

For Immediate Release:

Update Tuesday, March 31, 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 working remotely, with a rotating shift working in the office answering phones, processing mail and addressing emergencies as they arise. 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 will be limited to emergency calls and any other issues that arise. If you have a concern, please contact 610-865-3291 and leave a message.

Due to the Township building is closed to the public, the Wednesday, April 1, 2020 Council meeting will be conducted via Zoom. The meeting will begin at 7:00 p.m. If you would like to submit a comment in writing, please email them to info@lowersaucontownship.org by 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, April 1, 2020.

To attend via Zoom use the following link:

<https://zoom.us/j/827030572?pwd=MHhTVWxwDaUx1aWs0UG8zcnBnbIE0QT09>

Meeting ID: 827 030 572

Password: 2302

To Dial by your location:

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)
+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)
+1 253 215 8782 US
+1 301 715 8592 US
+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)
+1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)

Meeting ID: 827 030 572

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

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.

As COVID-19 cases continue to grow and the state continues to seek relief to save lives and stop the spread of COVID-19, today Governor Tom Wolf and Secretary of Health Dr. Rachel Levine revised their “Stay at Home” orders to include Carbon, Cumberland, Dauphin and Schuylkill counties, bringing the state total to 26 counties under a stay-at-home order which now include: Allegheny, Beaver, Berks, Bucks, Butler, Carbon, Centre, Chester, Cumberland, Dauphin, Delaware, Erie, Lackawanna, Lancaster, Lehigh, Luzerne, Monroe, Montgomery, Northampton, Philadelphia, Pike, Schuylkill, Washington, Wayne, Westmoreland and York counties.

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 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>

The Paper Shredding Event that was scheduled at the Township for Saturday, April 4, 2020 has been cancelled. 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 Cooks Creek Watershed roadside cleanup that was scheduled for Saturday, April 4, 2020, has been cancelled due to social distancing measures in place to slow the spread of coronavirus. We will let you know if the event can be rescheduled. In the meantime, if you wish, you can cleanup the roadside in your neighborhood and place bags at the triangle at the east side of Springtown at the intersection of 412 and 212. Just send us an email letting us know at info@cooks creekpa.org

The [Lehigh Valley Chamber](http://www.lehighvalleychamber.org) 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-SaoUH54JQLYrpDGVY_z-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.
- May 26 to sign up to vote by mail ballot: 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.

On Monday, March 30, 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

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>