

For Immediate Release:

Update Thursday, April 9, 2020

Lower Saucon Township is operating under a Declaration of Disaster Emergency and Council and our Administration are working closely to make sure essential government functions continue and resources are available for our residents. The Township offices are closed to the public, staff is reporting to the office on a rotational basis, answering phones, processing mail and addressing emergencies as they arise. Employees have been provided access to their office computers and are able to work remotely as well. Tax payments are being processed and continue to be accepted – through a drop box at the Township, USPS, at the financial institutions (based on their hours) and online. The Public Works Department is also reporting on a rotational basis, with one person assigned per vehicle. They are responding to emergency calls and any other issues that arise. If you have a concern, please contact 610-865- 3291 and leave a message.

Our Dog Park remains closed, as well as all of playground equipment and basketball courts. Our Township parks and the Rail Trail remain open for passive use, but please adhere to social distancing to enjoy this benefit which means staying away from close contact in public spaces.

The Council meeting will take place on Wednesday, April 15, 2020, via Zoom, starting at 7:00 p.m.

Register in advance for this meeting at:

<https://zoom.us/meeting/register/v5Qlf--srDgo-T3EUXvUS5EA2NgSJ3LIUw>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

The Environmental Advisory Council meeting scheduled for Tuesday, April 14, 2020 has been cancelled as well as the Planning Commission meeting on Thursday, April 23, 2020 and the Zoning Hearing Board meeting on Monday, April 27, 2020.

The Saucon Valley Easter Egg hunt scheduled at Dimmick Park on Saturday, April 11, 2020 has been cancelled.

The Rain Barrel Workshop scheduled at Seidersville Hall for April 25, 2020 has been cancelled.

All schools statewide will remain closed through at least April 30, 2020. As of March 19, there are adjusted meal hours for the students. The distribution time for breakfast and lunch provided by the district will be condensed to the hours of 12:15 - 1:30 p.m. which began March 23, 2020 thus avoiding conflicts with the instructional/content timeframe of 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon. Also, please be reminded meals are not provided on Fridays as double meals are distributed on Thursdays.

On April 1, 2020, Governor Wolf expanded the stay-at-home order to include the entire commonwealth. On April 3, 2020, Governor Wolf announced that as many people as possible

should wear a nonmedical or homemade mask when leaving their homes.

This order took effect at 8 p.m., Monday, March 30, 2020, and will continue until April 30. All stay-at-home orders are now extended through April 30. All Pennsylvania schools will remain closed until further notice. Non-life-sustaining business closures remain in effect.

Individuals may leave their residence only to perform any of the following allowable individual activities and allowable essential travel:

- Tasks essential to maintain health and safety, or the health and safety of their family or household members (including pets), such as obtaining medicine or medical supplies, visiting a health care professional, or obtaining supplies they need to work from home
- Getting necessary services or supplies for themselves, for their family or household members, or as part of volunteer efforts, or to deliver those services or supplies to others to maintain the safety, sanitation, and essential operation of residences
- Engaging in outdoor activity, such as walking, hiking or running if they maintain social distancing
- To perform work providing essential products and services at a life-sustaining business
- To care for a family member or pet in another household
- Any travel related to the provision of or access to the above-mentioned individual activities or life-sustaining business activities
- Travel to care for elderly, minors, dependents, persons with disabilities, or other vulnerable persons
- Travel to or from educational institutions for purposes of receiving materials for distance learning, for receiving meals, and any other related services
- Travel to return to a place of residence from an outside jurisdiction
- Travel required by law enforcement or court order
- Travel required for non-residents to return to their place of residence outside the commonwealth
- Anyone performing life-sustaining travel does not need paperwork to prove the reason for travel.

The following operations are exempt: Life-sustaining business activities

- Health care or medical services providers
- Access to life-sustaining services for low-income residents, including food banks
- Access to child care services for employees of life-sustaining businesses that remain open as follows: child care facilities operating under the Department of Human Services, Office of Child Development and Early Learning waiver process; group and family child care operating in a residence; and part-day school age programs operating under an exemption from the March 19, 2020 business closure Orders
- News media
- Law enforcement, emergency medical services personnel, firefighters
- The federal government
- Religious institutions

Individuals experiencing homelessness are not subject to this order but are strongly urged to find shelter and government agencies are urged to take steps needed to provide shelter for those individuals.

International students, foster youth, and any other students who would otherwise experience displacement or homelessness as a result of campus closures are exempt and may remain in campus housing. The Department of Education will be providing updated guidance and resources on the continuity of education for students to schools in the coming days.

At this time, law enforcement will be focused on ensuring that residents are aware of the order and informing the public of social distancing practices rather than enforcement. To report a noncompliant business, contact your local law enforcement agency's non-emergency number or the nearest Pennsylvania State Police station. Please do not call 911 or the Department of Community and Economic Development to file reports.

Law enforcement officers should refer to any travel related to the provision of or access to the above-mentioned individual activities or life-sustaining business activities.

Our website has information on the Coronavirus and FAQ's. Click [here](http://lowersaucontownship.org/covid-19.html) to read: <http://lowersaucontownship.org/covid-19.html>

Our Police Department has planned for this situation and have been taking proactive measures to protect our officers and the residents we serve. **For all emergency calls, please call 9-1-1.** For all non-emergencies that do not require a police response an officer will call you and then complete the report after gathering the necessary information. If the non-emergency all requires a police response to your residence or business, an officer will phone you in advance and request you to step outside, if possible. If you are unable or willing to step outside for any reasons the officer will handle accordingly. The non-emergency number is 610-759- 2200. Online non-emergency incident reporting is also available on the Lower Saucon Police Department Crimewatch page at www.lowersauconpolice.org.

Police Department Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/lowersauconpd/>

Police Department Crimewatch page: www.lowersauconpolice.org

Visit the FEMA link below to dispel any rumors related to the Coronavirus. <https://www.fema.gov/coronavirus-rumor-control>

The Saucon Valley Compost Center is still closed until further notice. Click here for more information: <http://lowersaucontownship.org/svcompostcenter.html>

All other Northampton County recycling events have been cancelled until further notice. Click here for more information: www.lowersaucontownship.org/recycle.html Northampton County will do their best to reschedule these cancelled events later this year.

The [Lehigh Valley Chamber](#) kicked off its #OpenWeStandLV Campaign! Businesses throughout the Greater Lehigh Valley are offering new and creative ways to get their products and services to their customers. Now more than ever, it is important that we support them! Visit the following link to

check out the restaurants and services that are open and are offering their services.

<https://www.lehighvalleychamber.org/openwestand-hellertown.html?fbclid=IwAR1xWYz2ER-Uy6t-SaoUH54JQLYrpDGVYz-OQnQaZBRvwBlwXUnb4irxOU>

The primary election that was scheduled for April 28, 2020 has been rescheduled to June 2, 2020 so Pennsylvania can focus on fighting the spread of COVID-19 with new deadlines:

- May 18 to register to vote: [Register.VotesPA.com](https://www.register.votespa.com).
- May 26 to sign up to vote by mail ballot: [VotesPA.com/ApplyMailBallot](https://www.votespa.com/applymailballot)

PennDOT extended expiration dates on Driver Licenses, ID Cards, Vehicle Registrations and Other Products. See press release from PennDOT below:

Harrisburg, PA – The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) announced today that expiration dates for driver licenses, identification cards, learner’s permits, persons with disability placards, vehicle registrations and safety and emission inspections will be extended for Pennsylvania residents in response to statewide COVID-19 mitigation efforts.

- Deadlines on the following products will be extended effective March 27, 2020: Driver licenses, photo ID cards and learner's permits scheduled to expire from March 16, 2020 through April 30, 2020, the expiration date is now extended through May 31, 2020.
- Vehicle registrations, safety inspections and emissions inspections scheduled to expire from March 16 through April 30, 2020, the expiration date is now extended through May 31, 2020.
- Persons with Disabilities parking placards scheduled to expire from March 16 through April 30, 2020, the expiration date is now extended through May 31, 2020.

The Lehigh Valley Chamber announced a COVID-19 relief fund for Lehigh Valley businesses and nonprofits made possible through an amazing partnership created by The Chamber and BB&T, now Truist, along with incredible business leaders, Tom Groves Equinox and David Jaendl, creating a grant pool of \$150,000 available to help with rent, payroll and other operating expenses for those who were hit hard by the COVID-19 crisis. “We’re hearing from businesses and nonprofits on every main street that they’re trying to hang in and hang on. We’re all in this together and have been dealt a real economic blow, but we’re on our feet and fighting back,” Chamber CEO and President Tony Iannelli said.

If you'd like to apply for the grant, please visit:

www.lehighvalleychamber.org/covid19relieffund.html.

Please do not hesitate reaching out if you have any questions to_jessicao@lehighvalleychamber.org

Wednesday, April 1, was Census Day! As a reminder, Census Day is a key reference date for the 2020 Census that is observed nationwide, but Census Day is not like Election Day — **respondents can still respond after Wednesday, April 1st.** In fact, if a household hasn't responded yet online, they'll get a paper form in the mail starting next week.

The Wolf Administration Reminds Pennsylvanians to Respond to the 2020 Census. The Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) Secretary Dennis Davin reminded all Pennsylvanians to be a good neighbor and respond to the 2020 Census. “We’re committed to working together to make sure all Pennsylvanians are counted in the Census. said Sec. Davin. “Now more than ever, our representation and billions of dollars of funding for critical resources depend on an accurate count of all Pennsylvanians, no matter who they are or where they live.”

This year marks the first time in history that responses can be filled out online. It has never been easier for Pennsylvanians to respond online, by phone, or by mail.

The Census questionnaire is simple and confidential, with questions that include your name, address, sex, race, ethnicity, age, and whether you own or rent your home. The Census Bureau will never ask about your citizenship status, or for sensitive information like your social security number, bank accounts, or payments/donations. The Census Bureau will never reach out to you on behalf of a political party. Your responses to the Census are protected by law and cannot be shared with, or used by, any other government agencies. Answers cannot be used for law enforcement purposes or to determine eligibility for government benefits or immigration enforcement.

The United States Constitution requires a Census count once every 10 years and counts every person living in the United States once and only once. The results of the 2020 Census will help provide fair representation when determining congressional districts, policy, decision-making, and distribution of billions of dollars in federal funding that impacts the daily lives of Pennsylvanians over the next 10 years.

The Northampton County Association of Township Officials (NCATO) awards a scholarship to a qualifying participant of a Second Class Township. This year the Board has decided to raise the scholarship to \$2,000. If you live in Lower Saucon Township or Hellertown and have a child who is a senior and will be graduating this year, please click on the following link to see the qualifications: www.lowersaucontownship.org/pdf/ncatoscholar.pdf . Click on the following link for the scholarship application: www.lowersaucontownship.org/pdf/ncatoapplication.pdf . You must submit your application and required materials no later than August 3, 2020.

The tax filing date for the Earned Income Tax (EIT) has been extended to July 15, 2020. Click on the following link to find out more: <https://www.keystonecollects.com>

Update from Hellertown Area Library:

On their website at <https://www.hellertownlibrary.org/> on the front page is a link to Overdrive which patrons can use to borrow eBooks and eAudiobooks. There are also links for Power Library and Power Kids that offer a variety of online resources.

There are lists of resources on the website, as well. <https://www.hellertownlibrary.org/eresources.html> has links for eresources that they offer all the time. These are all free with a library membership. These include Academic Search, BookFLIX, Cypress Resume, E-Books from EBSCO, The Morning Call, and Newsbank, and more. They also have

a list of temporarily free resources, primarily for children and education, that are available to anyone at https://www.hellertownlibrary.org/eresources-for-learning-and-fun-at-home.html?fbclid=IwAR09b1GqzzHiGuCWHd8J_O3tjWcN5ZP7ViUnDeVHZP1CnHswptLItARpXs

For those residents of Lower Saucon and Hellertown that do not have a library card, they are offering a temporary eCard at <https://www.hellertownlibrary.org/elibrary-card-sign-up.html> . They will email applicants a patron number that will allow access to all electronic resources as long as we are closed. After they reopen, the patron will have two weeks to stop into HAL to convert the number to a full privilege card.

For more information about the U.S. Census, visit the PA Census website at <https://www.pa.gov/census/>

Join our email list to receive timely notifications of announcements, events, cancellations, and much more. Click on the following link to sign up: www.lowersaucontownship.org/elist.html

For up-to-date information, go to our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/lowersaucon/> or our website at: <http://lowersaucontownship.org/index.html>