

#### SENIOR CONNECT

**DECEMBER 2023** 



#### **Hello Everyone!**

Senior Connect is a convenient and easy way to stay informed about what's happening in Lawrence Township.

Our goal is to connect people in our community. If you know a senior in Lawrence Township that would like the newsletter, print it out for them and deliver it with a friendly smile! Blackand-white copies are available in the Municipal Building.



#### <u>Greetings from the Executive Director</u> <u>Office on Aging/Senior Center</u>

Hello Everyone:

There is no better time than the Holiday's to join in on our activities and programs and spread the happiness and joy of the season to those all around us!

Regardless of how you celebrate, we wish you a time filled with good health, love, joy and peace.

Thank you to our active members – with grateful hearts, we cherish the good times we have had through the year. Our doors are always open to our Lawrence Township Senior residents, 60 and older and our nutrition participants. December is not too late to join in for: a nutritious lunch, planned activities like: "Breakfast with the Elves", our In-house Holiday Party, and "New Year's Eve-Eve Celebration" as well as our evening Holiday Concerts.

Wishing all a glorious Holiday Season. Happy Hanukah, Merry Christmas and Happy Kwanza!



Enjoy December's Senior Connect and feel free to "connect" with us by visiting or calling us at 609-844-7048.

With Peace and Love, Lillian LaSalle, Executive Director Office on Aging, Senior Center

#### <u>Municipal Manager's Blog</u>



#### 1. Mike Rodgers Retirement:

Our Construction Official, Michael Rodgers, is scheduled to retire on November 30, 2023. Mike has served Lawrence Township since July 23, 2001. He became our Construction Official after Anthony Cermele's retirement in July 2020. Mike has done a tremendous job, and I enjoyed working with him. I want to publicly thank him for his good work and wish him the best in his retirement.

We have a succession plan, and an announcement will be made shortly concerning promoting a current staff member to the position of Construction Official.

Keeping in line with the Construction Office, some of you may know that we have transitioned our permit process to an online portal (accessed through our township website) for residents and business owners working with the Construction Office for building inspections. The entire staff underwent extensive training over the past year.

The system is by Mitchell-Humphrey and is called FastTrackGov. Its purpose is to make the permitting process more transparent and user-friendly. It allows applicants to view the progress of their permits and identifies whatever issues must be addressed. This system reduces phone calls to the office and provides immediate information to the end users – our residents and business owners.

Recently, we included the ability to pay online with a credit card. Our inspectors were also provided with field handheld devices to input their findings, reduce paperwork, and streamline their process. Additionally, the plan is to transfer all available historical public documents (documents subject to OPRA) to reduce the staff hours necessary to respond to OPRA requests.

Our Health Department has begun the training for a similar transition to streamline health inspections and better serve our residents and the business owners in our community.

#### 2. Safety Concerns at Route 206 and Eggert Crossing Road intersection:

As you may know, this intersection is rather busy during school hours with motor vehicle traffic and pedestrian traffic (mostly students walking to and from school). Over the past several years, the intersection has been the subject of study to determine how it can be made safer. Route 206 is a State-owned road, which limits our ability to address the issue on a local level

Recently, our Municipal Engineer was able to advocate successfully to the NJDOT for positive changes. It has agreed to add a 4-inch wide stripe along the curb line of Eggert Crossing Road at Route 206 and widen the sidewalk area to increase the buffer zone (motorists' travel lane and the sidewalk). Additionally, we petitioned the NJ DOT to create a 25 mph School Zone at the intersection in both directions along Route 206 to include flashing lights to warn of children in the area. In a letter dated October 27, 2023, the NJ DOT informed us that its Division of Traffic Engineering will investigate the current conditions to determine if the requested 25 mph is warranted. I will report back once we receive their conclusions.

#### 3. Federal City Road and Federal Point Warrant Analysis for Traffic Light:

As you know, we have a 55+ community located on Federal City Road known as Traditions at Federal Point. This site borders Hopewell Township which had approved a 300-unit housing development known as Woodmont directly across the street from the entrance at Traditions. With the approval of this large development on the border of Hopewell, the impact to traffic in the area is evident and the concerns of residents living nearby were justified. Specifically, our Lawrence residents our currently experiencing difficulty in safely exiting from their development onto Federal City Road and Ewing and Lawrence Residents near the intersection of Bull Run Road and Federal City Road have the same concerns. As a result, officials from Hopewell, Lawrence, Ewing and Mercer County met to determine how best to address the issues with traffic lights at the forefront – first at Bull Run Road. Since we believed this light would not adequately address the specific needs of our residents, we undertook a warrant analysis study to determine whether a traffic light was justified at the entrance of Traditions. Before installing a traffic light, this type of analysis is required by the NJDOT.

We recently received the report from our traffic consultant, and I shared it with you yesterday by email. A summary of the report is as follows:

The traffic signal warrant analysis is a comprehensive investigation of traffic conditions and physical characteristics. This analysis is required to determine the necessity for the installation of a new traffic signal. Additionally, the analysis is performed to properly assess the roadway infrastructure design and smoother operation of traffic flow. The field observations, existing traffic volumes and roadway characteristics were compiled and executed in traffic signal warrant analysis worksheets as set forth in the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices for Streets and Highways, 2009 Edition ("MUTCD") Revisions 1, 2 & 3. The MUTCD guidelines are published by the Federal Highway Administration ("FHWA").

A traffic signal warrant analysis generally involves the investigation of the existing or proposed traffic conditions, pedestrian characteristics, and geometric alignment of a study location. The traffic signal warrant investigation is comprised of analyzing several factors related to the existing operation and safety of the study location. The factors are utilized to determine if signalization will improve the traffic flow compared to unsignalized conditions.

The MUTCD outlines a total of nine (9) traffic signal warrant criteria, which are applied to determine if signalization is justifiable.

The 105-page report essentially states the following:

- The intersections of Federal City Road with Bull Run Road and Federal Point Boulevard both meet the warrant for a traffic signal.
- While signals are recommended at both intersections, it would be most beneficial to Lawrence Residents to have a signal at Federal Point Boulevard.
- A signal at only Federal Point Boulevard will provide minimal benefit to the intersection of Bull Run Road. Similarly, a signal at only Bull Run Road will provide minimal benefit to the intersection of Federal Point Boulevard.
- There should be no issue with the proximity of US Route 295.
- Widening for opposing left turn lanes would likely be recommended at Federal Point Boulevard. This will result in increased costs and utility impacts.

Our Traffic Consultant wasn't asked to provide an estimate, but our Municipal Engineer believes the cost would be in the \$500,000 range for a signal at either location.

I plan to meet with officials from Hopewell and Ewing to discuss plans if our governing body is supportive. It is my recommendation, based on public safety needs, that we aggressively pursue the traffic signal at Federal Point and seek the cooperation and contribution of Hopewell and Ewing for this work.

POST SCRIPT: At the council meeting, the governing body supported the plan to install the light after reaching an agreement with the adjacent towns (Hopewell and Ewing) on sharing costs.

#### 4. Hero Park:

If you drive by Hamnett Park off Ohio Avenue, you see the active work being done to create our dog park, which will include two dog-run areas and a walking path around the perimeter for pedestrians to use for exercise. We expect the work to be completed in about a month. We need several months for grass to grow within the areas before opening up for use. April 2024 is the target time frame for a more formal opening.

#### 5. Colonial Lake Park:

As you may have heard, the walking path on the Northern side of the Lake has been completed, which completes the loop around the lake. We have a Lake Management Grant of \$316,800 funds available for hydro-raking, shoreline restoration, and asphalt removal of that portion of the Sheft property we acquired behind the bowling lane building. Our match to this grant is \$79,200.

#### 6. Eldridge Park:

NJ DOT presented us with an opportunity to apply for the funding of a local project involving pedestrian improvements. It is a Pilot Program to install porous pavers on a Township site to showcase the product and other park improvements. The project would be administered as a grant, but all aspects – design, construction, and inspection – would be funded by the state. We were identified as a possible recipient based on our reputation and ability to deliver funded projects.

We identified Eldridge Park as an area that could be improved with a porous walking path around the park's perimeter. It is envisioned as a gently curving path outside the drip line of the mature trees, constructed of porous materials to minimize stormwater impact. Our application includes a request for four designated parking spaces, including a handicapped accessible space at the existing depressed curb on Tulane Avenue and miscellaneous park improvements such as benches, trash receptacles, and additional landscaping. The cost estimated and applied for is \$415,725.

This project, if awarded, would complement the planned equipment upgrade through the NJ DCA Local Recreation Grant of \$65,000 we received and recently were approved to spend and will provide linkages between play areas.

I believe it is critical for us as a municipal government to make sure that all areas of our community are meaningfully addressed for capital improvements – and our community parks are good means to improve the quality of life for the nearby residents.

#### 7. Lawrence Nature Center:

As you know, we received grant funds for \$88,000 for improvements to the exterior grounds of the Nature Center. For design work to create and install a more formal parking area, fix the patio on one side of the building, and install lighting to better improve accessibility to the building. We have begun the design work. We also have some funding designated in the Capital fund to complete this work.

In addition to the exterior work, we are exploring possibilities for a project that will include interior furnishings and lighting upgrades for potential displays and exhibits for the ground floor of the Nature Center and detached garage.

#### 8. Career Firefighter Hiring's:

We received the list of eligible firefighters from NJ Civil Service. Those who were eligible were required to take the physical skills examination, and once that was completed, we received the final eligibility list. We then conducted six interviews for the three available positions. Offers of employment will be going out over the next couple of days.

#### 9. Report and Recommendations for a New Fire & EMS Station for Lawrence Township:

As everyone knows, we received a grant from the NJ Department of Community of Affairs for \$725,000. The grant award aims to provide funding for engineering and architectural design, environmental studies, and preparation of bid documents for a new centralized Emergency Management Operations Center.

The township engaged Cotter Strategies, LLC, a fire and emergency services consulting firm, for the first phase of the process. Specifically, to study the existing fire stations and perform a need assessment to better understand what will be required for a new central station. This determines the type and size of the facility we will need as a community for a central fire/EMS and 911 facility.

We do expect to receive the report in the coming weeks. The preliminary conclusion is that the study team supports the construction of the new facility at the proposed location adjacent to the Municipal Building and that a central facility will provide important benefits. Reducing the number of fire station houses will reduce duplication of equipment and apparatus, resulting in significant cost savings for taxpayers. Moreover, a new facility will provide improved facilities for the health and safety of personnel, integration of the EMS and Fire Operations, further integration of career and volunteer members as a part of a combination organization, co-location of the Office of Emergency Management, the Emergency Operations Center, the local 911 emergency communications center and potential other administrative offices.

Once the report is received, it will be shared with you and the community. I will say this again publicly: I value the volunteer fire companies' service to our community in the past, the present, and for the foreseeable future. I am committed to taking responsible action to support and improve the volunteer firefighter service to our community.

POST SCRIPT: At the meeting, a resident stated during public participation that he felt we should be taking our time and proceeding slowly. We are. But we must begin, and that is what we are doing. Putting our heads in the sand and hoping things improve is not a valid or responsible plan. We identified that our community has a serious public safety issue, and we applied for and received a grant for \$725,000 to study the issue and provide our elected officials with all of the information necessary for them to make an appropriate decision on behalf of the community - to answer the question of whether to build a central Fire/EMT facility and if the Municipal Campus is the appropriate place to do so. We must begin the process to make these decisions, not let important projects languish. We will rely on the objective data related to our community and our response record to fire calls, etc., the advice and recommendations of highly qualified professionals we retain to act in our best interests and in the interest of public safety, and our judgment on the proper course of action to take.

For whatever reason, people wrongfully believe that a decision is to be made soon on these very serious community issues, and that is simply not the case. The matter will be researched, studied, and investigated, and once all of the information is compiled, the elected officials will decide whether to move forward - and will do so after public meetings and listening to comments and opinions from residents.

#### 10. Craft Cleaners site and the Pit Stop site:

1840 Brunswick Avenue is presently a vacant and abandoned lot along Brunswick Avenue (across from Burger King) that we have targeted to address in some meaningful as it languished for decades first as an abandoned building that used to be the site of a local business known as Craft Cleaners, which was demolished through township efforts years ago.

The land is currently owned by a defunct LLC with unresponsive members who acquired the property, I believe, through a sheriff sale but then realized its potential for being contaminated, and the LLC simply ceased operating as a business entity, leaving the land unattended and left to accumulate tax liens.

As we began the process of actually doing the work necessary to improve the Brunswick Streetscape, a concept in existence for decades but not meaningfully acted upon, we identified this vacant site as an important piece to address.

Much like we have handled the Pit Stop site, we applied for an NJ EDA under the HDSRF Program and received a grant for \$132,845. The grant was to fund a Preliminary Assessment and Site Investigation of the property to determine the extent of the contamination and the need for remediation.

Since receiving approval, we have engaged Langan Environmental Group to perform the assessment and site investigation. That work has started, and that process will take time. Once it is completed, we will better understand the remediation work necessary to get the property "clean." Once the NJDEP issues a No Further Action Letter, we hope to obtain title through foreclosure. However, in contrast to the "Pit Stop" application, the ultimate goal for the site is for redevelopment consistent with our overall goal of improving Brunswick Avenue as a pedestrian-friendly mixed-use area.

The Preliminary Assessment and Site Investigation have been completed for the Pit Stop, and the final report has been submitted to the NJDEP for review. We await their response to pursue further grant funding for the remediation work.

#### 11. 2024 Budget Process:

Department heads had submitted their budgets to our CFO, Peter Kiriakatis. Pete has provided me with a copy and has conducted his preliminary meeting with the department heads. We will then get together to begin the preparation of the recommended budget to present to the governing body. Once the new council members are sworn at reorganization, the governing body can work out the plan for the public budget process.

#### 12. Grant Game:

Throughout my report, you have heard the word grants. We are committed to keeping our community vibrant and moving forward with improvements by funding these projects from grants. As I began as the Municipal Manager, it was readily apparent that we did not have a formal grant program with a designated and dedicated staff member to the point person. We made the decision to make our part-time Municipal Engineer, Brenda Kramer, full-time and have her take over as our designated grant person. She has done an amazing job, and we have improved our ability to identify grants, apply for them, and execute them when funds are received. It has also motivated our department heads to find grant opportunities to help realize their vision for the services they help provide to the community.

For 2023, we have applied for over \$6,088,847 grants and have been awarded \$3,608,847 in grant funds, with applications for over \$2,934,732 and \$675,867 already awarded for 2024. These funds allow us to improve upon our infrastructure when our finances would preclude us from doing so, and also reduce the amount we would need from our taxpayers by the amount we are rewarded. Millions of dollars each year.

#### 13. From the Rec Department:

Deck the Town Hall Tree Lighting and more, December 8th, starting at 6 pm:

- Cookie Decorating
- · Reindeer Food Making
- · Trackless Train Rides
- · Mechanical Reindeer-new this year
- · Hot Chocolate
- · Cookies

Holiday House Decorating Contest, December 1st - 14th

· Houses around town compete for the title of the best-decorated holiday house and other categories.

#### Jolly Trolley:

December 15th

• Drive around town in a Victorian-style trolley and enjoy the wonderfully decorated houses in Lawrence Township.



-- Kevin Nerwinski, Esq. - Municipal Manager/QPA

#### **Announcements / News**

#### **Municipal Offices will be Closed**

Lawrence Township Municipal Offices will be closed on the following days: Monday, December 25th for Christmas Day & Monday, January 1st for New Years Day.

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#### **Upcoming Dates & Information**

Organic Waste Collection Suspended

The organic recycling program is <u>temporarily suspended effective</u> <u>November 30, 2023</u>. The Township did not receive any bids for this service for the <u>period covering 12/1/23 to 11/30/24</u>. We are currently exploring other options to continue the service sometime in the future.

#### <u>Thursday</u>, <u>December 7</u>

Recreation Advisory Committee meeting will begin at 6pm

#### Wednesday, December 20

Zoning Board meeting canceled

#### Monday, December 25

Municipal Offices closed for Christmas

Trash will not be collected (Make-Up Collection will be Saturday,

December 23)

## Boards and Committees: December Municipal Clerk 609-844-7001

Meeting	Date/Time ^
Lawrence Alcohol and Drug Alliance Meeting Location: Municipal Building	12/26/2023 @ 09:00AM
Environmental Resources & Green Advisory Committee Meeting Location: Municipal Building	12/26/2023 @ 07:00PM
Shade Tree Advisory Committee (canceled) Location: Municipal Building	12/25/2023 @ 07:00PM
<u>Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee</u> Location: Municipal Building	12/21/2023 @ 06:30PM
Zoning Board Meeting (canceled) Location: Municipal Building	12/20/2023 @ 07:00PM
Township Council Meeting Location: Municipal Building	12/19/2023 @ 06:30PM
Planning Board Meeting Location: Municipal Building	12/18/2023 @ 07:00PM
Senior Executive Committee Location: Senior Center	12/13/2023 @ 09:30AM
Growth and Redevelopment Committee Meeting Location: Municipal Building	12/12/2023 @ 07:00PM
<u>Historic Preservation Committee</u> Location: Municipal Building	12/11/2023 @ 07:30PM
Recreation Advisory Committee Meeting (6:00pm) Location: Municipal Building	12/07/2023 @ 06:00PM
<u>Trails, Open Space &amp; Stewardship Advisory Committee</u> Location: Municipal Building	12/06/2023 @ 07:30PM
Township Council Meeting Location: Municipal Building	12/05/2023 @ 06:30PM
Planning Board Meeting Location: Municipal Building	12/04/2023 @ 07:00PM

#### Officer Spotlight

\*\*\*\*\*Hey Lawrence Twp.!!\*\*\*\*

Instead our usual "Spotlight" we have a special treat for you. This week's spotlight is more of a "Showcase." Presenting Brix our own K-9 Officer. Brix (ID K9-6) is a 7-year-old German Shepherd. He has been with us for about 5 and a half years. He is the sixth K9 officer in LTPD's history. His favorite hobby is tracking and searching (for bad guys and/or narcotics). His goals are pretty simple, to be pet as often as possible and steal treats from unsuspecting co-workers. If we had to guess his favorite food, we'd say ANYTHING that is not nailed down.

With regards to his favorite teams, he's really not into pro-sports. He does like college sports however. He likes the Bulldogs, Pitbulls, Huskies, Greyhounds, Boxers (yes they really are college teams). We also asked him what he thought about the job, if it was easy or tuff for him. He said, "Ruff!" He's usually not very talkative.

All kidding aside, Brix routinely assists other agencies (as well as ours). In fact, he helped apprehend a homicide suspect several years ago! In addition to this he has helped locate several missing/endangered persons and has been involved in countless narcotics arrests.



Anyway, without further ado, check out Brix and his best friend and partner Det. James Steimle (#227) demonstrating some of the things Brix can do on the Lawrence TWP Police Facebook Page!



# <u>Senior Center Calendar - December 2023</u>

LAWRENCE TOWNSHIP SENIOR CENTER 30 East Darrah Lane, Lawrence Twp. NJ	Phone: 609-844-7048 Office Hours: 8:30 - 4:30 pm	www.lawrencetwp.com Lillian LaSalle, Executive Director	Natasha Pacera, Recreation Leader	Senio	8:30 AM to 3:00 PM. By appointment only-Must call 48 hours in advance. For Lawrence Townships Residents 60+. Van Service only transports local.	REGISTRATION	Pre-Registration is required for ALL Senior Center Programs by calling or visiting the	center. Programs for Lawrence Twp. Seniors 60 years and older.	MERCER COUNTY NUTRITION - HOT LUNCHES	MON. WED. THURS. AND FRI.  No Nutrition on Tuesdays  9:15 AM - Coffee	PLEASE Sign-in for meal by 10:45 AM Pre-Registration Required Please call	(609) 883-8085 OR (609) 989-6650 Assistant Site Manager: LaRhonda Davis SIGN UP FOR	Lawrenceville Student Tech Help, Breakfast with the Elves, Holiday Celebration & New Years "Eve Eve" Social! REGISTRATION OPEN 2024 Yoga & Tai Chi
	Saturday	MA G	Tree Lighting at Town Hall December 8th - 6 to 8 PM	6	RARY	16	N INES	D AM	23	Celebration during our Nutrition program - Please register for Lunch if you plan to attend!	MA O Happy *	year.	Sign up for our New Years "Eve Eve" Partyl Come ring in 2024 with food, drinks and musici
	ER CALLED Friday	1 LINE DANCE 9:30 AM WATERCOLOR FRESTYLE 10 AM	BINGO 1 - 3 PM	8 LINE DANCE 9:30 AM WATERCOLOR FREESTYLE 10 AM	M POETRY 1:00 PM - MC LIBRARY BINGO 1 - 3 PM TREE LIGHTING - 6 PM	15	AM 9:30 AM LINE DANCE 9:30 AM	M WATERCOLOR FREESTYLE 10 AM EERT PM BINGO 1 - 3 PM	LINE DANCE 9:30 AM		29 LINE DANCE 9:30 AM WATERCOLOR FREESTYLE 10 AM	NA NEW YEARS "EVE EVE" SOCIAL 1:30 - 3:30 PM NO BINGO	
ice on Aging 👚	/ Calendar SENTOR Thursday	30	y 🔤	7 EXERCISE - 9 AM HULA DANCE - 10:15 AM	RUMMIKUB - 1:00 PM	14 E	HULA DANCE - 10:15 AM	M HOLIDAY BAND CONCERT M AT SENIOR CENTER 7:00 PM		HULA DANCE - 10:15 AM RUMMIKUB - 1:00 PM	28 NO EXERCISE	HULA DANCE - 10:15 AM RUMMIKUB - 1:00 PM	Resemblador 23 Dec 26, 2023 - Jan 1, 2024
nce Township Off	ior Center Activity	Trip Info:  Departure is from	21 Slack Ave. Bus leaves at 9:30 AM Returns at 5:00 PM	GRO HILL	2		Y BUSY BEES - 12:30 PM BEREAVEMENT GROUP 1 - 3 PM	LAWRENCEVILLE STUDENT TECH HELP- 1:00 - 3:00 PM MEMOIR WRITING - 2 PM		Σ		MEMOIR WRITING - 2 PM	Hannikah Merry Ehristmas  Dec 7, 2023 - Dec 15, 2023   Dec 26, 2023
1992 Lawre	Seni Tuesday			5 DUPLICATE BRIDGE- 9 AM CLUB #1 - 10:00 AM	SCULPTURE CLASS - 1:00 PM HEALTHY BONES 1:30 - 3 PM	12 DUPLICATE BRIDGE- 9 AM	CLUB #2 CHRISTMAS PARTY - OFFSITE -	SCULPTURE CLASS - 1:00 PM HEALTHY BONES 1:30 - 3 PM	DUPLICATE BRIDGE- 9 AM	ORCHESTRA HOLIDAY CONCERT AT SENIOR CENTER 7:30 PM SCULPTURE CLASS - 1:00 PM HEALTHY BONES 1:30 - 3 PM	26 DUPLICATE BRIDGE- 9 AM NO CLUB #2 MEETING	SCULPTURE CLASS - 1:00 PM NO HEALTHY BONES	
Occursion of the America Township Office on Aging	Monday	Coffee with the Chief Dec. 13th at 10:00 AM Meet Christopher Longo,	Lawrence TWP Chief of Police	4 EXERCISE - 9 AM ACRYLIC ART - 10:00 AM	TA)-CHI - 10:30 AM (Last Class) GAME TIME - 1:00 PM MAH-JONGG - 1:00 PM	11 EXERCISE - 9 AM	ACKYLIC AKI - 10:00 AM	GAME TIME - 1:00 PM MAH-JONGG - 1:00 PM	EXERCISE - 9 AM	GAME TIME - 1:00 PM	3 Happy	TOWNSHIP OFFICES & SENIOR CENTER CLOSED	2024 —HAPPY NEW YEAR— TOWNSHIP OFFICES & SENIOR CENTER CLOSED
Door	South States	26		6	FREE EVENTS:	Lawrence Community Concert Band- Dec. 14th at 7:00 PM	Lawrence Reading	Holiday Concert Dec. 19th at 7:30 PM	17	禁	***************************************		31



The Lawrence Township Office on Aging

# Join us for BEREAVEMNET SUPPORT

Presented By:
Catherine Crawford
M.A, M. ED
Associate Director of Counseling

ON THE FOLLOWING DAYS

10/25 | 11/15 | 12/13

1:00 - 3:00 PM



*Lawrence Seniors 60 or older* 

> Call or Visit the Senior Center to Sign-Up

30 East Darrah Lane, Lawrence TWP, NJ



Join us as we help to keep our neighbors warm for the Winter. We are collecting handmade <a href="hats">hats</a>, scarves and lap blanket for those members of our community that can use a hand

this upcoming cold season.

To Participate:

Seniors, 60 or older

Please call the Lawrence Twp Senior Center to arrange pick up/ drop off of your yarn kit.

When your project is completed, please return it to the Senior Center and We Will make sure it gets to someone in need. Store bought items and donations of yarn are appreciated as Well.



Lawrence Senior Center



Meet and Greet with Christopher Longo, Lawrence Township Chief of Police

DEC. 13TH 10:00 AM

Learn more about the **Township Police** initiatives including **Operation Blue Angel** 



More information is on the Lawrence Township Police webpage about there programs W W W . L A W R E N C E T W P . C O M



# LAWRENCEVILLE STUDENT TECH HELP

If you need computer help, phone or have tech questions, the Lawrenceville School students will be here at the Senior Center to gladly help you work out your technology issues.

#### WEDNESDAYS FROM 1:00 - 3:00PM

THE LAWRENCEVILLE
SCHOOL STUDENTS WILL
BE HERE ON THE FOLLOW
DATES:

- DEC 13
- JAN 10
- JAN 17
- JAN 24
- JAN 31
- FEB 7
- FEB 14
- FEB 21
- FEB 28





#### LAWRENCE SENIOR CENTER



COME RING IN THE NEW YEAR
EARLY AT THE LAWRENCE SENIOR
CENTER!

WE WILL HAVE FOOD, REFRESHMENTS AND MUSIC. LETS DANCE OUR WAY INTO THE NEW YEAR TOGETHER!

VI LAWRENCE SENIORS 60+



**DECEMBER 29TH** 1:30 - 3:30PM

SIGN UP OR CALL (609) 844-7048

**30 EAST DARRAH LANE** 



#### LAWRENCE SENIOR CENTER

# THE CHIE

### 8 Week Winter Sessions: \$24

Fee is doubled for Non-Residents

Mondays 10:30 - 11:30 AM

#### Location:

Lawrence Senior Center 30 East Darrah Lane Lawrence, NJ

To **Pre-Register** or for

more information

Call (609) 844-7048 or

Visit the Senior Center

Instructor - Glenn Swann

#### **Class Dates:**

Session 1 – January 22

Session 2 – January 29

Session 3 – **February 5** 

**NO CLASS - FEBRUARY 12** 

**NO CLASS - FEBRUARY 19** 

Session 4 – **February 26** 

Session 5 - March 4

Session 6 – March 11

Session 7 – March 18

Session 8 – March 25





Must be 60+ to participate

# Lawrence Senior Center Yoga Class

#### 8 Week Winter Sessions: \$24

Fee is doubled for Non-Residents

Fridays 9:00 - 10:00 AM

#### Location:

Lawrence Senior Center 30 East Darrah Lane Lawrence, NJ

To **Pre-Register** or for more information

Call (609) 844-7048 or

Visit the Senior Center

Instructor - Cheri Dzubak

#### **Class Dates:**

Session 1 – January 19

NO CLASS – January 26

Session 2 – February 2

Session 3 - February 9

Session 4 – February 16

Session 5 – **February 23** 

Session 6 - March 1

Session 7 - March 8

Session 8 - March 15

Please bring your own yoga mat





Must be 60+ to participate



Your life is a story worth telling, join our memoir writing course and start putting your memories into words!

Leave a legacy!

In this free class lead by a published memoirist and former librarian at Slackwood School, Kathy Saretzky, write your own personal narrative with feedback by a supportive group.

Group Meets at the Lawrence Senior Center
Wednesdays from 2:00-4:00 PM

Call 609-844-7048 for more information & to register!

**30 East Darrah Lane** 





#### PEN PALLING

Interact and get to know highschool students through the new penpal club: Paper Friend!

Sign up through the registration form and submit it to the senior center to be partnered with a buddy!

Our goal is to encourage students and senior citizens to bond by exchanging letters and establishing strong connections between different generations.



#### Lawrence Township Office on Aging

## Line Dance

Wednesday's with James Ellis – 9:30 AM Friday's with Rose Majofsky – 9:30 AM

Class size limited

Lawrence Township
Senior Only 60
years and older

Visit or call
(609) 844-7048
the senior center to register





#### Watercolor Freestyle



Bring your own water color supplies, <u>no</u>
<u>instructor</u>, just come paint with other watercolor
enthusiast!



#### Date

Fridays 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM

#### Location

Lawrence Senior Center 30 E. Darrah Lane Lawrence, NJ 08648

- For Lawrence Residents 60 years +
- No cost!
- Space limited to 15 people

For additional questions and to register, visit or call the senior center at (609) 844-7048





Lawrence Township Senior Center 30 E. Darrah Lane Lawrence, NJ 08648

#### TUESDAYS 9:00 AM

Come out and play Duplicate Bridge at the Lawrence Senior Center.

Organized by Stu Augustin

Call the center at **(609) 844-7048** to register.





LAWRENCE TOWNSHIP SENIOR CENTER

#### LAWRENCE TOWNSHIP SENIOR CLUB #1 AND CLUB #2

Be part of our club to socialize, play bingo, day trips, luncheons and short member meetings!

Bring change for nickel bingo!

\$0.50 per meeting fee to cover light refreshments



LAWRENCE SENIOR CENTER 30 E. DARRAH LANE LAWRENCE,NJ 08648

CLUB MEETS TUESDAY'S 10:00 AM TO 1:00 PM

NO CLUB THE 5TH TUESDAY OF THE MONTH

Annual Dues - \$5.00

To register visit or call the senior center at (609) 844 - 7048



#### MAH-JONGG

Lawrence Township Senior Center 30 E. Darrah Lane

#### Monday's 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM

Come out and play some Mah-Jongg at the Lawrence Senior Center.

Call the center at **(609) 844-7048** to register.

Free to Lawrence Township Residents 60 years +









Thursdays 1:00 – 3:00 PM

**Location:** Lawrence Senior Center

30 E. Darrah Lane

Rummikub is a fun, but challenging game that involves patience and logic!

Visit or call the senior center at (609) 844 -7048 to register 30 E. Darrah Lane

LAWRENCE RECREATION

# SENIOR POOL MEMBERSHIP \$25

HOURS M-F 6PM - 9PM

SAT 9AM - 12PM

SUN CLOSED

HOURS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

LOCATION LAWRENCE HIGH SCHOOL 2525 PRINCETON PIKE

CONTACT THE RECREATION DEPARTMENT TO REGISTER 609 844 7064



#### NOTICE

Starting on Wednesday, June 28, 2023 the new electronic drop off site for <u>Lawrence Township residents only</u>, will be at the Joseph H. Mayer Jr. Ecological Center – 3701 Princeton Pike.

Electronics and tires off the rim may only be dropped off on Wednesdays between the hours of 7:30am and 2:30pm. No drop off between 11:45am and 12:30pm. Please see gate attendant. <a href="Proof of residency required">Proof of residency required</a>.

There will be a designated trailer for electronics and tires to be placed in. Please do not place items on the ground.

This is a drop off site only. The attendant can not assist with removing items from vehicles. Please make provisions if assistance is required.

Approved E-waste items that can be dropped off are:

Computers

Laptops

Printers (must remove ink cartridges and paper) NO COMMERCIAL PRINTERS

Monitors

Flat screen TV's

Plastic covered TV's (tube type)

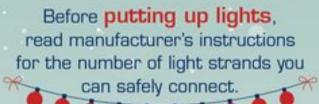
An alternative E-waste drop off site, designated by the State of NJ is the Good Will Store located at 1632 North Olden Avenue, Ewing, NJ 08638 (across from the Home Depot) on the corner of Arctic Parkway. E-waste can be dropped off anytime during the store hours. The web site posted time of operation is Monday thru Saturday, 9:00am – 9:00pm. Sunday 10:00am – 6:00pm. The Good Will store may take additional items that the Lawrence facility does not. Check store for details.

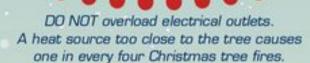
# FIRE SAFETY DURING THE HOLIDAYS

When burning candles, leave a one-foot perimeter around lit candles and place them in a sturdy base or candle holder.



The top three days for home candle fires are Christmas Eve, Christmas and New Year's Day.











One of every three home

Christmas tree fires is caused by

electrical problems.

Fire alarms should be tested and cleaned prior to the holiday season. Having a working smoke alarm reduces the chances of death in a fire by nearly half.



Nearly 47,000 fires occur during the winter holidays claiming more than 500 lives, causing more than 2,200 injuries, and costing \$554 million in property damage.





#### MANUA DEPLIER DEPLIER

# ALL THROUGH DECEMBER WE ARE COLLECTING!

The Lawrence Health Department is taking winter socks, hats, gloves, and other winter clothing items for children and adults in Lawrence Township that are in need.

Drop off box located at
Lawrence Township Municipal Building
North Entrance
2207 Lawrenceville Road
Lawrence, NJ 08648







#### 2023 FRIENDS OF COLONIAL LAKE PARK FRIENDS & NEIGHBORS BREAKFAST IN THE PARK

SATURDAY DECEMBER 09, 2023 BETWEEN 09:30 & 11:00

TOM, DANIELLE, CHARLIE, DEBBIE, JIM, DAVE, STEVE & KATHY

JOIN US FOR BAGELS, DONUTS, BEVERAGES
COMPLIMENTS OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD



BUNDLE UP AND MEET NEW
NEIGHBORS, SEE OLD
FRIENDS
PLEASE, TAKE A MOMENT
TO RSYP AT THE LINK
BELOW



C

### FROM THE DESK OF

### Santa Claus

### MERRY CHRISTMAS!

I have once again called upon Lawrence Township's cheerful EMT's this holiday season to host an official drop-off location for letters to Santa Claus!

> Please drop off letters between November 24th - December 17th

Drop off location: 165 Pilla Avenue Lawrence Township, NJ 08648

Parents please write legibly your child's full name and return mailing address

No return postage necessary, just a little magic and some help from our favorite reindeers!

This is a complimentary service from your friends at Lawrence Township Emergency Medical Services FMBA Local 396. For more information or questions, please contact via email at FMBA.396@gmail.com





### **Featuring**

**Mechanical Reindeer & Trackless Train Ride** Children's Goodie Bags 🄭 Cookie Decorating Free Hot Chocolate & Cookies

(while supplies last)

6:30pm

Santa Clause arrival 🌟 Tree Lighting





LTPD will be collecting unwrapped toys for charity during the event

### Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD):

### More Than the Winter Blues

As the days get shorter and there is less daylight, you may start to feel sad. While many people experience the "winter blues," some people may have a type of depression called seasonal affective disorder (SAD).

The first step is to determine how much your symptoms interfere with your daily life.

### Do you have mild symptoms that have lasted less than 2 weeks?



- Feeling down but still able to take care of yourself and others
- Having some trouble sleeping
- Having less energy than usual but still able to do your job, schoolwork, or housework

### These activities can make you feel better:



- Doing something you enjoy
- Going outside in the sunlight
- Spending time with family and friends
- Eating healthy and avoiding foods with lots of sugar

If these activities do not help or your symptoms are getting worse, talk to a health care provider.

### Do you have more severe symptoms that have lasted more than 2 weeks?



- Social withdrawal
- Oversleeping
- Gaining weight
- Craving foods with lots of sugar like cakes, candies, and cookies

### Seek professional help:



- Light therapy
- Psychotherapy (talk therapy)
- Medications
- Vitamin D supplements

For help finding treatment, visit nimh.nih.gov/findhelp.

If you or someone you know is in immediate distress or is thinking about hurting themselves, call or text the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline at **988** or chat at **988lifeline.org**.



### Is it a Cold or the Flu?

**Symptoms** 

Cold

Flu

	NA NA	
Fever	Rare	Yes, often high (102 – 104°F); lasts 3-5 days
Headache	Rare	Yes, sudden and can be severe
Aches/pains	Mild	Usual, often severe
Fatigue/ weakness	Mild	Yes, sudden and can last 2-3 weeks
Extreme exhaustion	Never	Yes
Stuffy nose	Common	Sometimes
Sneezing	Common	Sometimes
Sore throat	Common	Sometimes
Chest discomfort/ cough	Mild, hacking cough	Common, can be severe



### Food Safety at Home



### 1. Clean

### Always wash your food, hands, counters, and cooking tools.

- Wash hands in warm soapy water for at least 20 seconds.
   Do this before and after touching food.
- Wash your cutting boards, dishes, forks, spoons, knives, and counter tops with hot soapy water. Do this after working with each food item.
- Rinse fruits and veggies.
- Do not wash meat, poultry, fish, or eggs. If water splashes from the sink in the process of washing, it can spread bacteria.
- Clean the lids on canned goods before opening.



### 2. Separate (Keep Apart)

### Keep raw foods to themselves. Germs can spread from one food to another.

- Keep raw meat, poultry, seafood, and eggs away from other foods.
   Do this in your shopping cart, bags, and fridge.
- Do not reuse marinades used on raw foods unless you bring them to a boil first.
- Use a special cutting board or plate for raw foods only.



### 3. Cook

### Foods need to get hot and stay hot. Heat kills germs.

- Cook to safe temperatures:
  - Beef, Pork, Lamb 145 °F
  - Fish 145 °F
  - Ground Beef, Pork, Lamb 160 °F
  - Turkey, Chicken, Duck 165 °F
- Use a food thermometer to make sure that food is done. You can't always tell by looking.



### 4. Chill

### Put food in the fridge right away.

- 2-Hour Rule: Put foods in the fridge or freezer within 2 hours after cooking or buying from the store.
   Do this within 1 hour if it is 90 degrees or hotter outside.
- Never thaw food by simply taking it out of the fridge. Thaw food:
  - In the fridge
  - Under cold water
  - In the microwave
- Marinate foods in the fridge.



### Food Safety at Home

### Why should you care about food safety?

Each year millions of people get sick from food illnesses. Food illness can cause you to feel like you have the flu. Food illness can also cause serious health problems, even death.

### Think you have a food illness?

Call your doctor and get medical care right away.

- · Save the food package, can, or carton.
- Call USDA at 1-888-674-6854 for meat, poultry, or eggs.
- Call FDA at 1-866-300-4374 for all other foods.
- Call your local health department if you think you got sick from food you ate in a restaurant or other food seller.

### Who is at risk?

Anyone can get sick from eating spoiled food. Some people are more likely to get sick from food illnesses.

- Pregnant women
- Older Adults
- People with certain health conditions like cancer, HIV/AIDS, diabetes, and kidney disease

Some foods are more risky for these people. Talk to your doctor or other health provider about which foods are safe for you to eat.

This fact sheet was developed by the FDA Office of Women's Health.

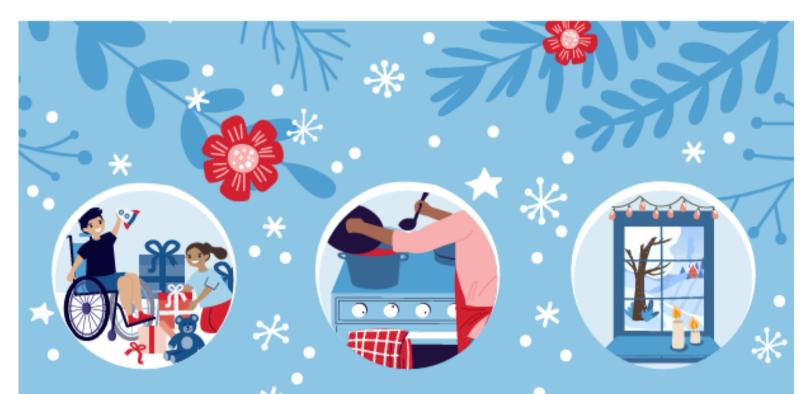
To get other women's health resources, go to

www.fda.gov/womens



### Making a List, Checking it Twice:

### Top Tips for Celebrating Safely this Holiday Season



### Toys

- Follow safety information on packages, and choose toys that match your child's abilities.
- Get safety gear and ensure it's worn properly at all times and sized to fit.
- Keep small balls and toys with small parts away from children younger than age 3.

### Cooking

- Never leave food unattended on the stove or in the oven.
- Keep flammable items away from the stove and oven.
- Fry a turkey outside only, and away from your home and do not overfill the oil in the turkey fryer.

### Decorating

- Keep your live Christmas tree well-watered and look for the "Fire Resistant" label when buying an artificial tree.
- Place burning candles away from flammable items, and blow them out before leaving the room.
- Only use lights tested for safety and throw out sets with broken sockets, or frayed wires.











### How to Reach Us

TWW's regular business hours are Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. TWW is not open on federal and municipal holidays. We are at your service.

- For account-related questions, call
   1-866-TWW-BLUE. Please listen carefully to the prompts. Spanish-speaking customer service representatives are available.
- Unable to pay your water or sewer bills? Call 2-1-1 or visit waterassistance.nj.gov.
- For water emergencies, such as service leaks, water main breaks, and damaged fire hydrants, call (609) 989-3222. You can reach our Meter Shop at (609) 989-3225.
- To sign up for TWW's Reverse 911 system, visit trentonwaterworks.org. TWW utilizes its Reverse 911 system to communicate with customers and servicearea residents during water emergencies.
- To learn more about your rights as a utility customer, visit trentonwaterworks.org.
- To reach TWW's Office of Communications and Community Relations, call (609) 989-3033.



## Get help with your water bill. Apply today.

New Jersey's Low-Income Household Water
Assistance Program (LIHWAP) can help you avoid
service interruptions, restore services, pay
reconnection fees, and stay up-to-date on payments.
To apply, call 2-1-1 or visit waterassistance.nj.gov.

Also, TWW can customize a payment agreement to help you get caught up. To learn more, call us at **1-866-TWW-BLUE**, Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. TWW is closed on holidays.

New Jersey's Winter Termination Program, a moratorium on shut-offs, ended on March 15. However, TWW has temporarily suspended residential service interruptions to allow our valued customers struggling with payment challenges to access utility assistance programs or enter into payment agreements.

## 1-866-TWW-BLUE

We are at your service.

# Obtenga ayuda con su factura de agua. Aplica hoy.

El Programa de Asistencia de Agua para Hogares de Bajos Ingresos de New Jersey (LIHWAP) puede ayudar. Para presentar una solicitud, llame al 2-1-1 o visite waterassistance.nj.gov.

Programa de terminación de invierno de Nueva Jersey, una moratoria sobre los cortes terminó el 15 de marzo. Sin embargo, **TWW ha suspendido temporalmente las interrupciones del servicio residencial** para permitir que nuestros valiosos clientes que luchan con los desafíos de pago accedan a los programas de asistencia de servicios públicos o entren en acuerdos de pago.

## 1-866-TWW-BLUE

# Nosotros estamos a su servicio.





### Operation Blue Angel

The Lawrence Township Police Department is happy to announce the availability of the Operation Blue Angel program for Lawrence Township residents. This free program is open to residents who are 55 years of age or older and live alone or will be alone for extended periods of time on a regular basis; or for people with a medical condition(s) that could lead to incapacitation and who live alone or who are alone for extended periods of time on a regular basis.

The program consists of a lockbox, which will be owned and maintained by the Police Department, which will be placed on the participant's property by Police personnel. The lockbox will contain a key to the residence (which the resident must supply). The key will only be accessed by responding police officers in the event of an <a href="mailto:emergency">emergency</a> where officers cannot access the residence. The Operation Blue Angel program lockbox will not be accessed for lock-outs or any other non-emergent situation.

### Mail Form

Any interested Lawrence Township residents are encouraged to complete registration by printing the Operation Blue Angel Application (PDF) and mailing the registration form. <u>Mail forms to:</u>

Lawrence Township Police Department
Atten: Operation Blue Angel Program Coordinator
2211 Lawrence Road
Lawrenceville, NJ 08648

### Follow-Up / Questions

An officer from the Police Department will be in touch regarding your acceptance/participation in the program. For any questions concerning the program please call Lt. RJ Laird 609-844-7123.



### The Lawrence Home Improvement Program

Lawrence is accepting names for participation in its municipally sponsored home improvement program for low and moderate-income families. Your name can be added to the waiting list by calling our program consultant Affordable Housing Administrators at 732-966-0674.

Eligible home improvements include roofing, windows, electrical upgrades, heating systems, water heaters, insulation, plumbing and any other health, safety or code violations. The program is structured as a forgivable loan. There are no monthly payments and no interest. If you stay in your home for ten years, you will owe nothing to Lawrence.

The program is available for owner-occupied single-family homes, condominiums, townhomes and duplexes in which the owner occupies one of the units. To be eligible to participate, your gross annual income (meaning pre-tax income) for all household members must be less than:

\$ 68,665
\$ 78,474
\$ 88,283
\$ 98,092
\$ 105,940
\$ 113,787
\$121,635
\$129,482

Kevin P. Nerwinski, QPA Municipal Manager



### **EMERGENCY ALERTS**



**Sign up** for Nixle alerts for Lawrence Township.

Nixle keeps you up-to-date with relevant information from your local public safety departments & schools.



Or sign-up online to receive emails and phone calls (It's easy and anyone can join): Go to local.nixle.com/register/

* Email:			Public safety messages are sent here
* Password:			Make it hard to guess!
* Full Name:			
Language:	English	~	
Mobile Phone:			Text alerts from local police and fire departments are sent to this device.
Home Phone:			After sign-up, see your Settings page for supported Local Agencies
Voice Messages:	No Voice Msgs	•	Service only available from supported Public Safety Agencies
	I Accept. Sign me up!	By clic	cking "I Accept," I accept Nixle's Terms of Service.

### We have a new E-Newsletter

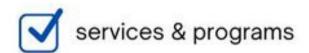
Please visit our website to sign up: https://www.lawrencetwp.com



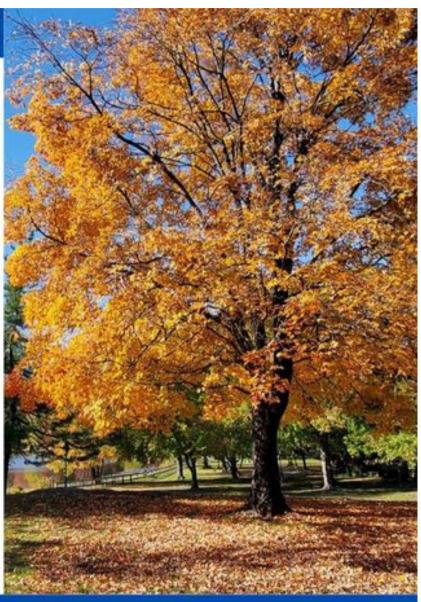


sign-up for our weekly e-newsletter









**Township of Lawrence** 

www.lawrencetwp.com

Or call 609-844-7074 for sign-up assistance



## Paula Sollami Covello

County Clerk Mercer County, New Jersey

# Mercer County Property Alert Service

# Thank you for your interest in the Mercer County Clerk's Office Property Alert Service.

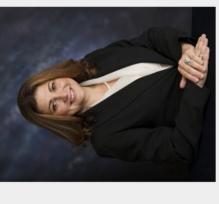
By signing up for this service, you are taking the first step in protecting your property. By registering, you are now able to track your property and you will receive e-mail alerts immediately if a document with your name or property description is recorded in the Mercer County Clerk's Office. Unfortunately, property and mortgage fraud is a fast growing crime in the United States. Unscrupulous individuals record fraudulent documents like fake deeds or liens against property owners.

Mercer County, whether occupied or vacant. You may also wish to register properties for a friend or elderly relative Registration is FREE and simple. Follow steps at the Mercer County Clerk's website for any type of land owned in to help protect them from fraud.

If you find you are a victim of fraud, you can call the Mercer County Clerk's Office Assistance Hotline at 609-989-6470. Someone will provide you with public resources available to assist you. You can also call the Mercer County Office of Consumer Affairs to lodge a complaint at 609-989-6671.

Congratulations on protecting your property, one of your most important assets.

We are happy to serve you!



Sincerely,

Taula Jollani Covello



# MERCER COUNTY RECYCLING INFORMATION



All recyclables must be in official buckets and at the curb by 7:00 a.m. • NO ITEMS IN PLASTIC BAGS WILL BE COLLECTED

YES - you can recycle that!



Mindow Envelopes Mixed Paper





Corrugated Cardboard (Hattened and/or cut)



Hard Cover Books (covers removed)



2 Plastic Bags

E Pizza Boxes



Glass Food & Beverage Jars/Bottles (all colors)



Fet Food Cans



Milk Jugs & Plastic Beverage Bottles



D Aluminum & Metal



M Aluminum Foil/Baking Pans

Light Bulbs

Drinking Glasses, Dishes &

M Styrofoam

**Broken Window Glass** 

Ceramics & Pottery

Aerosol Cans

**Beverage Containers** 

Motor Oil & Anti-Freeze Containers



M Bandage Tins & Cookie Tins

Clothes Hangers

Carbon & Waxed Paper

#1 or #2 Symbols

Detergent & Shampoo

Containers

Juice/Beverage Cartons

☑ Juice Boxes &

RIGHT



☐ Plastics with





Tissue Paper, Napkins, Paper Plates & Paper Towels Plastics with #3 - #7 Symbols



If you have any questions related to the Senior Connect, please feel free to reach out to Natasha Pacera.

phone: 609-844-7048

email: npacera@lawrencetwp.com