

the Lansdowne Leader

April 2024

"Accountable Leadership, Accessible Government"

Vol. XXXII, No. 1

PRESIDENT BIDEN: READY FOR REELECTION

Fighting to Preserve the America We Love

by Craig Horle

When President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris took office, our country faced unprecedented crises – a raging pandemic, economic crisis, climate crisis, and racial injustice. The President and Vice President ran for office on the promise to move quickly to tackle these crises head-on and deliver results for working families.

That's what the Biden-Harris administration has done.

So, what has this administration accomplished domestically?

Highlights include. Two strongest years of job growth in history. Nearly 11 million jobs created since 2021 including 750,000 manufacturing jobs. 3.5% unemployment rate – the lowest in 50 years. \$15 minimum



wage for Federal workers and contractors. Continued expanding health care access.

Fully vaccinated 79% of American adults against COVID-19. Student debt relief for millions of borrowers. Increased the

maximum value of Pell Grants by \$900.

Helped bring gas prices down more than \$1.60 from their summer 2022 peak.

Signed the most significant gun violence prevention legislation in nearly 30 years.

How about foreign affairs?

America's alliances and partnerships are the strongest they've ever been at any point in recent history – a hallmark of President Biden's approach to the world to advance our interests and values. President Biden has a strong foreign affairs resume. He rallied the world to stand against Russian President Putin's unprovoked anti-democratic war with Ukraine. President Biden is building

continued on page 7

A LEADER WITH A RECORD OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Vice President Kamala Harris

by Craig Horle

On January 20, 2021, after having been chosen by Joseph Biden to run as his vice-presidential candidate, Kamala Devi Harris was sworn in as the 49th Vice President – the first woman, the first Black American, and the first South Asian American to be elected to this position. She is now running with President Biden for reelection to a second term.

As Vice President, she has worked to bring people together to advance opportunity, deliver for families, and protect fundamental freedoms across the country. She has led the fight for the freedom of women to make decisions about their own bodies, the

freedom to live safe from gun violence, the freedom to vote, and the freedom to drink clean water and breathe clean air.

As President of the Senate, Vice President Harris set a new record for the most tie-breaking votes cast by a Vice President in. This includes casting the decisive vote to secure passage of the landmark Inflation Reduction Act. She presided over the unprecedented vote to confirm the first Black woman, Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson, to the Supreme Court while working alongside President Biden to achieve historic representation of women and people of color among nominees at all levels of the federal government.

While making history at home,

she is also representing the nation abroad – embarking on more than a dozen foreign trips, traveling to more than 19 countries, and meeting with more than 150 world leaders to strengthen critical global alliances. She took the lead in diplomatic efforts to address root causes of migration from El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras, and in July 2021 she released a report on strategies to slow migration from the region. In June 2022, at the 9th Summit of the Americas in Los Angeles, the Biden Harris administration worked with 21 governments to sign a comprehensive response to irregular migration and forced displacement

continued on page 7



THE COMMONWEALTH'S CHIEF LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIAL

A Choice to Make for Pennsylvania Attorney General

by Genevieve Vaida

The state's chief law enforcement official, the Attorney General (AG) oversees several hundred employees across the state in four sections: Criminal Law, Public Protection, Civil, and Operations. The office handles investigation and prosecution of state crimes and public corruption, and defends the Commonwealth in court.

But the AG is also a political figure with leverage on policy development and

implementation. They can be a figure for reformation in the Criminal Legal System. They can target violations of clean air laws in the state.

The Criminal Law division handles investigation and prosecution on behalf of state agencies on issues such as drug trafficking, child predators, organized crime, and public corruption. The division also handles criminal cases referred to the Office. The Public Protection division is responsible for safeguarding citizens'

personal rights and protecting the greater good of the commonwealth. The Civil division defends the constitutionality of Pennsylvania law and represents state agencies in court. The Operations division is tasked with crime prevention through outreach in communities across Pennsylvania.

Many AGs go on to become governors - so keep that in mind as you head to the polls. The Democratic candidates who will appear on the ballot for the Primary are

listed below. The Democratic Committee in Lansdowne has not endorsed in this race. Candidates are listed alphabetically by last name.

KEIR BRADFORD-GREY was appointed by Governor Shapiro as Chief Defender for Montgomery County and later hired as Philadelphia's Chief Public Defender, the state's largest public defender's association. As Public Defender

continued on page 4



Keir Bradford-Grey



Eugene DePasquale



Joe Khan



Jared Solomon



Jack Stollsteimer

CHAIR'S COLUMN

Not Your Average Joes

By Charlotte Hummel

I am honored and humbled to be writing a column that will be in such close publication proximity to the lovely article written by Jayne Young in remembrance of Lansdowne's own Joe – Mr. Joseph Stevenson.

Joe was an extraordinary man. Passionate in his views, committed to his vocations and avocations of teaching, music and practical democracy and politics. Joe walked the walk so when he spoke, people would listen. It wasn't hard, he usually had a simple, sometimes obvious point to make, something that was getting lost in the weeds of detail, but he would ramp it up with great passion about the topic.

I knew Joe in his later stages of political involvement. He had "done his time" and made good use of it on the William Penn School Board. But by that time, that service was long over. To me, Joe was the guy who just understood my triumphs and tribulations of 16 years on that same board.

To me, Joe was the guy who brought every talent he had to the table of politics. Want a party to raise some funds? Joe would provide music (I'm talking professional level jazz and blues). Need someone with leadership qualities, balanced perspectives, time and a grace filled attitude? Joe would invite the late Ann Hill to take a place at the table. (The first African

Joe Stevenson was quiet, unassuming and a great listener. That's how he connected so deeply with almost everyone who took the time to know him.

American and first African American woman to be elected to Borough Council). Need someone with his finger on the pulse of the mood of the voter or local issues needing attention? Joe would describe walking around the neighborhood delivering the Leader, canvassing for candidates or welcoming voters for hours on end at his 5th Precinct polling place as the "town square" from which he'd bring concerns, information and ideas.

One on one, Joe was quiet, unassuming and a great listener. That's how he connected so deeply with almost everyone who took the time to know him. But it was in a small group of like-minded people, his fellow Democrats where once he felt that the core of an issue was not being given enough attention, he would make a simple statement that would draw you into his passion for the topic (usually one of equity or access) and work himself up to the point

where you knew you needed to stop, assess and remember the basics. In essence, Joe could always manage to remind us why, at our core, we are Democrats.

There is another Joe who reminds me, in ways similar and different, what it means to be a Democrat and that person is Joe Biden. He's the natural lightning rod for reinforcing the right/left, conservative/liberal and trumpotopian/reality-based communities. But say what you will about his decades long career and as I see it, evolution, he is as real as it gets.

I won't write a litany of the facts of his rise in politics and lengthy record (the great, the good, the bad and the merely mediocre). A man of years of experience – if he is wise, learns, tries, evolves and offers all he has to a thing greater than himself – he can continue to be a man for his time. Joe Biden is and has done all that. If Joe Stevenson was here, this is what he might say (after raising his hand politely to get the "floor" before ramping up his voice to a full-on preaching):

"I just have to say this. Joe Biden might be in his 80s – having once been in my 80s myself – I know what I am capable of and do it even if other people would doubt that I could. I just do it and let them be surprised. Could I be president? No. But neither should TRUMP, and not for reasons of age.

But that Joe? Well, he's been president now for a few years and I am just grateful

that I can sleep at night knowing that the damned adults are in charge. But think about it.

Joe Biden is a seasoned statesman. Yes, and a politician, but there is nothing wrong with that. That's the way you get things done. He knows what he is trying to achieve and he has experience with it. Is he saddled with a dysfunctional congress and an off the rails Supreme Court? YES! That's the point. At least someone with good intentions, experience with strategy and who sees the big picture has been keeping this country moving and in the right direction. Imagine this same dysfunction with Trump at the helm?

Well, we won't have to imagine if you don't get yourself a plan to vote. Don't get worn down with yet another "this is the most important election in your lifetime" rhetoric. The truth is that up to and including this one recently, they have all been just that. And recently we have begun to get motivated even if in our own interest – I am looking at you, white women. But if we fail to take this next election for what it is – either a step in the right or the wrong direction – we will end up in the wrong. Then you won't have to worry about voting again or having it count for a long, long time."

So in conclusion: Listen to Joe. Be like Joe. Vote for Joe. April 23rd Primary and November 5th General.

IN REMEMBRANCE

Joe Stevenson, 1931-2023

by Jayne Young

This story is about facets. The different facets that make up a life and how some people know a person and others know them in a completely different way.

In December I attended the celebration of life for Joe Stevenson and spoke about the part of his life with which I was familiar. Other invitees spoke about other facets of his life.

The things I learned were: He was born in 1931. Raised in Philadelphia, graduated from Central High and then attended Howard University, was drafted into the Army, served in Japan and when he came home got his teaching certification from University of Pennsylvania.

Although I knew of his love for music, I didn't know that he started playing when he was just eight years old. He played piano and cornet. Blues and Jazz. In 1957 he performed on an early demo of "Get a Job" by the Silhouettes. In 1958 he opened a recording studio and began working with local artists. He worked with The Dynamic Three, The Casinos, Vince Apollo and the Fabulous Soul Eruptions to name a few.

He got married in 1959, had two children and worked hard as a teacher, all while exploring the music scene in Philadelphia.

The year of his big musical break was 1968 when Joe produced "Snap Out" by the Interpretations, which became a top 10 hit in Philadelphia with national distribution.

When it was my turn to speak, I shared that Joe was one of my political role models and why.

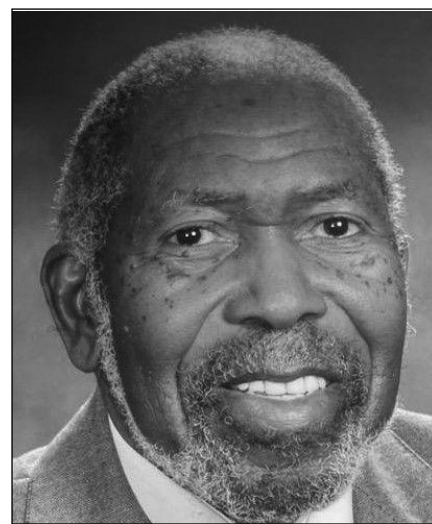
Fighting injustice was his vocation. His

"What I hope we can all take away from Joe's legacy is the importance of voting and participating in some way to make this world a better place."

legacy includes decades of service to his community. Soon after he made Lansdowne his home, he was recruited to get involved with the Lansdowne Democratic Committee and began a long journey of support for democratic values in our town. He served as Committee member for the 5th precinct and wrote articles for the Lansdowne Leader. He operated as a conscience for the group, keeping us on the side of moral right.

He ran for public office, seeking a seat on the school board of the newly formed William Penn School District. Not only was he the 1st person of color to run for and be elected to anything in the borough, but he also served as Vice Chair. His victory and service were impressive. He eagerly reported, every chance he got, that he won his election by just one vote. His point was not one of pride, but evidence of how important each and every vote is.

Not only did he teach music, but he generously shared his talent at many Democratic fundraisers. Each year he committed himself to working with the raw talent on the Lansdowne Democratic Committee to participate in the local July 4th parade. He selected the appropriate musical piece



to suit the theme of the parade and instructed us on some simple marching choreography to please the crowds. This could only be described as the herding of cats and he did it so well. At times we humiliated ourselves as Junior Birdmen or Cheese heads, but we did so on the beat.

He was named to the Civil Service Commission of Lansdowne. That group participates in the hiring process of Lansdowne Police Department. If you want a department to be fully functioning to serve and protect all of its diverse residents, it all begins with finding the best personnel.

He led by example, whether it was working all day at the polls or hand delivering the Lansdowne Leader to every household in his designated area. Joe was never shy about sharing his opinions or passion. He shared the successes and acknowledged the mistakes. What I hope we can all take away from Joe's legacy is the importance of voting and participating in some way to make this world a better place and that your vote may be only one, but it counts.

So, embrace the many facets of your life, those fractions add to a whole. You might be known for different things by

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different people, but your impact is most likely broader than you think. Facets catch light which beams broadly. Take advantage of that reach.

NARROWING THE FIELD

The Importance of Voting in the Primary Election

By Bernadette Domenick

When I think about voting in primary elections, I can't help but feel a surge of excitement and responsibility. It's not just another chore on my to-do list; it's a fundamental aspect of my role as a citizen in a democratic society. As I step into that voting booth, I'm not just making a choice—I'm shaping the course of history.

Primary elections are where the rubber meets the road in politics. They're where the field is narrowed down, where the contenders emerge from the pack, and where the real battle begins. By participating in primaries, I'm not just casting a vote; I'm participating in the very

Primary elections are about seizing the opportunity to shape the future and ensuring that our voices are heard.

foundation of our democratic process.

One of the most compelling reasons to vote in primaries is the opportunity to have a direct say in selecting the candidates who will represent my party in the general election. This isn't just about picking a

name off a list; it's about choosing the individual who will champion the values and causes that matter most to me. It's about ensuring that my voice is heard loud and clear in the halls of power.

Voting in primaries isn't just about selecting a candidate; it's about sending a message. When I show up at the polls and cast my ballot, I'm making a statement about the issues that matter to me, the values I hold dear, and the kind of leadership I want to see in my community and country. My vote isn't just a drop in the bucket; it's a ripple that can create waves of change.

Participating in primary elections is also a vital part of my civic duty. It's a tangible

way for me to exercise my rights as a citizen and to play an active role in shaping the direction of my government. It's a chance for me to honor the sacrifices of those who fought and died for the right to vote and to ensure that their legacy lives on.

In the end, voting in primary elections isn't just about ticking a box on a ballot; it's about taking a stand and making a difference. It's about seizing the opportunity to shape the future and to ensure that my voice is heard. So when primary day rolls around, you can bet I'll be there, ready to cast my vote and to play my part in building a brighter tomorrow.

LANSDOWNE TAKES THE SILVER

Welcome to Bird Town

Lansdowne leveled up! Did you know that Lansdowne is an official Bird Town? Bird Town Pennsylvania is a league of cities and towns that have pledged to support birds by supporting their local natural environments. Previously, Bird Town PA rated our Borough at the "Bronze" level for our sustainability practices. But we just got promoted; Lansdowne is now a "Silver" Bird Town!



**BIRD TOWN
PENNSYLVANIA**

This promotion was based on activities such as weekly eco-education at the Lansdowne Friends' After-School program, the Steps into Nature program at the Lansdowne Library, the town's participation in the Great Backyard Bird Count, the planting and maintenance of a pollinator garden at the Rap Curry Park, our eco-activities on Earth Day and at National Night Out, and work to update the Borough's Comprehensive Plan to include goals for a clean, safe environment for birds and people.

If you are interested in helping Lansdowne "go for the Gold," come on out to the Environmental Advisory Council meetings held on the 3rd Thursday of each month at 7pm. Please check the Lansdowne Borough calendar for the meeting's in-person location and zoom link. <https://www.lansdowneborough.com/Calendar.aspx>

WHAT'S YOUR PLAN TO VOTE? Primary Election – Tuesday, April 23

Lansdowne Democrats Spring 2024 Fundraiser

ROCK the
VOTE
80s Style

Saturday, June 1, 2024

Location to be announced

\$30 per person
\$50 per couple

WILLIAM PENN SCHOOL DISTRICT'S COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS SERIES

Facilitating Open and Honest Dialogue on School Safety

By Jennifer Plumb

The William Penn School District (WPSD) conducted a Community Conversations series in collaboration with the Delaware County Intermediate Unit (DCIU) to address school safety. The events, held on October 28, 2023, at Penn Wood Middle School (Session 1) and October 30, 2023, at Penn Wood High School – GAC (Session 2), provided community members with a platform to engage in discussions about school safety.

These sessions aimed to facilitate open and honest dialogues on a topic of concern to many families, allowing the district to gather valuable feedback from students, staff, and the community. The district expressed its commitment to analyzing and evaluating the information gathered as they plan the next steps in enhancing school safety measures.

The WPSD School Safety Community Focus Group, formed as a result of these discussions, identified strengths and potential barriers in safety and security programming. Strengths included a holistic approach involving the community, positive relationships, and addressing both physical and psychological safety. Participants emphasized measures such as trauma-informed approaches, security officers, and counselor engagement. Building positive

relationships emerged as crucial for both psychological and physical safety.

However, various barriers were identified, encompassing challenges in implementation, trust-building, physical and environmental issues, resource constraints, and communication barriers. Concerns were raised about student engagement, cultural nuances, and the need for community resources, while funding and resource availability were recognized as critical barriers.

The community's "ask" for administration focused on clear communication, relationship-building, inclusive long-term strategies, and defining safety and security programming. Clarity in the purpose of security measures, improved communication practices, physical safety measures, and stronger relationships with law enforcement were highlighted. Inclusive and long-term strategies, including K-12 plans and youth involvement, were suggested to set safety expectations early and engage new families.

To continue these important discussions, the William Penn School District invited community members to participate in the next two sessions of the Community Conversations series on Saturday, January 27, 2024, at Penn Wood Middle School (Session 3) and Monday, January 29, 2024, at Penn Wood High School – GAC

(Session 4). The district expressed anticipation for continued community participation and engagement in addressing and enhancing school safety and security.

All community members are welcome to attend all school district meetings. If you are interested in learning more about what is happening in the William Penn School District these are the meetings to check out.

- The Third Monday is the Committee Meeting of the Whole at 6:30 p.m.
- The Fourth Monday is a Business Meeting at 6:30 p.m.
- In the case of Monday being a legal holiday, the monthly meeting is moved to Tuesday.
- All Board meetings are held in the Green Avenue Administration building at 100 Green Avenue, Lansdowne, PA, and via Zoom (links can be found on the WPSD webpage).
- Community members unable to attend can email their comment(s) to Mr. Robert Kaufmann, Board Secretary at rkaufmann@wpsd.k12.pa.us.

Check out the website of the WPSD at williampennsd.org for the latest information on what's happening in our schools.

CONSERVATION ON TAP

About That Water Bottle Lady...

By Christine duBois-Buxbaum

Have you seen this loony woman wearing her water-bottle vest around town? She would rather wear water bottles than see them end up as pollution on the ground. But the best thing yet is not to buy water bottles at all! Did you know that Lansdowne tap water consistently tests as safe to drink? And many brands of bottled water are really just tap water in a plastic bottle—there’s nothing special about it.



Bear in mind too that research has found that people who drink regularly from plastic beverage bottles bring

about 86,000 more microplastic particles into their bodies every year than those who drink tap water.* Those microplastics aren’t usually visible unless you use a microscope, but the insides of your body can tell they’re there.

If you need a water bottle with you, wouldn’t it be better to trust Lansdowne tap water in a metal reusable bottle? It’s good advice to keep the plastic beverage bottles off the streets and parks, out of your monthly expenses, and out of your internal organs. But don’t worry, no one will suggest that you be crazy enough to actually wear water bottles as clothing!

* Source: "Human Consumption of Microplastics" by K. Cox, G. Covernton, H. Davies, J. Dower, F. Juanes, and S. Dudas <https://doi.org/10.1021/acs.est.9b01517> © 2019 American Chemical Society

VOTE TUESDAY, APRIL 23

POLLS OPEN 7:00 AM - 8:00 PM

ATTORNEY GENERAL
continued from page 1

she oversaw a staff of 500 and managed a budget of \$50M. She believes that she is “an Attorney General who will fight with us.” Her website does not list any endorsements or specific policy platforms. However, information listed on her site states she will prioritize the sense of security and safety to everyday working people and advocate for strong consumer protections.

Campaign website: keirforag.com

EUGENE DEPASQUALE is a former state legislator and two-term Auditor General from Pittsburgh. His website says he has “a Record of Protecting Pennsylvanians.” Eugene has a list of platform positions on his website: reproductive freedoms, voting and democracy, consumer protections, economy, unions, LGBTQ+ protections, student loans, healthcare, environment and climate, education, crime, gun violence, defending liberty and freedom, and fighting public corruption. Eugene is endorsed by many elected officials and a number of organizations including, Ricky’s Pride PAC, Steel City Stonewall Democrats, United Rural Democrats, Central PA Building Trades, Ironworkers Local 3.

Campaign website: depasqualeforag.com

JOE KHAN is a former Bucks County solicitor and Philadelphia District Attorney. He has served as a local prosecutor, federal prosecutor and county solicitor during his career. Joe believes he is “the best democrat to keep our communities safe and fair.” His website lists a “new vision for Justice”; a 67 county strategy for public safety, establishing the first PA Housing Justice Center, enforcing the Environmental Rights Amendment, standing up to Big Tech, and fighting back against threats to abortion rights. Joe is endorsed by a number of state senators and representatives, Bucks County Dems, Clean Air Action, and The Impact Fund.

Campaign website: joekhan.com

JARED SOLOMON began his career as a lawyer fighting corporate abuse in Philadelphia, and then joined Army Reserves as a JAG officer. Jared has served as State Representative for 202nd Philadelphia District since 2017. He is a “proud democrat who believes that good government can do great things.” Jared has a list of platform positions and plans on the following topics; abortion rights, voting rights, gun crime, clean air and water, labor and employment, consumer protection, housing, public corruption, drug policy, and fighting hatred. He has numerous endorsements for state legislator including PA Majority Leader, Rep Matt Bradford, as well as UFCW Local 1776, PA Professional Fire Fighters Association, and Vote Vets.

Campaign website: jaredsolomon.com

JACK STOLLSTEIMER has served as Delaware County District Attorney since 2019. Before serving as DELCO District Attorney, Jack has served as an Assistant District Attorney, an Assistant US Attorney, and Pennsylvania’s Safe Schools Advocate. Running on a campaign for “creating a safer Pennsylvania” he intends to deliver the kind of improvements in gun violence, criminal justice policy, civil and reproductive rights, drug distribution, and environmental justice the commonwealth needs. He has received endorsements of the both the Pittsburgh Regional and Philadelphia Building Trades Councils, and the Philadelphia AFL-CIO. He is endorsed by both the Chester County and Delaware County Democrats and top voter getter at the Montgomery County Democratic convention.

Campaign website: jackforag.com

Elected Officials Contact Information	
UNITED STATES	
Senator Robert Casey	202-224-6324
Senator John Fetterman	202-224-4254
Representative Mary Gay Scanlon	202-225-2011
PENNSYLVANIA	
Governor Josh Shapiro	717-787-2500
Senator Tim Kearney	610-400-8392
Representative Gina Curry	610-259-7016
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SENIOR COMMUNITY SERVICES

Aging at Home

by Suzanne McElroy

Did you know that Lansdowne is a participating municipality in the Aging at Home program of Senior Community Services (SCS) of Delaware County? The mission of SCS is to promote independent and meaningful living for older adults in Delaware County through direct services and programs in the home and community. Older adults are defined to be 60+ years of age.

The program director, Christine Rae Helmandollar, happily reports in their Winter 2024 newsletter that the membership fee of \$35 has remained steady since 2012 despite more than a decade of increasing prices of goods and services in daily living.

Transportation is generally a concern as people age. Driving in general, at night, or to new places can often be a challenge. Lansdowne is fortunate to have wonderful access to numerous forms of public transportation. Recognizing that even these options might not meet the needs of seniors, last year the Aging at Home program provided 327 rides and 155 shopping trips to participating seniors.

Assistance with chore services (like spring yard debris clean up) and home repairs referrals with trustworthy businesses partners in the area are some of the offerings. Last year SCS volunteer handymen performed 124 home repairs and SCS provided 146 Home-vetted referrals.

The current emphasis on shopping locally and connecting with neighborhood businesses to get work done has not escaped the attention of SCS. Aging at Home identifies with personalized service of shopping small and locally. For 2024 they offer numerous member coupons, including VIP Fruit and Vegetable Produce (Jun – Aug) that can be used at the Lansdowne Farmers Market. While seniors are eating healthier because local produce is fresher, the local economy also improves when purchases are made from local stores and markets.

More information about SCS can be obtained at their website www.scsdelco.org

Re-Elect Gina H. Curry for State Representative

Gina H. Curry is the Pennsylvania Democratic Representative for the 164th District, which includes Lansdowne, East Lansdowne, Upper Darby and Milbourne, is standing for reelection this coming Primary.

Representative Curry has a B.A. and M.S. from St. Joseph's, the B.A. in Criminal Justice and Sociology and the M.S. in Criminal Justice, which she put to use long before entering the legislative arena. She views herself as a change agent for advocacy, activism and equity. She is an educator with over 20 years of experience. Gina has vast experience in the behavioral health field as a clinical supervisor, behavioral specialist and therapeutic consultant to children and families.

Representative Curry was initially elected to finish Margo Davidson's term in 2021.

In November 2022 she was over-

whelmingly elected to her first full term.

She understands the needs of her community. From education to health care, she is the advocate we need. She continues to speak in many communities on the subject of dismantling the 'School to Prison Pipeline' through alternative behavioral interventions that honor trauma informed practices that will assist in healing and recovery.

Throughout so much of her adult life, she had at her side Ralpal "Rap" Curry, Jr., who she met in 1990 while both were at St. Joseph's and they married in 2000. Everyone who knows Gina knows all about the storied career of Rap, and doubtless know that he died on July 21, 2023 at age 51 of complications from a heart condition, a crushing blow for Gina, their children, extended family, and so many others who loved and respected him.

Yet, while Gina is still devastated over his passing, she recently posted the following as to her determination to run for reelection:

"I love my work You just know when you have been given an assignment on your journey that fits so perfectly. Hear me out, I am definitely not saying I am perfect but I do know I am the right one for this position. My name is PA State Representative Gina H Curry. I have been given the privilege and the honor by the voters' voice and the support of so many who are reading this post to represent our communities in the 164th legislative district in Delaware County Pennsylvania and I am grateful. 2024 represents a voting year for my position and I am excited to announce I am running again to continue this honorable assignment to serve the community members in Upper Darby, Lansdowne, East Lansdowne and Milbourne and throughout the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Again, I love my work and I am working hard to continue my journey of service. Thank you to everyone who will help to make this happen again!"

Representative Curry serves on the fol-



lowing committees: Appropriations, Children and Youth, Education, Transportation.

The reelection of Gina Curry keeps a state representative in our corner. She understands the needs of the communities in which she serves and works hard to deliver. Please give her your vote this election.

Bob Casey for United States Senate

By Heather Giardinelli-Cronan

Senator Bob Casey, Jr. takes his job of representing Pennsylvanians in the US Senate very seriously and is seeking his fourth term in office. He has demonstrated his ability to work hard and get results in each office he has held. As PA Auditor General, PA State Treasurer, and US Senator, his record clearly illustrates his devotion to a wide variety of causes and concerns that impinge upon virtually all voters in the state. Fiscal responsibility, childhood safety,



accommodating those with disabilities and addressing the problem of campus sexual assault are just a few of the major concerns that Senator Casey has addressed and supported.

It is because of Senator Casey's determination to maintain sound public educational programs for Pennsylvania students that he received a strong, positive endorsement from the Pennsylvania State Education President, Aaron Chapin, who said that Senator Casey "knew Pennsylvania, understands the problems that we have in our state, and knows how to solve them by getting things done in Washington, D.C.". Casey also opposes school vouchers and supports use of state funds for early education.

Senator Casey promotes civil rights, believing that our nation was founded on the idea of freedom and equality for all, and that it is imperative that we work until these principals are a reality for every person. Senator Casey believes that in the words of Pennsylvania's Environmental Amendment to the State Constitution, "People have a right to clean air, pure water, and to the preservation of the natural scenic, historic, and esthetic values of the environment."

The President of the Pennsylvania AFL-CIO believes that Senator Casey has shown that he is committed to the well-

being of Pennsylvanian's workers and families. Overall, Senator Casey has received a boost from organized labor.

As a fiscal watchdog Senator Casey has improved nursing home safety, endorsed affordable childcare and reformed Megan's Law. He was the prime state sponsor of legislation for individuals with disabilities, and he passed into law the Campus Violence Elimination Act.

On the Pennsylvania farm, support for Senator Casey is strong. He believes his three priorities with the farm bill are "investing in farms and food banks to combat hunger, supporting Farmers' Conservation Efforts, and strengthening the U.S. Agricultural market on a global perspective.

Senator Casey approves of strong national security and self-defense and recognizes the value of supportive diplomacy and positive relationships with favorable allies. He is willing to address the problems created by competition from China and the dangers created by Russia's malign activities.

Senator Casey has attacked "shrinkflation" – paying more for a smaller product. He is spearheading an effort to correct this issue. He has also fought to modernize Social Security and Medicare.

You can learn more at Senator Casey's website at bobcasey.com

The 2024 election is set to be one with historic consequences. Pennsylvania's senate race is listed as one of Reuters top six senate races to watch. The other party is seeking any opportunity to gain traction in a perennially competitive state. It is therefore imperative to remember Senator Casey's efforts and accomplishments during his first three terms and know that he clearly deserves to be re-elected for a fourth term. Your vote helps to ensure that he will be able to have a positive influence on Pennsylvania's future.

Mary Gay Scanlon for Congress

By Heather Giardinelli-Cronan

Mary Gay Scanlon currently serves as a member of the U.S. House of

Representatives for Pennsylvania's 5th Congressional District which includes all of Delaware County as well as small portions of Montgomery and Philadelphia Counties. She is re-running for this seat in the primary and is therefore the Incumbent. Scanlon has served as a U.S. House Representative since 2018; she previously represented Pennsylvania's 7th Congressional District via a special election. Prior to serving in

office, Scanlon worked as a national pro bono lawyer, directing over 600 lawyers who provided 50,000 hours of free legal services annually to low-income clients and nonprofit organizations.

Her legislative priorities include voting rights, access to justice, education, supporting economic growth for her region, common sense gun safety, and ending hunger. Her main goal as a Congresswoman is to "protect and improve the lives of America's children, families, veterans, and seniors." She currently serves on the House Committee on Rules, House Judiciary Committee, and serves as Ranking Member of the House Judiciary Committee's Subcommittee on the Constitution and Limited Government. She also chairs the House Caucuses on Access to Legal Aid, Youth Mentoring, and Foster Youth.

She has a 100% rating from Planned Parenthood, Children's Defense Fund,

American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO), Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), Human Rights Campaign

(HRC), and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP).

She has recently introduced the following legislation:

Corporate Crime Database Act of 2023, to direct the Director of the Bureau of Justice Statistics to establish a database with respect to corporate offenses, and other purposes.

Inaugural Fund Integrity Act; to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to

prohibit certain donations to Inaugural Committees, to establish limitations on donations to Inaugural Committees, to require certain reporting by Inaugural Committees.

Stopping the Fraudulent Sales of Firearms Act; to amend title 18 to make fraudulent dealings in firearms and ammunition unlawful.

Justice for Juveniles Act; to exempt juveniles from the requirements for suits by prisoners.

Foster Youth Mentoring Act of 2023; to support the establishment or expansion and operation of programs using a network of public and private community entities to provide mentoring for children and youth with experience in foster care.

Voting For Congresswoman Scanlon ensures Delaware County remains blue and protects women and children interests in Congress. You can learn more at her website scanlonforcongress.com



LOCAL GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATIONAL CHART

A Closer Look at Our Local Government

By Suzanne McElroy

I sometimes think of our local government as a building with many doors. You can enter through any of the doors, but why not first learn which door is closest to your destination so you don't have to wander down all of the hallways within. Wouldn't it be better to see a floor plan first to find which door was closest to your destination?

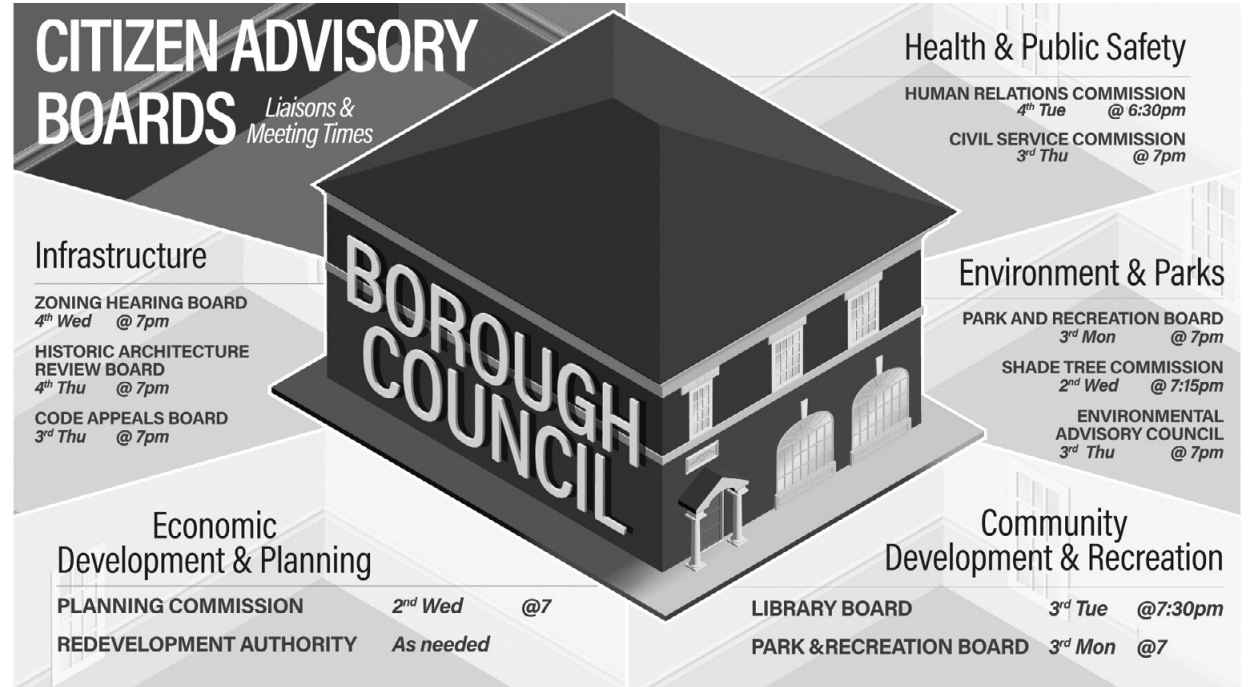
The current floorplan of Lansdowne Borough government is called Resolution 2024-02, which was passed by the new Borough Council in January 2024 at their re-organization meeting. It designates that Council is committed to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion and to fostering a culture of inclusivity. To achieve that, Council has created six standing committees and one ad hoc committee. Understanding what each Committee is responsible for and which Councilmembers are on each Committee can help guide citizens on a smoother path to be heard and to get answers to their concerns.

All of the Council meetings and their respective Committee meetings are open to the public, and available both in person and through electronic access. These meetings are held at Borough Hall. The Calendar section of the Borough's website shows all meetings and provides the Zoom link.

In January the seven Councilmembers unanimously elected their new President, Robert Curry, who is tasked with organizing and conducting all Council meetings. Committees are composed of a chair and two members of Council, appointed by the President. Committee chairs report to Council on their topic areas, but only Council as a whole can vote on policies or to take action.

Finance, Technology, and Administration.

Mission: Provide oversight and guidance to Borough Council for a preliminary annual budget including recommendation of rate of tax and fees required to meet proposed expenditures. The committee shall review and oversee: contracts, labor agreements, insurance coverages, grant proposals, a financial plan for capital expenditures,



issuance and repayment of debt. Further, the committee oversees all personnel matters and other administrative issues that may arise. The chair (or their designee) acts as liaison to entities in the Borough to ensure efficient administration of the Borough. The utilization of technological advancements aids in greater efficiencies and transparency for residents.

Health and Public Safety

Mission: Along with the Mayor as a member, this Committee will provide oversight of the Lansdowne Police and Volunteer Fire Company. The Committee promotes the direct two-way communication between the Council and the Police and Fire Chiefs regarding public safety concerns, as well as providing an option for expression of health and safety concerns by and to the public. In addition, the chair (or designee) acts as the Council's liaison to the Human Relations Commission, Civil Service Commission, and the Fire Company. The committee will coordinate activities with the County Department of Health as needed.

Infrastructure, Codes, and Public Works

Mission: Oversight of all municipal services activity of Public Works and Highways including waste (trash, recycling, and yard waste programs), maintenance of borough buildings, and Code Enforcement activities. The committee will develop and implement an annual road and sewer repair and improvement schedule, and assure that snow and leaf removal are executed in a timely fashion. To the extent required by law, or deemed necessary by Council, a building and property maintenance plan will be developed. The chair (or designee) acts as Council's liaison to the Darby Creek Joint Authority, Delcora, the Zoning Hearing Board, the Historical Architectural Review Board, Code Appeals Board, and other infrastructure related entities.

Community Development and Recreation

Mission: Maintain dialogue with community-based organizations, reach out to the public to take the pulse of community concerns, and develop and upgrade communications with the residents of Lansdowne to foster inclusion. The committee is tasked with production of an accessible community calendar, development of social, educational and recreational programming, promotion of the arts and culture of Lansdowne, and outreach to community organizations. The chair (or designee) is liaison with the Library Board, Lansdowne Park and Recreation Board, the William Penn School District, and the Lansdowne Arts Committee of the LEDC. The committee communicates regularly with the community groups, including but not limited to: American Legion Post 65, Animal Friends of Lansdowne (AFL), civic associations, Buy Nothing Lansdowne (BNL), Daughters of American Revolution (DAR), Interfaith Food Cupboard, Lansdowne Allied Youth Council (LAYC), Lansdowne Arts Council (LAC), Lansdowne Boys' and Girls' Club (LBGC), Lansdowne Folk Club (LFC), Lansdowne Garden Club, Lansdowne Symphony Orchestra (LSO), and Boy and Girl Scout Troops.

Economic Development and Planning

Mission: Oversee commercial, industrial and multifamily residential development in the borough. Ensure that commercial activity and such development happens in accord with various laws and plans in place with a view that all residents can contribute, prosper and share in the benefits of a vibrant and diverse marketplace. The chair (or their designee) acts as Council's liaison to the Planning Commission and the Redevelopment Authority as well as liaison to business and professional associations such as the Lansdowne Business and

continued on page 7

BOROUGH COUNCIL COMMITTEES - Members are all elected by the voters.
* Committee Chair

BOROUGH MAYOR (Elected) Magdalena Byrne
BOROUGH COUNCIL (Elected)
MEMBERS: Molly Connors Robert Curry William Griffin Benjamin Hover Carol Martsof Jessica Pointer Jayne Young
OFFICERS (Elected by Members): President: Robert Curry Vice President: Jessica Pointer
PUBLIC MEETINGS: First and Third Wednesdays at 7:00 pm

Community Development & Recreation	Economic Development & Planning	Environment & Parks	Finance, Technology & Administration	Health & Public Safety	Infrastructure, Codes & Public Works
1st Tues 6:30pm	2nd Wed 6pm	2nd Mon 6pm	2nd Tues 7pm	2nd Wed 7pm	2nd Mon 7pm
Will Griffin* Carol Martsof Jessica Pointer	Benjamin Hover* Molly Connors Jessica Pointer	Carol Martsof* Molly Connors Jayne Young	Molly Connors* Ben Hover Jayne Young	Jessica Pointer* Will Griffin Ben Hover	Jayne Young* Will Griffin Carol Martsof
Boards and Commissions: Members appointed by Council. Each board or commission reports to the Borough Council Committee above it. Public meeting dates for each board or commission available on the borough website.					
Library Board	Planning Commission	Environmental Advisory Council		Civil Service Commission	Historic Architecture Review Board
Park & Rec Board (for Rec)	Redevelopment Authority	Parks & Rec Board Shade Tree Commission		Human Relations Commission	Zoning Hearing Board



Ryan Bizzarro for State Treasurer

By Amy Emmett-Rardin

The Treasurer of the State of Pennsylvania is an executive level position within the state government, serving as the chief financial officer of the government, responsible for managing the commonwealth's money and serving as Pennsylvania's banker.

Representative Ryan Bizzarro was first elected to represent his home District in Erie, PA in 2013. He describes himself as a "fighter," having survived childhood leukemia.

Bizzarro graduated from Edinboro University with degrees in political science and criminal justice, and from Gannon University with a master's degree in public administration.

Bizzarro was appointed chief deputy House whip, and he serves as vice-chairman of the Northwest Delegation. He further serves as vice-chairman of the House Democratic Policy Committee; Democratic secretary of the House Veterans Affairs & Emergency Preparedness Committee; and as a member of the House Consumer Affairs, Insurance and Judiciary committees as well as the Judiciary Subcommittee on Courts.

Alongside his committee assignments, Bizzarro has been appointed to the Climate Change Advisory Committee, which is tasked to establish and review Pennsylvania's official action plan to combat climate change. He also sits on the Pennsylvania Grade Crude Development Advisory Council, examining existing technical regulations and policies for the oil and gas industry.

The website <https://teambizzpa.com/issues> contains details of Bizzarro's priorities for Treasurer:

- Protect State Assets and Our Pensions
- Protect Important Programs: such as low interest loans and 529 college savings plans
- Keep Pennsylvanians Closer to Their Money: via regional offices focused on financial literacy and returning lost money.
- Unclaimed Property

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

continued from page 6

Professional Association (LBPA), Lansdowne Economic Development Corporation (LEDC), and the Historic Lansdowne Theater Corp (HLTC).

Environment and Parks.

Mission: Responsible for overseeing environmental initiatives of the Borough, promoting sustainability of resources, and maintaining council commitment to environmental preservation and advocacy in the borough. Develop a park maintenance plan, promote utilization of parks and other open spaces for the benefit of all residents of the borough, and development of environmental education programming. The chair (or designee) is the Council's liaison to the Parks and Recreation Board, Shade Tree Commission, Environmental Advisory Council, and Delaware County Sustainability Commission.

Malcolm Kenyatta for Auditor General

By Amy Emmett-Rardin

The Pennsylvania Department of the Auditor General is the chief financial watchdog of the commonwealth. They check the spending of public money by looking at whether it has been used ideally and for the purposes intended. This is done by checking all government spending yearly, and this is called an audit. Each entity submits financial statements every year, which the Auditor General audits.

Representative Malcolm Kenyatta has deep roots in Philadelphia, as a third-generation North Philadelphia native, graduate of Roxborough High School, Temple and Drexel Universities. In addition to Bachelors and Masters degrees in Communication, with a minor in political science, he completed the Harvard Kennedy School's Executives in State and Local Government program. When elected to the PA General Assembly in 2018, he was the first openly LGBTQ+ person of color ever elected.

Representative Kenyatta has multiple legislative leadership roles, including member of the State



Government Committee with oversight on state agencies and elections, Minority Chair of the Subcommittee on Campaign Finance and Elections, Minority Chair of Automation and Technology in the Committee on Commerce, and a member of the Finance Committee. Since being elected, he has additionally served on Governor Tom Wolf's Suicide Prevention Task Force, and he has been a member of the Philadelphia Delegation leadership team.

Kenyatta's website includes the following statements related to this election:

As Auditor General, I will rebuild the bureau of school audits, restart the annual compliance audits ended by the current Auditor General, and demand accountability from all our schools — including cyber charter schools.

As Auditor General, I will stand up for our workers by creating a worker liaison and use the power of the office to take on wage theft, employee misclassification, and union busting. Every worker deserves a decent wage and the right to unionize. I'll also protect pension funds by ensuring they are properly funded and managed.

As Auditor General, I will use the office to measure and support efforts to make communities healthier and safer. We need transparency on how huge hospital nonprofits and long term care providers use state dollars. We need to analyze our approach to community safety and gun violence reduction to target investments in the things that really work to reduce crime, particularly gun crimes.

You can visit his website at malcolmkenyatta.com to learn more about his campaign.

HARRIS

continued from page 1

in the Western Hemisphere, known as the Los Angeles Declaration on Migration and Protection.

Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris are laying out the difference between their vision for America and that of the current Republican frontrunner, former President Trump. On January 5, 2024, in Pennsylvania, after a visit to Valley Forge, Biden laid out Trump's assault on American democracy by trying to overturn the results of the 2020 election, normalizing violence, and threatening to become a dictator.

On the day after Biden's speech, Harris spoke at the annual retreat of the Women's Missionary Society of the 7th Episcopal District of the AME Church at Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, where she emphasized the relationship between voting and governance.

"In 2020, at the height of an historic pandemic, in the midst of so much loss and uncertainty, you showed up to vote," Harris told the audience. "And you organized your friends and family members and neighbors to do the same. And it is because of you that Joe Biden is President of the United States and I am the first Black woman to be Vice President of the United States."

That administration, she said, has meant access to high-speed internet for rural communities, lead-free water, investments in historically Black colleges and universities, the expansion of Medicaid coverage for postpartum care, and more Black women judges appointed than under any other administration in history, "including the first Black woman to ever sit on the highest court in...our land."

"Elections matter; leadership matters; and it makes a difference in the lives of people who, for the most part, many of us may never meet, who, for the most part, may never know our names." Democracy, Harris said, "is extremely strong in terms of what it does and the strength

that it gives its people in the protection and preservation of individual rights, freedoms, and liberty.

Incredibly strong... And it is, on the other hand, extremely fragile. It is only as strong as our willingness to fight for it."

BIDEN

continued from page 1

the strongest possible coalition of nations to solve shared challenges and position the United States to shape the future of the international order.

What still needs doing?

Attacking inflation, particularly the cost of groceries, and maintaining a high rate of employment and rising wages. Defense of and expansion of reproductive rights. Continued implementation of policies that address climate change. Health care access expansions. Social security protections. Addressing the immigration problem with a bipartisan approach that solves the problems without fear mongering. Maintaining a strong NATO that counters threats like Putin's unlike his opponent that publicly approves of Russia's aggressions.

Of course, Joe Biden is not a young man, and his goals are ambitious. But look at what has been accomplished and we can all agree that with age comes wisdom. His approach to the job reflects years of building alliances for cooperative efforts towards a better America and world.

Generally, second terms are about keeping promises made. In this election it is also about keeping the America we want. One where promises are made in support of human rights, and the voices of the everyday folk matter. Joe Biden is old enough to know right from wrong and still young enough to protect the far right from doing wrong.

Ad hoc Committee on Nomination.

Mission: To develop and employ a process for recruiting, vetting, and recommending to Council volunteers to be appointed to and serve on the various committees, boards, and commissions where citizen input is required or desired. The Ad Hoc Committee on Nominations will serve as a critical place to implement overarching goals of diversity, equity and inclusion in local government. Membership on the Committee will be determined by the President and may vary over time and include representatives from Borough Council as well as representatives of current boards and commissions and members of the general public. This Committee shall be chaired by the Council President or their designee and will meet as necessary.

How can you participate in local government if you don't run for office and get elected? All of the Boards, Councils, and Commissions shown are composed of residents appointed by the Council.

All of these citizen advisory entities meet at Borough Hall, except two. The Library Board meets at the Lansdowne Public Library, 55 S. Lansdowne Ave; and the Park and Recreation Board meets at the Twentieth Century Club, 84 S. Lansdowne Ave.

If you are interested in serving your community in this way, please let President Robert Curry know. You can email him at Curryr@lansdowneborough.com or sign up for consideration on the Borough's website at www.lansdowneborough.com

MOTIVATED BY KINDNESS AND COMPASSION, WORKING TO END INJUSTICE

Becoming Part of a Beloved Community

By Genevieve Vaida

As a recent transplant to Lansdowne, I automatically became an inhabitant upon my arrival. Becoming a member of the community, however, requires something more. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. popularized the term Beloved Community, describing a society where everyone can feel happy and safe. Although conflict always exists, community members can resolve these conflicts with peace by recognizing and appreciating the value inherent in all people, animals, and the physical environment. This approach to community ensures every action by members is motivated by kindness and compassion, working to end injustice of all kinds.

As a new resident I settled in at home first. Then ventured into the neighborhood to engage in my surroundings. What might that look like? A new resident, like myself, might introduce themselves to neighbors, walk

around the block, visit public parks, check out local businesses, and attend public meetings. These are all wonderful steps in being more involved. With our busy schedules, it can be

The true essence of a neighborhood lies in the interconnectedness of its people.

challenging to engage with our neighbors and neighborhood in this way. But what an opportunity to make meaningful and helpful connections! As you read this article, what if you commit to saving one hour a week to allow for exploration of this beautiful borough?

Next, I set out to be an empathetic neighbor. Each resident of Lansdowne has something to offer that can help our community and plays an important role in building and maintaining a healthy and

thriving community. Perhaps you have time to pick up litter while you walk; shovel snow for an elderly neighbor; offer to pick up a few extra groceries for a neighbor who works late. We can

each show respect and consideration for others. In her book, *People from My Neighborhood*, Hiromi Kawakami writes, "the true essence of a neighborhood lies in the interconnectedness of its people." Through empathy

we can all lean on each other when we are in need. I have seen, and benefited from, incredible sharing through our Buy Nothing Group and other community organizations. I then looked for ways to volunteer, mostly to get to know people quickly. A feeling of fellowship is inherent in volunteering or undertaking community service projects. Lansdowne has many opportunities for volunteers. You could volunteer for the Lansdowne Farmers Market in the summer or the Lansdowne

Arts Festival in the fall or serve on a citizen advisory board. Some individuals might even choose to run for elected office, an unpaid position in our borough, making our electeds super-volunteers!

Then I focused on becoming an informed community member. Participation in the democratic process and local government in a borough this size is critical. One of the reasons I love the Leader! The Leader helps with each election in the spring and fall of every year, ensuring we all have the opportunity to be informed about candidates and issues. Beyond voting, being an informed resident means engaging in public discussion and holding elected officials accountable to what the community truly cares about.

Through all these experiences, I saw so many open-minded neighbors. People in this community who respect and embrace the exceptional diversity in Lansdowne. I feel incredibly lucky to have moved somewhere with this ethos, and hope to continue to become a part of, and sustain, this Beloved Community. A recent Borough Newsletter advertised a presentation by the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commissioner, Chad Dion Lassiter, to be held on March 28th at the Twentieth Century Club. His presentation centers on building a Beloved Community. I'll be there and hope you will too!



PENN WOOD HIGH SCHOOL THEATER CLUB

Reviews: Little Shop of Horrors

I had the pleasure of attending the Penn Wood High School Theater Club presentation of Little Shop of Horrors in February. All I can say is that the Artistic Director Judy Jordan, Tashawna Maxwell and colleagues did another amazing job. It was extremely entertaining. The cast and crew did an amazing job. My grandson got such amusement from Seymour and his interaction with Audrey, who was well done and quite realistic looking.

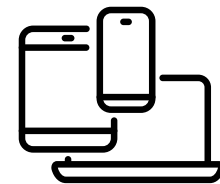
The talent that exists within this group of students is amazing to watch. Their next musical is at Penn Wood Middle school in March and they will be performing Shrek.

– Yvette Calvin

These students brought a cult classic back to life, and the audience to tears amidst howls of laughter. The talent displayed by our young actors/singers was truly awesome. And we can't forget the incredible set that was envisioned and created by community volunteers with a love of theater. In response to the play's catch phrase "Feed me, Seymour", I say "Feed us more like this, Penn Wood Theater Club."

– Suzanne McElroy

How would you like THE LEADER?



Fill out our quick 3 question survey to get your news and info your way: digital, print, or both.



LansdowneDemocrats.org/communications

CLASSIFIED ADS

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

For Lansdowne's Boards and Commissions. Vacancies exist in the Civil Service Commission, Historic Architecture Review Board, and Parks & Recreation Board. For more information, visit <https://www.lansdowneborough.com/383/Volunteer-for-a-Board-or-Commission>

WALKING WITH PURPOSE

Lansdowne Democrats are looking for some help to deliver the Leader. This newspaper is published twice a year and hand-delivered to residences throughout the town. Small neighborhood turfs are assigned. Especially looking for apartment dwellers to place in their mailroom or distribute in their building. Reach out directly to your local democratic committee person or email Suzanne at lansdownedems@gmail.com

BOOK LOVERS

The Friends of the Lansdowne Public Library raises funds and sponsors events that enrich what our library can offer the community. Support the 'Friends' by volunteering your time and becoming a member. They meet on the 1st Tuesday of the month at 7pm at the library.

AUTOMATIC EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATORS

Keeping Our Hearts Protected

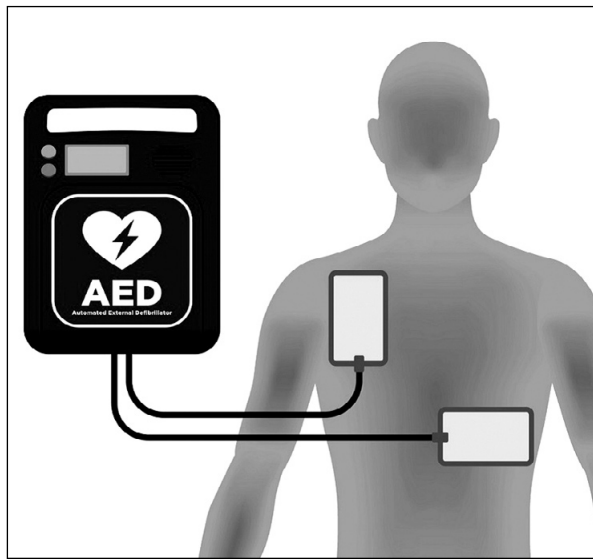
by Heather Giardinelli-Cronan

On February 12, 2016, my daughter and I were walking into a local convenience store when she suddenly collapsed in front of me in sudden cardiac arrest. She is alive today because two police officers happened to be on scene. One conducted CPR while the other placed the pads of an automated external defibrillator (AED) on her chest. The AED that the officers carried in their police vehicles administered a single, lifesaving shock and my daughter's heart began beating again. Without this shock my daughter would have died.

Each year more than 356,000 people will die from Sudden Cardiac Arrest. Sudden Cardiac Arrest (SCA) happens when your heart stops beating suddenly and unexpectedly. Many times, a person simply collapses without warning and, if the heart is not restarted, the person will die. There is only one piece of equipment that will restart a person's heart after it has stopped in cardiac arrest, and that equipment is an AED. An AED is an easy-to-use device that analyzes a person's heart rhythm and, if necessary, delivers an electrical shock in order to help the heart begin beating again. An AED will not shock a heart that is not in need of defibrillation.

My daughter was one of the lucky ones. The truth is only one out of ten people survive a cardiac arrest outside of the hospital. This is because the lifesaving AED machines are simply not available where people need them the most, in our communities. Up to 90% of sudden cardiac arrest victims receiving AED treatment within two minutes survive, but the chances of survival decrease with each passing minute. The convenience store where my daughter collapsed at did not have an AED and had the police not been there when she collapsed, she would not have survived.

Like fire extinguishers, seat belts and smoke detectors, AEDs in public places are now becoming more common. As more states pass laws requiring our schools and sports programs to keep AEDs on premises so are more shopping centers and public places. The Red Cross has stated that "Of course, you can – and should – request the assistance of trained medical professionals. However, because the average response time for first responders once 911 is called is 8-12 minutes, and for each minute defibrillation is delayed, the odds



of survival are reduced by approximately 10%, having access to an AED and knowing how to use one, is critical."

The recent sudden cardiac arrests of college player Bronny James and professional football player Damar Hamlin did more than shock the sports world and the nation. They brought attention to a disturbing, but little-known, fact: Sudden cardiac arrest is the number one medical cause of sudden death in young athletes in the United States and Black athletes appear to be at a higher risk. Fortunately, these two athletes survived because AED equipment was at hand to restart their hearts.

It is with the understanding of all this that Lansdowne Borough Council voted unanimously to purchase and install AEDs in all of Lansdowne's public parks. Knowing that one of the risk factors for sudden cardiac arrest is physical activity it makes good sense to have an AED where our children and families gather and play.

Lansdowne Borough has partnered with Simons Heart (www.simonsheart.org) to acquire and install the AEDs in weatherproof cases. You will begin to see them show up at all of our parks (two at Hoffman Park) in the coming months. A community event to learn how to use the devices and teach CPR is being planned for a future date.

The research is clear. AEDs save lives. We can all now enjoy our beautiful parks and facilities just a little bit more knowing that the hearts in Lansdowne are protected.

There is only one piece of equipment that will restart a person's heart after it has stopped in cardiac arrest, and that equipment is an AED.

LANSDOWNE DEMOCRATS



NONACUTE ACUTE

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Address: Lansdowne, PA

Date: 04/23/2024

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- Suzanne K. McElroy
First Vice Chair/Communications.....610-213-1172
- Bernadette Domenick
Co-Vice Chair for Engagement 610-585-2353
- Jennifer Hoff
Co-Vice Chair for Engagement 610-220-1385
- Jessica Pointer, Vice Chair
for Fundraising & Development609-334-8787
- Liz Moorhead, Secretary610-772-1294
- William T. Smith, Treasurer610-213-2022
- Susan Corbin, Assistant Treasurer215-264-1332

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- Donna Lewis Jackson610-931-2705

2nd Precinct

- Liz Moorhead610-772-1294
- Kate Schleigh610-406-3660

3rd Precinct

- Andy Farquhar610-626-7086
- William Hodgson610-259-0884

4th Precinct

- Susan Corbin215-264-1332
- Craig Horle215-823-9607

5th Precinct

- Mike McElroy610-284-5503
- Desmondé Pringle610-202-2743

6th Precinct

- Sarah Berkowitz.....732-236-6418
- Bill Smith610-213-2022

7th Precinct

- Bernadette Domenick.....610-585-2353
- Madalyn Holliday.....267-251-9242

8th Precinct

- Monique Anderson.....215-519-7586
- Dave Grooms215-218-8797

9th Precinct

- Louis Govinden610-213-3789
- Jan Tong215-518-3605

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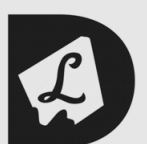
11th Precinct

- Tanya Hoard.....267-918-1159
- Jessica Pointer609-334-8787

At-Large

- Kristin Bellafante (11th)703-597-5857
- Elliot Borgman (3rd)610-715-6803
- Magda Byrne (1st)484-362-3351
- Tony Campuzano (6th)610-259-0543
- Caryl Carpenter (4th)610-623-6449
- Catherine Coll (5th)202-669-7933
- Charlotte K. Hummel (3rd) 610-626-7086
- Mark Anthony French (7th)610-517-5251
- John William Green (7th).....207-415-3393
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- Michael Schleigh (2nd).....215-740-7047
- Laurie Wolfe (4th)215-823-9407

LANSDOWNE DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE



LansdowneDemocrats.org

NOW WITH EVEN MORE TO OFFER

Lansdowne Public Library Marks 125 Years

By Susan Corbin

This is a very special year for the Lansdowne Public Library. This year it becomes 125 years old! Coming from humble beginnings in 1899, the library was originally housed in a single room in the Highland Avenue School located on the corner of Baltimore and Highland Avenues. The collection at that time consisted of only 1,345 books. However, today it is a completely different story. Since 1982, the library has been housed in its own building located at 55 S. Lansdowne Avenue. Its collection consists of nearly 65,000 books including audio books, DVDs, magazines, mp3s and CD-ROMs. Nearly 5,000 Lansdowne residents have registered for their free library cards and circulation is over 100,000 items. In the near future the library will be expanding its physical building. This will allow for additional community rooms, student study rooms and quiet reading rooms. For more information on the many programs and resources provided by the library go to: www.lansdownelibrary.org

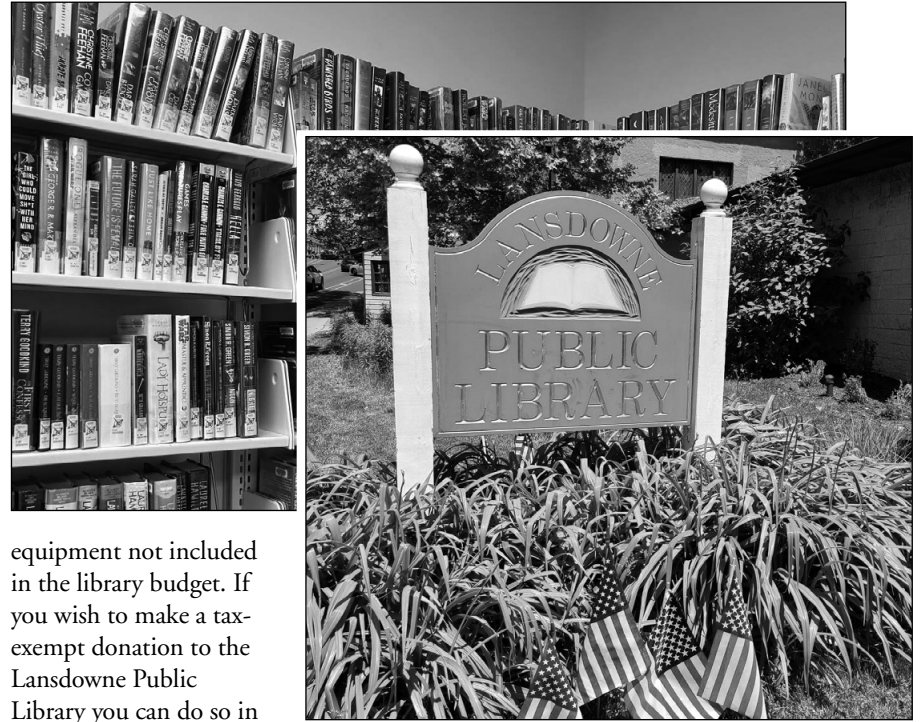
According to Alexander Stockdale, the Head of Programming, the Library continues to grow in popularity because of its unique programs, resources and collections. Two of its newest programs are “Author Series”, which will highlight published authors from Lansdowne once a month on Wednesdays at 6:15pm; and “Daytimers” which will be a social time of

activities for seniors every 1st and 3rd Friday of the month from 9:30 am to 11:00 am.

Other programs that have proven popular are:

- the “Museum Pass Program” where Library members can obtain free passes to area museums, zoos and gardens;
- the “Wee Reads” story time program for children ages 3 -5;
- the “Dungeon and Dragons” gaming club;
- the semi-dramatic readings of classic and popular books with live streaming;
- “Friday Flicks” where current popular movies are shown on Fridays at noon;
- “Through the Ages” book club where books written in the past 5,000 years are discussed on the 1st Thursday of the month at 7pm; and
- the “Language Group” where throughout the month, up to ten different languages are spoken conversationally via zoom.

Friends of the Library is the fundraising arm of the Lansdowne Public Library. It strives to promote awareness of the library and engages in fundraising to provide support for programs and



equipment not included in the library budget. If you wish to make a tax-exempt donation to the Lansdowne Public Library you can do so in several ways; you can use Paypal, write a check payable to the Friends of the Lansdowne Public Library, you can donate new or gently used books and DVD's or you can volunteer your time at one their many special events, programs, bake sales or community outreach activities. For more information go to lansdownelibrary.org/friends-of-library.

Bill Paterson, Library Director, invites you to stop by and check out all of their resources.

Steps into Nature

Families, join us for the **Steps into Nature** program at the Lansdowne Public Library for children ages 5-12, accompanied by a parent or guardian. Kids will do FUN, interactive, hands-on activities related to the natural world and get a free snack on the following Wednesdays from 4 to 5 PM: **April 3, April 17, May 8, May 22, June 5, and June 12.**

EVERY VOTE COUNTS

Make Sure Your Mail-In Ballot Counts

By Caryl Carpenter

More than 16,000 ballots were discarded in the 2022 November election because of some easily avoided mistakes. If you follow these simple steps, you can be sure your ballot will be counted.



- Completely fill in the circles on the ballot with a blue or black ink pen. Don't make check marks as they will not be counted.
- Put the ballot in the secrecy envelope marked “official election ballot”. Seal the envelope. Do not make any marks on the secrecy envelope.
- Put the secrecy envelope in the outer envelope and seal the outer envelope.
- Sign the outer envelope
- Date the outer envelope.
- Double check that you have signed and dated the outer envelope.
- Ballots can be returned through the U.S. mail or by Drop-Box.

BY U.S. MAIL:

- Put a first-class stamp on the outer envelope if you use the U.S. mail.
- If you mail the ballot, it must be RECEIVED at the county election board by 8PM on election night.

BY DROP BOX:

- Deposit your completed ballot at an official drop-box. Any official Drop-Box in Delaware County can be used. The Lansdowne Drop-Box is in front of the firehouse on Highland Avenue.
- Each voter must drop off their own ballot.

Lansdowne Democrats Endorsed Candidates

OFFICE	CANDIDATE	POSITION
President of the United States	Joseph R. Biden Jr.	11
United States Senator	Robert P. Casey Jr.	22
Attorney General	No endorsement by Lansdowne Democrats	
Auditor General	Malcolm Kenyatta	41
State Treasurer	Ryan Bizarro	51
Representative in Congress 5th District	Mary Gay Scanlon	61
Representative in General Assembly 164th District	Gina H. Curry	81
Delegate to Democratic National Convention 5th District	All are committed to Joseph R. Biden Jr.	
<i>(Vote for not more than Eight)</i>		
	Jennifer O'Mara	91
	Ryan N. Boyer Sr.	92
	Tanya V. Allen	93
	Emilion A. Buitrago	94
	Gina H. Curry	95
	Thomas J. Deluca	96
	Monica Taylor	97

FROM ONE CENTURY TO ANOTHER

The Show Must Go On at the Lansdowne Theater

By Charlotte K. Hummel

The Lansdowne Theater originally constructed and opened in 1927 has known both success and hardship. From a glorious centerpiece of the borough to an inglorious shell of its former self, the theater has been through it all. Yet, like the proverbial phoenix rising from the ashes (and there WAS at least smoke if not fire at one point), hope is turning to reality in the resurrection of this historic treasure.

After opening on June 1, 1927 and making the transition from silent to talkies, the great entertainment center was the place to go for a night at the movies or a Saturday afternoon matinee for kids of all ages. The architectural splendor, which is best described as Spanish Revival, The Lansdowne is enormous in size and scale. The 1,358 seat main theater was, for generations, the defining place to see everything from the first movie – Knockout Riley starring Richard Dix to the last – Beverly Hills Cops II shown in 1987. At the very end of its public life, the final showings of weirdly entertaining black and white shorts known as “Moron Movies” were shown in smaller theater upstairs. With both the grand theater and small show space on the second floor and later on the first floor, the Lansdowne Theater tried to hold on but simply could not.

Since closing in 1987, the owner at the time walked away from an unsustainable theater and the Bell Savings and Loan foreclosed on the mortgage. Unfortunately, Bell Savings and Loan went out of business as part of the Savings and Loan crisis of the late 1980’s to early 1990’s and the property was transferred to the Resolution Trust Corporation set up by the federal government. From there it was purchased by a group of business people and the offices on the second floor and the retail spaces on the first were opened and the building produced income from rents. Unfortunately the theater continued to fall into disrepair, was too expensive to restore by a for-profit entity and in 2007 the building was purchased by the newly formed Historic Lansdowne Theater Corporation (HLTC) with the goal of restoring and reopening the landmark building.

The story of The Lansdowne from 2007 until today is one of imagining, re-imagining, stabilizing, fundraising, financing and planning for a reuse that would benefit the community economically, culturally and socially. For a full description of this process please take the time to listen to “Abandoned America: The Incredible Rebirth of the Lansdowne Theater.” (Available on iTunes or wherever you access your podcasts.) It not only will give you the inside information about what

OPEN HOUSE APRIL 13

The HLTC is holding an open house, guided tour of some of the work as part of a fundraising event as part of the Delco Gives campaign which will qualify the theater to receive additional funding. Progress Tours will take place on April 13 from 10 am to 1 pm. Admission is \$20 per person. Children under 12 are free. Tickets may only be purchased on the day of the event at the theater’s ticket booth.



The Historic Lansdowne Theater pictured in 1954 or 1955

has happened in the last 17 years, but will also help you understand that while it seems a very long time to have waited for re-opening, that the experts in this specialized field will tell you that this process usually takes no less than 20 years and as long as 30.

Besides coming up with the most sustainable re-use of the building the last decade was spent completing the restoration of the marquee, main façade,

windows and outdoor lobby. The most challenging task was blending private philanthropic sources, public investment, federal historic tax credits and financing to complete the project. The project overall will cost in the neighborhood of \$18 million with \$15M for construction costs and \$3M for financing, design, permitting, legal costs, and numerous studies.

In the end, The Lansdowne which is scheduled to open in the Fall of 2024 will

serve as a concert venue and while it will still be owned by the non-profit HLTC, it has leased the theater to BRE Presents, the Philadelphia Region’s leading independent concert promoter. Tickets to the initial block of concerts go on sale on or around March 6th. (Visit www.BREpresents.com to purchase tickets.) Not only has the one of our community’s most recognizable landmarks been preserved the reopened theater will serve as an economic driver for revitalization of the central business district but also as a regional cultural hub and attract audiences for other arts-related organizations in Lansdowne. The HLTC retain the right to program 24 events annually by offering the venue (at a reduced rate) to non-profit performing arts, school, and community groups.

For more information and photographs detailing the construction and restoration work, visit “Save the Lansdowne Theater” on Facebook. To donate, visit lansdownetheater.org.

The funding for the project has come from a wide variety of sources with the support of various sources including:

PRIVATE DONATIONS

Presser Foundation
Foundation for Delaware County
Ethel Sergeant Clark Smith Memorial Fund
National Endowment for the Arts
Hundreds of individual donations, large and small, from residents of Lansdowne, the region, across the country and around the world.
Government and Government Agencies
Borough of Lansdowne
Delaware County Council
- American Rescue Plan funding
- Community Development Block Grants
Delaware County Interactive Gaming Revenue Authority
Commonwealth of PA
- PA Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program

- American Rescue Plan funding
- PA Department of Community and Economic Development
- secured by Rep. Nicholas Micozzie (dec.); Rep. Gina Curry, Sen. Anthony Williams, Sen. Tim Kearney
PA Historical and Museum Commission
Federal Community Project Funds
- secured by Representative Mary Gay Scanlon and Senator Bob Casey, Jr.

PRIVATE FINANCING

Reinvestment Fund
WSFS

FEDERAL HISTORIC TAX CREDIT INVESTOR

WSFS

A Gem You Don’t Want to Miss

SCRAPPY CAT IS A “CURIOUS RETROSPECTIVE EXTRAVAGANZA”

By Kate Schleigh

Nestled in the heart of Lansdowne’s business district, Scrappy Cat is a gem that you don’t want to miss. Billed as a “curious retrospective extravaganza,” the shopper and the shopper-at-heart could find themselves oohing and awing at the marvels that the owners have culled.

At the store, the owners offer unique antiques and vintage furniture, lamps and other household goods. The walls are covered, floor to ceiling, with paintings, art prints, posters, and mirrors. They carry items that are created by local artisans and makers. You can also find reasonably priced, unusual trinkets that would make great gifts such as prints, t-shirts, candles, and stickers. And of course, all things cat can be found here, from catnip toys to cat socks for humans who love cats.

On the second floor of the shop, they have a year round dedication to felines. In the corner, they have a cat throne, where you can take photos to your hearts content. While at the cat throne, they also have advertisements from the Animal Friends of Lansdowne talking



about the adoptable kitties in town.

The owners often help to promote the larger community, such as advertising other local businesses within the Business District, and collecting supplies for the Animal Friends of Lansdowne. Within recent months, they’ve helped out by spreading the word about various theatrical productions within the

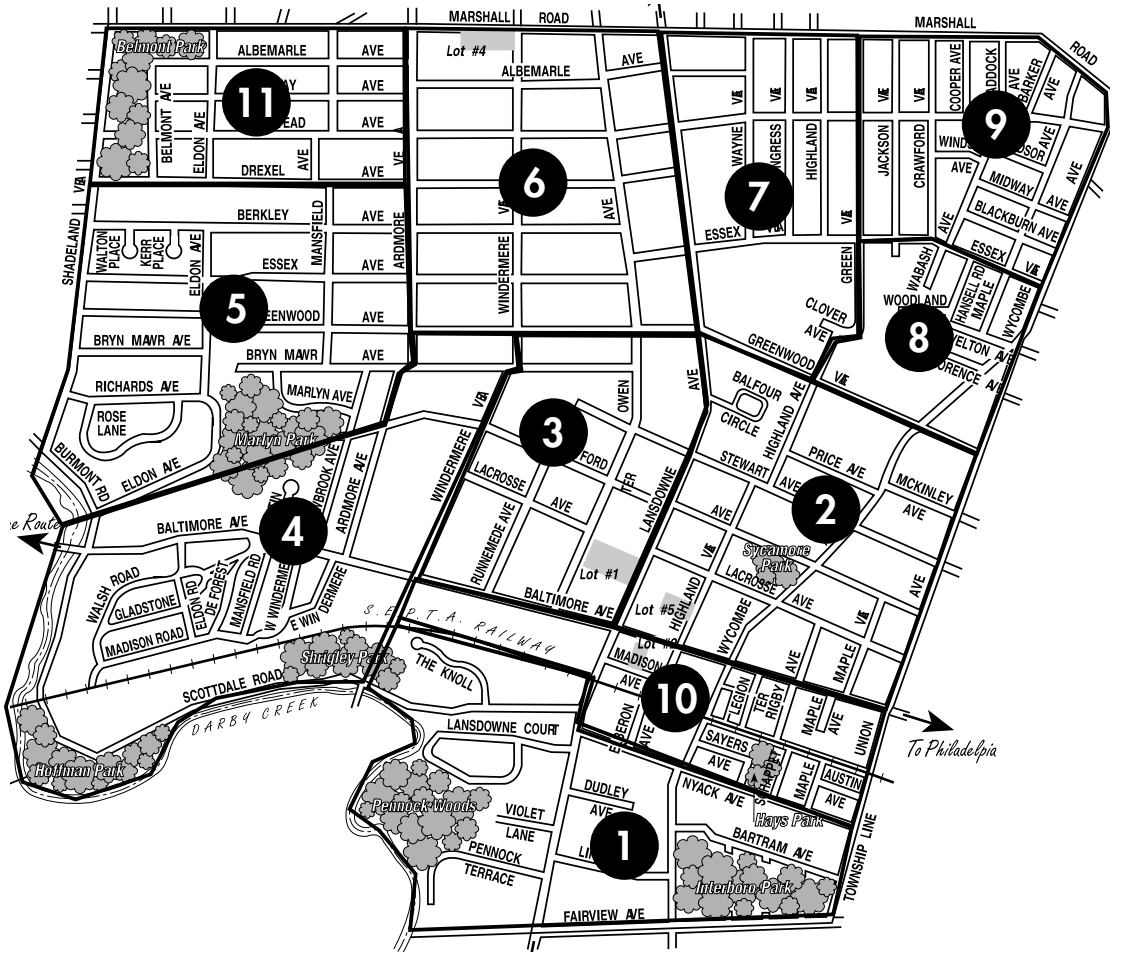
William Penn School District.

Scrappy Cat has become the crown jewel of the Business District. If you get a chance, please come and visit them at 16 North Lansdowne Ave. The store is open noon to 7 PM, Thursday through Sunday. You can also get a glimpse of wares on their website www.scrappycatshop.com

POLLING LOCATIONS & PRECINCTS

- 1st Precinct: Twentieth Century Club
- 2nd Precinct: Penn Wood High School
- 3rd Precinct: Penn Wood High School
- 4th Precinct: Penn Wood High School
- 5th Precinct: Ardmore Avenue Elementary School
- 6th Precinct: Ardmore Avenue Elementary School
- 7th Precinct: Penn Wood High School
- 8th Precinct: Penn Wood High School
- 9th Precinct: Pepper's Pharmacy
- 10th Precinct: Twentieth Century Club
- 11th Precinct: Ardmore Avenue Elementary School

DROP BOX FOR MAIL-IN BALLOTS:
 Lansdowne Fire Station
 26 N. Highland Avenue



COMMUNITY CALENDAR

SATURDAYS IN APRIL, 9AM - 12PM
Darby Creek Valley Association Annual Watershed Cleanups
 More information at:
dcva.org/watershed-cleanups/

FRIDAY, APRIL 5, 8 PM
Jamey's House of Music presents Vakili Band
 32 S Lansdowne Ave

MONDAY, APRIL 8
Last day to REGISTER to vote in the primary

Delaware County Hazardous Waste Collection Events
 Four Events scheduled.
 Registration required.
delcoswa.org/household-hazardous-waste

THURSDAY, APRIL 11, 5 PM – 7 PM
Lansdowne Volunteer Fair
 Explore volunteer opportunities in Lansdowne
 Twentieth Century Club
 84 S Lansdowne Ave

SATURDAY, APRIL 13, 10AM - 1PM
Historic Lansdowne Theatre Corporation - Benefit Theater Tour
 \$20/Tickets available at the door

SATURDAY, APRIL 13, 8 PM
Jamey's House of Music presents The Dale Melton Trio
 32 S Lansdowne Ave

TUESDAY, APRIL 16
Last day to apply for a mail-in or civilian absentee ballot

FRIDAY, APRIL 19, 8 PM
Jamey's House of Music presents The Billy Price Band
 32 S Lansdowne Ave

SATURDAY, APRIL 20, 8 PM
Jamey's House of Music presents Bill Toms and Hard Rain
 32 S Lansdowne Ave

SATURDAY, APRIL 20, 10AM - 12PM
Lansdowne Winter Farmers Market
 30 N Lansdowne Ave

SATURDAY, APRIL 20
Earth Day event
 Hoffman Park

TUESDAY, APRIL 23 GENERAL PRIMARY ELECTION
 Last day for County Boards of Elections to receive voted mail-in and civilian absentee ballots
 (Must be received by 8:00 PM)

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24, 6:15 PM
Ona Gritz, Everywhere I Look Local Author's Talk
 Lansdowne Public Library
 55 S Lansdowne Ave

THURSDAY, APRIL 25, 7 PM
Lansdowne Folk Club presents Joe Jenks with Jessica Smucker
 Twentieth Century Club
 84 S Lansdowne Ave

SATURDAY, APRIL 27, 8 PM
Jamey's House of Music presents The Katie Barbara Band
 32 S Lansdowne Ave

SUNDAY, APRIL 28, 3 PM
Lansdowne Symphony Orchestra
 Penncrest High School
 134 Barren Rd, Media

TUESDAY, APRIL 30
Last day for County Boards of Elections to receive voted military and overseas absentee ballots

FRIDAY, MAY 3, 8 PM
Jamey's House of Music presents The Kennedys
 32 S Lansdowne Ave

SATURDAY, MAY 4, 8 PM
Jamey's House of Music presents The Deb Callahan Band
 32 S Lansdowne Ave

SATURDAY, MAY 11, 8 PM
Jamey's House of Music presents The Debra Devi Band
 32 S Lansdowne Ave

THURSDAY, MAY 16, 7 PM
Lansdowne Folk Club presents Anne Hills
 Twentieth Century Club
 84 S Lansdowne Ave

FRIDAY, MAY 17, 8 PM
Jamey's House of Music presents The Legendary Bobby Messano
 32 S Lansdowne Ave

SATURDAY, MAY 18, 8 PM
Jamey's House of Music presents Settlement Music School Jazz Night
 32 S Lansdowne Ave

WEDNESDAY, May 22, 6:15 PM
Daniel Simpson, Inside the Invisible - Local Author's Talk
 Lansdowne Public Library
 55 S Lansdowne Ave

MONDAY, MAY 27, 9 AM
Memorial Day Parade and Memorial Day Observance
 Sponsored by Lansdowne Legion Post 65
 Begins at Ardmore Elementary School
 Memorial Day Observance at Penn Wood High School immediately following

EVERY SATURDAY FROM MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND TO HALLOWEEN
 9 AM TO 1 PM
Lansdowne Farmers Market
 30 N Lansdowne Ave

SATURDAY, JUNE 1, 8 PM
Jamey's House of Music presents The Two Johns: Johnny Never and John Colgan-Davis
 32 S Lansdowne Ave

SATURDAY EVENING, JUNE 1
Lansdowne Democratic Committee Fundraiser
 Location TBA
 More info: lansdownedemocrats.org

THURSDAY, JUNE 6, 7 PM
Lansdowne Folk Club presents Roy Book Binder
 Twentieth Century Club
 84 S Lansdowne Ave

FRIDAY, JUNE 7, 8 PM
Jamey's House of Music presents The Kelli Baker Band
 32 S Lansdowne Ave

SATURDAY, JUNE 8, 8 PM
Jamey's House of Music presents Laura Cheadle
 32 S Lansdowne Ave

THURSDAY, JULY 4, 8:45 AM - 11 AM
4th of July Parade
 Begins at East Greenwood Avenue

FRIDAY, AUGUST 23, 8 PM
Jamey's House of Music presents Steve Shanahan
 32 S Lansdowne Ave

EVERY SUNDAY, 11:30AM - 4:30PM
Jamey's House of Music presents Sunday Blues Brunch
 32 S Lansdowne Ave

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 6:15 PM
George Ambrose, Environmental Activist Local's Talk at the Lansdowne Library
 55 S Lansdowne Ave

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 6:15 PM
Miriam Seidel, The Speed of Clouds Local Author's Talk at the Lansdowne Library
 55 S Lansdowne Ave