

# London Grove Township Gazette

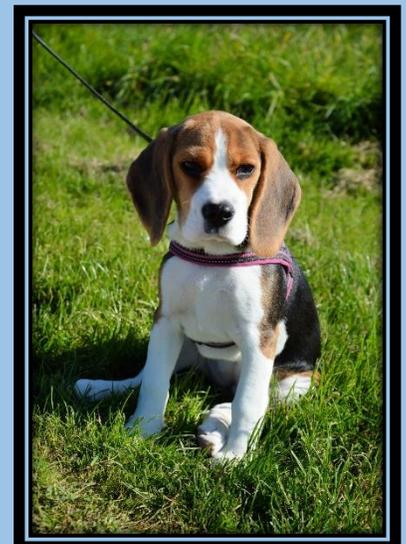
Summer 2024

By: Jordon Hoopes

## Summer Reminders

As we enjoy the beautiful weather, it is important to keep in mind our pets. Below are a few good summer reminders to keep you and your furry friends enjoying the outdoors all summer long.

- 1) **Car Windows:** Pets can overheat very easily due to their inability to sweat. Even a “quick trip” into the grocery store while your pet waits in the car is dangerous. If you absolutely have to, make sure that the air conditioning is on and they have a controlled temperature so they do not overheat.
- 2) **Hot Surfaces:** When taking your dog for a walk, make sure the street or sidewalk isn’t too hot. Their pads can burn the same way our feet would. An easy way to check this is to place your palm on the surface. If it is uncomfortable for you after 5 seconds, it is too hot for your pet as well. An easy way around this is to take walks earlier in the day or later in the evening when the heat isn’t so harsh.
- 3) **Flea & Tick Prevention:** Just as we are more prone to ticks in the summertime, so are our furry friends. Take care to avoid high grass where ticks may lay in wait. It is also a good idea to make sure your pet is up to date on their flea and tick medication.
- 4) **Water:** Dogs cannot sweat as well as humans, and some not at all. We can help keep them cool by providing plenty of water.



# Code Department News

By: Tim Shannon & Brian Elwood

**Did you know?** The London Grove Township Code Department would like to remind you about 2 important permits!

- 1) As summer fast approaches, it is the perfect time to get outside. Everyone loves the sight of a good food truck when you are hungry and need something on the go. However, make sure that you have the proper permit. Our “Application for Mobile Food Facility Permit” is a \$52 permit that is good for the entire year. Food trucks can be an amazing way to engage directly with the community and bring business somewhere others haven’t. The application can be found on our website,

[www.londongrove.org](http://www.londongrove.org),

**Community tools → Permit Applications & Forms.**



- 2) We have many people in our community who rent out properties, or have tenants in some form. These individuals need to submit an application twice a year listing any tenants (over 18 years of age) and their addresses. Submissions are due within 30 days of June 30<sup>th</sup>, and within 30 days of December 31<sup>st</sup> each year. These are mandatory for anyone renting a property, whether it is occupied or vacant. The form can be found under **Community Tools → Permit Applications and Forms → “Semi-Annual Rental Occupancy Report.”**



**DONATE BLOOD. HELP SAVE LIVES.**

**Blood Drive**  
**Londongrove Township**

**Township Building - Conference Room A**  
**372 Rose Hill Road**  
**West Grove, PA 19390**

**Tuesday, July 9, 2024**  
**10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.**

Please call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit [RedCrossBlood.org](https://RedCrossBlood.org) and enter: londongrove to schedule an appointment.

Maximize your blood donation. Help more patients.

If you are an eligible type O, B - or A - donor, consider making a Power Red donation.  
Red blood cells are the most commonly transfused blood component.

Streamline your donation experience and save up to 15 minutes by visiting [RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass](https://RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass) to complete your pre-donation reading and health history questions on the day of your appointment.

**Get a NEW Red Cross umbrella when you come to give  
blood July 1 to July 14, while supplies last!**

1-800-RED CROSS | [RedCrossBlood.org](https://RedCrossBlood.org) | Download the Blood Donor App

# News from the Assistant Township Manager,

**Dawn Maciejczyk**

## Meet your Elected Public Officials (Part 2 of 2)

In part 1 of this series we gave a brief synopsis of what a Board of Supervisors is responsible for and how many elected officials are on the Board. We met the three members that were elected in 2024 in Part 1. This time, we will dig into the “job” of an elected supervisor a little more and get to know the remaining two members of the Board.

Township residents elect supervisors to carry out the day-to-day responsibilities of improving their community. Township supervisors reflect the values of the people they serve.

By design, the structure of township government is flexible. It allows supervisors to determine what services best meet the needs of their constituents. The board of supervisors is directly accessible to residents with no layers of bureaucracy in between. A board of five supervisors, elected at large for six-year terms, governs each township. As the township’s legislative body, this board enacts ordinances, adopts budgets, and levies taxes.

Townships are the oldest form of organized government in the United States. Years ago, township supervisors were mainly in charge of maintaining roads and bridges. Today, their role has expanded to include public safety, land use, and environmental protection, among many other responsibilities. And as state and federal mandates increase, these public servants assume an ever greater role in meeting these demands while providing needed services and facilities for their residents.

The misconception exists that township officials are reluctant to look beyond their borders, but that’s simply not true. Intergovernmental cooperation is thriving in Pennsylvania, a fact revealed in a 2009 PSATS survey, which found that 83 percent of responding townships are participating in cooperative initiatives with other governments. These efforts save time and money, which are both scarce commodities in townships.

According to the survey, townships are working together on everything from providing ambulance services to zoning. At the top of the list, however, are equipment sharing, joint purchasing, road maintenance, and fire protection.

Cooperation isn’t something that townships do from time to time. Instead, it has become a normal business practice across the state in communities of all sizes. The survey results demonstrate that township officials and staff are creative when it comes to delivering the services their residents want and need on increasingly tight budgets. Township officials know what works best for their communities and are taking

the initiative and working with their neighbors as they look for ways to improve services and reduce costs. (Source: the Pennsylvania State Association of Township Officials).

Let's meet your Officials.

In part 1 we met the three members that were elected this last November, Mr. David Connors, Mr. Michael Summerfield and Mrs. Megan Mraz. In part 2 we will meet the remaining two members who make up our London Grove Township Board of Supervisors.



Mr. Stephen Zurl- Term 1/1/2022-12/31/2025

Mr. Zurl was appointed to the Board of Supervisors in 2017. He then ran for election to finish out that term and was elected for a four year term till 2021. Mr. Zurl ran for the Board again in 2022 and was elected to fill another unexpired four year term till 2025. Mr. Zurl has been a local resident for 31 years. He has served on the LGT Municipal Authority Board in the past and the present.

Some things you may not know about Mr. Zurl...

When he's not working as an IT professional, Steve breaks away from his desk to spend as much time as he can outdoors, in every season. Steve loves fishing and motorcycling, and simply exploring. Steve was awarded the American Motorcyclist Association's Outstanding Road Rider award in 2018. On his motorcycle, Steve has seen much of America, and parts of Canada. As he states, "Spending time outdoors on the less-beaten paths gives one an appreciation of nature, fresh air, and clean water. That appreciation has a significant impact on the township decisions I make as a Supervisor."

Mrs. Christina Fanning- Term 1/1/2022-12/31/2027



Mrs. Fanning was appointed to the Board of Supervisors in 2020 to finish out an unexpired term. She then ran for election and was elected in 2022 for a six year term expiring in 2027. Mrs. Fanning also serves on the London Grove Township Planning Commission.

Some things you may not know about Mrs. Fanning...

While building her career in the pharmaceutical industry as a sales leader she developed a passion for diverse investment strategies, including real estate. She has lived in London Grove Township since 1998. When not serving the community as part of the Board of supervisors and member of the Planning commission, Mrs. Fanning enjoys traveling the globe, skiing, working out at Cross Fit Kennett Square and cheering on our local sports teams! GO Birds! Fun fact she is trying to visit all of countries National Parks. She is a proud military wife. She and her husband Joe raised 2 amazing daughters in this ideal community.

*As a reminder the Board of Supervisors meets the second Wednesday of every month at 7:00 p.m. at the Township building, 372 Rose Hill Road, West Grove, PA 19390.*

# Inniscrone Golf Course News!

The 2024 golf season has gotten off to a great start and with that so has Inniscrone Golf Club's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration. Monday's special rate of \$25 to walk and \$35 to ride has been a big success. This rate will continue every Monday through October excluding holidays. Make sure to book a tee time ahead of time as these days fill up quickly. While here make sure to pick up some 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary merchandise or regular merchandise if that is more your style. We are also going to have a 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary outing on Thursday September 26<sup>th</sup> with proceeds going to Friends of the Parks of London Grove Township. Sign-ups will be out shortly with details of the event. Make sure to sign up as a foursome or an individual and support London Grove parks.

This year Chef Michael and his company Mother Nature's Sun is operating out of the kitchen in the upstairs pro shop. He is doing his own catering and specializes in crab cakes so make sure to check out his website at [MotherNatureSun.net](http://MotherNatureSun.net). Along with his own business he is making wraps for the golf course which can be purchased at the pro shop for during the round or after. This partnership has been going very well and we are very excited for the future with Mother Nature's Sun.

With all that is going on at Inniscrone and the golf course in great shape, do not miss out on playing this season. If you have plans for outing or would just like to rent the upstairs room for birthday parties, showers, engagement parties, or any other event please give us a call at (484) 720-8842. For any event at Inniscrone, Chef Michael would be happy to give you a price for your catering needs. As always make sure to book your tee time ahead of time by calling the pro shop at (484) 720-8842 or go online at [inniscronegolfclub.com](http://inniscronegolfclub.com). We look forward to seeing you in 2024.

Article by: Chris Ward, Golf Course Manager



# The African Union Church of London Grove Township



Step back in time with a visit to The African Union Church of London Grove Township (also Solomons Temple Union American Methodist Church) at 816 N. Guernsey Road (the intersection of North Guernsey and West London Grove Roads). What remains of the church is the old stone foundation and a small cemetery. This was one of only six African American cemeteries in Chester County in the 1800's. It was said that John Bell, after escaping slavery and becoming a wealthy man, bought the property in 1849. He then donated some of his land to the Trustees of The African Union Church which built the church (also called Solomon's Temple). The church property includes (not housed) a small cemetery as well. While London Grove Township does all of the field maintenance for the property, many of the headstones have been buried, removed, or fallen in disrepair. There are currently 19 headstones that can be seen with possibly 140 that may be covered up.

One interesting grave of note is John Tillman's - born a slave in Delaware in 1827. John Tillman was part of the Underground Railroad and eventually became free in Pennsylvania. Upon the breakout of the Civil War, John Tillman enlisted in the army for the 127th U.S. Colored Infantry Regiment. One may locate his gravestone in the cemetery. More information about Tillman can be found in his biography, "Life and Travels of John W. Tillman"



In an exciting development for the Township, the Cadets of Girl Scout Troop 4136 are proposing a renovation project for the cemetery. They have proposed a restoration of many of the current and buried headstones, historical signage, flowers, and even a bench to overlook the cemetery. They will be looking for volunteers for this ambitious project so stay tuned for more information on how you can help!



Also, if there are any township residents interested in joining the historical commission as a volunteer, we would love to hear from you. Please visit the township website: [WWW.londongrove.org](http://WWW.londongrove.org) and scroll down to "The Historical Commission" to view some of the interesting tasks we support. If local history is of interest, please contact the township office @ 610-345-0100, for a volunteer application.

We have so much rich history to celebrate in our Township and this beautiful area we call home.

- London Grove Township Historical Commission

# News from Open Space

Chester County and London Grove Township stand out as trailblazers in Pennsylvania when it comes to conserving land for future generations. Open space preservation comes in various forms, including privately conserved land for conservation or agriculture, municipally owned parks and preserves, nonprofit land trusts acquiring land for public use, and homeowner association open space surrounding residential areas.



In 2021, Chester County boasted over 30% of its land designated as protected open space. By December 31, 2023, an additional 4,000 acres had been conserved, bringing the total to 151,000 acres or 31.1% of the county. The Chester County Planning Commission meticulously tracks these advancements through the Protected Open Space Tracking system (POST), with 1,540 acres added in 2023 alone, maintaining a steady pace of conservation efforts.

London Grove Township has played a pivotal role in contributing to these figures. In 2022, approximately 52 acres of private land were safeguarded in perpetuity. Building upon this momentum, collaborations between the township and county with several landowners are expected to yield an additional 100+ acres of protected open space in 2024, with notable projects including a 10-acre expansion of Goddard Park and the imminent acquisition of what will be a critical 3-acre parcel for trail connectivity.



An innovative approach employed by the township involved the fee simple purchase of a 15-acre property from a homeowner intending to sell. By intervening before the property entered the public market, both the township and the homeowner benefited. The township acquired fee simple ownership of the parcel, enabling the placement of a conservation easement to protect the land indefinitely, while the homeowner avoided the complexities of public listings, the hassle of showings and real estate commissions.

Now, with the conservation easement officially recorded, the township plans to reintroduce the property to the market, offering it to another homeowner with the added benefit of conservation assurance.

For landowners considering selling properties of 10 acres or more, London Grove Township's Open Space Committee presents an opportunity to explore this innovative conservation strategy. Properties are assessed at fair market value by licensed appraisers, ensuring equitable transactions that benefit both the community and individual landowners.

**Article by: David Sweet**



## HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE (HHW) IS SPECIAL – LET'S BE SAFE!

Patti Lynn, Recycling Resources Manager, CCSWA

If you are Trash Smart, then you know that household hazardous waste (HHW) includes the old gasoline, pesticides, chemicals, and batteries that accumulate in our basements, sheds, and garages. These materials need to be handled differently than other trash and recyclables in our homes, for the safety of people and our environment. **“Hiding” hazardous materials in trash and recycling can be especially dangerous!**

These troublesome incidents happened in our region:

- On a household trash route, a Phoenixville Public Works employee was sprayed with motor oil that exploded inside the truck during compaction.
- A lithium battery is suspected of starting a fire in a recycling processing facility in York County, causing major disruption in the region for a year.
- At regional HHW collection events, our contractor has dealt with incidents of people hiding strictly unacceptable, and potentially dangerous, material in their otherwise acceptable materials.
- At one HHW event, a resident brought acid in an unsecured container which leaked during transport, damaging the truck bed, and potentially causing injury to people.

**Chester County is home to two landfills, Lanchester and SECCRA. Neither can accept hazardous waste. So, what to do? Register for a HHW event.** Bring items such as fluorescent bulbs, rechargeable batteries, oil-based paint and solvents, gasoline, pool chemicals, and pesticides to a regional household hazardous waste (HHW) collection event. Chester County participates in this program with Bucks, Delaware, Montgomery, and Philadelphia counties.

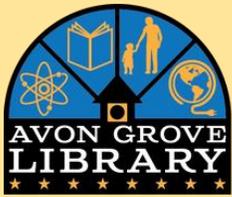
- Residents of any of these five counties can use the HHW program in any of these five counties.
- In Chester County, **you must register online** <https://www.chestercountyswa.org/> for a drive-through event. Registering helps us manage capacity, supplies, and staffing needs. And it reduces wait times for the public.
- Click [here](#) for all the HHW information.

Nearly 200,000 pounds of materials are safely managed through this program annually.

**If you are planning to move or clean out a home, make a plan for your HHW NOW!**

**If in doubt, check it out! Stay safe and stay Trash Smart!**

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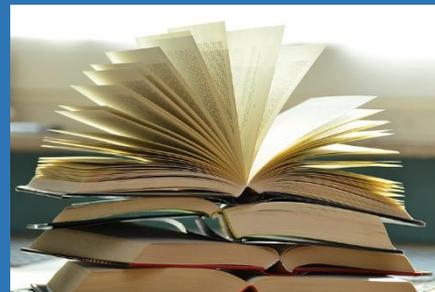
# Avon Grove Library News

School is almost out and summer is about to begin, but the Avon Grove Library is still busy with fun activities and programs! Not only do we have a great lineup of events for all ages this summer, we are adding an exciting service to our library and reaching an incredible milestone!

The Avon Grove Library is hosting a free summer reading program, “Adventure Begins”, kicking off **Wednesday, June 5th**. This program is available to all ages, with fun, engaging, and age appropriate materials and activities. Our programs foster a lifelong love for books and learning, while also keeping our minds fresh and active during summer vacation. Additionally, by participating in “Adventure Begins”, you have the ability to win one of our four amazing raffle baskets! Please pick up your summer reading materials at the Avon Grove Library anytime from **June 5th to August 3rd**. See our website for more details regarding registration.

From cooking lessons to puppet shows, the library has so many great children's programs to keep your kids entertained this summer. On **June 18th** and **July 16th** from 1:30-2:30pm, join us in the Children Activity Room for Cooks and Books with Miss Lydia! We will be reading *Pancakes, Pancakes!* by Eric Carle and then learning how to cook our very own pancakes. On **June 26th**, we have some very exciting guests at the library...puppets! Join us at 10:30am in the Community Meeting Room for Tuckers' Tales Puppet Show, which includes entertaining performances of *The Tale of Peter Rabbit*, *The Tale of Benjamin Bunny*, and *The Tale of Mrs. Tittlemouse*. Children and parents alike will enjoy the irresistible style, clever scenery, and the unique costumes of Tuckers' Tales Puppet Show! For kids who enjoy STEM, they're in luck! We are holding STEM SPARK: Animal Mysteries on **July 1st** at 11:00am. We will investigate biofacts and use our observation skills to analyze clues left in nature. Kids will improve their understanding of nature and how animals adapt to different environments while having fun at the same time! You can register for the events listed as well as see age requirements and our other children's programs on our website.

We are proud to announce the addition of a Passport Acceptance Service department coming soon to the Avon Grove Library. We will be a passport acceptance facility, which allows us to process passport applications on behalf of the US Department of State. Patrons will be able to apply for a new US Passport at our library and then receive it in the mail. Be sure to check our website and social media for updates regarding this exciting addition!

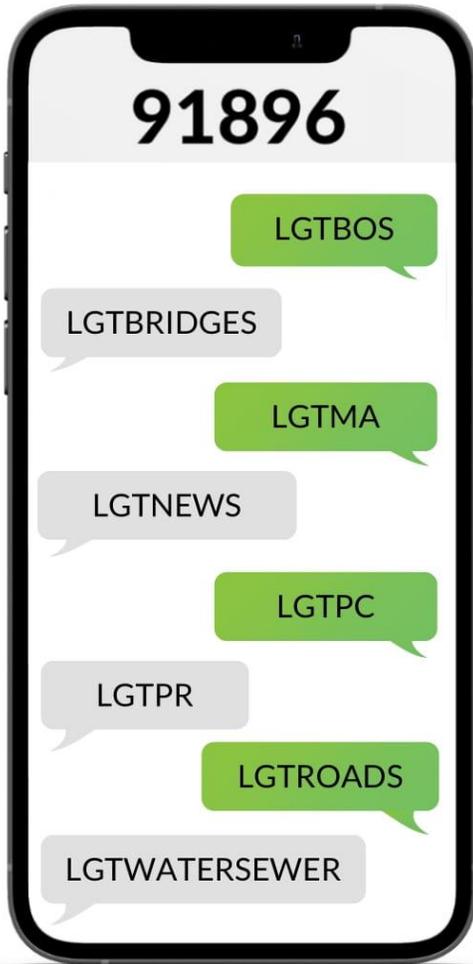


What started out as a little book collection in Joseph Pyle's store 150 years ago has blossomed into a 40,000-item collection at the Avon Grove Library. That is right, we are celebrating our 150th anniversary this year! To commemorate this wonderful milestone, we will be holding a community event and exhibit later in the year. Please see our website and social media pages for updates. In the meantime, check out our page on our website titled “History” to learn more about how our amazing library came to be!

More details can be found at [www.avongrovelibrary.org](http://www.avongrovelibrary.org) or by calling 610-869-2004.

Article by: Cecelia Figueroa, Avon Grove Library Marketing Coordinator

# ! Receive London Grove Alerts



## London Grove Township

Sign up to receive notifications via text message.  
Opt-in to any of the following programs:

- ✓ Agenda Notices: **LGTBOS**
- ✓ Bridge Updates: **LGTBRIDGES**
- ✓ Municipal Authority: **LGTM**A
- ✓ Newsletters: **LGTNEWS**
- ✓ Planning Commission: **LGTPC**
- ✓ Parks & Rec: **LGTPR**
- ✓ Road Closure Notices: **LGTROADS**
- ✓ Water/Sewer Notifications: **LGTWATERSEWER**

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## Get Started:

Text in one of the above keywords to: **91896**

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## What to Expect:

- After the initial keyword is sent, you will receive a confirmation message asking you to reply YES to verify opt-in.
- You may receive up to 4 text messages a month with a notification for each alert category opted-in to.
- Message and data rates may apply. Check with your carrier for more details.

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## How to Opt-Out:

- Text STOP at any time to remove yourself from the notification list.

View terms and privacy policy info at: [textmygov.com/opt-in-terms-conditions](https://textmygov.com/opt-in-terms-conditions)  
Msg & Data rates apply. Msg frequency varies. Text HELP for contact info.

Powered by

**TextMyGov**™



## Township Departments and Staff

London Grove Township consists of many different departments, buildings, and staff to keep day to day operations running smoothly. Below is a breakdown of the buildings, hours of operation, contact information, and staff.

### **Administration Building:**

The administration building is located at 372 Rose Hill Road, West Grove, PA 19390. Hours of Operation are from 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Monday – Friday. Our main phone number is 610-345-0100, Fax 610-345-0455.

**Public Works Building:** The public works building is located at 374 Rose Hill Road, West Grove, PA 19390. Hours of operation are from 6:30 a.m. – Dark, 7 days a week. Main phone #: 484-577-2700.

### **Inniscrone Golf Course:**

The Inniscrone golf course is located at 15 Athelone Way, Avondale, PA 19311. Hours of operation are from 6:00 a.m. – Dark, 7 days a week. Main phone #: 484-577-2700.

### **Administration Department:**

***Township Manager/ Zoning Officer:*** Ken Battin  
***Assistant Township Manager:*** Dawn Maciejczyk  
***Township Secretary:*** Dawn Maciejczyk  
***Receptionist/Admin. Assistant:*** Melissa Morris-Sparklin

### **Codes Department:**

***Director of Codes and Life Safety:*** Brian Elwood  
***Fire Marshal:*** Tim Shannon

### **Finance Department:**

***Treasurer:*** Tracy Kellett  
***Utility Billing/Codes Assistant:*** Jordon Hoopes

### **Public Works Building:**

***Public Works Director:*** Shane Kinsey  
***Public Works Foreman:*** Nate Hughes  
***Water/Wastewater Operator:*** Andrew Brzezicki  
***Laborers:***  
Joey Swift  
Mike Hughes  
Shaun Dickerson  
Brenden McNair  
Ryan Yerkes  
Pat Lawler

### **Inniscrone Golf Club:**

***Greens Manager:*** Chris Newdeck  
***Golf Course Director:*** Chris Ward  
***Pro Shop Manager:*** Jesse Connors

## **2024 Public Meeting Schedule**

**Municipal Authority Board Meetings:** 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of every other month at 7:00 p.m.

**Board of Supervisors Meetings:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of every month at 7:00 p.m.

**Historical Commission Meetings:** 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of the month at 1:00 p.m.

**Open Space Committee Meetings:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month at 7:00 p.m.

**Parks and Recreation Meetings:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month at 7:00 p.m.

**Planning Commission Meetings:** Last Wednesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. (Except December, these are the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month)

**Zoning Hearing Board Meetings:** As Necessary.

\*All meetings will happen on the day above as listed unless it is a holiday or other announcements have been made. All meetings are listed on the Township Website Calendar\*