



*Winter 2022 Volume 26,
Issue 3*

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Lower Saucon Road Bridge

The Lower Saucon Road Bridge is now open! The bridge had been closed since 2020 when the Township was hit by several heavy rain events in quick succession. We are very excited to have the new bridge installed and opened for residents to use. Lower Saucon Township worked with many organizations to complete this important project, including PennDOT, PADEP, PA Fish and Boat Commission, Hanover Engineering, PPL, Service Electric, and Verizon. We would like to thank DESSCO for completing the installation and construction of the bridge. The Township used grant funds received from a PennDOT Multimodal Grant for the bridge replacement in the amount of \$219,640.00. The total construction expenses for the bridge were \$421,564.80. The additional expense above the grant award was allocated from the Township's General Fund and Capital Improvement Fund for Road and Bridge Maintenance.



Thank You to Graybar Electric & Maryann Snyder



Thank you to Graybar Electrical Distribution Company for their generous donation of 4-outside LED spot lights for our basketball courts! We would also like to recognize Greg Best (resident) for facilitating this donation as well.

Council recognized Maryann Snyder, Penn State Master Gardener at their November 16th meeting. Maryann dedicated her time and talent in developing and planting the Native Plant Garden at the Reading Trailhead in Lower Saucon Township.



2023 Budget Highlights

Council is proud to have approved the 2023 Budget not requiring a tax increase. Property tax will remain at 5.14 (4.39 for general purposes and .75 for fire services equipment needs), Lower Saucon Township is one of the lowest taxed municipal jurisdictions in Northampton County. In these unstable times, it was important to Township Council to ensure that there were no increases in taxes while still able to provide funding for township infrastructure improvements. Council continues to concentrate on road maintenance by increasing funding and securing grants to assist in the Reading Road culvert replacement, Black River Road culvert replacement, implementing our Active Transportation Plan, and paving projects. Much like the Lower Saucon Bridge replacement, there are many agencies working together including, the Township Engineer, DEP, and PennDOT. Council appreciates the community's patience as we work to address the road and bridge maintenance projects.

Council continues to work on improvements to our park infrastructure. In 2023 we will resurface the trail at Polk Valley Park and are working to develop a 90-foot baseball field for the baseball enthusiasts to enjoy. Council continues to direct staff to work on additional park improvements and maintenance to ensure that all of our Lower Saucon community has opportunities to participate in active or passive recreation. Staff will continue to work with State officials to secure grant funding opportunities as they arise.

Sufficient funding has been appropriated for both the library and pool access programs. Please refer to the articles in this newsletter. Lower Saucon Township will continue to partner with the Saucon Valley Community Center to provide our Summer Recreation Program and Senior Center Program. Funding was provided to expand children's programming to the Steel City community. Council continues to support and provide financial assistance to the youth sports programs of Saucon Valley.

As always, our municipal services are fully funded to address the needs of the community. We continue to provide police, zoning, parks and road maintenance services as a direct result of Council and staff being diligent with funding and spending. The Township continues to remain debt free, and our budget anticipates moving additional funds at the end of the year to our Capital Improvement Fund for future township projects.



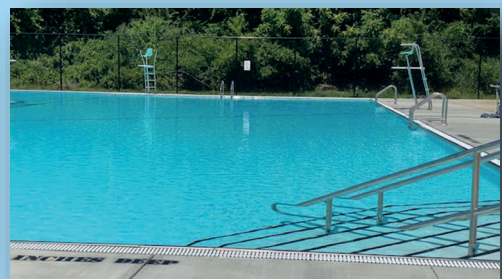
Saucon Valley Terrace

The Saucon Valley Terrace Development roads were determined to be in need of resurfacing this spring by the Township Engineer and Public Works Department. Township Council moved quickly to have the Township Engineer prepare a construction bid and put the project up for bid. Township Council reviewed the bids and awarded the contract to Barker & Barker Construction, the lowest responsible bidder, with a bid of \$1,070,793.00. Township Council added this project to the 2022 budget by using a portion of the Township's Capital Funds. This project was fully funded by the Township and was complete in November of 2022.



Public Swimming Pool Membership Reimbursements

Beginning in 2023, Lower Saucon Residents and family members will have the opportunity to use the pool of their choice. Lower Saucon Township will reimburse residents up to \$75.00 for a pool membership at either a municipal pool or a pool that is a non-profit 501(c)(3). After you purchase a membership at the pool of your choice, please bring your receipt, pool pass, and proof of Lower Saucon residency to the Township building. We will then issue you a refund up to \$75.00 in the form of a check which will be mailed to your home. We are excited about this opportunity to allow our residents more choices for your summer swimming.



Police Department News

Requests for Police Assistance

Residents and citizens are encouraged to promptly notify the Police of ANY Suspicious Activity or Law Enforcement concerns.

Requests for police should go through the Northampton County "911" Center. In an emergency dial "911". The police non-emergency number is **610-759-2200**.

Please **DO NOT message** our Facebook page to request police assistance as it is not monitored 24hrs a day.

If you would like to leave a message for a Lower Saucon Officer or speak with staff, please contact the Police Department administrative number 610-317-6110 and follow the prompts.



Talks & Tours

TALKS discussing crime prevention, safety, and other similar topics can be performed at police headquarters or a remote location within the Township.



TOURS of police headquarters and issued police equipment can also be scheduled. This can be done for any group such as cub scouts, girl scouts, etc.

Please contact Police Chief Thomas Barndt via email tbarndt@lowersaucontownship.org or by phone 610-317-6110.

CRIMEWATCH

We strongly urge residents to visit our **CRIMEWATCH** portal and subscribe to receive notifications or download the **CRIMEWATCH** mobile application for Apple or Android devices. This service is free to the public.

CRIMEWATCH:

<https://northampton.crimewatchpa.com/lowersauconpd/69169>

LOWER SAUCON TOWNSHIP PD WEBSITE:

www.lowersauconpolice.org

FACEBOOK:

<https://www.facebook.com/lowersauconpd/>

Free gun locks are available at police headquarters **3700 Old Philadelphia Pike, Bethlehem, PA 18015** during business hours, which are Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.



Please remember to hide your valuables and lock your vehicle anywhere you park your vehicle.

LOCK IT!

MedReturn Drug Collection Unit



Residents who have expired or unused over-the-counter and prescription medications are able to discard those medications in a MedReturn drug collection unit, which is located in the front lobby of the Lower Saucon Police Department at **3700 Old Philadelphia Pike, Bethlehem, PA 18015**.

Residents can place medications in the box anonymously, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. There will be no charge to residents for this service and no requirement to provide personal information or identification when using the box. Signs are posted on each box informing residents of the types of items that can be placed in the boxes and those that are not accepted.

Items accepted: prescription and over-the-counter medications, samples, vitamins, prescription ointments, prescription patches, and pet medications.

Items NOT accepted: syringes, needles, sharps, or other sharp objects, medications from businesses and clinics, lotions or liquids, aerosol cans, inhalers, hydrogen peroxide and thermometers.

Home Fire Survival (Second in a Series)

The previous article focused on early detection with various types of smoke detectors available. Now let's turn our attention on what to do when a fire is detected or discovered. Do we attempt to extinguish it or do we evacuate? If the fire is small enough and an extinguisher of adequate size and type are immediately available, and you know how to use it, go for it! Otherwise, evacuate and notify the 911 center.

This raises several questions:

- ◇ Do you know what kind of extinguisher to use on a specific type of fire? The first step is to look at what materials are present in the area to be protected from fire.

There are three basic types of fire extinguishers labeled A, B, or C (or combination). This tells you the types of fires the extinguisher can extinguish.

- A – ordinary combustibles – Paper, wood, cloth, basically all non-metals. That is anything that burns and leaves an ash (A for Ash).
- B – flammable liquids – Gasoline, oil, grease. Of course they come in barrels (B for Barrels)
- C - electrical fires – Anything that is plugged in. And electricity carries a charge (C for Charge)

Look for these three letters A B C when purchasing your home extinguishers. In the fine label print, you may find these letters are preceded by numbers (e.g. 3-A: 40-B:C). The number is the extinguisher's classification rating. The higher the number, the greater the extinguisher's effectiveness against each type of fire.

The next consideration is size.

In most cases, bigger is better, but sometimes the largest extinguishers are too heavy to maneuver.

Try a 5-10 lb. extinguisher for your garage or home workshop, especially if you have flammables or electrical equipment, etc.

Try a 2.5 lb. for your kitchen or laundry room.

And if you want to get a fire extinguisher for your car, get a 2.5 lb. or 5 lb. with mounting hardware to keep it from rolling around in the trunk.

Next is where to put your extinguishers. Definitely in the kitchen and the garage, if you live in a two story residence, place one upstairs. Locate your extinguishers in an easy-to-grab spot, so you can quickly put out a small fire before the firefighters arrive, or at least suppress the flames while you escape.

The average 5 lb. dry chemical extinguisher has enough powder for 15-20 seconds of firefighting. When you are 8-12 feet from the fire or when you feel the heat, you can begin discharging. If the fire is so hot that you cannot get close enough with an extinguisher, then the fire is too big for an extinguisher. EXIT NOW. Extinguishers are for early intervention and a quick attack of small fires only.

When using an extinguisher, follow these simple steps:

1. First call 9-1-1 to get the fire department alerted. Then grab your extinguisher and check the gauge to make sure the needle is in the green. This tells us that the extinguisher is charged with nitrogen, an inert gas that will blow powder out of the extinguisher and onto the fire. You're now ready to GO!
2. Pull the pin
3. Aim at the base of the fire
4. Squeeze the handle and
5. Sweep side to side, just enough to cover the items burning.

Of course, don't start discharging the extinguisher until you are 8 to 10 feet away. This is about the time you should start to feel the heat. And never start discharging any closer than 5 feet to the burning product or you will blow fire right back on top of yourself.

With a 5 lb. extinguisher, one you would typically see at work, will discharge powder for about 20 seconds. Which may not seem like a long time, but in firefighting time, this is a very long time. Most small fires should extinguish in 2-5 seconds.

Maintenance Tip:

If you have owned these extinguishers for any length of time, and never used them, it's a good idea to take them and agitate them to loosen up the powder inside that may have become compressed or "caked-up", even if the gauge shows the arrow in the green.

Kitchen Fires –

Since most fires at home start in the kitchen, here are some simple tips for kitchen stove fires.

- First turn off the flame to the stove, second grab the lid to the pan, hold it directly in front of you (using it as a shield) and simply place it on top of the pan. This will immediately extinguish the fire.
- Never use water on grease fires. It will result in a steam explosion causing the fire to spread and possibly cause personal injury
- Never use flour. This will also result in a dust explosion.
- Never use a dish towel (it will only add fuel to the fire if you don't cover the pan completely).

Should you choose to use an extinguisher, be prepared for extensive clean-up and contamination of all food.

Above all else, if you are uncomfortable with extinguishing a small fire, evacuate all residents and call the 9-1-1 center.





Hellertown Halloween Parade



On October 23, 2022 the annual Hellertown Halloween Parade was held all throughout the streets of Hellertown. Lower Saucon Township Council, the Police Department, and Fire Rescue all participated in the fun-filled day. Special thanks to **Star Pre-Owned of Hellertown, Arnold's Market** and to all that donated and participated!



Updates for Saucon Valley Community Center

The Saucon Valley Community Center (SVCC) managed the Summer Park Program again this past summer for Lower Saucon Township serving 120 children at both Southeastern Park and Town Hall Park. The children attended Monday to Friday, 9-12 for four weeks for each session. The summer program is very popular with LST families. Some of the comments shared in the Park Program Survey at the end of the summer: "The cost of the program and what is offered is unmatched in any other summer program we have found." - Town Hall Parent. "I liked that I could play all the games. I like water day, tie dye day, and the police day." - Child at Southeastern. SVCC is happy to be planning another Summer Program in Lower Saucon Township for 2023 and adding Steel City to the list. Keep posted for more details.

The Lower Saucon Township Senior Center reopened in December 2021 providing social activities for seniors on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays each week. The center is at 3700 Old Philadelphia Pike, Bethlehem, PA 18015 in the Seidersville Hall building. Reach out to Betty Sherer at (610) 625-8744 if you would like to attend an activity. Being more active in your community and going to activities that are more social in nature help with maintaining a more positive outlook, less memory loss, and being more physically active – all great benefits! SVCC offers billiards, exercise, adult coloring, and pinochle scheduled each week. Winnie The Pooh, a senior-citizen himself said, "Good friends are like stars, you don't always see them, but you know they are there." Come to the center and make a new friend this week!!

In addition to the park program and senior activities, SVCC also offers child care at their community center located in Hellertown and before/after care in the elementary school. The SVCC was redesignated as a 4-star center in October this year, which is the highest designation in the Keystone STARS Program. SVCC currently has an opening for a Preschool Teacher and a Floater Teacher at their community center, "Come Grow With Us!" Call Roberta at (610) 838-0722 if you are interested in working with our most valuable resource: CHILDREN!!

SVCC has 2022 applications for LIHEAP (Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program). If this is a resource you would like to know more about, please call SVCC at 610-838-0722.

SVCC will be a **Toys for Tots** drop off center this year starting in December. Look for more information about donating toys at the Community Center on their Facebook page (Saucon Valley Community Center).

We would like to thank the Saucon Creek Watershed Association who graciously provided the Township with a map of the Saucon Creek watershed, highlighting the native species and natural features. The map is prominently displayed in the Township lobby. Council is donating \$500.00 for their ongoing effort to save the Saucon Creek Watershed.

Library Services



Lower Saucon Township will reimburse our residents up to \$40.00 when joining a library. After you purchase a membership card from a library, please bring your receipt, library membership card, and proof of Lower Saucon residency to the Township building. We will issue a refund up to \$40.00 in the form of a check, which will be mailed to your home.

Thank you to the Lower Saucon families for all of your kind words about the park program and your ongoing support!



Curb & Sidewalk Maintenance

Who is responsible for clearing snow and ice from sidewalks?

According to Municipal Code of Lower Saucon Township (140-17) property owners and occupants are responsible for keeping sidewalks clear of snow and ice.

Why should I care if my sidewalk is clear of snow and ice?

Many people rely on walking and transit as their primary source of transportation and without a wide, clear path through snow and ice, it is especially difficult for people with disabilities, seniors, and children to walk safely. We are all pedestrians and benefit from having a safe, clear, and continuous path to travel.

How long do I have to clear my sidewalk?

Within 36 hours of the termination of any fall of snow or accumulation of ice. Residents are also reminded not to throw snow from your sidewalks and driveways onto the roads.

How much snow do I need to clear to comply with the Ordinance?

You should clear at least a 30 inch path along the sidewalk, where conditions allow. This width allows pedestrians in wheelchairs, people with children in strollers, students walking to school, and individuals with assistive devices mobility and access.

What happens if I don't clear my sidewalk?

Individuals and businesses who do not comply with the curb and sidewalk maintenance ordinance can face fines of \$50 or more set upon by the District Magistrate. You are able to report violations to the Township by calling and reporting the full address (610) 865-3291 or emailing zoning@lowsaucontownship.org



What happens if I am physically unable to clear my sidewalk of snow and ice?

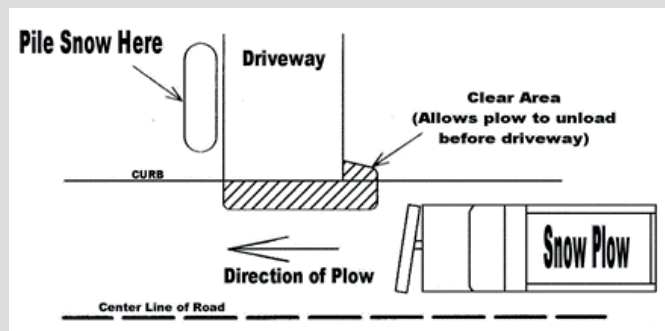
As a property owner, while you may be physically unable to clear snow and ice from your sidewalk yourself, it is still your responsibility to ensure that sidewalks along your property are cleared. Consider hiring a contractor or asking a neighbor to help.

Snow Tips

Here are a few tips from the Township Public Works Department to clear the roads during the snowstorm:

- * When a snowfall is expected, remove your vehicle from the roadway so the plows can completely remove the snow.
- * To minimize the amount of snow that the plow deposits in your driveway, we recommend clearing an area to the left of your driveway as you face the street. By doing this, the snow plow will unload into this area instead of your driveway.
- * Never throw, blow, or plow snow from your driveway into the roadway. Remember – do not shovel snow from driveways into the roadway. This practice is illegal and hazardous under the Pennsylvania Motor Vehicle Code and provides for a maximum fine of \$300.00 for this violation.
- * Township Ordinance No. 2011-11 restricts parking in all of the Township's cul-de-sacs and dead-end streets during the periods when Public Works is removing snow or ice. Please cooperate and move your car so we can clear these areas as quickly as possible.
- * In order to assist the Township snow plow operators in determining the edge of your lawn, please place flexible reflectorized markers, which are available at your home improvement store, at 50-foot intervals along your property. If no markers are in place and the snow plow tears up the sod in front of your property, it will not be repaired by the Township.

Your cooperation and assistance is greatly appreciated in helping us clear the roads as quickly as possible. Please visit the Township website to read the Snow Removal Policy <https://www.lowsaucontownship.org/pdf/snowremoval.pdf>.



Lower Saucon Township 2023 Pavilion Rentals

Pavilion reservations for 2023 will begin on Friday, January 6th at Town Hall, 3700 Old Philadelphia Pike, Bethlehem, PA 18015.

Rentals Fees:

Township Residents - \$100.00, plus a \$50.00 deposit

Non-residents - \$150.00, plus a \$50.00 deposit

Both fees are required at time of reservation.

(current driver's license must be provided)

Pavilion rentals run from April through October.



SOUTHEASTERN



TOWN HALL



POLK VALLEY



STEEL CITY



KINGSTON

EAC Recycling Event

The Electronics Recycling Event hosted by our EAC was a success! Lower Saucon Township residents filled two trucks of electronics totaling 17,313 lbs. Look for more information in 2023 on the next EAC Electronics Recycling Event.



Please note that RRS will not be accepting latex paint in the future.

Did you know - if your latex paint is solidified your trash hauler will accept it?

Openings on Township Board, Commissions, Committees

Lower Saucon Township has several openings for volunteers willing to serve on Township Boards, Commissions and Committees.

Interested persons should submit a letter stating their qualifications and reasons for wanting to serve by mail to the Township Manager at Lower Saucon Township, 3700 Old Philadelphia Pike, Bethlehem, PA 18015, or by email at manager@lowsaucontownship.org



**To obtain a feral cat spay/neuter voucher from
Lower Saucon Township:**

1. Residents must apply at Lower Saucon Township for a NNN feral cat spay/neuter voucher (5-voucher limit at a time) and a driver's license is required. The voucher includes one feral cat spay/neuter surgery, rabies & distemper vaccine, nail trim, ear cleaning, fluids, pain medicine, flea, ear mite, and worm treatment. Left ear will be tipped as it is a requirement for outside roaming cats.
2. Residents must schedule the appointment(s) by calling (866) 820-2510 ext. #2 (in Allentown) or schedule online at <http://www.nnnlv.org/>
3. Vouchers are not transferrable and can only be used by the person in whose name it is issued. ID will be required at NNN at check-in.
4. Residents must contact Lower Saucon Township (610) 865-3291 with the appointment date(s) of spaying/neutering and then stop by the office at 3700 Old Philadelphia Pike, Bethlehem, PA 18015 to pick up their voucher(s).
5. Unused vouchers must be returned to Lower Saucon Township before the expiration date listed on the voucher.

Thank You Adopt-A-Road Volunteers!

Thank you to all of the 2022 organizations and/or families who are currently participating in our Adopt-A-Road program:

Atty. James Hill
Bethlehem Landfill
Doug McAllister
Environmental Advisory Council
Hellertown Lower Saucon Little League
Hellertown Post Office
Kathy Pichel McGovern
Kay Muschlitz
Lower Saucon Township Historical Society
Lower Saucon UCC
Quest
Realty Outfitters
Saucon Community Bible Fellowship Church
Saucon Creek Watershed Association
Saucon Valley Youth Sports Football/Cheerleading
Saucon Valley Wrestling
The Basara Family, the Birkel and Palik Families,
the Lichak Family the Mitchell Family, Pagoda Family,
the Repash Family, the Riegel Family and the Zimpfer Family
Williams Church Road Walkers



The Township Adopt-A-Road program began in the Spring of 2010 with many organizations and/or families adopting Township roads and conducting litter pick-ups along these roads twice a year. This program establishes partnerships between Saucon Valley volunteers and the Township to help control litter along Township roads and maintain a clean environment.

Lower Saucon Township is responsible for the collection and disposal of trash bags along the road. In recognition of these volunteers efforts, the Township erects permanent signs along the roadway with the organization's name (all supplies and signs paid for by Bethlehem Landfill).

All roads are currently adopted at this time however, if you are interested in adopting a road in the future please contact Carol at c.schneider@lowsaucontownship.org or call (610) 865-3291.

Saucon Valley Conservancy

The Saucon Valley Conservancy at the Historic Heller Homestead has been busy this year planning and holding events and gatherings. Spring Into Birding, Antique Appraisal Day, Afternoon Tea and Fashion Show, and Fall Fun at the Heller Homestead were all fun-filled, educational and community outreaching events that highlight our commitment to preserving Saucon Valley nature and history. Our German 4-Square Garden continues to thrive, and a good time was had by all sharing food, music, and friendship at the annual Christmas Open House held on December 5th at the Heller Homestead.



Please consider volunteering your time and talents with us at the Heller Homestead.

Website: <https://www.sauconvalleyconservancy.org/>

Lower Saucon Township

3700 Old Philadelphia Pike

Bethlehem, PA 18015

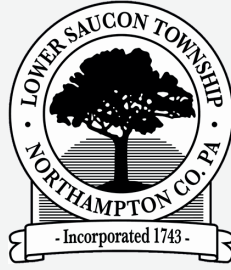
610-865-3291

Administration hours: 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Public Works hours: 7:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

www.lowersaucontownship.org

www.facebook.com/lowersaucon/



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Lower Saucon Township Officials

Jason Banonis	Council President
Sandy Yerger	Council Vice President
Priscilla deLeon	Council Member
Thomas Carocci	Council Member
Mark Inglis	Council Member
Lou Mahlman	Controller
Mark Hudson	Township Manager
Thomas H. Barndt	Police Chief

Important Phone Numbers

Emergency	Dial 9-1-1
Non-Emergency	610-759-2200
Police Department	610-317-6110
Administrative Offices	610-865-3291
Water/Sewer Authority	610-317-3212

Meeting Schedule

(check website for exact dates)

Council

3rd Wednesday – 6:30 p.m.

Parks & Recreation Board

1st Monday – 6:30 p.m.

Environmental Advisory Council

2nd Tuesday – 6:30 p.m.

Planning Commission

4th Thursday – 7:00 p.m.

Zoning Hearing Board

4th Monday – 7:00 p.m.

Lower Saucon Authority

3rd Tuesday – 6:30 p.m.

Office Closed:

December 26th & 27th – Christmas

January 2nd – New Year's Day

Christmas Tree Collection

This year Lower Saucon Residents will have a new location to recycle their Christmas trees and other yard waste. In 2023, Lower Saucon Residents can dispose of their Christmas trees by bringing them to the Township Building/Maintenance Garage. Public Works Staff will be onsite to assist with dropping off your tree and/or yard waste. Lower Saucon Residents dropping off their Christmas trees will be required to show their current Compost Center Card. If you do not have a card, please visit the Township building during regular business hours to obtain a card. Christmas trees with tinsel on them will not be accepted.



Collection Dates—Time and Location:

January 7th from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Township Building

January 14th from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Township Building

January 21st from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Township Building

3700 Old Philadelphia Pike, Bethlehem, PA 18015

Yard Waste Collection Facility

In the Spring of 2023, Lower Saucon Township will have a new yard waste collection facility for all residents.

Yard Waste Items Include:

Leaves— loose in brown paper bags only (if bagged in plastic, you must take the bags home), small brush— up to 4" in diameter (no longer than 6 ft.), hedge trimmings, garden plant residue, Christmas trees (without tinsel).



The yard waste collection facility will open in April and close in November; exact dates, times, and location will be advertised in the Spring of 2023 (newsletter and website). The Township looks forward to continuing to serve our residents by collecting yard waste.