

LIBERTY TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER



Spring 2023

LETTER FROM MAYOR INSCHO

We have learned a lot as a community in the past few years – what is important, how to adapt, how to juggle many priorities and in some cases, how our technology can be improved. Children doing their schoolwork on-line, adults working from home, attending Zoom and Teams meetings, video chatting with friends and family, all showed just how important it is to stay connected. To that end, I am proud to say that the Township is exploring additional options of internet service providers for our residents. Earlier this year, we approved Planet Network to bring service lines into the township. This will add an option for residents and competition to the existing internet providers in the area such as Comcast and Brightspeed (formerly Century Link.)

Additionally, the Warren County Commissioners are working with the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities and the New Jersey Broadband Access Study Commission to apply for federal funding to enhance networks. This will further benefit residents and businesses in the county in terms of internet connectivity.

We are also working with the County Commissioners in efforts to identify areas in need of better cellular coverage. A survey was conducted, the results of which will help determine where to place additional cell towers that will help not only personal device usage, but also improve reception for public service and emergency responders.

Adding to the infrastructure improvements, Elizabethtown Gas has run natural gas mains along portions of Pequest and Townsbury Roads. Residents interested in hooking up to service, either now or in the future, must contact Elizabethtown right away. The township is requiring the company to resurface the roadway and no street-opening permits will be issued for the next five years.

Our 2023 municipal budget also addressed investments in updated equipment and infrastructure, including two new dump trucks, plows and salt spreaders for the Department of Public Works, upgraded computers for several municipal offices, and the completion of the final section of Free Union Road.

Overall, the Township is good shape. We strive to maintain a steady tax rate, while providing residents a safe and pleasant community. Many thanks to all of the residents, township staff and volunteers who make that happen.

As always, please feel free to reach out to me or any of the Township Committee members should you have any questions or concerns,

Regards, *John Inscho, Mayor*

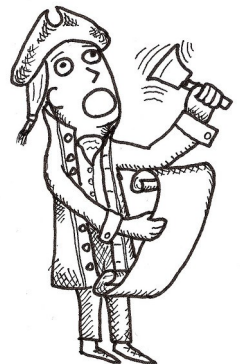
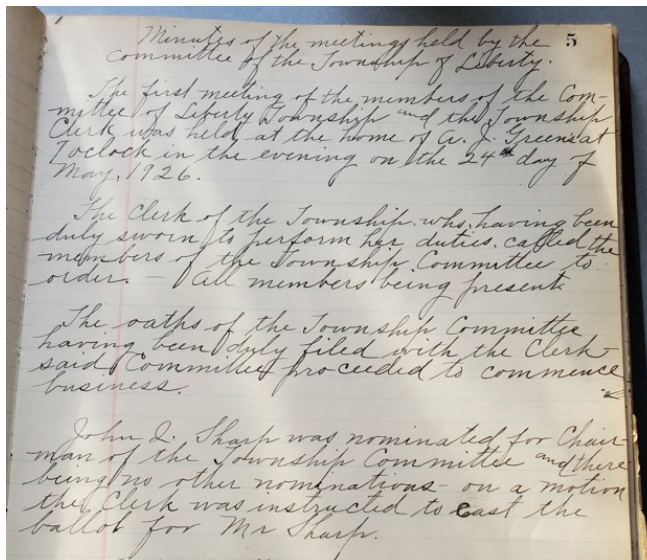
LIBERTY TOWNSHIP CENTENNIAL 2026

“The first meeting of the members of the Committee of Liberty Township and the Township Clerk was held at the home of A.J. Green at 7 o'clock in the evening on the 24th day of May, 1926.”

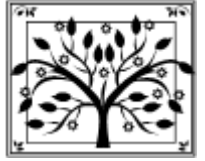
Do you know historical stories of Liberty Township that you can share?

Do you have historical photos or documents of Liberty Township that we may copy?

Please contact the Municipal Clerk's office as we compile information for the Liberty Township Centennial Celebration.



Liberty Twp. Environmental Commission (LTEC)



Greetings in 2023 from the Liberty Township Environmental Commission (LTEC).

Our mission is to provide guidance and education to the public as well as assistance and advice to the Township Committee.

Put a note on your calendar for April 22nd; from 10 am to noon we will again be at the Mountain Lake Pavilion giving away several hundred tree seedlings (pick up your landfill voucher while you are there!).

Later this year, we will be on the Firehouse grounds again for Community Day, with brochures and children's activities.

Near the pavilion, take a stroll over to our wildflower pollinator "Peaceful Garden" (after it blooms). If your focus is on the lake, so is ours! We provide advice to the town on weed control at the beach and boat ramp and some of our members also volunteer with the Mountain Lake Community Association on their water monitoring program.

LTEC meetings are open to the public on the third Thursday of each month, at 7 pm at the Municipal Building. Join us if you can, or check out our pages on the Township website and let us know if you are interested in volunteering.

We are also on Facebook!



Liberty Township Recreation Commission (LTRC)

"The greatness of a community is most accurately measured by the compassionate actions of its members." – *Coretta Scott King*

The LTRC meets every fourth Monday of the month at 6:00 PM at the Municipal Building. The group handles youth sports, adult recreation, and community events. Volunteers and new ideas to promote enrichment of our community and residents are welcomed and encouraged by all.



The LTRC has recently implemented the use of Team Snap, a Team Management System that offers online registration, payments, scheduling, and ease of communication.

Baseball is currently run by Colonial Little League. For more information, please visit their website at coloniallittleleague.org.

Softball is available in Independence and open to surrounding towns.

Spring Soccer is currently underway and registration for Fall Soccer is anticipated for June through July.

Summer Recreation – Registration is now open via Team Snap to Liberty Township residents only from March 1, 2023 through April 15, 2023. Non-resident registration will open on April 16, 2023. The program is a half-day summer camp that runs for 5 weeks from July 3, 2023 through August 4, 2023. Fees are \$200 per child for Liberty Township residents and \$250 for non-residents. Spots are limited. Flyer and online registration information is available on the town website and the LTRC Facebook page.

Mountain Lake Beach: Open mid-June through Labor Day. Beach is FREE. Certified Lifeguards on staff and beach toys available or kids to use. Beach is located at 137 Lakeside Drive West. Mountain Lake provides various recreational opportunities from boating to fishing and swimming. A boat launch is available on Lakeside Drive West and a \$5 fee is imposed to everyone who uses the launch. Envelopes and fee box is located right at the launch site.

The Mountain Lake Pavilion adjacent to the beach and boat launch is available for rent. Please see the town website for more details.

The Liberty Township 1960 population census was 441. In 2020, the census was 2670.

Within Liberty Township are several hamlets; Townsbury, Free Union, Lake Just-It, Mountain Lake and Great Meadows

Residential Clean-Up

Spring Residential Clean-Up is scheduled May 1 - 6, 2023

Fall Residential Clean-Up is scheduled October 9 - 14, 2023

- ◆ A voucher system will be used. Each voucher permits (1) one car, pick-up or small trailer size load to dump at the Warren County Landfill.
- ◆ Vouchers are available, with proof of residency, at the Municipal Building.
- ◆ One voucher shall be issued per residence.
- ◆ An occupying tenant has priority for voucher receipt.
- ◆ Each voucher must contain the raised seal of the municipality to be accepted by the landfill.
- ◆ Vouchers shall not be issued for businesses.
- ◆ No vehicles with commercial plates, and rental trucks or trailers will be accepted
- ◆ Vouchers can be picked up at the Municipal Clerk's office Monday through Friday between 8:30 am and 3:30 pm; and 26 April until 8 pm
- ◆ Vouchers can be picked up 22 April at the Environmental Commission Tree Give-Away program held at the John R Fisher Pavilion from 10 am to 12 pm

Landfill hours are Monday through Friday from 7:00 am to 2:30 pm and Saturday from 7:00 am to 11:00 am. The Landfill is closed on Sunday

The Landfill is open on Monday, 9 October 2023 (Columbus Day)

Liberty Township was
incorporated
25 March 1926



**Clean Up
Days 2023
are scheduled**

**May
1 - 6**

&

**October
9 - 14**

Recycling Plastic in our Community

RECYCLE BEYOND THE BAG

Recycle your household bags & wrap into Trex's Earth-friendly composite decking and railing!

FROM THE STORE

- ✓ Produce bags
- ✓ Store bags
- ✓ Ice bags

FROM YOUR PANTRY

- ✓ Ziploc® & other reclosable bags
- ✓ Cereal box liners
- ✓ Case overwrap
- ✓ Bread bags

FROM YOUR FRONT DOOR

- ✓ Newspaper sleeves
- ✓ Dry cleaning bags
- ✓ Bubble wrap
- ✓ Plastic e-commerce mailers

Plastics must be clean, dry and free of food and organic residue

Plastic is collected in the Liberty Township Municipal Building foyer.

Once we achieve 500 pounds of plastic, we receive a Trex bench.

So far we have assisted in the collection of five benches in our community.

Thank you to our residents and local businesses for your plastic contribution.



Liberty
Township
contains **12**
square miles

2023 Municipal Clerk

After 23 years of dedication, Kevin Lifer has retired as Liberty Township Chief Financial Officer. Thank you Mr. Lifer for your dedication to Liberty Township. He continues to assist Liberty Township as a financial consultant on an as needed basis.

Jennifer Breslin remains our ever diligent Deputy Municipal Clerk and Deputy Municipal Registrar as well as our Chief Financial Officer .

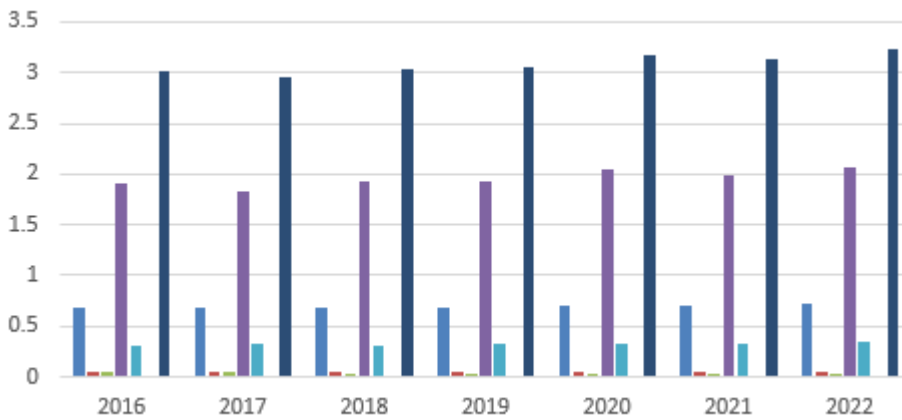
The Municipal Clerk’s Office is open Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:30 am and 3:30 pm. Summer hours (Memorial day through Labor Day) are Monday thru Thursday, 8:30 am to 3:30 pm and Friday, 8:30 am to 12 pm.

2023 Tax Collector

Office hours are Wednesday, 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm in which Cindy is available to take phone calls and emails and Saturday, 9:00 am to 1:00 pm for public walk-in hours.

Tax Rate Data 2016-2022

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
County	0.686	0.688	0.678	0.685	0.696	0.699	0.724
County Library	0.054	0.054	0.055	0.055	0.056	0.056	0.06
County Open Spaces	0.041	0.042	0.031	0.027	0.028	0.022	0.024
School	1.905	1.831	1.927	1.937	2.038	1.991	2.064
Municipal	0.314	0.318	0.317	0.327	0.331	0.337	0.347
Local Open Space	0.019	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.019	0.019	0.019
Total Rate	3.019	2.953	3.028	3.051	3.168	3.124	3.238



Liberty Township is surrounded by six municipalities; Frelinghuysen, Hope, Independence, Oxford, Mansfield and White Townships



2023 Land Use

Land Use Board meetings are open to the public and are held at 7:30 pm on the third Wednesday of the month at the Municipal Building.

The Zoning Officer/Planner has office hours on Wednesday between 3:00 pm and 6:00 pm.

2023 Department of Public Works Programs



The Department of Public Works anticipates a year with some large projects. First will be completion of paving Free Union Road with NJDOT Grant funds. Secondly is the constant monitoring of dead ash trees on municipal road right-of-way's. JCP&L has a tree removal program that is independent of Liberty Township Municipal DPW. Be aware of municipal road right-of-way when snow plowing or vegetative management.

2023 Tax Assessor

Appeal filing deadline is April 1

Anyone contemplating an appeal should contact the Tax Assessor to discuss it first. You must get the appeal forms and instructions from the Warren County Board of Taxation.

Farmland Assessment applications must be submitted by August 1

New Farmland Assessment and Woodland forms will be issued by the Division of Taxation this year. Please don't copy the prior year's form! I encourage all applicants to review their forms with their consulting forester, if they have one or to come and review them with me prior to August 1. I will mail them to all prior applicants as soon as they are available. I anticipate a delay this year due to the new forms.

If you have questions regarding your assessment please contact Penny Hostenstein, Tax Assessor. Office hours are Monday, 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm and first Thursday of month, 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm .

2023 Animal Official

Dog licenses are due during the month of January. A neutered/spayed dog license is \$8.00. A non-neutered dog license is \$11.00. Delinquent fees are imposed effective 1 February at \$5.00 a month per dog. Rabies certification must be valid through 1 November of the licensing year.



Liberty Township Community Day 2023

September 23, 2023
(Rain Date is September 24)

Sponsored by Liberty Township, Mt. Lake Fire Company & Ladies Auxiliary, and Mt. Lake Community Association

There will be amusements, magic shows, food and drinks, amusement games, live music, and of course a fantastic fireworks show at dusk! This event is **FREE** (except food and drinks) and open to all Liberty Township residents, friends and family.

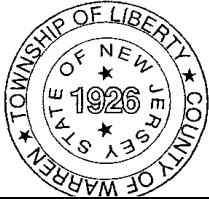
Details posted on the Liberty Township website! For questions or if you are interested in volunteering, email us at libertyrec17@gmail.com or call 908.637.4579 ext.26.

COMMUNITY DAY

In 1738 Liberty Township was a part of Greenwich Township.
In 1754 Greenwich divided and Liberty became part of Oxford.
In 1839 Oxford divided and Liberty became part of Hope.
In 1925 Liberty separated from Hope Township in a controversy over the schools. The name Liberty Township became expressive of their independence from Hope.

Liberty Township
349 Mountain Lake Road
Great Meadows, NJ 07838

Phone: 908.637.4579
Fax: 908.637.6916
Web site: www.libertytownship.org



FOLLOW THE MOST UP TO DATE
NEWS ON THE LIBERTY
TOWNSHIP WEBSITE
WWW.LIBERTYTOWNSHIP.ORG

Stormwater Management in Liberty Township

Stormwater is from rainfall or snowmelt. It washes pollutants into our storm drains and directly into our rivers, streams and lakes.

Non-point source pollution is contamination of our waterways that results from everyday activities such as fertilizing the lawn, walking pets, changing motor oil, and littering.

With each rainfall, pollutants generated by these activities are washed into storm drains that flow into our waterways. Each one of us contributes to this pollution through our daily lives, threatening our precious natural resources. The good news is that we can make a difference by simple changes in our lifestyles.

What can residents do?

Reduce runoff from your property:

- Reduce the amount of lawn & pavement
- Plant groundcovers and trees
- Create gardens, no mow zones and meadows
- Use vegetative borders between hard surfaces
- Only water lawns when absolutely necessary



Reduce pollution in runoff:

- Clean up after your pets
- Limit use of fertilizer
- Do not feed the geese
- Compost leaves and grass clippings
- Keep objects/fluids from draining into catch basins

Liberty Township has three non-point pollution control ordinances to help protect our water.

- Prohibiting the Feeding of Waterfowl
- Limiting the Application of Phosphorus Fertilizer near Water
- Regulating the Disposal of Pet waste

17 October 1971, a mastodon skeleton was unearthed just off Lake-Just-It Road, only seven feet from the surface.

