



2026 Budget Presentation

RECREATION SENIOR CENTER/OFFICE ON AGING SPECIAL EVENTS

Nancy Bergen
SUPERINTENDENT OF RECREATION

LAWRENCE TOWNSHIP RECREATION DEPARTMENT



Nancy Bergen, Superintendent of Recreation

Jeffrey Radice, Recreation Leader

Emily Suydam, Recreation Leader

Lawrence Township Recreation Department | 2025 Recap + Department Overview

In 2025, the Recreation Department delivered year-round programs, community events, and facility support that strengthen Lawrence Township. This budget request sustains core services, supports township traditions, and keeps pace with continued community demand.

What We Deliver

- Programs for all ages: camps, youth sports, aquatics, fitness, and enrichment
- Community events and township traditions that build pride and bring neighbors together
- Facility scheduling, permits, rentals, and field coordination for residents and local organizations
- Anne Demarais Nature Center operations and environmental education
- Communications and registration support through our website, Facebook, and *Latest in Lawrence*

Community Reach

- 2,000+ residents served through our recreation programs
- Strong participation reflecting high demand and continued growth

2025

RECREATION PROGRAMS

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



- Recreation Basketball League: Co-Ed - 1st / 2nd Grade Clinic
- Recreation Basketball League: Boys - 3rd Grade
- Recreation Basketball League: Boys - 4th / 5th Grade
- Recreation Basketball League: Boys - 6th / 7th / 8th Grade
- Recreation Basketball League: Boys - High School League
- Recreation Basketball League: Girls - 3rd / 4th / 5th Grade
- Recreation Basketball League: Girls - 6th / 7th / 8th Grade
- Lawrence Lightning Swim Team: Level 1
- Lawrence Lightning Swim Team: Level 2
- Lawrence Lightning Swim Team: Level 3
- Lawrence Lightning Swim Team: High School Conditioning Program
- Junior Golf Clinic
- Swim Lessons: Beginner (4-6 years old) Fall, Spring and Summer
- Swim Lessons: Beginner (7-10 years old) Fall, Spring and Summer
- Swim Lessons: Intermediate / Advanced Fall, Spring and Summer
- Swim Lessons: Intro to Swim
- Adult Walking Program
- Hula Hoop Exercise Class: Level 1 – Winter, Spring, Summer and Fall Classes
- Hula Hoop Exercise Class: Level 2 – Winter, Spring, Summer and Fall Classes
- Travel Camp
- Junior Wrestling
- Summer Fun Camp - Session 1
- Summer Fun Camp - Session 2
- Summer Fun Camp - Session 3
- Before Care (Camp)
- After Care (Camp)
- Art Camp
- Painting in the Park (Special Event)
- Spring Break Camp
- Cornhole League
- Pickleball
- Adult Volleyball
- Tennis Lessons
- Zumba
- Garden Program (Community Garden)
- Basketball Camp
- Nature Camp
- Nature Detectives
- Multi Sports Youth program
- Pool Memberships
- Safety Town camp
- Safety Town volunteers
- Tennis Camp
- Just Play! Camp
- Swimming Technique Clinic
- Track & Field
- Glow in the Dark (youth paint night)
- Basketball Clinic
- Wrestling Open Mat
- Aqua Zumba

LAWRENCE TOWNSHIP SENIOR CENTER/ OFFICE ON AGING

Lillian Lasalle, Executive Director
Natasha Pacera, Recreation Leader
Kevin O'Shea, Senior Van Transportation Driver/Clerk

The Lawrence Senior Center, located at 30 Darrah Lane East, serves Lawrence Township residents ages 60 and older with a full calendar of programs, activities, and social events that support wellness and community connection. The Center is open Monday through Friday, 8:30 am to 4:30 pm, and is operated by a dedicated team of full-time staff with strong volunteer support.

Residents are encouraged to take part in classes, special events, and opportunities to socialize and stay engaged. Transportation is provided for trips to the Center and, when available, for essential shopping and medical appointments

The Senior Center also serves as a Mercer County Nutrition site, offering hot lunches to registered seniors through the Mercer County Nutrition Program.





2025

SENIOR CENTER PROGRAMS

In 2025 the Lawrence Township Senior Center offered a diverse range of engaging activities and events tailored to the interests and well-being of individuals ages 60 and older

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- ACRYLIC ART
 - BINGO
 - BUSY BEES – Knitting and Crocheting
 - HEALTHY COOKING DEMONSTRATIONS AND SAMPLING
 - CLUB #1 AND Club#2 MEETINGS
 - COMPUTER ROOM
 - CRAFTS
 - COMPUTER TECH HELP
 - CULTURAL CELEBRATIONS
 - DUPLICATE BRIDGE
 - GROUP EXERCISE
 - LINE DANCING (HIP HOP, AND TRADITIONAL)
 - MAH-JONGG
 - MATTER OF BALANCE (FALLS PREVENTION)
 - MEMOIR WRITING
 - NATURE WALKS (LED BY STAFF)
 - GROUP OUTINGS/FIELD TRIPS (Museums, theatre productions, and Nature programs)
 - HEALTHY BONES (2 CLASSES)
 - HEALTH DEPARTMENT OUTREACHES
 - INTERGENERATIONAL PROGRAMS (SENIOR PROMS (2)
 - PEOPLE AND STORIES (SHORT STORY READING AND DISCUSSION)
 - POETRY
 - RELAXATION ROOM (TRANQUILITY, ADULT COLORING, RELAXING MUSIC, PEACEFUL AMBIANCE)
 - SCULPTURE CLASS
 - SOCIALS/EVENTS (MONTHLY)
 - TAI-CHI
 - WALKING WITH EASE (Fall prevention and health promotion program)
 - WATER COLOR
 - YOGA

2025

SENIOR CENTER SOCIALS AND SPECIAL EVENTS



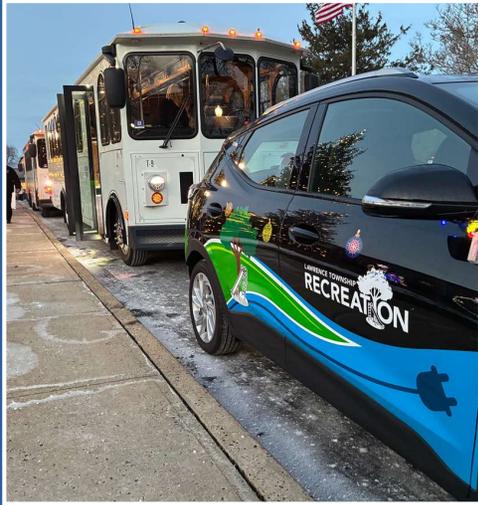
- Winter Safety Talk (Mercer County Health Department)
- MLK Craft
- Prize Bingo (special sessions)
- Chinese and Lunar New Year Celebration
- Chinese and Lunar New Year Calligraphy
- Health Department Outreach (recurring dates throughout the year)
- Valentine's Day Prize Ticket Bingo
- Black History Poetry Program
- Black History Month Social and Praise Dancers
- Read Across America Week
- Women's History Month Nail Makeover Event
- St. Patrick's Day Social
- Skin Cancer Talk (Fox Chase Cancer Center-Temple Health)
- Robbinsville High School Tech Workshop
- AARP Safe Driving Class
- Women's History Month Paint and Sip Teatime
- Senior Medicare Scam Talk
- Volunteer Appreciation Event and Pizza Party
- NJ Property Tax Relief Application Assistance
- Cinco de Mayo Celebration
- Flower Arranging Workshop
- Unclaimed Property Speaker
- Meet the Author
- Senior Citizen Prom
- Visit from Mercer County Clerk
- Elder Abuse Awareness Talk
- Father's Day Tribute
- Stay Cool Fun Nights
- Senior Art Show
- Summer Sea Shell Craft Class
- Aging in Place Speaker Panel
- Dog Days of Summer Event
- Summer Student Tech Help
- Luau Party
- NJ Property Tax Relief Assistance Day
- Medicare Patrol Speaker
- Freestyle Craft Class
- 9/11 Memorial
- Medicare and Medicaid Talk
- Senior Center Anniversary Event
- Hispanic Heritage Celebration
- PAS-1 Form Help Day
- Gambling and Older Adults Talk
- United Way Greater Mercer County Speaker
- Well-O-Ween Health Fest
- Veterans Day Ceremony
- Vintage Flea Market
- Card Making Craft
- Thanksgiving Outreach Event
- Pinecone Bird Feeder Craft
- Holiday Band Concert at the Center
- Breakfast with the Elves
- Nutrition Group Holiday Celebration
- Kwanzaa Program
- New Year's Eve Brunch

LAWRENCE TOWNSHIP SPECIAL EVENTS

The Recreation Department plans, coordinates, and delivers Lawrence Township's special events from start to finish. Each year, these events attract thousands of residents, strengthen community pride, and preserve the township traditions that bring neighbors together.

Delivering successful events requires significant planning and coordination months in advance, including scheduling and site planning, permits and insurance requirements, vendor and contractor management, rentals and equipment, entertainment booking, layout and logistics, public communication and promotions, and on-site supervision before, during, and after each event.





2025

SPECIAL EVENTS

- Colonel Hand March
- Valentine's Day Candlelight Walk
- Lawrence the Leprechaun
- Egg Hunt with LTPD
- Memorial Day Parade
- Independence Day Fireworks Celebration
- 9/11 Memorial Service
- Community Fun Day and Food Trucks Festival
- Trunk or Treat with LTPD
- Halloween House Decorating Contest
- Veterans Day
- Holiday Event and Tree Lighting at Town Hall
- Holiday House Lighting Contest
- Jingle for Joy
- Jolly Trolley Rides



2026

OPERATING BUDGET REQUESTS

\$133,000

Funds year-round programs and community events, supports parks and facility needs, and covers essential admin, supplies, and equipment to deliver safe, high-quality recreation services.

**RECREATION
DEPARTMENT**

\$22,000

Covers promotion, rentals, food, entertainment, and event supplies to deliver well-run community events.

**SPECIAL
EVENTS**

\$30,000

(2025-\$18,500)

Supports programs and services for residents 60+, including social, wellness, and cultural activities.

**SENIOR CENTER
OFFICE ON AGING**

OPERATING EXPENSE BUDGET ALLOCATION

Where operating dollars go: programs, services, supplies, rentals, and logistics

Recreation Department

Programs and leagues • Camps/clinics • Travel camp trips • Community events • Parks/fields support • Office/printing • Software/tech

Office on Aging/Senior Center (60+)-

Increase requested to expand trip offerings and maintain program quality.

Programs and entertainment • Food and refreshments • Event supplies and décor • Transportation and trips (including added bus trips requested by seniors) • Office supplies/equipment

Special Events

Rentals and contractual (tables, chairs, inflatables/rides) • Event supplies • Catering (Memorial Day, Veterans Day) • Memorial Day logistics (wreaths, restrooms, parade items) • Entertainment (fireworks band, Community Day)

RECREATION, OFFICE ON AGING / SENIOR CENTER AND SPECIAL EVENTS

CONCLUSION

Building Community Through Recreation, Senior Services, and Special Events

This budget request supports Recreation programs, Senior Center services, and township special events that keep Lawrence Township active, connected, and proud, bringing neighbors together and preserving the traditions that define our community.

Investing in Community Life

These funds protect the services residents rely on and help us continue delivering meaningful opportunities for all ages throughout the year.

Thank you for your time and support!

