

LOWER TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

HOLIDAY 2025



FROM THE COUNCIL...

Dear Neighbors,

As the holiday season arrives, the Mayor and Council of Lower Township extend warm and heartfelt wishes to every resident throughout our vibrant community. From the historic streets of Cold Spring and Erma to the coastal charm of Diamond Beach, Villas, and beyond, we are grateful for the community spirit that makes Lower Township a place to call home.

This time of year offers a wonderful opportunity to reflect on the many blessings we share. Lower Township, with its nearly 23,000 residents, beautiful natural surroundings, and deep roots in South Jersey's history, has always been defined by a sense of connection – to our neighbors, our land, and our traditions. Whether you're enjoying a peaceful sunset over the Delaware Bay or bringing holiday cheer to friends and family, we hope this season brings serenity, joy, and warmth to your home.

We are reminded too of all the people – from first responders and township staff to volunteers and business owners – who work tirelessly year-round to support our community. Their efforts help preserve the quality of life we cherish here. As we gather for festive events like the upcoming tree lighting, holiday parades, and New Year's celebrations, we encourage everyone to join in, connect with longtime friends and new neighbors alike, and appreciate the unique character of Lower Township.

May your holidays be filled with laughter, good health, and the company of loved ones. And as we look ahead to the New Year, we do so with optimism, renewed community spirit, and collective hope for brighter days. On behalf of the Mayor and Council – and all of us working hard for this Township – thank you for making Lower Township such a special place.

Happy holidays and warmest wishes for 2026!

Sincerely,

Mayor and Council

LOWER TOWNSHIP JOINED COUNTYWIDE EFFORT TO SUPPORT FAMILIES AT EMERGENCY FOOD DISTRIBUTION EVENT

Lower Township recently joined Cape May County and the Community Food Bank of New Jersey (CFBNJ) in a major emergency food distribution effort to support local families affected by the federal government shutdown. The event, held on Saturday, November 8 at the County Commons complex in Rio Grande. It brought together volunteers, partner agencies, and township leaders in a collaborative response to growing food insecurity in Middle Township and Lower Township.

The emergency mobile food pantry was organized by the Cape May County Board of Commissioners in partnership with CFBNJ, the state's largest anti-hunger organization. CFBNJ—working with more than 800 partner agencies statewide—provides over 90 million meals each year and offers vital services such as SNAP outreach, nutrition education, and job training programs aimed at breaking the cycle of poverty.

This special distribution was targeted to families whose Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits had been disrupted due to the ongoing federal shutdown. In Middle Township and Lower Township alone, more than 4,000 families rely on SNAP each month to help meet their household food needs. The disruption forced many to make difficult decisions between groceries, rent, transportation, and other essential expenses.

To support the effort, the County Department of Human Services recruited 10 volunteers from various local organizations to assist with distributing food staples and helping families navigate the process. Lower Township officials were also on hand throughout the event, reinforcing their commitment to supporting residents during times of need.

Although SNAP benefits have since become accessible again, the event underscored a continuing truth: many families in Lower Township rely on local food pantries and community support year-round. The federal shutdown served as a reminder that unexpected hardships can strike at any time—and that local food banks remain a critical lifeline.

As Lower Township looks ahead, residents are encouraged to continue supporting local food pantries through donations, volunteerism, and community outreach. Together, the community can help ensure no family faces food insecurity alone.



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LOWER TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY HONORS VETERANS WITH ANNUAL PARADE

Lower Township residents gathered on Saturday, November 8, 2025, to proudly celebrate and honor the nation's heroes during the annual Veterans Day Parade. The event brought together families, friends, local organizations, and officials for a heartfelt community tribute recognizing the service and sacrifice of veterans across all branches of the military.

Crowds lined Bayshore Road as the procession made its way toward Township Hall, featuring local veterans, marching units, first responders, community groups, and students who came out to show their appreciation.



ROTARY CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING SHINES LIGHT ON VETERANS IN LOWER TOWNSHIP

Lower Township kicked off the holiday season in heartfelt fashion on Tuesday, Dec. 2, as the Lower Township Rotary Club hosted its annual Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony—a long-standing tradition that brought neighbors together to celebrate community, gratitude, and the veterans who have given so much for their country.



LOWER TOWNSHIP HONORS POLICE PROMOTIONS, NEW OFFICER, AND A DISTINGUISHED RETIREMENT

Lower Township Mayor and Council recently joined the Lower Township Police Department to mark several significant milestones, celebrating the dedication, leadership, and achievements of the department's members. The ceremony highlighted promotions, a new beginning for an incoming officer, and the conclusion of a remarkable career.

Lieutenant Anthony Greto and Sergeant Jennifer Elwell were officially promoted, each recognized for their professionalism and steadfast commitment to serving the community. Sergeant Elwell's promotion carries special significance: she is now the first female Police Sergeant in the history of the Lower Township Police Department.

The Township also welcomed Patrolman Miguel Valencia, who was formally sworn in and begins his service with the department.



In addition to celebrating new milestones, the ceremony honored the distinguished career and retirement of Chief of Police Kevin Lewis. With decades of dedicated service, Chief Lewis has been a steady and reliable force within the department, guiding officers with integrity and an unwavering commitment to community safety. His leadership leaves a lasting legacy that will continue to shape the department for years to come.

Mayor and Council extend heartfelt congratulations to Lieutenant Greto, Sergeant Elwell, and Patrolman Valencia, as well as sincere appreciation to Chief Lewis for his exemplary service.



REMINDERS

Lower Township Council Meetings will be held on the first and third Mondays of each month, beginning at 5:00 p.m. in the meeting room of Lower Township Hall, located at 2600 Bayshore Road, unless otherwise noted. For a complete list of meeting dates and times, visit the township website at: [TownshipofLower.org](https://townshipoflower.org).

All dogs over the age of six months shall be required to be licensed, and a license for same shall be obtained and attached to the harness or collar of each dog prior to January 31 of each and every year.

Looking for township forms, helpful links, tax payment portal, want to make a suggestion, contact a certain department or report a pothole? Visit the township website at: townshipoflower.org.

UPCOMING EVENTS

DECEMBER 2 AT 7 P.M.

LOWER TOWNSHIP ROTARY TREE LIGHTING
LOWER TOWNSHIP RECREATION CENTER AND THEN WALKING TO LOWER TOWNSHIP HALL

DECEMBER 13 AT 6 P.M.

LOWER TOWNSHIP ROTARY CHRISTMAS PARADE
BAYSHORE ROAD



DECEMBER 14 FROM 11 A.M. TO 2 P.M.

FERRY MERRY CHRISTMAS PARTY
DRBA FERRY TERMINAL

DECEMBER 31 FROM 6 P.M. TO 9 P.M.

NEW YEAR'S EVE CELEBRATION
LOWER TOWNSHIP RECREATION CENTER

JANUARY 5 AT 5 P.M.

LOWER TOWNSHIP RE-ORGANIZATION MEETING
LOWER TOWNSHIP HALL

ONGOING EVENTS

MONDAYS AND WEDNESDAY 9:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.

OPEN PLAY PICKLE BALL

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

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
MUA OFFICE - (609) 886-7146
MUA EMERGENCY - (609) 780-0101

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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

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