

LOWER TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

FALL 2023



FROM THE COUNCIL...

Airbnb, the online marketplace for long and short term home rentals identified the top family destinations on its platform for all 50 states and in New Jersey, Lower Township was ranked on top, as the most visited in the state. In my opinion, compared to other areas or towns, we are 'boring'. We don't have large amusement piers or bustling boardwalks, crowded shopping malls or rush hour traffic.

Maybe we are 'boring' in that laid back, picture perfect, sunset on the water kind of way. Lower Township is a community that is close enough to the activities of area shore towns to participate and far enough removed that it is still peaceful.

Lower Township offers nature lovers a chance to explore a community that is full of wildlife, including migratory birds, monarch butterflies, fox, deer and more. We have a number of hiking trails just waiting to be explored. On the water, you can often see dolphins playing, whales breaching, cownose sting rays and more. It is also one of the best places to fish in the state.

Lower Township is home to many farms, wineries, breweries and distilleries. Our restaurants are family-owned and offer delicious meals. If you want to cook at home, why not try our internationally awarded Gaiss' market, or any of our local fish markets.

Our bay beaches are one of the best places to take your kids to play, learn to paddle board or kayak, and enjoy a fantastic sunset. Lower Township is also home to unique historical sights like the Cape May Lighthouse, the Naval Air Station Wildwood, Cold Spring Village and the Nathaniel Foster House.

I am proud and grateful to say that I feel at home in this 'boring' town!

-Council Member Thomas Conrad



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LOWER TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT RECOGNIZED FOR THEIR WORK IN COMBATING OPIOID ADDICTION

Cape Regional Medical Center, the National Center for Advocacy and Recovery for Behavioral Health, and the County Commissioners recognized the Lower Township Police Department's Chief Kevin Lewis and Lieutenant Brian McEwing for their work in the Lower Township Overdose Response Team on August 29, 2023.



Patrolman First Class (PFC) Jonathan Scheck was also recognized by Cape Addiction Recovery Services (CARES) for his role in assisting family members with local resources after their loved one had tragically died from an overdose.

"Because of this officer's compassion and care, we connected several of the survivors to services that may very well have saved a life, provided necessary grief support, and linkage to community resources," wrote SueAnne Agger, CARES program director. "By taking that moment he invested in his community by showing up and taking action. The positive impact this will have on the Lower Township community cannot be overstated. He paved the way for those individuals to have an opportunity to improve their lives. He gave them the ability for hope, resources, the opportunity for mutual support, and to connect with someone with whom they shared experiences. Out of this tragic death, others found a connectedness to their community."

The Lower Township Overdose Response Team, often referred to as LT-ORT, launched officially on September 11, 2022, and is designed to assist the Lower Township community in battling opioid use disorders.

The goal is to: reduce overdoses in Lower Township, provide on-site services following an overdose, provide harm-reduction education to limit potential injury/fatalities, provide Narcan/Naloxone both onsite, and via outreach efforts to reduce overdose fatalities.

The LT ORT responds to onsite overdoses alongside law enforcement from the Lower Township Police Department. The LT ORT staff then offer recovery support services to the peer and utilize motivational interviewing to communicate with the survivor to link them to treatment or recovery services. The program runs 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and is staffed by five dedicated CARES staff members.

CARES works to build community relationships which allows us to connect and link the ORT participants to numerous programs and organizations should they need it. These organizations include Families Matter, Cooperative Care, ARS, Cape Assist, Local MAT providers, Cape Hope, Branches, Oasis, Food banks, The Cape Regional Recovery Center, and Crossroads MAT treatment.

"I would like to thank SueAnne Agger for her efforts in bringing this program to fruition, as well as Sheriff Nolan and Scott Mason of the Cape May County Sheriff's Department for their continuous support and their assistance with facilitating the creation of the CARES Program in Lower Township. This program has been a great success and we truly hope that this pilot program becomes permanent and spreads throughout the County, in an effort to help provide valuable, lifesaving resources to those in need," said Chief Lewis

COVID-19 INFORMATION HUB

Visit covid19.nj.gov for more information.

General COVID-19 Questions: 2-1-1 (24/7)

Medical COVID-19 Questions: 1-800-962-1253 (24/7)

Vaccine Appointment Support: 1-855-568-0545 (8a-8p)

Text NJCOVID to 898-211 to receive alerts.

Cape May County is offering 1.5 million dollars of COVID-19 relief grants to help renters, homeowners and businesses.

Visit ACIANJ.org or call 609-343-2390

Cape May County Department of Health
capemaycountynj.gov - 609-465-1187

MANAGER'S REPORT

IT'S HURRICANE SEASON - KNOW YOUR RISK - SIGN UP FOR ALERTS WITH RAVE

Hurricanes can bring heavy rains, high winds and storm surges that cause tides to swell and push water on shore. Big waves can erode natural barriers, leaving coasts more vulnerable to future storms and flooding. Is your property in a Special Flood Hazard Area? Check out our website at www.townshipoflower.org. You'll find a wealth of floodplain information. Or call our Township CRS Coordinator, Jennifer M. Dowe, CTA, CFM with all of your floodplain questions at 609-886-2005 ext. 140.

FLOOD SAFETY

The safety of your family is of the utmost importance! To be well-informed about approaching storms, be sure to use credible websites and alert systems like the ones listed below:

National Weather Service - www.erh.noaa.gov/er/phi
American Red Cross - www.redcross.org
NJ Alert - www.njalert.gov
Nixle - www.nixle.com
NJ 2-1-1 - www.nj211.org

BUILD RESPONSIBLY

All new construction and renovation projects are required to have local permits and, depending on the type and location of a project, various state permits may also be required. Renovations, additions or repairs to existing buildings that exceed 50% of the buildings market value trigger the need to meet current flood elevation requirements. Consult with our Construction Office for more information. Contact Construction Official Don Arndt at 609-886-2122.

SPOTLIGHT

COOMBS / DOUGLASS MEMORIAL RUN

Lower Township Mayor and Council and the Recreation Department recognized the sponsors of the 21st year of the consolidation of the Robert Coombs Memorial Bay Run and the David C. Douglass, Sr. Memorial Race.



The event is held annual each August in memory of two men who were committed to protecting and supporting their community. Robert Coombs was a Town Bank volunteer firefighter who was killed in an auto accident. Lower Township Police Officer David C. Douglass, Sr. made the ultimate sacrifice and was killed in the line of duty. Douglass also served as a Town Bank volunteer firefighter.

Sign up NOW to receive LT Alerts

Emergency Alerts, Traffic & Weather Advisories, Local News and Events via:
Phone Call, Text, Email or Mobile App

*Set your messaging preferences when you register.
Download the Smart911 app after registering.*

Sign Up at Police, Township or MUA websites
If you need assistance with registering, contact the Township Clerk's office at 609-886-2005, extension 100, between 8:30 am & 4:30 pm.

LT Alerts is Replacing Nixle
Nixle messages will end on 6-30-22

LT Alerts

POWERED BY: **RAVE**
EMERGENCY ALERTS

SEPTEMBER 11 REMEMBRANCE

September 11 Remembrance Ceremony held at the Naval Air Station Wildwood Aviation Museum on Monday, Sept. 11, 2023. Thank you to all the first responders, military personnel, community organizations, township employees and residents that attended. We will never forget.



Recycling Reminder

Please do not use plastic bags to dispose of your recyclables at the curb. Bags, including the clear plastic bags, are considered trash and the recyclables will not be able to be picked up.

Recycling yard hours, starting June 1st, open 6:30 am - 2:15 pm, Thursday through Monday. Closed Tuesday and Wednesday.

Lower Township recycling yard will be closed Sundays and Mondays starting Sept. 17.

UPCOMING EVENTS

SEPTEMBER 21 AT 7:30 A.M.
RUN FOR THE FALLEN BEGINS
SUNSET BEACH

OCTOBER 14 AT 11:00 A.M. SHARP!
LOWER TOWNSHIP HALLOWEEN COSTUME PARADE
HISTORIC COLD SPRING VILLAGE

OCTOBER 9
COLUMBUS DAY - TOWNSHIP OFFICES CLOSED

OCTOBER 21 FROM 9 A.M. TO NOON
SHRED DAY
BEHIND THE MUNICIPAL COMPLEX AT 2600 BAYSHORE ROAD

OCTOBER 22 FROM 6 P.M. TO 7:30 P.M.
LOWER TOWNSHIP TRUNK OR TREAT
CAPE MAY - LEWES FERRY TERMINAL

OCTOBER 28 FROM 6:30 P.M. TO 9 P.M.
LOWER TOWNSHIP HAUNTED TRAILS
LOWER TOWNSHIP RECREATION CENTER

OCTOBER 31 FROM 5 P.M. TO 8 P.M.
TRICK OR TREATING IN LOWER TOWNSHIP

NOVEMBER 4 AT 11 A.M.
VETERAN'S DAY PARADE
BAYSHORE ROAD

NOVEMBER 7
ELECTION DAY - TOWNSHIP OFFICES CLOSED

NOVEMBER 10
VETERAN'S DAY - TOWNSHIP OFFICES CLOSED

NOVEMBER 23 & 24
THANKSGIVING - LOWER TOWNSHIP OFFICES CLOSED

DECEMBER 17 FROM 11 A.M. TO 2 P.M.
CAPE MAY - LEWES FERRY TERMINAL

ONGOING EVENTS

EVERY THURSDAY AT 6:00 P.M.
ADULT YOGA
MILLMAN CENTER

EVERY MONDAY FROM 7:30 P.M.- 9:30 P.M.
ADULT NIGHT
RECREATION CENTER

ALL EVENTS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE OR CANCELLATION

NEWSLETTER SCHEDULE

Winter Edition / Spring Edition / Summer Edition
High Summer Edition / Fall Edition / Holiday Edition
Look for it at the entrance or counters of local businesses.

Township of Lower

2600 Bayshore Road, Villas, NJ 08251
609-886-2005

<https://townshipoflower.org/>

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

LOWER TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL BUILDING - (609) 886-2005
LOWER TOWNSHIP RECREATION DEPARTMENT - (609) 886-7880
POLICE NON-EMERGENCY NUMBER - (609) 886-1619
TO MAKE A POLICE REPORT: CAPE MAY COUNTY DISPATCH - (609) 886-2711
FOR ANIMAL CONTROL: SHORE ANIMAL CONTROL - 1 (800) 351-1822

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