
RECREATION DEPARTMENT SPECIAL EVENTS SENIOR CENTER/OFFICE ON AGING

2024 BUDGET PRESENTATION
NANCY BERGEN
SUPERINTENDENT OF RECREATION
February 6, 2024

**Lawrence Township
Town Council**

Recreation Advisory Committee

Kevin Nerwinski, Esq.
Municipal Manager/QPA

**Senior Citizen Executive
Committee**

Nancy Bergen
Superintendent of Recreation

Recreation Office

Special Events

**Office on Aging and
Senior Center**

Jeffrey Radice
Recreation Leader

Emily Kurlander
Recreation Leader

Patriotic Committee

Lillian LaSalle
Executive Director,
Office on Aging

**Lifeguards and
Pool Staff**

**Programs
Instructors and
Camp Staff**

**Lawrence
Nature Center**

Natasha Pacera
Recreation Leader

Ron Dziminski
Senior Van Driver

**Various Activities
Supervisors/Coaches/Volunteers**

**Program Instructors, Volunteers and
Interns**

2024 OPERATING BUDGET REQUESTS

RECREATION DEPARTMENT

\$133,000

The Recreation Budget is a financial plan that backs a variety of community programs, events, and park enhancements. Spanning administrative needs, park improvements, program requirements, and equipment, it establishes a comprehensive strategy, enriching the overall well-being and enjoyment of our community.

SPECIAL EVENTS

\$17,000

The Special Events Budget includes funds for advertising, equipment rental, food, entertainment, and miscellaneous items that contribute to the success of community events. This budget guarantees that every aspect of the event is well-organized and promoted, supporting both logistical and creative components.

SENIOR CENTER/OFFICE ON AGING

\$18,500

The Senior Center Office on Aging budget at Lawrence Township supports residents aged 60 and older, providing essential services such as socialization events, health services, and cultural programs. The budget also ensures accessibility through van transportation, playing a crucial role in enhancing the overall well-being and quality of life for seniors in Lawrence Township.

LAWRENCE TOWNSHIP RECREATION DEPARTMENT



The Lawrence Township Recreation Department is dedicated to enhancing the social, cultural, and physical well-being of our residents. Our overarching goal is to elevate the quality of life for everyone in Lawrence Township by providing a diverse array of recreational opportunities. Operating with three full-time employees and over 100 part-time staff members, we strive to create a vibrant and engaging community.

- Nancy Bergen: Superintendent of Recreation/Office on Aging/Senior Center
- Jeffrey Radice: Recreation Leader
- Emily Kurlander: Recreation Leader

Highlights of our activities and responsibilities include:

- Lawrence High School Pool:
 - Open Monday to Friday evenings and Saturdays during the day.
 - Lifeguard scheduling and training
- Pavilion Rentals:
 - Management of three township pavilions available for rentals
- Field Scheduling:
 - Coordination of athletic fields for various sports organizations, including closure of fields due to weather
 - All scheduling of field lighting
- Coaches and Volunteers
 - Management of coaches and volunteers for various programs

RECREATION

LAWRENCE TOWNSHIP RECREATION DEPARTMENT



(Continued)

- **The Lawrence Township Anne Demairis Nature Center:**
 - Managed under the Lawrence Recreation Department
- **Programs:**
 - A wide range of programs and activities for all ages, including youth basketball, youth swim team, summer camps, and more
- **Special Events:**
 - Organization and execution of various special events through the Recreation Department
- **Park Improvements:**
 - Playground equipment and park improvements
- **Community Organizations:**
 - Collaboration with numerous community groups
- **Lawrence Township Newsletter:**
 - Distribution of the weekly newsletter "Latest in Lawrence" managed by the Recreation Department.
- **Lawrence Recreation Facebook Page**
 - We actively manage and share the latest updates, advertise events, and provide information on all event highlights and programs.

We are committed to fostering a dynamic and inclusive community through our diverse offerings and look forward to contributing to the well-being of Lawrence Township residents.

RECREATION



2023

RECREATION PROGRAMS

Lawrence Recreation Department offers year-round programs for all Lawrence Township residents. The department provides affordable programs for recreational opportunities for all ages with a variety of interests.

- ADULT FITNESS BOOTCAMP
- NATURE DETECTIVES
- TRAVEL CAMP
- SUMMER FUN CAMP
- ART CAMP
- EXERCISE CLASS - KIDS & TEENS
- SUMMER SWIM LESSONS
- SAFETY TOWN CAMP
- STREET HOCKEY CLINIC
- NATURE CENTER CAMP
- JUST PLAY CAMP
- CSI CAMP
- ADULT PICKELBALL CLINICS
- ADULT WALKING PROGRAM
- YOGA IN THE PARK
- HULA HOOP EXERCISE CLASS
- CORNHOLE LEAGUE
- PRIMETIME ATHLETICS - BASKETBALL CAMP
- COMMUNITY GARDENS
- POOL MEMBERSHIPS
- TENNIS CLASSES
- MOVE YOUR BODY FITNESS
- YOUTH BASKETBALL LEAGUE
- LAWRENCE LIGHTNING SWIM TEAM
- ADULT VOLLEYBALL
- JUNIOR WRESTLING



RECREATION DEPARTMENT

COMMUNITY COLLABORATIONS

Scheduling and management for all parkland activities are organized through the township Recreation Department, including permits and reservations for field usage of parks, athletic fields, open space, pavilions, and Lawrence Township Nature Center. The department supports and communicates with various community groups on a daily or weekly basis. Which including the following:

Lawrence Hamnett Soccer

Lawrence Lacrosse Club

Lawrence Junior Baseball/Softball Association

Lawrence Junior Cardinal Football

Lawrence Environmental Education Foundation

Girl Scouts and Scout Organizations

Lawrence Hopewell Trail

Friends of Colonial Lake

Lawrence Township Community Band

Lawrence Township Patriotic Committee

Lawrence Township Public School District

Lawrence Recreation Advisory Board

Rider University



RECREATION DEPARTMENT HOURS OF OPERATIONS

Recreation Department Hours:

Recreation Office

Monday-Friday: **8:30 am - 4:30 pm**

LHS Pool Hours:

Monday-Friday: **6:00 pm - 9:30 pm**

Saturdays: **12:00 pm - 6:00 pm**

Park Facilities: (for various youth non-profit groups) and Pavilion Rentals – Village Park (2) And Veterans Park,

Field Usage/Light Scheduling:

Monday – Friday Until **10:00 pm**

Saturdays And Sundays All Day Until **9:30 pm**

Nature Center:

Monday – **6:00 pm - 9:30 pm** Scouts

Saturday And Sundays: Programs

Senior Center:

Band Practice-Tuesdays And Thursday Evenings until **10 pm**

Various Programs At LTPS Facilities

Program Times Are Usually At Night Until **10 pm** and Saturdays all day.

Basketball practice, swim team practice, adult volleyball, wrestling practice, and many other programs



LAWRENCE TOWNSHIP RECREATION DEPARTMENT



Celebrating Growth and Engagement in 2023

- Increased attendance at special events
- Won the NJRPA Excellence in Health and Wellness Award for the 2022 program "2.22 Mile Walk on 2-22-22"
- Expanded community engagement with additional activities
- Achieved a 20% increase in participation for our Summer Camps
- Introduced new adult fitness programs, including the "Move Your Body" program
- Enhanced our Veterans Day program by extending invitations to Lawrence Township Veterans through postcards



RECREATION



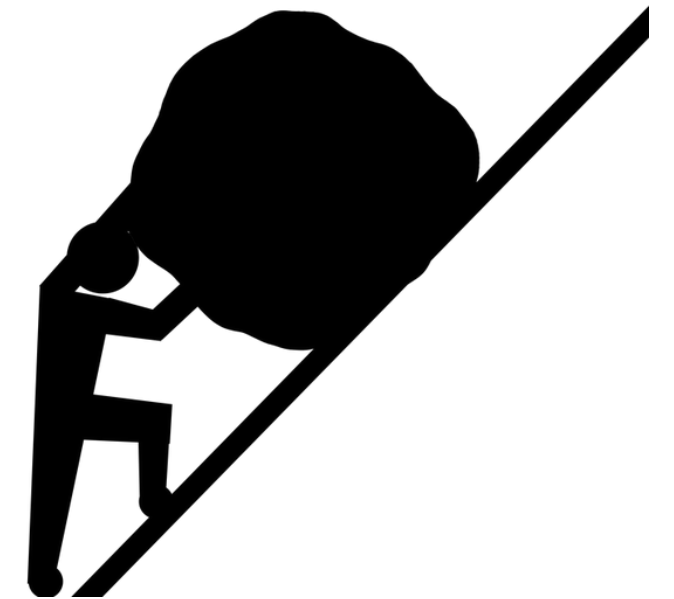
LAWRENCE TOWNSHIP RECREATION DEPARTMENT

CHALLENGES WE FACE

As the heart of community engagement and well-being, our Recreation Department plays a pivotal role in fostering a vibrant and healthy community. However, several challenges pose significant hurdles in maintaining and enhancing our recreational facilities and programs.

Here's an overview of some of the key challenges we currently face:

- Escalating Costs of Equipment and Field Lining Paint
- Aging Playground Equipment
- Shortage of Part-Time Employees
- Absence of an Indoor Facility for Program Execution
- Transportation Costs for Camp Bussing
- High Demand for Field Utilization and the Time Required to Manage the Needs of Various Groups



RECREATION DEPARTMENT GOALS FOR 2024



2024 Goals for Lawrence Township Recreation Department:

Community Engagement:

- Promote programs via Lawrence Recreation Facebook and Township website for increased participation.
- Host diverse community events, targeting higher attendance.

Lawrence Township Anne Demairis Nature Center (ADNC) Enhancement:

- Improve ADNC infrastructure with added parking and lighting.
- Develop ADNC interior with displays and furniture.
- Introduce new programs aligned with current trends.

Facilities Upgrades:

- Resurface Village Park Basketball Courts (2023 Capital Budget).
- Replace Colonial Lake Park playground playset (2023 Capital Budget).
- Upgrade Eldridge Park playground equipment and park(Grant).

Hero Dog Park:

- Assist in developing and opening Township Dog Park by Spring 2024.
- Foster community involvement in the dog park project.

Technology Integration:

- Explore creating a department app for streamlined communication and program registration.
- Stay updated on technology trends for continuous improvement.

These goals signify our dedication to community engagement, facility enhancement, and technological advancement, ensuring an enriching recreational experience in Lawrence Township for 2024.



ABOUT US

LAWRENCE TOWNSHIP SENIOR CENTER/ OFFICE ON AGING



The Lawrence Senior Center, located at 30 Darrah Lane East, warmly invites local seniors aged 60 and above to participate in a diverse range of activities. Open from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm, Monday to Friday, the center is efficiently run by a dedicated team of full-time staff, and many volunteers.

Lillian Lasalle (Executive Director)

Natasha Pacera (Recreation Leader)

Ron Dziminski (Senior Van Transportation Driver/Clerk)

Local residents are strongly encouraged to take part in various programs and social events organized at the Senior Center, fostering a lively and connected community atmosphere. Transportation services are readily available for pickups to the center for programs, shopping, and doctor's appointments whenever possible.

Functioning as a County Nutrition site, the Mercer County nutrition program provides hot lunches to registered seniors throughout the year.





SOCIAL ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNITY BUILDING:

The Senior Center fosters social connections, providing a supportive environment for seniors to interact, share experiences, and build lasting friendships. This sense of community contributes to improved mental well-being and a higher quality of life.



HEALTH AND WELLNESS PROGRAMS:

The center offers a variety of health and wellness programs, including fitness classes, health screenings, and educational workshops. By promoting physical activity and preventive care, the Senior Center contributes to the overall health of seniors.



COST-EFFECTIVE RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

The Senior Center provides affordable recreational activities and programs, offering seniors an array of engaging options without straining their budgets. This not only enhances their enjoyment of life but also supports financial stability by providing entertainment and socialization at a reasonable cost.

BENEFITS OF THE SENIOR CENTER



LAWRENCE TOWNSHIP

SENIOR CENTER/OFFICE ON AGING

COMMUNITY COLLABORATIONS



Neighbors Helping Neighbors

- Provided hats and scarves sets to Homefront family Center, with more sets being donated to the Lawrence Community Center.
- Provided lap blankets were donated to Morris Hall/St. Lawrence, Hamilton Continuing Care and Hamilton Grove which serve Lawrence Township residents.

Lawrenceville School

- Students from the Lawrenceville School held technology help classes in for seniors at the senior center as a form of community service. Several seniors received help with computer skills and use of smartphones.

Mercer County Nutrition Program

- According to the Nutrition Program, in 2023 the Nutrition Project for the Elderly served over 12,000 meals.

Lawrence Community Center:

- The Office on Aging arranged an agreement with the Lawrence Homefront Community Center for space to offer exercise, tai-chi and yoga senior programs at the community center.

The College of New Jersey School of Public Health:

- The seniors partnered with graduate students and their advisor to offer an exciting, interactive, free health education program for seniors focusing on topics like senior mental health, stress relief, nutrition, and fall prevention.

Henry J. Austin Community Health Center:

- In collaboration with Henry J Austin staff nurse, Linda Buckley the Office on Aging was able to offer:
 - A Chronic Disease Prevention Program
 - A Matter of Balance education program

Mercer County Adult Protective Services:

- The office on Aging partnered with APS to promote and highlight Elder Abuse Awareness day. APS staff manned a table at the senior center and shared information on elder abuse education; and provided information on available support services to prevent crisis situations.

Neighbors helping Neighbors

Join us as we help to keep our neighbors warm for the winter. We are collecting handmade hats, scarves and Lap blanket for those members of our community that can use a hand this upcoming cold season.

Help us help others
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.

Call us (609) 844-7048

30 East Darrah Lane, Lawrence TWP, NJ 08648

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

2023

SENIOR CENTER PROGRAMS

In 2023 the Lawrence Township Senior Center Programs offer a diverse range of engaging activities and events tailored to the interests and well-being of individuals aged 60 and above.

- ACRYLIC ART
- BEREAVEMENT GROUP
- BINGO
- BUSY BEES
- CHORALEERS
- CLUB 1 & 2
- COMPUTER ROOM
- COMPUTER TECH HELP
- DUPLICATE BRIDGE
- EXERCISE
- GAMES
- HEALTH BONES
- HULA DANCING
- LINE DANCING
- MAH-JONGG
- MATTER OF BALANCE
- MEMOIR WRITNG
- PEOPLE & STORIES
- POETRY
- RUMMIKIB
- SCULPTURE
- SOCIALS/ EVENTS (MONTHLY)*
- TAI-CHI
- WALKING WITH EASE
- WATER COLOR
- YOGA



2023

SENIOR CENTER SOCIAL EVENTS

In 2023, the Lawrence Township Senior Center hosted social events specifically tailored to meet the interests and enhance the well-being of individuals aged 60 and above.



January:

- Craft with Tatum
- Lunch Nutritionist Talk

February:

- Valentine's Day Social
- Black History Social
- Visit by George Washington

March:

- Senior Medicare Patrol Talk
- Council of Compulsive Gambling Talk
- St. Patrick's Day Social
- Women's History Program
- AARP Safe Driving Program
- Craft with Tatum

April:

- Township Liaison NIXLE Talk
- National Poetry Month Performances
- PRIZE Ticket BINGO
- Volunteer Appreciation Social

May:

- International Fashion Show
- Honoring Mothers
- Lawrence Senior Center Open House

June:

- Community Concert "FROM BACH TO ROCK"
- Cornhole Tournament

July:

- Senior Well Being Talk
- Prize Ticket BINGO
- Summer Pizza Party

August:

- CLUB # 2 TRIP
- Art Show and Reception
- Senior Citizen Day Ice Cream Social
- Trenton Thunder Trip
- Pancakes & Puzzles Social
- Luau Social

September:

- Anniversary Social
- Legal tips & Consumer Scams talk
- Mercer County Nutrition Annual Picnic

October:

- Council of Compulsive Gambling
- National Poetry Day Social
- Telephone Reassurance Talk
- Hispanic Heritage Celebration
- Well-O-Ween Health Fest

November:

- Talent Show
- SHIP Program Talk

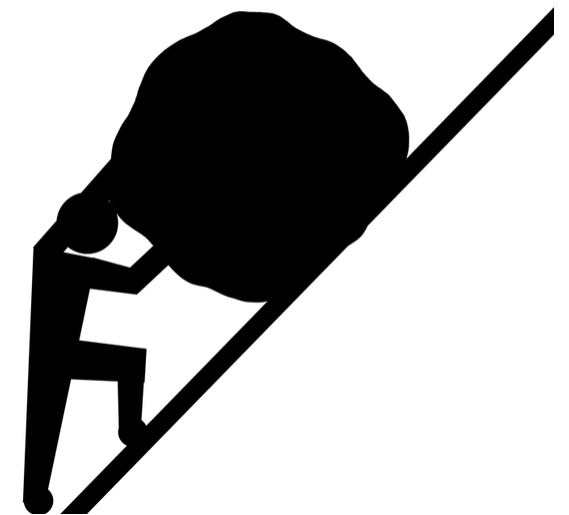
December:

- Trip to Hunterdon Hills Playhouse
- Coffee with The Chief
- Breakfast with the Elves
- Holiday Band Concert
- Orchestra Holiday Concert
- Holiday Celebration
- New Year's "Eve Eve" Social

LAWRENCE TOWNSHIP SENIOR CENTER OFFICE ON AGING

CHALLENGES WE FACE

Upgrading our senior center with a new bingo board, furniture, electric partitioner, tables, pool table, and more is crucial for enhancing the community's well-being. Aging equipment, worn-out furniture, and outdated amenities can impact the overall experience of the senior center. Collaborating with the engineering department, we will actively exploring grants to facilitate these essential improvements and create a more enriching environment for our seniors.



SENIOR CENTER/OFFICE ON AGING GOALS FOR 2024



2024 Goal for the Office on Aging and Senior Center:

To enhance the well-being and quality of life for seniors in our community, the Office on Aging aims to achieve the following objectives by the end of 2024:

Advocacy and Education:

- Implement comprehensive senior advocacy and education programs, featuring talks from Senior Medicare Patrol and SHIP.
- Conduct sessions on crucial topics such as Living Wills, Wills, Powers of Attorney, tax aid, and tax benefits for seniors.
- Raise awareness about elder abuse and provide fraud prevention strategies.
- Facilitate registrations for the Township Police, Operation Blue Angel.
- Introduce innovative methods such as 'Lunch and Learn' and 'Coffee Hubs' to engage seniors actively.

Health and Wellness:

- Collaborate with Rutgers University Cooperative Extension to launch Food Safety, Healthy Recipe, Meal Planning, and Budgeting Series.
- Partner with the Township Health Department to offer regular health screenings.
- Organize an annual senior health fair and establish a Bereavement Group in collaboration with community agencies and the wellness/medical community.

Recreation Programs:

- Enrich the lives of seniors by implementing nature center programs, walking groups, craft classes, senior meet-and-greets, Rummikub, Corn Hole tournaments, and book clubs.
- Conduct surveys among seniors to identify preferred activities and programs, ensuring inclusivity and catering to diverse interests.

By accomplishing these goals, the Office on Aging aspires to create a supportive and engaging environment for seniors, promoting their health, well-being, and sense of community throughout the year 2024.

LAWRENCE TOWNSHIP SPECIAL EVENTS



The Recreation Department is responsible for planning, coordinating and conducting a wide variety of special activities and events that celebrate and showcase Lawrence Township. These events attract thousands of residents and visitors from neighboring communities each year.

We work very closely with several departments and volunteers and would like to thank the Lawrence Township Recreation Advisory Board, Lawrence Township Patriotic Committee, Lawrence Township Public Works, Lawrence Township Police, OEM, Health Department and Fire Departments for their continued support at the events.



2023

SPECIAL EVENTS

- Colonel Hand March
- Valentine's Day Candlelight Walk
- Black History Month Art and Essay Contest
- Lawrence the Leprechaun
- Egg Hunt with LTPD
- Memorial Day Parade
- Independence Day Fireworks Celebration
- 9/11 Memorial Service
- Community Day
- Halloween House Decorating Contest
- Veterans Day
- Tree Lighting at Town Hall
- Holiday House Lighting Contest
- Jingle for Joy
- Jolly Trolley Rides

CONCLUSION

The Recreation Department is a vital asset for enhancing the overall quality of life in Lawrence Township.

- **Provides essential benefits such as physical activity, community bonding, and cultural enrichment.**

Special events organized by the Recreation Department foster community unity and create lasting memories.

- **Enhances social cohesion within the community.**

The Senior Center/Office on Aging offers tailored programs and support services.

- **Fosters a sense of community among the elderly population in Lawrence Township.**

Overall, the Recreation Department and Senior Center/Office on Aging plays a crucial role in promoting a vibrant and connected community in Lawrence Township.

THANK YOU

**HERE IS A SHORT VIDEO HIGHLIGHTING THE
LAWRENCE RECREATION DEPARTMENT AND
OFFICE OF AGING/SENIOR CENTER'S 2023 ACTIVITIES,
PROGRAMS, AND SPECIAL EVENTS**