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HATFIE

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History of the Liberty Bell Trail

BATTERY RECYCLING

Batteries, once used simply for smoke detectors and TV remotes, are now used everywhere in our lives. What is the proper way to dispose of all of these batteries? This is dependent upon the type of battery. Here is a list of different types of batteries and how to dispose of them in Montgomery County.

ALKALINE **BATTERIES**:

Alkaline batteries include common disposable, such as AA through AAAA, C, and D batteries, 9-volt batteries, and button batteries with LR- at the beginning of the code printed on the face of the battery. Alkaline batteries are safe to dispose of with household trash. There are companies that will send you a bucket to fill with alkaline batteries (as well as other types of batteries) that you can send back to be recycled for a fixed rate, such as the iRecycle kit found at www.batterysolutions. com

NICKEL-METAL-HYDRIDE **BATTERIES:**

Nickel-metal-hydride batteries are most commonly found in the rechargeable versions of alkaline batteries. Nickel-metal-hydride batteries can be recycled at household hazardous waste collection events. A schedule of household hazardous waste collection events can be found by searching "household hazardous waste recycling" on www.montcopa.org

LITHIUM-ION **BATTERIES**:

This type of battery is used in many different devices in the home. They are used in cell phones, cameras, tablets, laptops, portable device chargers (also known as battery banks), wireless headphones, cordless vacuums, electric lawnmowers, and many other devices. Lithium-ion is also used in button batteries with CR- at the beginning of the code printed on the face of the battery. Lithium-ion batteries can be recycled at household hazardous waste collection events. A schedule of household hazardous waste collection events can be found by searching "household hazardous waste recycling" on www.montcopa.org

LEAD-ACID **BATTERIES**:

Lead-acid batteries are large batteries typically used in cars, boats, wheelchairs, snow mobiles, motorcycles, and golf carts. Lead-acid batteries can be recycled at household hazardous waste collection events. A schedule of household hazardous waste collection events can be found by searching "household hazardous waste recycling" on www.montcopa.org



HATFIELD BOROUGH ELECTED OFFICIALS & STAFF HATFIELD BOROUGH ELECTED OFFICIALS HATFIELD BOROUGH STAFF





Jason Ferguson Borough Council President

Richard Girard Borough Council Borough Council Vice-President Member

Borough Council Member



Lawrence Stevens Marv Anne Borough Council Girard Member Mayor

Moha Haque Tax Collector

STAY CONNECTED

HATFIELD MUNICIPAL COMPLEX

Address: 401 S. Main St., Hatfield, PA 19440 Telephone: (215) 855-0781 Fax: (215) 855-2075 Email: admin@hatfieldborough.com Website: www.hatfieldborough.com Office Hours: Mon-Fri 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Municipal and state regulations require that residents, commercial establishments and non-residential establishments recycle all recyclable materials. Commonly recycled materials include paper, plastic, glass and metal. You should check with your hauler for a complete list of acceptable recyclable materials.







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Michelle Kroesser



Iaime E. Snvder Borough Manager jsnyder@hatfieldborough.com (215) 855-0781 Option 1

ADDITIONAL STAFF

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David Weiss Utility Billing Department dweiss@hatfieldborough.com (215) 855-0781 Option 4

COUNCIL MEETING DATES

June 15th | July 20th | August 17th

Meetings begin at 7:30 p.m. and are held at the Hatfield Municipal Complex (401 S. Main St.)

SOCIAL MEDIA

- Twitter: @HatfieldBorough
- YouTube: Hatfield Borough, PA
- Facebook: HatfieldBorough19440



TV: Comcast Channel 22 Verizon Channel 24

Meet the Mayor and Council Members

MAYOR MARY ANNE GIRARD



What brought you to the Hatfield area, and how long have you lived here? I grew up in Philadelphia. As a child, whenever my family would go for a Sunday drive, we always ended up in Hatfield. My father spent part of his teenage years living on a farm in the Township, so it was natural he would want to return to his roots. He loved Hatfield, and I suppose he passed that fondness for the area to his children. So when my husband and I decided to leave Philadelphia almost

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38 years ago, we both knew we wanted to make Hatfield our new home.

Why did you decide to run for your current position? As a long-time resident of the Borough, I care deeply about its future, and now that I'm retired, I would like to play a part in forming that future.

What are your goals for your term?

As Borough Mayor, I want to work to improve local government's communication, openness, and accessibility. I want to fully engage with residents on issues that matter to them. I want to seek their input and provide them with the opportunity to influence the direction the Borough takes.

What are some of your favorite things about Hatfield Borough?

I love the small-town feel of the Borough. I like being able to walk everywhere: to a park, to a store or a restaurant. But most of all, I like the diversity this town has to offer; the richness of the many cultures that make up the Borough is truly amazing.

JASON FERGUSON, BOROUGH COUNCIL PRESIDENT



What brought you to the Hatfield area, and how long have you lived here? I relocated to Lansdale, PA, from Michigan for a great opportunity with Knoll Inc. in 2007. Then in 2010, I moved into Hatfield Borough for its smalltown atmosphere, low taxes, North Penn School District, and the property, which was a great fit with my soon-to-be fiancé and her daughter.

Why did you decide to run for your current

position?

I was first elected to Hatfield Borough Council in 2017. While having an interest in politics for some time, the divisiveness in the 2016 Presidential race became a tipping point for me to get involved. I have always believed that government should be people-focused. With my background and life experiences, I felt that I could help the people in our small community.

What are your goals for your term?

My focus is on increased engagement with the community, more transparency, and building a foundation for future growth. Given our limited space and resources, the third statement is the most challenging.

What are some of your favorite things about Hatfield Borough?

By far, my favorite thing about the Borough is the people. We have such a diverse community, and I believe that diversity gives us strength. A strength that I want to tap into as we build for the future.

RICHARD GIRARD, BOROUGH COUNCIL VICE PRESIDENT



position?

What brought you to the Hatfield area, and how long have you lived here? Thirty-seven years ago, while living in Philadelphia, we were looking for better housing affordability and lower taxes. We also wanted to raise our children in a friendlier, healthier environment while allowing me to commute to my job in the city easily. And Hatfield Borough turned out to fit us perfectly.

Why did you decide to run for your current

Now that I am retired, I decided to run for my present office because I wanted to get more involved in the community again by making some much-needed changes within the borough. I desire to help the community modernize and move into the future while maintaining the small-town values from our past.

What are your goals for your term?

My main goals are to have more open communication between the members of the borough government and our constituents. Using newer, more efficient methods of communication and obtaining more input from the residents of the borough will enable their government to operate more efficiently. I'd like to offer more ways for people to attend council meetings and walk the borough to speak directly with our constituents.

What are some of your favorite things about Hatfield Borough?

I like the small-town feel of the borough and the overall friendliness of the residents, as well as the pervasive sense of community I have seen in the various public activities since we first moved here.

JAMES FAGAN BOROUGH COUNCIL MEMBER



What brought you to the Hatfield area, and how long have you lived here? I was born and raised just outside Lansdale. I wanted to stay in this area because it is a safe and enjoyable place to

live. My fiancé and I have been in Hatfield Borough for five years.

Why did you decide to run for your current position?

I decided to run to make sure Borough Council responds to the needs of Hatfield. With the support of friends and family, my decision was backed by a hope to serve this community.

What are your goals for your term? My goals include investing in the infrastructure of our Borough, keeping an eye on our fiscal accountability, and having a transparent decision-making process.

What are some of your favorite things about Hatfield Borough? Besides having great neighbors, I enjoy the parks as well as Casey's Saloon and, of course, Mom's Water Ice.

East Philly, where I was born. Why did you decide to run for your current position? I grew up in this town, and I want to see it thrive. I care about my fellow neighbors. So it was important to me to become a council member to be a voice of the community and work with the Borough to keep costs down.

What are your goals for your term? My goal is to be someone the community can come to and talk to freely. I'd like residents to know that they can give me their opinions and share their concerns. I also want to see the Borough remain successful.

What are some of your favorite things about Hatfield Borough? I enjoyed growing up with the people here. I love that it's a family town, and there are a lot of family-driven events. Although I have to say, I miss having Snyder's close by for all my projects. When I worked there, they were my second family-lots of great memories.

MICHELLE KROESSER **BOROUGH COUNCIL MEMBER**



What brought you to the Hatfield area, and how long have you lived here? My family moved to the Hatfield Borough in 1988 when my Dad's job brought us to the area. We moved from North

LAWRENCE STEVENS **BOROUGH COUNCIL MEMBER**



What brought you to the Hatfield area, and how long have you lived here? I have lived in Hatfield Borough since the age of 8, when my family moved here in 1966. It was a great small town

to grow up in, and I never saw any reason to leave! It was a joy to raise my own family in such a wonderful community.

Why did you decide to run for your current position?

I first became interested in local government through my involvement in the Hatfield Chamber of Commerce when I served on a committee that worked with Borough Council to draft a more business-friendly sign ordinance. I continued to attend Council meetings regularly, and when a seat opened on the Council, I was asked if I would be interested in filling it, which I was glad to do. I am grateful to have had the opportunity to represent and serve my community for so many years.

What are your goals for your term? Ever since first being appointed to Borough Council in 1992, it has been my goal to have the Borough continue as a great community – a safe and affordable place to live. While working for the good of today's residents, I also believe that it is important to plan with an eye for the future of the Borough, while preserving its heritage as well.

What are some of your favorite things about Hatfield Borough? The Borough has certainly seen many changes over the years, but through it all, it has managed to maintain a feeling of "small-town America" and a strong sense of community. The town is filled with people who truly care about their neighbors and are willing to help those in need.

Photo credits to William Schwartz

HATFIELD BOROUGH EVENTS

May 30

Memorial Day Parade

The Hatfield American Legion sponsored Memorial Day Parade and Ceremony will begin at 9 am. Registration for the bike decorating contest starts at 8 am at Memorial Park. More information can be found at www.hatfieldpost933.org













June **27**

Founder's Day

Pig races, children's activities, food for purchase from local vendors, summer kick-off with friends & family, DJ and music, the jailhouse will be open for photos, bookmobile, Hatfield Volunteer Fire Company fire truck, giveaways.

Aug **25**

Movie in the Park

Bring the family and a blanket and watch a movie under the stars with us. Small snacks for sale; funds raised will be donated to a local charity or non-profit. Hatfield Borough trivia with prizes. Check our social media for movie title.

Sept **24**

Fall Fest & Car Show

A large variety of vehicles dating all the way back to the 1900's. Children's activities, food for purchase, pumpkin decorating, live band and DJ, raffle prizes and awards, "Stock the Pantry" food drive, Hatfield Auto Museum, non-profits/vendors.

Dec **03**

Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony

Pet photos with Santa. Community gathering at Grace Lutheran Church with refreshments. Tree lighting ceremony presented by Grace Lutheran Church. Hot chocolate & cookies. Time with Santa. Free light up toy to the first 200 kids.

Businesses of the Borough

Businesses of the Month



January 2022

Franconia Auto Repair 23 S. Main St. (215) 362-8843

Gehman Chiropractic & Wellness 39 N. Market St. (215) 362-5949

Philomena Santucci's **Square Pizza** 8 N. Market St. (215) 671-6718

The Trolley Stop Delicatessen 76 E. Broad St. (215) 368-6333

Be Still Nutrition 317 S. Main St.

(267) 649-7839

Divine Beauty Boutique 102 E. Broad St. (267) 263-4686

February 2022

Best of Times Limousines & Transportation 236 W. Broad St. (215) 361-9577

Hatfield Market 304 Union St.

March 2022

Brooks Instruments 407 W. Vine St. (215) 362-3500

Casey's Saloon & Eatery 210 S. Main St. (215) 368-8823

Data Flo Plus 104 E. Vine St. #2 (215) 855-9445

Desi Grocery & Halal Meat 129 S. Main St. (215) 368-5277

April 2022

D E Walker Heating & Air **Green Propane** 63 E. Broad St. 215-368-9094

Didden Greenhouses Inc 57 W. Vine St. 215-855-2114

Doyle's Restaurant 45 N. Market St. 215-368-4441

Dr. Larry Snyder D.D.S. 43 N. Market St. 215-368-5409



A Growing Local Treasure

reorge Didden Greenhouses, Inc. is one of the oldest businesses ed through a dedication to the local community and how they honor Gin the Borough of Hatfield. This family-run business has been and respect their workers. For example, some Didden employees serve owned and operated by members of the Didden family since 1914. with the Hatfield Volunteer Fire Company. When they are called to a George and Laura Didden started with a small greenhouse at the corfire while on the clock, they are still paid. ner of Koffel and Orvilla. By 1921 the business had expanded, and George purchased a farm in Hatfield Borough, where it has remained for 101 years.

In addition, the Ruch brothers are very supportive of Hatfield and the local government. They were born in Hatfield and have deep roots throughout the community. At Christmas time the business donates Now, the business is run by Jon and Dan Ruch (4th generation), alongpoinsettias to older adults distributed through the Lions Club, and side some of their children (5th generation). Dan says, "It's a trementhey support Boy Scout Troop 51 by providing them with plants for dous legacy. That's how Jon and I view what we do - being stewards one of their largest fundraisers. They also strengthen the community of the business. And, it's a great business to be in because flowers and through other charities and donations and give greenhouse tours to plants are used to comfort somebody or make them happy." school children and organizations.

Didden's is not open to the public and doesn't sell retail or to any big Dan Ruch got emotional when asked about the COVID-19 pandemic; box stores. However, they do service independent garden centers and at the beginning, many seasonal plants weren't being sold due to the landscape contractors from New York to Washington D.C., all of New shutdowns. Instead of simply letting the plants go to waste, the family Jersey, and as far west as Harrisburg. wanted to give them away to as many members of the community as possible. With the help of local churches, the plants were distributed Some of their plants are propagated from cuttings, while others are to families in the region, and George Didden Greenhouses was able started from seeds, bulbs, or tubers sourced from all over the world. to bring some comfort and joy to people during a time when so many things were stressful and confusing. While they grow seasonal flowers for Easter and Christmas and carry

some perennials, cacti and succulents, their main business comes from various annuals, herbs, and vegetables.

There are a lot of things that make George Didden Greenhouses an invaluable part of the Hatfield Borough. The Ruchs put care into what they grow and how they grow it while investing in the well-being of their staff. The greenhouses have employees who stay with them for as many as 48 years and have had multiple generations of the same family working there. They employ around 13 people year-round, but that number increases to between 60 to 70 during the busy spring season.

George Didden Greenhouses, a local treasure, is a family-owned and operated business that has stood the test of time by implementing The family loves teaching what they do and enjoys having interns work ethical business practices and supporting the local community. Their at the greenhouses. They've developed relationships with Delaware success is a tribute to the Hatfield Borough area. To learn more about Valley University, North Montco and Bucks-Mont Technical Schools. them, visit www.georgedidden.com.

As an overtly Christian business, the Ruch family strives to follow the golden rule in all of their endeavors. Their faith is demonstrat-

Meet Your New Tax Collector

Mohammed Haque was sworn in as Hatfield Borough's new tax and interfaith dialogues. "I'd like to continue to be of service for the community, regardless of skin or faith."

When asked why he wanted to run for the position, Mohammed mentioned that after years of serving the community, a friend encouraged him to get more involved and run for office.

Since he's lived in the Hatfield area since 1996 and gained accounting experience as the treasurer at the North Penn Mosque (where he's also the secretary), becoming a tax collector seemed like a good fit.

But Mohammed isn't new to politics. He's been a member of the Hatfield Democratic Committee since 2008, where he volunteers at the polls and with election campaigns, spreading awareness to the community and assisting in door-to-door visitations.

He likes to help others in any way he can and actively serves the community by collecting funds for the needy through the Mosque, visiting the sick in hospitals, helping with food drives, blood drives, and cleaning up our sidewalks and roads. Mr. Haque has also helped coordinate and arrange community day events, cross-cultural/multiracial events,

Mr. Haque immigrated to the US from Bangladesh in 1995, and it wasn't long before he chose Hatfield Borough as his home. He feels very comfortable here and says the people are friendly and likes that it isn't crowded.

He also speaks very highly of the borough staff and mentioned that everyone has been very welcoming and eager to help as he adjusts to his new role.

In his free time, he enjoys fishing with friends and spending time with his wife and three children.



I It's a great business to be in because flowers and plants are used to comfort somebody or make them happy."

- Dan Ruch

History of the Liberty Bell Trail

by Larry Stevens, President of the Hatfield Museum & History Society

Tn the late 1800's, local transportation was accomplished by foot or by horse, but roads were so bad (few were even good enough for bicycle riding!) that they became muddy and almost impassable in wet weather, and extremely dusty in dry weather. So it is no surprise that the introduction of electric trolleys, which would glide at amazing speeds atop tracks of smooth steel at the side of the road, unaffected by bad weather or even a moderately heavy snow, was met with great enthusiasm. Unlike the steam engines of that time, trolleys were able

to negotiate very sharp curves and steep hills. The electric trolley cars were also unbelievably quiet and clean, compared to the coal-fired steam trains of that time.

It was in April 1899 that Borough Council gave the Inland Traction Company permission to proceed with the construction of a trolley line through the town, and one year later, on April 20, 1900, the first trolley car zipped over the new tracks. At a time when steam power was supreme, the electric trolley car was an unbelievable site. The first time many people saw an electric light was when they saw the trolley. (Electricity didn't come to Hatfield Borough until 1908.) In 1907, the name "Liberty Bell Route" began to be used for the trolley line that went through Hatfield. The original trolley route wove a rather crooked path through

Hatfield streets on its way from Lansdale to Perkasie. The many turns trail would cov-

The Inland Traction Co. sold the Liberty Bell Trolley line to the Lehigh Valley Traction Company in 1909, and in 1913, with the goal of eliminating time-consuming curves in the tracks, the trolley path through Hatfield was straightened. Instead of traveling a crooked route on Hatfield's streets, the new tracks mostly followed a straight line north from Lansdale along the railroad tracks. After crossing Main Street in Hatfield Borough, the trolley tracks diverged from the railroad tracks, and curved gently north, straightening before crossing Lincoln Avenue and Broad Street on its beeline course to Souderton Borough. Trolley service continued to be popular until post-World War II prosperity led to an increase in car ownership, and trolley ridership declined. Service on the Liberty Bell Trolley line was stopped suddenly, and the last trolley ran through Hatfield on September 6, 1951. The Lehigh Valley Transit Company provided bus service to replace the trolley, but, being considerably slower, it was not very popular with those accustomed to the speed of the electric trolley. Many abandoned the service in favor of the train or simply drove themselves.

The Liberty Bell Trail, a suburban rail trail that would partially follow the former path of the Liberty Bell Trolley line, was first proposed back in 1996. In the early 2000's, Hatfield Borough became the first municipality to complete a section of the Liberty Bell Trail when it constructed a gravel path from W Vine Street to E Lincoln Avenue, along the former trolley right-of-way.

In March 2022, the Pennsylvania Environmental Council completed a feasibility study to construct a section of the Liberty Bell Trail from Upper Gwynedd Township to Telford Borough. The entire proposed



Trolley crossing over Main Street

of this route required the trolley to operate at quite a slow speed.

er a total of 25 miles, traveling from East Norriton Township in Montgomery County to Quakertown in Bucks County. When complete, the Liberty Bell Trail will link residents and visitors to downtown centers; resi-



Trolley Station and Trolley

dential neighborhoods; parks, libraries, and schools, natural areas and open spaces, transportation hubs, and more. In addition to local connections, the Liberty Bell Trail would connect into the broader network of Circuit Trails, the Philadelphia region's growing trail network.

To learn more of Hatfield's fascinating history, schedule a visit to the Hatfield History Museum at www.hatfieldhistory.org, or call (215) 382-0428.

Information Corner

Emergency Services Contact Information

* In the event of a fire or emergency, please call 9-1-1. *



Hatfield Township Police Department 2000 School Rd., Hatfield, PA 19440 Phone: (215) 855-0903 | www.hatfield.org/Police

Hatfield Volunteer Fire Company 75 North Market St., Hatfield, PA 19440

Volunteer Medical Services Corps of Lansdale (VMSC) 175 Medical Campus Dr., Lansdale, PA 19446

Building & Zoning

Bob Heil Code Enforcement/Zoning Officer code@hatfieldborough.com (215) 855-0781, Option 8 Tue & Th: 8:00am-12:00pm or, call for an appointment

Trash & Recycling



Hatfield Borough is a member of the Northern Montgomery County Recycling Commission (NMCRC), a group of 11 requirements please visit: www.northmontocrecycle.com

Branches & Leaves



• The Borough offers curbside chipping and disposal of branches and limbs on the **first Monday in May** and the **first Monday in October**. There will be one sweep through every neighborhood until all are picked up. *Only tree limbs and branches up to 6 " in diameter will be chipped, and absolutely no leaves, bushes, or other debris will be accepted.*

- Christmas trees will also be picked up on the first 2 Mondays of each new year
- be accepted.

The Borough does not provide trash service although residents can pick up recycling bins at the Borough Office. Residents must contract with a private hauler. The following is a list of some haulers in our area:

complete listing of dates, locations, items to collect, and other helpful recycling tips. http://www.montcopa.org/637/Recycling-Information

Stormwater Management

To learn more about stormwater management, you can contact the office at: 484-250-5970 or online at www.depweb.state.pa.us. More



Voting & Polling Place

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All registered Hatfield Borough Residents vote at the Hatfield Volunteer Firehouse. Hatfield Firehouse address: 75 North Market St., Hatfield, PA 19440 To register to vote https://www.montcopa.org/761/Voter-Registration

• The Borough provides leaf pick up every Monday beginning the last Monday in October through the first Monday in December. Only biodegradable paper bags will be collected. They can be purchased at the Borough Hall for \$.25 each. No plastic bags will

> • JP Mascaro & Sons, (215) 721-1600 • Advanced Disposal, (610) 584-5450

• White Tail, (610) 754-0103

Volunteer

Hatfield Borough is always looking for residents and business owners to join our growing list of volunteers for the numerous events, activities and projects we have planned for the coming years. Email Lindsay Hellmann, Public Information Coordinator at lhellmann@ hatfieldborough.com if you are interested in volunteering.

www.hatfieldborough.com



Municipal Complex 401 S. Main Street PO Box 190 Hatfield, PA 19440 PRSRT STD U.S. POSTAGE PAID BOYERTOWN, PA PERMIT NO. 49

DID YOU KNOW...

Hatfield Borough residents are eligible for resident rates at the Hatfield Aquatic Center?

Jump and slide back to normal at the Hatfield Aquatic Center.

The Hatfield Township's state-of-the-art aquatic center features a water castle, a variety of water slides for different swimming levels, a lazy river, a hydrotherapy pool, and more!

From pavilions and picnic tables to an active center and concession stand, there is something for the whole family.



To become a member and for more information, please visit www.hatfield.org



