



**CITY OF LAMBERTVILLE**  
City Hall  
18 York Street  
Lambertville, NJ 08530

The flu shot is important every year, but due to the strain on our regional health system from COVID-19, it is critical to get a flu vaccination this year, if you are able. We each have to do our part to reduce hospitalizations for the flu while our healthcare workers continue to deal with the COVID-19 crisis. In partnership with Hunterdon Healthcare and Phillips-Barber, the City of Lambertville is sponsoring our 2nd annual free flu clinic. Join us to do your part to keep our friends and neighbors safe!

**City of Lambertville Announces Leadership Transition**

At the end of July, we did not renew the contract of our former Business Administrator (BA). However, the City of Lambertville is committed to finding the right Business Administrator that fits our community and our needs. This position is vital for our City's long term financial health. We need someone in the City handling our professional contracts while finding creative ways to save money, holding contracted professionals accountable, streamlining efficiencies in our City's daily operations and managing the the various department heads during the work day. Finding those efficiencies is part of our long term process of debt reduction and financial stability. The BA position in Lambertville will also ensure that we continue our public budget process, with direct input not only from our departments, but our committees, commissions, and boards. This will ensure that we continue to move in the right direction towards a more financially stable future, while investing in the mission critical work of our staff and volunteers. Our governing body is made up of volunteers who rely on the expertise of our staff in order to make the best, sometimes tough, decision for the City. This position is critical for achieving just that.

ABOUT

**municipal business administrators**

**expertise**

BAs are trained professionals in the same way that company executives, school superintendents, doctors, and attorneys are professionals.

**best practice**

Two-thirds of U.S. cities with populations over 2500 now operate with an administrator in place\*. Today, 78% of municipalities in NJ operate with a BA.

**fiscally responsible**

While a salaried BA requires a salary, their expertise provides a municipality with exponential savings. Lambertville's BA provided over \$1 million dollars in savings in year 1 alone.

**accountability**

Having a BA provides more oversight and accountability to consultants and other professionals, as well as provides more direct accountability to the city council for the proper operation of municipal services. The position is an "at will" position.

\*International City/County Management Association



As we move into the latter half of the year, I'm proud of how our community has met this year's challenges head on. We have been able to support our progressive values while addressing our long-term financial crisis. This year has been a difficult one, but we will continue to move forward, together.

We began this year with a deep dive into our finances. While not everything we found was positive, it was a critical first step to addressing our historic issues and to begin making a plan to pull us through this public health crisis. We have significantly reduced spending and borrowing. We are on track to have reduced our borrowing in 2020 by 58% from 2018. Simultaneously, we have cut hundreds of thousands of dollars on contracted services. For the first time in Lambertville's history, we put together a five-year projection of our finances and shared that work with the public. This is crucial as we look to the future work of stabilizing our debt and putting our City's finances back on track.

While doing the work of reducing borrowing & spending during a public health emergency, we also budgeted to extend health benefits, including prescription & dental to our city employees. We corrected our wage range, which had fallen significantly behind the regional average, in order to be able to attract talented workers. We also addressed our wage shortfalls to give our staff the ability to support themselves & their families without having a second or even third job. With the support of the Council, I'm taking steps to pay our Lambertville staff a real living wage while simultaneously addressing our significant budget deficit.

We must continue to provide services and do the critical work of our government while we correcting our financial situation. We have to reinvest in our Departments to ensure that they have the basic tools they need to do their jobs. We need to invest in our Public Works Department to ensure that we can properly maintain our beautiful city. We need the appropriate technology to support the work we are doing.

During the beginning stages of the COVID-19 crisis, we began using Swift 911 phone calls and text messages to regularly update the public as new executive orders were being announced daily by the Governor. These systems were previously under-utilized and were missing significant portions of our residents. Within the a few short months, we were able to increase Swift 911 signups by nearly 400 users. We've begun more regular email communication and widely expanded the city's email list. This health crisis highlighted how critical this technology is to effectively communicating with residents. We are working to expand their use beyond emergencies: for service disruptions, changes in the governmental calendar, and updates from the City.

Lambertville, stay safe and be well.

*- Julia*  
Mayor Julia Fahl

Photo Credit: Lynda Chick

**Mark Your Calendar**

*September*

- 4,7 City offices closed
- 5 Convenience Center Open, 9 am - 12 pm
- 19 3rd Annual Delaware River Cleanup, 8:30 am - 12:30 pm
- 19 Rabies Clinic
- 24 Council Meeting Voting Session, 7 pm
- 26 Flu Clinic
- 26 CAT Meeting - Public Design Vetting

*October*

- 3 Convenience Center Open, 9am - 12 pm
- 6 Council Meeting Work Session, 7 pm
- 8 Council Meeting Work Session, 7 pm
- 9,12 City offices closed
- 17 Convenience Center Open, 9 am - 12 pm
- 22 Governing Body Voting Session, 7 pm

*November*

- 3 Council Meeting Work Session, 7 pm
- 30 Governing Body Voting Session, 7 pm

**Community Development News**

Head to [lambertvillenj.org/communitydevelopment](http://lambertvillenj.org/communitydevelopment) for news related to our Community Development plans. Or scan the QR code



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[lambertvillenj.org](http://lambertvillenj.org)



[facebook.com/CityGovernmentofLambertville](https://facebook.com/CityGovernmentofLambertville)

# BOARDS + COMMISSIONS

## Meet the Community Advisory Team (CAT)

The Lambertville Community Advisory Team is comprised of 20 Lambertville residents with diverse backgrounds and varying views on redevelopment in the City. All are committed to listening carefully and working diligently in the months ahead.

The team is engaging in productive, civil discussions to:

- understand the community's values as they pertain to the character of the City and development,
- understand the City's challenges and communicate obligations to the community, and
- advocate to the Governing Body for plans that address these challenges and align with the community's values.

The CAT receives its scope and direction from Council. It's been charged with gathering community and professional input as well as analyzing this information to formulate recommendations to the Council.

Due to deadlines set through the City's settlement with the Fair Share Housing Center, our work is progressing in two phases: the first is the police station site, and the second will include an assessment of City-owned facilities. We will focus nearly all our attention on the first phase through October 2020.

## Parks and Recreation Commission

Historically, Lambertville's Recreation Commission has been responsible for recreational activities in the City parks (including sports at Ely Field), but the Commission did not have oversight responsibility for maintenance and improvements to the parks. In order to better serve Lambertville's residents, the charter of the commission has changed. With the passage of Ordinance 08-2020, the Commission's official duties will include partnering with the Department of Public Works and the City's Governing Body to ensure adequate funding as well as prompt and regular maintenance for all City parks. This change is reflected in the commission's new name, the Parks and Recreation Commission.

In spite of the restrictions in place due to COVID-19, we are hoping to offer some activities this fall. To keep you better informed of upcoming events, we now have a Facebook page, Lambertville Parks and Recreation Commission, and Instagram account, @lambertville\_parks. Questions? Email us at [lambertville.parks@gmail.com](mailto:lambertville.parks@gmail.com).



*How were CAT members chosen?*

The community was invited to apply. About 50 people applied for 20 available spots. The mayor worked with the planner and council to select members and appoint team co-chairs based on applicants' involvement in town, professional experiences, and diverse views on redevelopment in the city.

## What has the CAT been up to?

Since its official launch in June, the CAT has:

- Met at least twice monthly.
- Engaged with the community and heard from many residents, hundreds of whom completed our survey (over 220 so far).
- Presented the community's feedback to the Governing Body.
- Answered emails and created a FAQ document, now available on the CAT's webpage.
- Heard from experts discussing various aspects of the current police station site, such as environmental conditions, redevelopment options, and budget concerns.

To learn more about what we've discussed in our meetings, please check out our meeting memos on the CAT's webpage: [lambertvillenj.org/cat](http://lambertvillenj.org/cat).

## Environmental Commission

Calling all local businesses!! The City has free reusable Ditching Disposables shopping bags available to give out to customers. Small businesses can pick up bags in the elevator vestibule behind City Hall, 50 at a time, until supplies last.

Are you a local small business and have ideas about how the Environmental Commission can support you with your sustainability goals? We're here to help! Contact us at [environmentalcommission@lambertvillenj.org](mailto:environmentalcommission@lambertvillenj.org).

The annual Delaware River Clean-Up will be held on September 19, 2020. This year, coordinators would like to register groups of 8 to 10 that have been socially connected, such as families, church groups, scouts, athletic teams, etc. Registration and designated leader required. The leader will meet with the Clean-Up coordinators to establish start time and location, gather equipment, and for safety training. Registration on the events page of the Delaware River Greenway Partnership website. Questions: Kathy Klink, 609-397-3240, ext. 208, [kklink@delawaretrvpnj.org](mailto:kklink@delawaretrvpnj.org).

## Municipal Utilities Authority

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, the LMUA is happy to report that it was able to continue with the Capital Projects Plan. The formal bidding process for the plant roof replacement, access road replacement and the purchasing of clarifier parts were completed on November 26, 2019.

- The plant roof replacement project was awarded to Strober-Wright Roofing, Inc. and was successfully completed in April.
- The plant access road and plant area re-pavement project was awarded to Rievax Contracting Corp. and completed successfully in March.
- The rectangular clarifier collectors replacement/procurement was awarded to Gaurdian Environmental Products, Inc. Parts were delivered in August and the staff has begun the installation work.

The final Capital Project, the rehabilitation of the disinfection facilities & drainage improvements, was awarded to DeMaio Electrical Co. with work expected to begin in the Fall.



*The newly paved access road to the plant was completed in time for residents to enjoy accessing the public boat launch during peak season.*

## New Jersey Clean Communities 3rd Annual Delaware River Cleanup

September 19, 2020 - 8:30 AM to 12:30 PM



Shoreline Cleanups at:  
Kingwood, Bull's Island,  
Prallsville Mill, & Holcombe Jimison Farmstead



For details and sign-up:

[www.delawarerivergp.org](http://www.delawarerivergp.org)

Questions: [Stephanie.Fox@dep.nj.gov](mailto:Stephanie.Fox@dep.nj.gov)

## Human Rights Council

The Lambertville Human Rights Council (LHRC) welcomes South Hunterdon Regional School District's new Superintendent, Anthony Suozzo. At our August meeting, we learned about his comprehensive plan to fight racism in our school district and promote educational equity. His bold plan focuses on systemic change to create a culture where all students will thrive. We are inspired by his vision and grateful for his leadership.

## Lambertville Free Public Library

The library will soon reopen for public hours on a reduced schedule. For safety, patrons will be limited to one hour in the library per day, with a maximum of 15 patrons in the building at one time. Curbside pickup (or "covered porcheside pickup," in this case!) is also available. Request materials via email at [circ@lambertvillelibrary.org](mailto:circ@lambertvillelibrary.org) or call 609-397-0275.

Happily, the library's public internet service has been upgraded, part of a long-term initiative to support much-needed building and infrastructure improvements. Wifi may now be used around the entire exterior of the building!

For more info and to review our catalogue and cloud library, visit [lambertvillelibrary.org](http://lambertvillelibrary.org). Stop by anytime to browse our Free Book tables under our covered side porch.

## Lambertville Goes Wild



*Congrats, Lambertville Goes Wild!*

*Photo credit: Jeff Worthington*

Lambertville Goes Wild was the recipient of the Land Ethics Award for Best Community Effort from Bowman's Hill Wildflower Preserve, in recognition of LGW's work guiding Lambertville to certification by the National Wildlife Federation as a Community Wildlife Habitat. Follow LGW on Facebook for more information coming soon on the following:

- LGW is partnering with the Lambertville Environmental Commission on a "Leave the Leaves!" campaign for fall. Did you know that naturally fallen leaves are the best mulch your plants could have? They also provide wildlife habitat, and they are free!
- The Library is gradually transitioning the garden to a wildlife habitat with native plants with guidance and plants from Lambertville Goes Wild.

## Small Business Update/Love Our Lambertville

The City is collaborating with the business community and the Delaware River Towns Chamber of Commerce to provide support and develop solutions to challenges in the time of COVID. Based on feedback from Lambertville businesses through weekly calls, the City is working to help our local businesses to not only survive during this period, but thrive. Recent examples include streamlining the permit process for bringing business activities outdoors, providing public restrooms and making cleaning supplies available for visitors. The City and Chamber have also teamed up on a volunteer recruitment initiative called Love Our Lambertville. Love Our Lambertville is a volunteer campaign aimed at tapping into the talents and passions of our community for the benefit of Lambertville. Volunteers are being mobilized to assist with beautification downtown, cleaning up our parks, marketing campaigns to promote Lambertville and its businesses, an ambassador program, and fundraising to support these initiatives. Visit [LoveOurLambertville.com](http://LoveOurLambertville.com) for more information and to sign up to volunteer!

