

# London Grove Township Gazette

Spring 2024

By: Jordon Hoopes

With Spring so close at hand. You may be looking to do some outdoor activities with your family. As the cold of winter slowly gives way to the warmth and longer days we all enjoy, time outside quickly becomes a favorite of many people. Those of us with a green thumb but no backyard space or flowerbeds of our own don't need to look jealously at our neighbors flowerbeds any longer! Goddard Park has 29 community garden beds available to be rented out on a first come first served basis. These beds are open to residents (\$31) and non-residents (\$52) alike. They are a beautiful way to get out in the sunshine and add to the beauty of our park. The beds are located just next to the main parking lot. They border the dog park, so you can enjoy watching dogs play in the sun while you garden and maybe even meet someone new in our community.

The process to reserve a bed is simple. Just email your application to the garden liaison, Mary Giordano at [gardens@londongrove.org](mailto:gardens@londongrove.org). Once Mary has approved your application, bring it to the township building at 372 Rosehill Road, West Grove, PA 19390, and if there are plots available, we will get you set up! Written below are some important dates & information about the garden beds to keep in mind.

- ❖ **Resident** fees are \$31.00, **Non-resident** fees are \$51.00.
- ❖ Plots will be open to residents from **March 1<sup>st</sup> - March 31<sup>st</sup>**
- ❖ Plots will be open to non-residents from **April 1<sup>st</sup>** onward.
- ❖ All garden plot applications must be sent to Mary for approval before being brought to the Township.

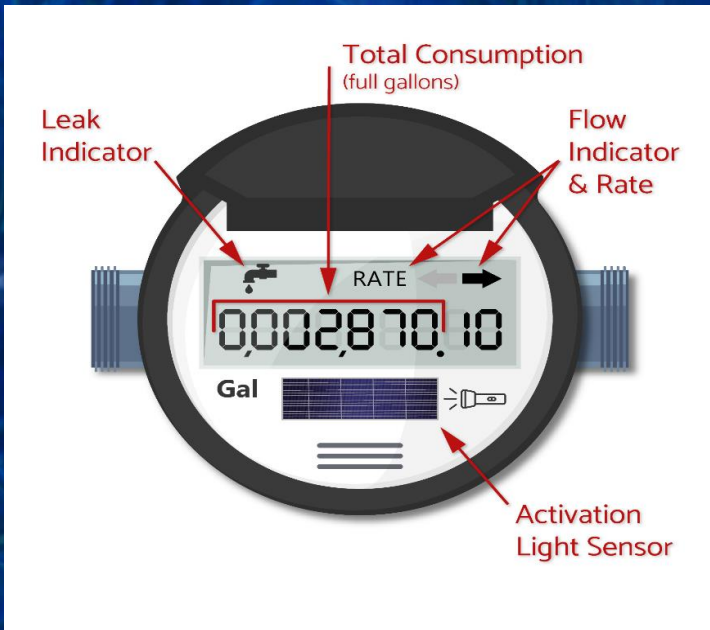


Article By: Melissa Morris-Sparklin

## Digital Smart Meters

The main difference and advantage of smart meters is that they can be “read” remotely, so meter-reading personnel don’t need to come onto your property. However, even though their appearance is different, digital meters are read in the same way as analog meters.

When you first open the meter’s lid, the display will likely be *off*, but you can activate it by shining a bright flashlight or mobile phone light on its sensor.



## Comparing Meter Readings to Billing Amounts

When comparing readings you take from your meter, and amounts stated on your utility bill, keep in mind the dates of each reading may be different. Discrepancies will depend on the number of days in question and your consumption during this period.

If your reading is significantly **higher** than that of your bill, you should first think about what could have caused a recent increase in consumption. If there is nothing, consider doing a leak check.

If your reading is significantly **lower** than that of your bill, please contact Customer Service for help.

Water meters are exceptionally reliable and rarely the cause of consumption and billing discrepancies. They are designed to under-register or stop registering water flow if they malfunction.

## Using Your Water Meter to Detect Leaks



Your water meter provides a simple way to determine if you have leaks in your plumbing, and it only requires a little time and effort. An example of an abnormal reading can be seen above.

## Digital Meters

1. Turn off all faucets and water-using appliances, such as fridge icemakers, washing machines, and dishwashers.
2. Activate the meter's display by shining a flashlight or mobile phone light at its face.
3. Wait a few seconds for the display to fully activate. It will then display the meter reading.
4. If water is flowing, the display will also flash between the reading and the RATE of flow in gallons per minute (gpm). If there is any flow during your test, you likely have a leak, and you will know how big it is.
5. Digital meters also record water flow over the previous 24 hours, in 15-minute intervals. If continuous flow is detected (unusual in most homes), it could be a leak. This is shown with a tap or water droplet symbol.
  1. Flashing Symbol – shows water was flowing during most 15-minute intervals in the last 24 hrs. This is not necessarily a leak, but does indicate a high frequency of flow.
  2. Solid Symbol – shows water was flowing continuously over the last 24 hours, with a high likelihood of a leak.

## Determine if the Leak is Inside or Outside the Home

Once you have determined you have a leak, you can go one-step further to find if the leak is within your home's plumbing, or in the Service Line, that connects your home to the public water main. These are often the source of leaks as they run underground and are susceptible to damage.

1. Shut off the main water valve to your home. This valve should only be turned by hand. If it is stuck, you should have it inspected by a plumber, as forcing it could damage it or cause a rupture.
2. Repeat the steps above depending on the type of meter you have.
3. If a change in reading IS detected, you have a leak in the Service Line outside of the home.
4. If a change in reading IS NOT detected, your leak is somewhere inside the home.
5. If you cannot find and remedy the leak yourself, you should call a professional plumber, as *leaks never get better*.



# News from Avon Grove Library



At this time of writing the first day of spring is a month away, and one very prominent event coming our way will be the total solar eclipse of the sun on Monday April 8<sup>th</sup>. While we see many lunar eclipses (partial and less frequent), a total solar eclipse is a very rare event, and the next such eclipse will not happen for another 20 years (it also will not be near our area).

We are very pleased to announce that we will have several events to help the community get the most from this unique event. Don Miller, NASA Solar System Ambassador will give two presentations for students on **Saturday March 16<sup>th</sup>** on Preparing for the Solar Eclipse. Mr. Miller will talk about what an eclipse is, when it will happen, and how to watch it safely. This will be for grades 3-5 at 10:30am, with another talk at noon for grades 6 and up. On **March 20<sup>th</sup>** at 6:30pm, Mr. Miller will return for another pre-eclipse talk, for adults during which he will share the same information as well as his experiences observing the 2017 total eclipse from out west. At both events, approved solar eclipse glasses will be available for pickup. We will also have eclipse glasses available for pickup at the circulation desk at any time during opening hours, please call us for more information.



And on the subject of astronomy, we have received a generous donation of an Orion Star Blast telescope from the Chester County Astronomy Society Astronomical Society which we will be making available for loan. Announcements with more details will be posted on our web site and through social media.

One further event of note is the continuation of our popular Local History Speakers Series, with Mark DeWitt Lanyon discussing his new book "Lost: Chester County Pennsylvania" on **Thursday March 14<sup>th</sup>** at 6:30pm.

More details on these, and all of our programs and services can be found on the monthly calendar found at [www.avongrovelibrary.org](http://www.avongrovelibrary.org) or by calling 610-869-2004.

**Article by: David Payne, Avon Grove Library Director**

American Red Cross

London Grove  
Township  
Blood Drive

Tuesday, July 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024

10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

London Grove Township Building

[www.redcrossblood.org/make-donation](http://www.redcrossblood.org/make-donation)

For helpful tips and to reserve your appointment time click the link above. Search for sponsor code: **londongrove** to schedule an appointment.

For Donor Eligibility Guidelines: Call 1-800- REDCROSS

Please contact [tedra.farrell@redcross.org](mailto:tedra.farrell@redcross.org) if you experience issues.

London Grove Township  
Building

372 Rose Hill Road

West Grove, PA 19390

610-345-0100

# News from the Assistant Township Manager, Dawn Maciejczyk

## Meet Your Elected Public Officials (Part 1 of 2)

Ever wonder what the Board of Supervisors is or what they do? How many members they have? Or how long their terms are? Here is a brief synopsis of what they do and who they are made up of. This two part series will introduce you to each member of the Board of Supervisors and what their ultimate job is as your elected official.

The Board of Supervisors is the legislative body directly responsible to the voters of London Grove Township. They are a 5 member Board that is made up of residents that are elected by the residents of London Grove Township. Each Board member serves a 6 year term. They set the policies that the staff are responsible for implementing. The Board also makes the majority of decisions regarding operations and issues before the Township, such as the annual budget and development plan approvals/denials. But there is more that goes into this thankless position than that. For example, the Board meets at least once a month to review and discuss the daily operations of the Township. Each meeting a report from all of the Township Departments is reviewed and discussed. A financial report from the Treasurer is submitted reviewed and then a motion is made to approve the report. Some of the other items that your elected officials handle are Conditional Use Hearings, Special Exception Hearings, and Open Space Hearings. The above just names a few of the many responsibilities of the members of the Board.

**Let's meet your Officials!**

**Mr. David Connors**-Term -1/1/24-12/31/29



Mr. Connors was appointed to fill a seat on the Board in 2010 and was elected to fill his first term in November 2011. He has served two consecutive terms thus far. Mr. Connors was just elected for a third term on November 7, 2023.

### **Some things you may not know about David Connors...**

Mr. Connors is a co-owner of a family run business. He has lived in West Grove with his wife and two children for the last 20 years. When Mr. Connors is not busy running a business or handling township business he enjoys spending time with his family and friends as well as a good game of golf.

**Mr. Michael Summerfield**-Term- 1/1/24-12/31/29

Mr. Summerfield was elected to the Board of Supervisors on November 7, 2023.

**Some things you may not know about Mr. Summerfield..**

Mr. Summerfield and his family recently relocated from the Hudson Valley north of New York City. He now works remotely for a Public Policy and Economic research firm in NYC. No commute and lower cost of living means that when Mr. Summerfield is not busy with work or handling township business he enjoys cycling, hiking and family time. The family recently adopted their new dog Rocco- a standard poodle that loves Goddard Park.

Mr. Summerfield works as a director of sales and marketing. He and his family moved to Avondale in 2022. When Mr. Summerfield is not busy with work or handling township business he enjoys cycling, hiking, and family time. The family recently adopted their new dog Rocco- a standard poodle that loves Goddard Park.



**Mrs. Megan Mraz**- Term-1/1/24-12/31/25



Mrs. Mraz was appointed to fill an unexpired term on the Board in August 2023. She was elected to fill that seat for the remainder of the term on November 7, 2023.

**Some things you may not know about Mrs. Mraz...**

Mrs. Mraz has been a nurse for the last 23 years having worked at Dupont Hospital for children, now Nemours, for 17 of those years. Since 2005 Mrs. Mraz has been a faculty member in the Department of Nursing at West Chester University. She has lived in Southern Chester County since 1989 and the last 16 of those years in London Grove Township. When Mrs. Mraz is not working or serving on the Board, she enjoys spending time with her family. She has been married for 17 years to her husband, Tom, and has three amazing, beautiful daughters. She enjoys spending time watching them in karate and swimming lessons and spending time on vacation up in the Poconos or at Disney!

In the next quarters newsletter (Summer) we will continue with Part 2. Meeting our current Board of Supervisors, Mrs. Christina Fanning and Mr. Stephen Zurl. 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.

# Fire Marshall News

As winter gives way to spring and we all start getting outside again, many of us will want to clean up our yards and get some landscaping done. Some may even think that a fire is an easy way to get rid of some of the brush from the winter such as fallen sticks, branches, and leaves. It is important to bear in mind however that burning leaves and



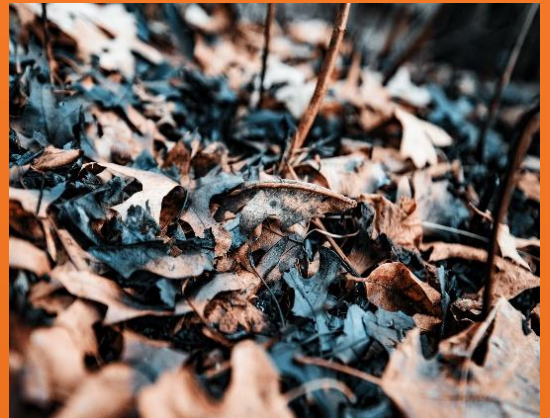
brush is not allowed in London Grove Township, or safe for you and your neighbors. We have all seen leaves getting blown around by a stiff breeze. It isn't a stretch to imagine how easily the wind could pick up your burning leaves and deposit those embers on a neighbor's yard or roof, causing damage and possibly even starting a new fire. One that would be far more serious than some simple

brush in your own yard. A pile of leaves can also begin to burn out of control quite quickly, resulting in a fire that you weren't prepared to manage.

While this may seem unfair to some, there is a completely free solution. At no cost to London Grove Township residents, leaves and brush can be disposed of safely at the SECCRA Landfill located at 219 Street Road, West Grove, PA 19390. There is only 1 simple requirement to use this service. Come to the London Grove Township building located at 372 Rosehill Road and ask for a free Brush Disposal Permit. All that you need to obtain this permit is your driver's license.

The following rules for the landfill are also displayed on the permit itself.

- 1) All brush materials must be from your property, and you must be a resident of London Grove Township.
- 2) A maximum of 500 pounds per vehicle load will be permitted in a single trip.
- 3) No large stumps or logs over 6" in diameter.
- 4) All loads must be securely covered (tarpred).
- 5) Vehicle/ Trailer must be cleaned out completely before leaving SECCRA.



For more information or questions feel free to call the township office (610-345-0100), or go on SECCRA's website at [www.seccra.org](http://www.seccra.org).



# LONDON GROVE TOWNSHIP COMMEMORATES OUR 300 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

The Historical Commission's energies were directed to supporting the Parks and Recreation Board efforts to host a London Grove 300th celebration throughout the summer and into autumn of 2023. This fun-filled celebration occurred on a windy Saturday in late October of 2023 on the grounds of Goddard Park. We were focused on commemorating the historical and cultural aspects, and memorializing the day, and directed our efforts to the following three initiatives:

## Participation from Local Historians

We invited local historians:

**Mr. David Porter** (local historian)

**Mr. Steve Dowdall** (local historian)

**Mr. David Payne** (Avon Grove Library)

**Mr. Scott Steele** (West Grove Museum director)

**Mr. Bruce Mowday** (local author and retired news reporter)

**Mr. Doug Green and Ms. Jane Yeksigian** (London Grove Township Historical Commission)

The participants generously contributed their personal time and displayed artifacts and books from their collections. Celebrants benefited from the diverse knowledge of the historians and engaged in lively discussions about the backgrounds of local distinguished citizens, township history, and information on the array of antique tools, books, and photos on display. Their contributions were a fantastic addition to the 300<sup>th</sup>!

It was an uplifting day spent socializing with our community, supporting our historical education and embracing our township's history.

## Presenting a Commemorative Plaque

Two of our local elected officials, Ms. Marion Moskowitz (Chester County Commissioner) and Mr. John Lawrence (Congressional district 13 representative) served as the invited key note speakers to commemorate the day. Ms. Moskowitz read the Chester County Citation commemorating London Grove Township's 300<sup>th</sup>, and Mr. Lawrence presented a tricentennial plaque to the Chairman of the London Grove Township Board of Supervisors, Mr. Stephen Zurl.

Ms. Moskowitz's speech addressed the early history of our township dating back to William Penn and the townships rich Quaker heritage, and Mr. Lawrence eloquently spoke about the origins of the term tricentennial, and associated trivia from other cities and towns across the United States who are among the few communities to observe this milestone. We appreciate this formal recognition of our township's history they shared.

## Engaging our Community Youth

We were challenged with developing a concept, and design for two unique scavenger hunt games tailored to our community. The games were designed to commemorate historical, cultural, agricultural and local knowledge topics. We wanted to ensure the games would be fun for all the young people, and planned games for two different age groups.

After brain-storming the scavenger hunt themes, developing the game questions, rules and parameters, we sought the support of Avon Grove School District student volunteers. The staff and volunteers were timely, efficient, responsive, and friendly, with excellent communication skills. The Avon Grove staff and student volunteer's support was spectacular, and their contributions helped in our game set-up. The volunteers were instrumental in coordinating with the 300<sup>th</sup> vendors to set up our game in their spaces.

Upon explaining the rules and background of the scavenger hunt to our younger group of contestants, they eagerly started the quest to visit the vendor's tents to find the "article" based on the clue/question: "What is a tricentennial?". Similarly, the older age group was asked to provide written responses to historical questions from a list of descriptions and clues. As the 300<sup>th</sup> celebration event neared its close, Mr. Stephen Zurl drew names from each group, and presented the winner(s) with an Amazon gift card.

Article By:

**The London Grove Township  
Historical Commission**

**Doug Green, Mary Schlachter, and  
Jane Yeksigian**



# Inniscrone News Letter

The 2024 golf season is quickly approaching and this season is a special one for Inniscrone Golf Club. In 2024 Inniscrone will be celebrating its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The Gil Hanse designed course was completed and opened in 1999.



Inniscrone was the first of three courses that Gil Hanse has designed in Pennsylvania. The course opened as a private course and in 2009 London Grove Township completed the purchase of Inniscrone.

During the 2024 season we have plans to celebrate the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Every Monday throughout the season we will have a special greens fee rate as a thank you to our customers. On Mondays a round of golf will cost \$25 per player, plus \$10 per player if taking a cart, so make sure to book your tee times in advance. While at the course make sure to pick up your 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary apparel. We will have hats, shirts, and other items that will have a special 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary logo. Also keep an eye out for a 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary outing that we plan to have this season.

The 2024 season will also see improvements made to the golf course. Last year work was done to the inside of the pro shop and we reopened the pro shop to our customers. This year we will start work on the outside of the pro shop to bring it back to its original condition. There are also plans to fix cart paths that are deteriorating on the course. The cart path on hole number 18 from the tee box to the bridge is going to be rerouted in order to reduce the steepness of that path. Much of the cart path on hole 17 is also going to be replaced. Equipment for the maintenance department has been approved so that they have the proper equipment to keep the golf course in excellent shape. Investing capital into Inniscrone will keep the course growing in the right direction.



With all that is going to take place in 2024, we are very excited for the season to get started. If you ever thought about becoming a member at a golf course, please stop by and we can get you information on our many different membership types. Make sure to also inquire about our kids camps during the summer with PGA pro Tim Brown. For tee times visit our website at [Inniscronegolfclub.com](http://Inniscronegolfclub.com) or call the pro shop at (484) 720-8442. We look forward to seeing everyone in 2024.

**Article by: Chris Ward**

# Trash and Recycling Day at SECCRA



These are FREE events for Township residents ONLY. Residence is defined as any dwelling unit used as a place of human habitation, which is not commercial, municipal, institutional, or a community activity. For those items that cannot be recycled at the curbside this event will be Saturday, April 6, 2024 and October 12, 2024 from 1 p.m. till 4 p.m. sharp.

Recycling occurs at SECCRA throughout the year, fees could apply.

By filing out a Brush Disposal Permit, Township residents are able to dump directly at SECCRA Landfill during their normal business hours. This is FREE of charge, offered to residents only. Brush Disposal Permits are available at the Township Office, please bring Photo ID with proof of residency, permits will be issued each calendar year.

## May Not Participate:

- ✓ Businesses
- ✓ Commercial entities
- ✓ Landlords
- ✓ Non-residents
- ✓ Organizations

## Accepted Items:

- ✓ Appliances: refrigerators, washers, dryers, air conditioners, humidifiers, stoves, empty, grills
- ✓ Electronics: computers, monitors, television, stereo equipment, printer, cell phones, DVD players, basically anything that has a circuit board.
- ✓ Automobile Tires: limit 4 per load per residence, large batteries, such as those in automobiles or tractors.
- ✓ Bulky Waste: furniture, mattresses, carpet, doors, windows, etc.
- ✓ Residential 20-pound propane tanks (empty)
- ✓ No materials will be accepted from “clean outs” of residences.

## When:

Saturday, April 6, 2024  
Saturday, October 12, 2024

## Time:

1:00 p.m. -4:00 p.m. SHARP

## Where:

SECCRA Community Landfill  
219 Street Road  
West Grove, PA 19390

# 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/Administrative Assistant:** Jordon Hoopes

## **Codes Department:**

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

## **Finance Department:**

**Treasurer:** Tracy Kellet  
**Utility Billing:** Mellissa Morris

## **Public Works Building:**

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

## **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\*