

# MARPLE TOWNSHIP

# Winter 2023 NEWS



## BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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	<b>Ward 2</b> Robert Knapp 610-353-1835 rknapp@marpletwp.com
	<b>Ward 3</b> Robert Fortebuono 610-353-5457 rfortebuono@marpletwp.com
	<b>Ward 4</b> John J. Lucas jlucas@marpletwp.com
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	<b>Ward 6</b> Michael K. Molinaro 610-353-4710 mmolinaro@marpletwp.com
	<b>Ward 7</b> Daniel D. Leefson, Vice President 610-353-4093 dleefson@marpletwp.com

## Inside This Issue

Township Directory.....	3	Broomall Fire Company — 100 Years.....	13
Township Manager's Message.....	4	Police Chief Message.....	14
Veteran's Park Expansion .....	6	Marple Library News .....	14
Finance News .....	6	Stormwater Management.....	16
Emergency Notification System .....	6	Flood Insurance & Sewer Backups .....	16
Public Works Winter Reminders.....	8	Tree Commission Message .....	18
School District Highlights .....	12		



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 Superintendent of Police  
 610-356-1500  
 graeff@marplepolice.com  
 Therese Staquet, Treasurer  
 610-356-4040 x552

**IMPORTANT CONTACT INFORMATION**

**Township Administration Building**  
 227 S. Sproul Road  
 Broomall, PA 19008-2391  
 610-356-4040  
 www.marpletwp.com

**Township Police**  
 1001 Sussex Boulevard  
 Broomall, PA 19008  
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**Marple Public Library**  
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 610-356-1510  
 www.marplelibrary.org

**Broomall Fire Company**  
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**Marple Ambulance Corps.**  
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**Marple Newtown School District**  
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 www.mnsd.org

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**District Justice David Lang, Esq.**  
 (Wards 2,5,6 & 7)  
 4655 W. Chester Pike  
 Newtown Sq., PA 19073  
 610-356-7430

**District Justice Robert D'Agostino**  
 (Wards 1,3 & 4)  
 796 Parkway Blvd.  
 Broomall, PA 19008  
 610-338-2550

**Leisure Services/Recreation**  
 20 Media Line Road  
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# TOWNSHIP MANAGER'S MESSAGE



Dear Township Resident,

It certainly does not seem like it, but another year has passed us by, and the past few months have been a busy time for the Township as the Board of Commissioners and staff worked through the details required for the 2023 Annual Budget. While the Budget process is a short-term by nature and only speaks to a specific 12-month period, Marple Township has consistently structured the budget around long-range planning which looks to provide services in the most efficient and cost-effective manner possible. The Township 2023 budget is the financial blueprint for the policy decisions which will be implemented in the upcoming fiscal year. It is the most important instrument the Board of Commissioners and Management has for establishing control over cost and directing revenues. Budget decisions determine the level and quality of government services, which in turn, guide our community's future. We have focused a great deal of time on restructuring the delivery of services to our community while rebuilding the Township infrastructure and finances. I am happy to report Marple will again have a zero (0) real estate tax increase for fiscal year 2023. Although there is still a lot of work to do, we are proud of the substantial progress we have made. Our expense operations are as lean as they have ever been.

The goal of the FY/2023 budget is to operate within the financial means of the community while maintaining essential levels of service and investing in infrastructure which will enable the Township government to meet the service needs of the future. Like previous years, this proposed budget represents a continuation of the Board of Commissioners' and Management's commitment to building and investing in a high-quality community that effectively:

- Provides a broad range of public safety and community services,
- Maintains the Township's roads, parks, and infrastructure,
- Protects the natural environment,
- Maintains the vibrant set of recreational assets and services our residents enjoy

Over the past three years, we have initiated innovative programs and services that have eliminated several thousand dollars from the operating budget, while enhancing services and becoming a greener friendly community. Management is committed to delivering these services at the lowest responsible costs we can. Department spending continues to be on everyone's radar and is constantly evaluated for cost reduction and opportunities for increased efficiency. Cost containment is a consistent discipline along all Township departments and the 2023 budget certainly continues the constraint on spending. Yet, like any other organization, public or private, we have fixed costs and quality services to deliver.

One of our most note-worthy accomplishments is the inter-municipal cooperation we enjoy with our neighbors. Marple Township, Haverford Township, Newtown Square, and Upper Darby Township share along with us on several efforts including the yearly road resurfacing program, joint purchase for fuel and road salt and brine applications. I am proud to say that Haverford, Marple and Upper Darby Townships continue to be the only communities providing in-house road brining and we are excited about this new and growing partnership. The Administration and staff remain steadfast in our desire to find ways to operate more efficiently and economically and to continue offering the highest level of quality services. We will not deviate from these goals, and the 2023 budget provides a prudent and sound plan to achieve these objectives.



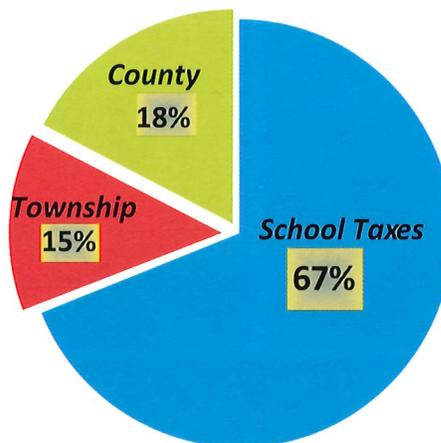
This is also a busy time of year for our Township personnel, with the collection and disposal of over 2,000 tons of leaves and preparing for the upcoming winter and snow. Our Public Works staff has completed all the necessary preparation and we are fully stocked with over 800 tons of salt which can easily handle five major snowstorms. We have contracts in place to receive additional rock salt and additional supplies on an ongoing basis throughout the winter season to prevent any shortages.

The crews have 18 trucks that are dispatched to handle over 80 miles of Township and State roads throughout our community. We maintain an excellent working relationship with our Haverford and Upper Townships and continue to be the only communities in Delaware County that pre-treat our roadways with salt brine solution. This collaborative relationship that started with Haverford Township continues to save on cost and provides safer road travel for our residents.

Please be assured that the Board of Commissioners, Administration and Staff members are here to assist you. If at any time you have any questions, comments, or suggestions, please don't hesitate to contact us. Have a safe and enjoyable winter season.

Sincerely,  
Larry Gentile  
Township Manager

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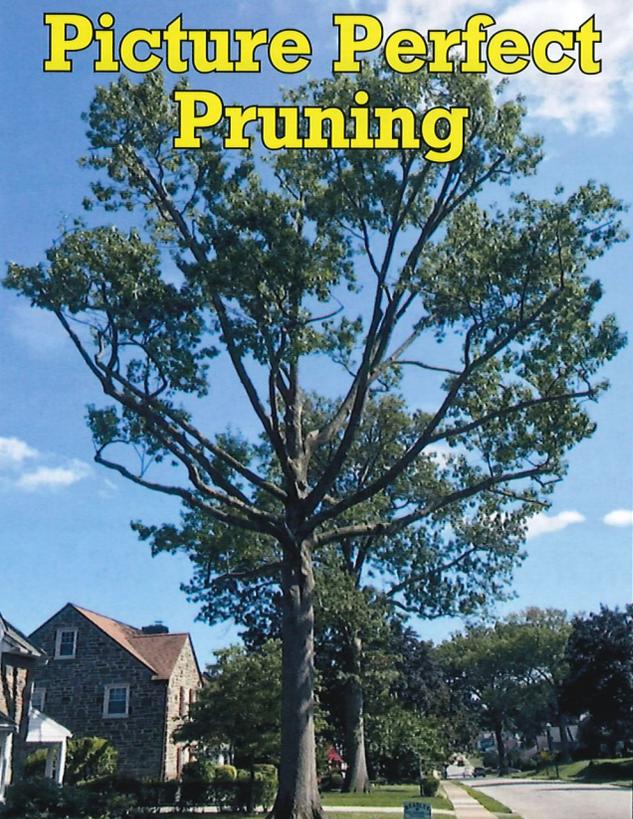
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# VETERANS PARK EXPANSION

The Township is grateful to the Broomall Rotary for their continued support towards our park improvement plan. I am also pleased to announce Marple Township was awarded an additional \$250,000 that will fund the new comfort stations that will be constructed in the next few months. Construction for the new Rest room/comfort station should start sometime this spring and be ready for the summer. A new adult exercise area will also be started soon and ready for late spring. Finally — additional parking will be constructed.



## FINANCE NEWS

We are pleased to inform you that Christine McMenemy has joined our team as the new Director of Finance effective Monday, December 19, 2022. She is replacing our current Director, Ed O'Lone who will be retiring on January 31, 2023, after over 20 years of dedicated service. Ed will spend the next 6 weeks transitioning his job responsibilities and duties over to Christine.

Back in May of this year, the Township began a lengthy and exhaustive search for a qualified candidate with skill sets needed

to lead and manage the financial operation of Marple's \$30M annual budget. Christine was our choice.

Over the past 5 years, Christine has been employed at a local accounting firm providing finance and accounting services to several local municipalities. She brings to the table a solid understanding of local government finance which includes budgeting, external reporting, cash management, and debt management.

In addition, Christine was employed for several years in the Controller's Office of

Delaware County in Media as a Supervisor of Internal Audit.

Christine earned a B.S. degree in Accounting and Finance as well as a master's degree in Business Administration with a specialization in MIS (Management Information Systems) from LaSalle University.

We want to officially welcome Christine to our team, and we look forward to a wonderful partnership and a successful career here at our great Township which serves some 24,000 residents.

## EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION SYSTEM

I would also like to remind residents about the importance of subscribing to the Townships Emergency Notification System. It is an essential service that provides information from our emergency management personnel so our community can be prepared for unexpected emergencies. In the event of an emergency that affects Marple Township, a subscriber who has provided us with their home and/or cell phone number(s) will be contacted via a live or pre-recorded

voice message about the nature of the event as well as proper response actions that the public should undertake. This service is provided by the Delaware County Emergency Notification System (DELCO ALERT), a strategic voice messaging system. Although the Township has provided Delco Alert with a general database of Marple Township home and business phone numbers, all residents are urged to subscribe to ensure that they receive proper emergency voice notifications.

To subscribe: <http://www.co.delaware.pa.us/delcoready/delcoalert.html>

Once again, our number one goal is public service and we see it as an honor and privilege to provide it to you. Should you ever need to talk with me personally, please feel free to contact me by telephone at (610) 356-4040.

Sincerley,  
Larry Gentile  
Township Manager

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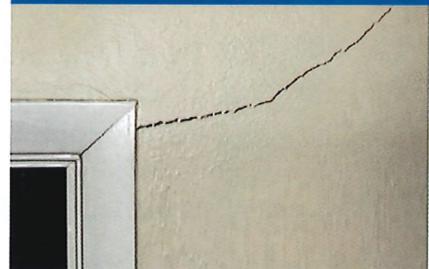
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# PUBLIC WORKS

## Snow Removal Information

The Public Works staff are preparing for the Winter Season, and we are already fully stocked with 800 tons of salt which can easily handle several major snowstorms.

Winter maintenance is a critical and difficult task, and motorists are partners in making this season a safe one by always

thinking safety first and be sure that they are giving plenty of room to our operators and other motorists. We have contracts in place to receive additional road salt and additional supplies on an ongoing basis throughout the winter season to prevent any shortages. The Public Works staff have 18 trucks that are dispatched to handle all our Township and State roads throughout our community.



**The primary function of the Public Works crews is plowing, and the Township's goal is to first open one lane of traffic in each direction on every road, then return and plow the snow back to the curb, exposing the storm inlets.**

## Clearing Streets and Sidewalks

Property owners are responsible for clearing snow, sleet, and ice from the sidewalks in front of their property within 24 hours after a storm and must at all times keep said sidewalks free and clear of snow, slush and ice. Under Section 285-60 of the Marple Township Code, it is unlawful for any property owner, resident, contractor, agent or employee to shovel, plow, discharge or otherwise place snow removed from a private property into any street, roadway, sidewalk or alley within Marple Township. This ordinance is strictly enforced.

## Fire Hydrants

If you have a fire hydrant on your property, please clear the snow away from the area around it, leaving the markers intact. This will assist firefighters in the event of an emergency.



## More Winter Reminders:

- ❄ Do not drive unless it is necessary.
- ❄ Keep winter driving aids (blanket, shovel, boots, etc.) in the trunk of your car.
- ❄ When possible, remove vehicles from the street to enable road crews to efficiently plow and clear streets.
- ❄ Remove snow, ice and slush from sidewalks including handicap ramps within 24 hours after the snow has stopped falling.
- ❄ Plowing operations begin after more than 2" accumulation and freezing temperatures which indicate no natural melting will occur.
- ❄ Clear vehicle completely of snow and ice before driving.
- ❄ Pile snow from sidewalks and driveways on lawns, not in the street.
- ❄ Residents are responsible for clearing snow around mailboxes.
- ❄ Basketball hoops are not permitted to be located within the right-of-way and must be removed from the roadway.
- ❄ Private plowing crews should haul snow from properties if it cannot be piled safely.
- ❄ Do not push snow onto the street or onto neighboring properties.
- ❄ Clear fire hydrants of snow as soon as possible.

## Winter Deicing Tips for Residents



Excess salt and other deicing chemicals can harm aquatic life in our streams and impact drinking water supplies. This winter, you can help by following these environmentally-friendly snow removal practices:

Shovel snow before it turns to ice to limit the need for deicing chemicals like rock salt.

Shovel snow into permeable surfaces including gently sloping and level landscape and grassy areas so as the snow melts it will soak into the ground rather than flow directly into a nearby storm drain or stream.

***If you must use deicing chemicals, follow these suggestions:***

Control application of chemical deicers and avoid over application.

Limit chemical applications near environmentally-sensitive areas including springs, streams, ponds, wetlands, and water supply areas and sensitive landscape and vegetation.

After snowmelt, sweep up residues, including sand, to prevent it from washing into storm drains and streams.

## A smart way to shovel your drive

How to reduce the possibility of getting a huge pile of snow in your driveway opening when snowplows clear your street:



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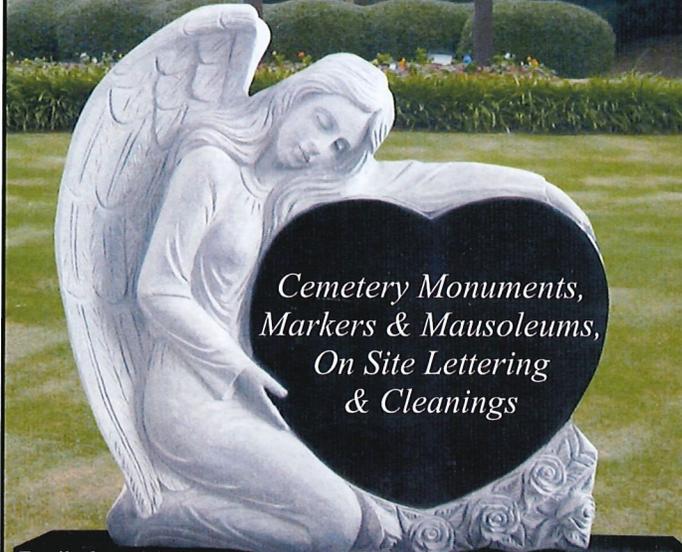
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## Marple Newtown High School Points of Pride



### STEM Academy



MNHS is the only high school in Delaware County that offers a STEM Academy

### Scholarships Awarded

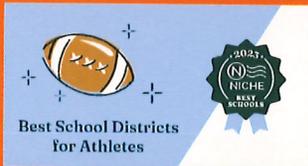


Marple Newtown High School Class of 2022 graduates were awarded \$15,832,684 in scholarships for higher education.



### MNHS Athletics

Niche Ranking  
 #1 in Delaware County  
 #12 out of 127 in Philadelphia Area  
 #22 out of 496 in Pennsylvania  
 #467 out of 11,579 in Nation



### Post Graduate Plans



Academic (4 and 2 year colleges)	247
Trade/Technical School	5
Employment	16
Unknown	5
Undecided	6

### Performing Arts

In 2022, Marple Newtown was named a "Best Community for Music Education" by the NAMM Foundation. It also received the award in 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2019, 2020 and 2021.



### Advanced Placement 25 Courses

- |                             |                         |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| Biology                     | Music Theory            |
| Calculus AB                 | Physics                 |
| Calculus BC                 | Psychology              |
| Chemistry                   | Spanish Lang. & Culture |
| Computer Science A          | Statistics              |
| Computer Science Principals | Stem Seminar            |
| 2 Dimensional Art & Design  | Stem Research           |
| English Language & Comp.    | Studio Art-3D           |
| English Literature & Comp.  | Studio Art-Digital      |
| Environmental Science       | Studio Art-Draw         |
| French Language & Culture   | Studio Art-Photo        |
| Human Geography             | U.S. Gov. & Politics    |
| Macro/Micro Economics       | U.S. History            |
| Modern European History     | World History           |

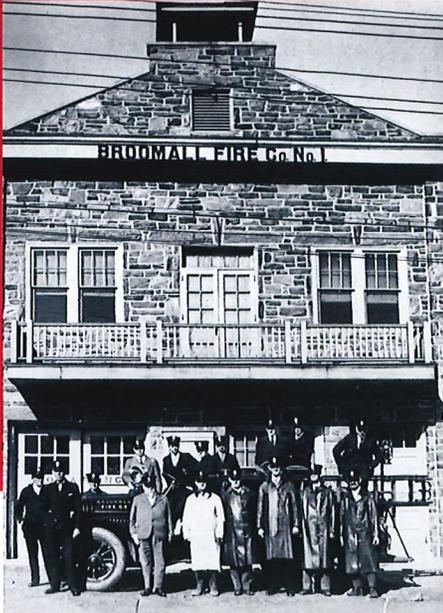
### A Sampling of College Acceptances for the Class of 2022

Albright College, Arcadia University, Bloomsburg University, Boston University, Cabrini College, Case Western Reserve University, Chestnut Hill College, Clemson University, Cornell University, Delaware County Community College, Delaware Valley University, Drexel University, Duke University, Duquesne University, Elizabethtown College, Florida Atlantic University, Florida Gulf Coast University, Full Sail University, Gettysburg College, Gwynedd Mercy University, Hofstra University, Immaculata University, Indiana University of Pennsylvania, James Madison University, Jefferson University, Kutztown University, Lafayette College, Lock Haven University, Lynn University, Loyola University, Marist College, McDaniel College, Millersville University, Monroe College, Moore College of Art, Muhlenberg College, Neumann University, Northampton Community College, Nova Southeastern University, Ohio University, Pace University, Pennsylvania State University, Princeton University, Purdue University, Saint Joseph's University, Salisbury University, Shippensburg University, South Mountain Community College, Stockton University, Temple University, Towson University, University College Dublin Ireland, University of the Arts, University of Delaware, University of Massachusetts, University of Maryland, University of Pennsylvania, University of Pittsburgh, University of Sciences, University of Scranton, University of South Carolina, University of Tampa, Ursinus College, Valencia College, Villanova

### College in the High School



Marple Newtown High School students have the opportunity to enroll in college courses and earn up to six college credits. These classes are taught during the school day, at the high school, and taught by a MNHS teacher who has been vetted by the college.



# Broomall Fire Company is celebrating 100 years of service to Marple Township.

**W**e've grown from our humble beginnings in a small two-story stone building to a new state-of-the-art facility at the corner of Malin Road and West Chester Pike.

The critical fire and rescue services we provide would never have been possible without the continued support from you, our loyal supporters. While we receive some financial support from Marple Township, it is not enough to cover our operating expenses. There are no paid firefighters in our township. We are a 100% volunteer organization. We respond to emergencies with efficiency and speed because we care – not because we are being paid to do the job!

**Every dollar donated helps to fund the following:**

- Life-saving equipment and gear
- Continuous training and safety initiatives
- Facilities upkeep, firefighting supplies and materials
- Fire apparatus insurance, fuel, maintenance and service
- Community outreach and education

**Thank you for your past support as we celebrate our 100th year of service.**

*Look for our 2023 Fund Drive mailer in February.*



**The Dedicated Men and Women of the Broomall Fire Company**  
*Volunteers Serving Marple Township Since 1923*

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# POLICE DEPARTMENT NEWS

**Happy New Year** from all of us here at the Marple Township Police Department! May it be filled with happiness, productivity, and fulfillment. No matter what you do or where you go this year, always remember to take a moment to do the small things that will help deter, and maybe even prevent, criminals from doing their job:

**ALWAYS** lock your car doors and keep valuables out of sight.

**ALWAYS** lock the doors and windows of your home, even when you're there.

**ALWAYS** be aware of your surroundings. Keep your eyes up and your head on a gentle swivel. Phones really are the best accomplices for criminals because they occupy their victims' senses and cause them to distract themselves! Criminals are

focused on their surroundings and prefer victims who won't make them work. And though you will probably never even know it, doing all these things will discourage and prevent crimes of opportunity and drastically reduce your chances of being a victim.

Please continue to help us help you. Report crimes in progress, things or people that don't seem right, and quality of life issues. Our officers are busy and proactive but cannot see and know all. Call 911, stop in our HQ to speak with an officer, or sidle up to one in the coffee line. When you do, you can bet the officer will be the kind you would expect from MTPD - friendly, professional, and knowledgeable. From traffic enforcement to criminal activity to being active in local sports teams, our officers are proactive, engaged, & involved.

The men and women of the Marple Township Police Department remain committed to the highest degree of public service, training, and education. The goals of this police department are identical to those of the Marple community — a safe, secure Township where families, schools, and businesses can thrive together.

Find resources and stay informed about what we're doing and what's going on in town by subscribing to our website <https://delaware.crimewatchpa.com/marpletwppd>. I also encourage you to follow us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram (@marplepolice). Thank you for your continued support!

Brandon M. Graeff  
Chief of Police



## LIBRARY NEWS



### A New Year with the Marple Library

Did you make any new year resolutions? Looking for ideas to save money but still be entertained? Keep Marple Library in mind this winter. All you need is a library card.

### Planning to be more active?

*Check out our Fit Kits:*

We have kits ready for you to check out and do in the comfort of your home. Titles include yoga, home gym, Fit Over 50 and more. Did we mention Zumba?

*Check out our Programs for Adults:*

We have great programs planned for adults coming this year. Along with our very popular T'ai Chi Chih — be on the lookout for our new Chair Yoga classes.

*Check out our Fitness DVDs:*

We have DVDs to inspire and support you on a new exercise routine. Find the program that fits your schedule and lifestyle.

### Planning to get out more?

*Programs for all ages:*

Parents can join us for our Babble & Brew series, adults can enjoy a movie during First Friday Flicks or learn new board games, and teens can battle goblins and orcs during our Role-Playing Clubs. These programs and more are planned.

*Relax with our Community Puzzle:*

Come by and enjoy the benefits of jigsaw puzzles (reduced anxiety, increased patience, boosted problem-solving skills, and enhanced brain functioning) while contributing to this joint effort.

### Planning to save more?

*Save on Museum Passes:*

We have museum passes available for local attractions like Elmwood Park Zoo, Brandywine Conservancy & Museum of Art, Academy of Natural Sciences and more.

*Save on that hot new Book:*

Why pay for that much sought after, new title? We have pre-loaded Kindles with best sellers available at no cost to you.

*Save on movies, audiobooks and video games:*

Why pay for streaming or search for which platform has what you want to see? Come

by and check out new titles, classics, audiobooks, TV series sets and more. For the teen gamers out there, come by and check out our gaming collection with video games for Xbox and Switch.

**THANK YOU** to the Marple Township community for your generous support. Through your response and contributions to our fundraising efforts we are able to offer these high-quality programs and services.

Please visit <https://marplelibrary.org/> for details and to learn about new programs and services.



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# STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

## 3 SIMPLE ACTIONS you can take for cleaner water in your community



**Sewer backups and flooding** can cause devastating property damage and are not covered by standard homeowners' insurance policies. The majority of these claims are the responsibility of the property owner. Sewage from sanitary sewer lines occasionally back up into houses through drain pipes. These backups not only cause extensive water damage that is difficult and expensive to repair, but also create health hazards.

**Marple Township is not responsible for damages caused by sewers, drains and sump pumps except under limited/special circumstances provided by the Pennsylvania Political Subdivision Tort Claim Act.**

Property owners must be aware that they are responsible for the maintenance and repair of their private sewer lateral from their dwelling to and including its connection to the Township sewer main. Owners should also review their Flood and Sewer Backup insurance coverage with their agent/insurance companies in order to properly protect their personal property.

**Please pay particular attention to the following coverages:**



### **Coverage for Sewers, Drains and Sump Pumps:**

This valuable coverage is **not** included under your standard homeowner's policy, But can be purchased by endorsement by a rider for an additional premium.



### **Flood Coverage:**

Flood coverage is **not** included under your homeowner's policy. However, flood insurance is available under the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) and can be obtained through your insurance agent or broker.

**THE TOWNSHIP DOES NOT PROVIDE FLOOD INSURANCE.**



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# TREE COMMISSION NEWS

## A TREEmendous Year

It is no surprise that the Township of Marple has been designated a Tree City USA by the National Arbor Day Foundation annually for 15 years. Through those years the Marple Tree Commission (MTC) has been enthusiastically planting and caring for our trees in both public areas and on the private property of residents who have participated in our Re-Leaf Marple program.

## Tree Planting

Each year we acquire young trees from the state Growing Greener program distributed by the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society. We also have other sources of tree donations to our nursery such as local nurseries and residents. Planting involves correctly digging a suitable hole, setting the tree at the correct depth, covering the root ball with soil, then spreading the area with mulch. Staking the trunk and installing tubing to protect the tree bark from deer and string trimmer damage, and watering completes the job. Our 20 plus volunteers have planted 45 trees at various public sites this year. Most recently we have established 25 trees at Green Bank Farms Park as part of a restoration project at the site.

## Caring for Trees

Also, with the help of four volunteers we examine and maintain trees throughout the Township and monitor the health of those already established in parks and other public spaces year-round. Each volunteer is assigned a park or other site to visit monthly and examine both the existing trees and those we have recently planted. They check for possible broken branches, hazardous conditions, vandalism, broken support stakes and insect damage. They report their information at the MTC monthly meetings, and the problems are addressed.

## Celebrating Trees

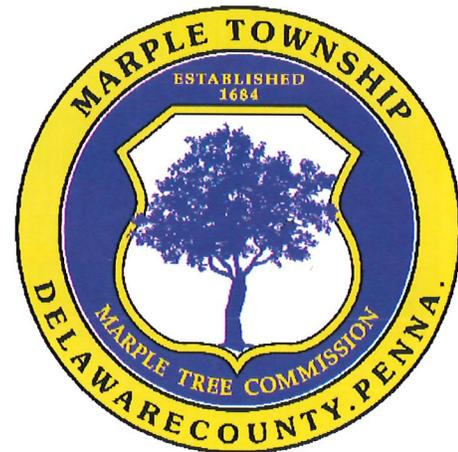
Every spring the Marple Tree Commission hosts an Arbor Day event to recognize the beauty and importance of trees in our community. Township officials and residents are invited to attend the event which is held at a public site and features a demonstration on how to plant a tree correctly. This year we planted a Purpleblow Maple 'Ruby Sunset' at Veterans Park.

We are looking forward to this spring when the tree planting season will begin again. Since the MTC was established it is estimated that we have planted over 500

trees in Marple. We expect to continue to establish and protect our suburban forest with enthusiasm.

## NOTICE:

Our Re-Leaf Marple program, which offers residents the opportunity to acquire a tree and learn how to plant it on their property, has been very successful. After 10 years it has facilitated the planting of more than 350 trees on residential properties. We will be working this spring to improve the program.



## Can you Speak Tree Language? Take The Quiz!

It is important for homeowners to arrange for periodic visits from a certified arborist to examine all the trees on their property. Be sure and do this when you are moving into a new home so you are aware of any tree problems that need addressing. If you have not ever had an arborist inspection where you have been living, then arrange for one now. Definitely schedule regular follow-up checkups every 3 to 5 years to assure that any structural, disease or insect problems are identified and addressed before they seriously damage your trees and landscape.

When arborists visit, if possible, plan to accompany them as they tour your property. This is a valuable opportunity to learn about tree care, potential problems, water and soil issues and a lot of other conditions in your yard both positive and negative that may affect the health of your trees. You can also learn the names of the tree species in your yard, their age and what they are contributing to the health and beauty of your home. The arborist will likely provide a report for future reference.

If an arborist visit identifies problems that need attention, such as damaged roots, dying branches or hazardous trees, insect infestation, improper location, etc. you will be given a report and a recommended treatment program. Will you understand "tree language?" This matching quiz will test your "arbor vocabulary."

- |                                 |  |
|---------------------------------|--|
| ___ 1. fastigate                | A. foliage drops in fall; regrows in spring        |
| ___ 2. canopy                   | B. the angle formed at junction of two branches    |
| ___ 3. evergreen                | C. tree branches hang downward                     |
| ___ 4. crown                    | D. base of tree trunk where roots emerge           |
| ___ 5. deciduous                | E. branches grow upward tightly                    |
| ___ 6. inflorescence            | F. flowers grouped in bunches on branches          |
| ___ 7. cultivar                 | G. foliage remains on tree year round              |
| ___ 8. crotch                   | H. overall branch height and spread above trunk    |
| ___ 9. root flare<br>(or trunk) | I. an improved version of a plant species          |
| ___ 10. pendulous               | J. the top of a tree where the branches spread out |

(Answers — 1:E, 2:J, 3:G, 4:H, 5:A, 6:F, 7:I, 8:B, 9:D, 10:C)



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