [lambertvillenj.org/paperless](http://lambertvillenj.org/paperless)



lambertvillenj.org facebook.com/CityGovernmentofLambertville



# UPDATES FROM BOARDS + COMMISSIONS

## Environmental Commission

BY KATE MILLSAPS

In November, over 25 volunteers helped the Environmental Commission (EC) distribute reusable bags throughout Lambertville as part of the Ditching Disposables campaign. Thanks to a grant from the PSEG Foundation, every household in the city can receive 2 free cotton bags to help prepare for the implementation of the plastics ordinance on Jan 1, 2020. After that date, single use plastic bags and polystyrene food containers will no longer be offered by local businesses and straws will only be available upon request. If you did not receive your cotton bags, you can pick them up at City Hall.

This month, Homestead Market won the EC’s inaugural Green Innovator Award in recognition of their sustainable business practices. The award is part of the Ditching Disposables campaign and the winner was selected by public vote. Congratulations!

The City's plastic film recycling partnership with Trex has helped divert nearly 700 pounds of film from the waste stream so far! Clean and dry plastic bags and film can be recycled at bins in City Hall and the Public Library. Volunteers are needed to help with collection and sorting. Please e-mail us at [environmentalcommission@lambertvillenj.org](mailto:environmentalcommission@lambertvillenj.org) if you can help.



## Citizens Against PennEast Pipeline

BY KELLY KAPPLER

There have been several legal developments in the last few months and we recently learned that PennEast intends to file with the Supreme Court. The group held a fall update in November at which Patty Cronheim, Outreach Coordinator from Rethink Energy NJ, reviewed the latest developments. Lambertville resident Liz Peer, whose family farm is an affected land, shared her discussions with elected leaders. It was encouraging to hear how officials were interested to hear her story and to protect property rights. Councilman Sanders also gave a recap of how far Lambertville has come in this journey, opposing the pipeline for years.

Lambertville CAPP recently held a "postcard party" to express appreciation to Governor Murphy and Attorney General Gurbir Grewal for continuing to fight the PennEast Pipeline. Attendees signed thank you postcards and congratulated them on the lawsuit win in the 3rd Circuit Court of Appeals that vacated the district court eminent domain decision. We are grateful for their expertise in the defending of this suit to maintain that open space preserved by NJ tax payer dollars not be taken by a private entity for profit.

Stay tuned; the Lambertville CAPP will announce a Spring 2020 town-wide update and share more information about how you can help continue to prevent the Pipeline from threatening our water and safety.



Photo Credits: Kelly Kappler

## Recreation Commission

BY MARY ANNE BORGE

On October 12, residents joined volunteers from Lambertville Goes Wild and Lambertville’s Environmental and Recreation Commissions to plant a garden for wildlife in Lambertville’s newest park, located at the corner of North Union & Cherry Streets. Almost 700 native plants were installed, including Common Milkweed, Butterflyweed, Joe-pye-weed, Wild Bergamot, Mountain Mint, asters, coneflowers & goldenrod.

These native species provide food for birds, butterflies, bees and caterpillars, including those of the Monarch butterfly. The planting was funded by a grant from the Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions (ANJEC). The new garden is a major improvement to the site, which was acquired through an open space purchase in 2011.



Photo Credit: Jeff Worthington

Wondering about the gray fabric in the infiltration swale behind the newly planted garden? Most of the plants in the swale were non-native invasive species. The landscape fabric was installed to cut off their ability to photosynthesize, killing them without chemicals. We expect to be able to seed the swale with more native plants in fall 2020. A split-rail fence will be installed to deter deer.

This is the 2<sup>nd</sup> wildlife garden planted in Lambertville this fall. The 1<sup>st</sup> is along the south border of Cavallo Park, and will also serve to strengthen stormwater management at the site.

Watch the progress unfold as these newly planted gardens grow and bloom next year. Thank you to all of the volunteers that made these projects possible!

## Lambertville Free Public Library

BY STEPHANIE VOLMER

The Lambertville Free Public Library is proud to announce that it recently established a sister library partnership between the LFPL and the South Hunterdon Regional School District Libraries. We will collaborate with our sister libraries to serve students throughout our community in all areas of literacy. Under this partnership, the Library is offering limited student cards to students who live outside of Lambertville but attend the South Hunterdon School District. Contact a school or LFPL librarian for more details.

Other 2019 highlights include the creation of a Teen Advisory Board, an expanded museum pass program, a reading outreach program in Spanish, and Sunday hours. The Library is now open seven days a week: Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri 10:00 to 9:00; Wed, 1:00 to 9:00; Sat 10:00 to 5:00; Sun 1:00 to 5:00.

Thanks to everyone who completed our community survey! The feedback will provide valuable information as the Library develops a five-year-plan to ensure that it continues to meet its mission: "to provide accessible space and resources that inspire and assist the community to learn, explore, create, and connect." Questions? Ideas? Contact Amy Connelly546@gmail.com or Matt Larkin mplarkin1@gmail.com.

## 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>



Above: Sue Ann DeVito

Right: Liz Horvath

## Lambertville Goes Wild

BY MARY ANNE BORGE

As 2019 winds down, LGW is busy planning 2020 events. During the first quarter, we expect to host a native plant seed giveaway, a program on rain gardens, and 'Insects in Your Garden: the Good, the Bad, and the Beautiful,' a program that will help you to get to know and love some of the smaller wildlife that visit our gardens. To learn more about these free events, check our website or the Lambertville Goes Wild Facebook page. We hope to see you there!

## Planning Board

BY JOHN MILLER

In the prior newsletter, the 2019 Reexamination of the Master Plan (“the Report”) was introduced. This edition will highlight several of the recommendations in the Report.

Master Plans are adopted by the Planning Board as a means to guide the use of lands within the municipality in a manner which protects public health and safety and promotes the general welfare. A Master Plan is a composite of one or more written or graphic proposals for the development of the municipality, such as a Land Use Element, a Housing Element, a Circulation Element, Open Space Element, Economic Development Plan Element, and a Historic Preservation Element. The Report looked at the documents that direct our land use boards on how we should shape our community for years to come and identified that the City’s Master Plan elements are 15 to 20 years old and may no longer fully reflect the current goals and vision of the City or accurately answer the question “What do we want Lambertville to look like in the next 10-20 years?”. As a result, the Report recommends a full update to the Master Plan within five years. The Report made some significant suggestions about ways to improve our Master Plan to reflect our city’s values - from implementing our Affordable Housing obligation to updating the Stormwater Management Plan element to be consistent with new State regulations, or creating new sustainability requirements for redevelopment.

The City’s Land Use Ordinances are the specific standards utilized by the land use boards to make informed decisions about development applications to ensure future development is in compliance with the City’s Master Plan documents. The Report also made some new recommendations to change the landscaping standards to encourage native plantings, modifying the Land Use ordinances, examining parking regulations, evaluating cannabis related land uses, promoting arts and culture, monitoring and valuation of short-term rentals, consideration for an Improvement District to pursue state funding, exploring smart cities technologies, and investigating redevelopment opportunities throughout the City.

The City will continue to engage on the important work of examining how we can continue to strategically plan for the future.

## Turkey Trot



Photo Credit: Delaware River Towns Facebook

Over 900 runners worked up an appetite for their turkey dinners on Thanksgiving morning at the Two Town Turkey Trot, hosted by the Delaware River Towns Chamber of Commerce.

## Municipal Utilities Authority

BY MELISSA EGE

**Capital Projects Update:** The collection system rehabilitation project was completed in late October. Bids were received on November 26th for the Wastewater Treatment Plant work which included: roof replacements, purchasing of clarifier parts and repaving the plant and access road. Pending legal and engineering review, work is scheduled to begin in early spring subject to State approval for work.

**Reorganization:** The reorganization of the LMUA will take place 2/4/20 at 6:00 p.m. at the wastewater treatment plant office building.



## Police

The Lambertville Police Department implemented operation “Elf on the Shelf” during the holiday season. Additional uniformed officers have been assigned to foot patrol posts in the business district during peak times to deter crimes such as shoplifting, thefts and assaults. The officers have spoken to business owners and employees about the additional opportunities that criminals have during the holiday seasons.

## Historic Preservation Commission (HPC)

Lambertville’s Historic District was recently expanded. The Historic District was originally limited to the Central Business District (CBD). It now includes the Service Commercial District (C-2) and General Commercial District (C-3). In each of these 3 districts, the Historic District designation is an “overlay.” That is, there is the underlying zoning which governs all uses & structures in that district. The Historic Preservation Ordinance (HPO) then applies some additional standards to any structure in the Historic District. The Zoning Map, available for review in City Hall, should be consulted to determine whether a property is in the Historic District.

The HPC is happy to consult with any property owners, in or out of the Historic District, to assist them in ensuring that the historic character of their property is preserved. Remember, along with our location on the river and canal, the most significant contributor to the physical environment of our City is the historic character of its structures. Preservation of this character is a significant determinant of property values, and the Historic Preservation Commission exists to protect this character.

Cavallo Park Planting, Photo Credit: Jeff Worthington

