

# the Lansdowne Leader

May 2020

"Accountable Leadership, Accessible Government"

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**LANSDOWNE DEMOCRATS' ENDORSED CANDIDATE FOR PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES**

## Biden is the Leader America Needs

By Charlotte Hummel

Voters across the country have spoken. Pennsylvania's own Joe Biden is the presumptive Democratic presidential nominee, having won overwhelming victories in 22 out of 26 states that have voted so far, in some cases by more than 30 points. It's not surprising that the Vice President of one of the most popular Presidents of our lifetime, would be so successful. But many Pennsylvanians have an even longer memory of Joe Biden. In discussion with Pennsylvania voters, one word that people keep using to describe Joe Biden is: empathy.

As a Senator, Joe Biden introduced VAWA, the Violence Against Women Act, which made major changes to the way law enforcement approached domestic violence and created an array of services for victims. Though Republicans, serving the powerful NRA lobby, have consistently opposed this

legislation, it has been shown by research to be extremely effective in preventing and addressing violence.

Joe Biden also served on the Foreign Relations Committee as a Senator and performed diplomatic duties as a Vice President, giving voters confidence that Biden can repair troubled relationships with our traditional allies, and that he will not inflame international tensions into a new war. Biden's role in the Obama administration's leadership in the recovery after the 2008 crash, is yet another important item on Joe's resume for Pennsylvania voters in 2020.

Joe Biden's record against gun violence goes back to the Brady Bill in 1993, twice helping its passage through Congress. He also worked with Senator Dianne Feinstein to secure 10 year assault weapons bans. After the Sandy Hook tragedy in 2012, Biden worked on the Obama administration task force which ultimately



took more than two dozen actions, including closing the "gun show loophole." As President, Joe Biden has a plan to defeat the NRA once again and secure vitally needed legislation to protect our children from school shootings.

As a Senator, Joe Biden also blocked the nominations of Robert Bork and Jeff Sessions to the Supreme Court. Having served on the Judiciary committee, Joe Biden has the needed experience to help

*continued on page 6*

## Endorsed Democratic Candidates in State and Local Races

**PENNSYLVANIA VOTES TUESDAY, JUNE 2**

See page 4 for complete candidate profiles, voting information, and more.



**SCANLON**



**AHMAD**



**SHAPIRO**



**TORSELLA**



**DAVIDSON**

## WORK THE POLLS!

Your help is needed during the June 2 primary election! Many of our regular great poll workers are at high risk during this pandemic and are unable to work. The job is paid, and workers will have masks, gloves, wipes, and hand sanitizer.

If interested in working the polls, please send an email to [DelcoElection@co.delaware.pa.us](mailto:DelcoElection@co.delaware.pa.us) with the subject line "I can work on Election Day." Be sure to provide your name, address (must be in Delaware County), phone number, and email address.

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## FROM THE EDITOR

# The Pandemic Reminds Us Why We Need Democrats in Office

By Catherine Coll

When the Democratic Committee of Lansdowne first started planning this issue, we had no idea that a pandemic was bearing down on us. Although COVID-19 had been discovered in December of 2019, most people remembered prior situations such as SARS in 2003, H1N1 in 2009, or Ebola in 2014, and assumed that the new virus would be contained. That assumption was wrong. Very wrong. Lansdowne and the surrounding areas have been hit hard by this crisis. Lansdowne is home to not only many essential workers who take care of our health, but also SEPTA personnel, grocery store workers, first responders, and those who work in local hospitals. These neighbors deserve our utmost respect and honor.

In some ways, these events remind me of things I learned working as a systems administrator supporting weather modeling at NOAA. I watched dedicated scientists and public servants struggle to find a way to word their warnings that people would comply with, knowing that failure resulted directly in loss of life. This was in situations that people have experience with - hurricanes, and they didn't have the federal government silencing them and undermining them at every turn. Scientists and health professionals who have expertise in epidemiology and public health deserve our respect and support.

Regardless of the chaos at the federal level, our local response to COVID-19 has shown the better side of public service and neighborliness. At this writing, the national death toll has recently topped 60,000. We have suffered illness and losses in the 19050 zip code including Lansdowne, East Lansdowne and Yeadon. One of the best resources I've seen for keeping track of this ongoing situation has been Representative Margo Davidson's daily

newsletter, which you can subscribe to by writing to RepDavidson@pahouse.net.

I was also proud of Representative Davidson when she voted against the PA GOP's disingenuous attempt to pass legislation mandating a reopening of the state, supplanting Governor Wolf's evidence-based plan. When speaker Turzai refused to even take a vote on Democratic amendments, I could see that no true collaboration was intended.

## Regardless of the chaos at the federal level, our local response to COVID-19 has shown the better side of public service and neighborliness.

We also have seen our newly elected County Council respond to the crisis by brokering a deal with Chester County to receive services through their health department. This move helped to capture some federal funding that would have been lost under the Delco GOP's historical decision not to have a county health department. Our County Council also acted quickly to assist with the coordination of the alternative care site at the former Glen Mills school, staffed by health professionals, volunteers, and the National Guard. You can find out more about this at the following URL: [http://www.delcopa.gov/publicrelations/releases/2020/covid\\_alternativecaresite.html](http://www.delcopa.gov/publicrelations/releases/2020/covid_alternativecaresite.html)

These actions plus those at the local, Borough level by

our professional and service staff and volunteer elected officials remind me of why we all worked hard to elect Democrats and to keep Democrats in office. Being Democrats, we often have robust disagreements, but when it's time to get the work done, we put those differences aside and get it done. Our work towards electing public officials has resulted in an appropriate response to the crisis at our local level, one that honors the work, sacrifices and losses to our essential workers, not just with lip service but with policies that attempt to support them in their duties and preserve human life. We in the Lansdowne Democratic Committee would like to thank our Mayor, Borough Council members, and Tax Collector for all of their efforts to address the crisis and mitigate some of the damage.

Lansdowne has always had a tradition of neighbors helping neighbors. We knock doors, and we have an information distribution network that predates social media. We have expertise to share in information technology, gardening, mask-making, and where to get paper products. We deliver groceries for each other, we run errands, we look out for each other. When the news pays outsized attention to a small group of protestors, funded by the DeVos and Koch families through right wing extremist networks, I know that this does not represent the average person, because I live in Lansdowne. We know our neighbors as caring people who respect science and evidence, value human life more than a dollar, and acknowledge that it is only through cooperation that a recovery from the situation we are in, can begin.

Please be safe, read the updates at the local, county and state levels (your recent Borough Newsletter had great information in this regard) and reach out to neighbors if you are in need. We are all in this together and if we do what is right now, we can come out of this stronger than ever.

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT...

## Lansdowne's Earned Income Tax (EIT)

By Suzanne McElroy

At their September meeting, borough council approved a move to enact a 0.5 percent tax on the income of its residents and workers. This EIT went into effect in 2020. The purpose of the EIT is to diversify sources of income in order to fund the local government, thus spreading the tax base to include homeowners, renters, and those who work here. Lansdowne joins 19 of the 48 other municipalities throughout the county which have their own EIT or similar type wage tax. Most of those municipalities levy at the rate of 1 percent, including our neighbors East Lansdowne, Darby and Yeadon. Proponents of the EIT believe that the tax is beneficial in controlling the rates for real estate taxes and fairer to senior citizens who are retired.

### Who is Keystone Collections Group and why did I get a letter from them recently?

Lansdowne recently passed the earned income tax and they contracted with this group to manage the administration of this tax. Lansdowne Borough was mandated to contract with Keystone Collections because that is the provider designated by Delaware County.

### Do I still pay my property taxes through Lansdowne's Tax Collector?

Yes.

### How much is EIT?

Effective January 1, 2020, the EIT rate is

.5% for residents of Lansdowne Borough and .5% for those who live outside the borough and work in Lansdowne.

### What income is counted toward EIT?

All earned income and net profits, which includes wages, salaries, commissions and other compensation. This applies to both employees and self-employed individuals.

### What income is exempt from EIT?

Unemployment compensation, social security benefits, military pay, interest and dividends are NOT taxable.

### If I live in Lansdowne and work in another municipality where I already pay EIT to them, will I pay more?

No, but now Lansdowne will get their share and the remainder will stay in that community.

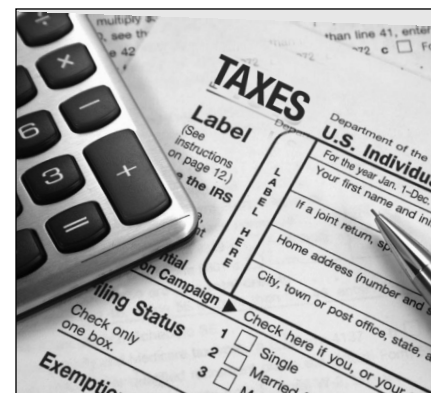
### If I live in Lansdowne and work in Philadelphia, will I pay more?

No. Your deductions will remain the same (currently 3.4481% for Philadelphia wage tax for non-resident workers). Unfortunately, Lansdowne does not get any share of this revenue by special law relevant to Philadelphia and Pittsburgh only.

### If I live in another municipality and work in Lansdowne, do I have to pay Lansdowne's EIT?

Yes, and the rate is .5%.

### If my employer withheld local EIT from my payroll, do I still have to file a



### return?

Yes, anyone who is subject to the tax (employee or independent contractor) must file an annual return.

### What do I need to file?

You will need a social security number, income and wages information that you are using to file your state taxes. Most taxpayers use their employer-provided W-2 form. You may also use, if applicable, Form 1099; Schedule(s) UE, C, F and/or RK-1.

### When do I file?

Tax return and any balance of tax due must be paid by April 15th. Late filings will be subject to penalty, interest, and costs. Keystone Collections should mail a return form in January 2021, but even if they don't you will need to contact them or download a form.

### How do I contact Keystone?

They can be reached online at [KeystoneCollects.com](http://KeystoneCollects.com) or by calling (724) 978-0300. Their address is 546 Wendell Rd, Irwin, PA 15642.

## the Lansdowne Leader

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Facebook: Lansdowne Democrats

## NEW SUPERINTENDENT FOR THE WILLIAM PENN SCHOOL DISTRICT

# Introducing Dr. Eric J. Becoats

By Jan Tong

Dr. Eric J. Becoats was named Superintendent of William Penn School District on February 24, 2020 by unanimous vote of the School Board Directors. That vote ended a process that started about a year earlier when current Superintendent, Jane Harbert, announced she was retiring. He was introduced to the community on February 20, 2020 at Penn Wood High School (Green Ave Campus), and will begin his tenure in May with a contract for the next 5 years.

As residents of Lansdowne, we asked: who is Dr. Eric J. Becoats, and what does he bring?

Dr. Eric Becoats started his career in education in Baltimore, Maryland where he worked in student placement and strategic planning, first as a director then as the chief. After Baltimore, he spent time in North Carolina working in three school districts and superintendent in Durham. As superintendent, he implemented the "One vision. One Durham." initiative to create a world class school system for Durham. Critical to this plan was providing professional development to the teachers regarding new Common Core standards at the time, and guidance regarding how to align their teaching to them. The next step was the

implementation of the teaching strategies teachers received. Through his leadership, graduation rates were increased, student

**Dr. Becoats begins his WPSD tenure in May 2020, with a contract to serve the school district for the next five years.**

academic achievement increased and the 32k+ student district in 2013, no longer had any schools classified as "low performing" and the dropout rate was lowered.

After Durham, Dr. Becoats spent some time in Chicago as interim executive director for Distinctive Schools, before being announced as an assistant superintendent in the School District of Philadelphia in 2015. As Assistant Superintendent of the Turnaround Network, he led a group of the lowest performing district schools with a model using a research-based improvement plan focusing on five key areas: identifying and cultivating great turnaround leaders; establishing a teaching and learning continuous improvement process; investing

in people and providing professional growth and development opportunities to enhance instructional capacity and delivery; providing resources to support healthy and safe school environments; and engaging the school community in the turnaround process.

In 2018, as the district made steady growth, 13 of the 16 Turnaround Network schools improved on the School District of Philadelphia's School Progress Report (SPR), with an average of nearly 8 percentage points. These were the greatest gains seen by any of the networks. With his continued leadership, the Turnaround Network, now rebranded as the Acceleration Network, grew to 19 schools. Five schools will exit the network after the 2019-2020 school year. For schools to exit this network, they must meet two criteria: achieve an overall School Progress Report (SPR) score in the Watch tier (25 percent) or higher for two consecutive years; and show three consecutive years of growth or above-average growth in reading and math.

With the announcement of the William Penn candidacy filled, many began to Google Dr. Becoats and were met with news articles of controversy. Items that most wanted to know more about were about his use of district resources for personal use and his teaching background. At the William Penn Superintendent



Forum, Dr. Becoats addressed what you would find on the internet search with candor and stated that "...there were some mistakes I made, while in Charlotte as well as Durham." He also stated that he would not and has not used district resources like that again. You can watch the entire interview at [williampennsd.org](http://williampennsd.org)

Even though he did not teach in a K-12 classroom, his resume includes adjunct professorships throughout his career. These courses require similar preparations as a K-12 classroom teacher, such as knowledge of content, planning a curriculum, executing that curriculum, and assessing students for success. He is currently an adjunct professor for Curriculum Models at Drexel University's School of Education.

Dr. Eric Becoats has the background and expertise as an administrator to help guide the William Penn School District to be successful.

## SUPPORT LANSDOWNE BUSINESSES AND TAKE A NIGHT OFF FROM THE KITCHEN

## Feeling Hungry? Try These Local To-Go Favorites

By Catherine Coll

When social distancing has you down, and going viral is no longer a state to aspire to, having someone else do the cooking can be just the thing to take you back to a pre-corona mindset. Ordering takeout can buy you another night before you have to participate in the strange ritual that grocery shopping has become. Remind yourself of the good old days by visiting your Lansdowne favorites and helping them stay in business!

### AviAnna

This Asian Fusion restaurant next to Saint Philomena's is still serving up house favorites like Pad Thai and Peking Duck Rolls. Thai, Chinese and Vietnamese favorites are on the menu. Specials such as their pineapple fried rice is a great way to get your Vitamin C. (610) 622-0954, 55 E Baltimore Ave.

### Dunkin' Donuts

Living through a national crisis gives people perspective, and allows people to reach a new level of honesty with one another where we admit that hipster donuts are not actually better than the classics served at Dunkin'. While we're being real, let's also admit their brewed coffee is better than Starbucks. (610) 626-9203, 23 E. Baltimore Ave.

### Kia's Cakes

Cakes shaped like Gritty or Baby Yoda were some of the things we enjoyed back when gathering in large groups was a thing people did. But the main reason we all love Kia's cakes is because they taste the best! Kia's cheese-cake, is still serving as a reminder that not everything civilization produces is bad. Kia's is open Fridays and Saturdays. One of her cakes will surely take the edge off of a less populated birthday or anniversary, and now you have a valid excuse not to share. Open on weekends. (484) 461-3793 16 S. Lansdowne Ave.

### Lorraine's A Taste of the South

Favorites include whiting and also ribs. Let's not forget about their Mama's Meatloaf, Honey Buttered Cornbread, Louisiana Style Collards, and Five-Cheese Mac & Cheese. The food is seasoned with love and care. This is probably the closest you'll get to the actual South these days. (610) 624-9200, 36 E. Baltimore Avenue.

### My Old Place Bakery

After binge watching The Great British Baking Show, the need for pastries has been overwhelming. We found "some of the best sweet treats anywhere on the planet" right here. They have a great selection of pastries, gooey sticky buns, fresh donuts filled with jelly or cream, delicious Danishes, cakes, pies, and bread. Open Wed-Sat from 7 am to 6 pm and Sun from 7 am to 3 pm. (610)259-4000. Check out their daily selections at 201 Shadeland Ave.

### Paul Revere

Of course this place will outlast the coronavirus, it's been around since before Legionnaires disease. Their cheese-steaks are in my opinion, better than those at all of the better known places popular with tourists. They also have pork roll sandwiches, great pizza and a full menu with many appetizers, salads and Italian specialties. (610) 259-9214, 193 Shadeland Ave.

### Shere-E-Punjab

This Indian restaurant famous for their samosas, has been donating free meals to those suffering economic losses from the COVID-19 crisis. Many folks in Lansdowne have been patronizing the restaurant in recognition of those efforts. (484) 452-8041, 5059 State Rd, Drexel Hill.

### Travers Food Market

As far as I know, this small, family owned grocery store has yet to ever run out of toilet paper or paper products. They have wonderful deli meats, prepared foods, hoagies, and salads, but are probably best known for frozen Italian specialties such as stuffed shells and ravioli. Put dinner on the table and get some staples to see you through! (610) 626-6330, 199 Shadeland Ave.



Gritty cupcakes from Kia's Cakes are good company

**KEEP SAFE AND REDUCE CROWDS AT THE POLLS****Vote by Mail in the PA Primary ... and Beyond!**

The Pennsylvania primary election has been postponed to June 2 due to coronavirus precautionary measures. Fortunately, PA Act 77 has arrived just in time to allow all Pennsylvanians to vote by mail, for any reason! Voting by mail keeps you safe from virus exposure, and reduces crowds at the polls. It also protects your neighbors who serve on the Election Boards at each polling place all day. Voting by mail is a three-part process, requesting your ballot from the Board of Elections, filling out your ballot, and returning the voted ballot.

In Pennsylvania, you now have two options for mail ballots. You may either choose an Absentee ballot or a Mail-In ballot to request, complete, and return to your county election office. If you plan to be out of the municipality on election day or if you have a disability or illness, you should request an Absentee ballot, which still requires you to list a reason for the request. This type would be best for:

- College students who are not registered to vote at their school address;
- People whose work or vacation take them away from the municipality where they live;
- Those with a physical disability or illness that prevents them from going to the polling place;
- Members of the military;
- People who may have a conflict due to the celebration of a religious holiday; and
- Inmates who haven't been convicted of a felony.

Any other qualified voter may apply for a Mail-In ballot without providing a reason. Both applications are available at [votespa.com](http://votespa.com).

The process for both Absentee ballots and Mail-In ballots is quite similar and the timing is the same. If you want to vote by mail you must make an application. The applications are available online at [VotesPA.com/ApplyMailBallot](http://VotesPA.com/ApplyMailBallot) and [VotesPA.com/ApplyAbsentee](http://VotesPA.com/ApplyAbsentee). The applications are available in both English and Spanish. They can be filled out online or a pdf downloaded for you to mail or deliver to the county Bureau of Elections, 201 W. Front St., Media. **The county must receive your application for a mail ballot by 5:00 p.m. on May 26, 2020.**

Once the county bureau of elections receives your application, they will send out a mail ballot to you. Now you complete the ballot (vote at home) by marking your choices on the ballot. You can return your voted mail ballot by mailing it to your county board of elections using the postage-paid envelope provided, or you can drop it off in person at the Board of Elections. Whichever way you choose, **the County must receive your voted ballot by 8:00 p.m. on June 2, 2020, election day, in order for it to be counted.**

**In Pennsylvania, you may either choose an Absentee ballot or a Mail-In ballot to request, complete, and return to your county election office.**

On each type of mail ballot application there is an option to request to be placed on a permanent mail ballot list. Once you are on this list, you will have an application sent to you annually by the first Monday in February to renew your option to receive ballots in the mail for the elections during that year. If you complete and return the application, the county will send you ballots in the mail for all the elections that take place that year, as well as for any special election held through the third Monday in February of the next year. For example, if you return your completed mail-in application by May 26, 2020, you will automatically receive a ballot for the June 2, 2020, Primary and the November 3, 2020, General Election, as well as ballots for any special elections held on or before February 15, 2021.

If you are sent a mail ballot and the county receives your voted ballot by the deadline (8:00 p.m. on election day), you may not vote at your polling place. Your vote is considered final at that point. However, if you mailed your

ballot too late, or you aren't sure whether the county received your voted ballot in time, you may be able to vote a provisional ballot at your polling place. However, if the county does receive your voted mail-in ballot in time, that ballot, not your provisional ballot, will be counted. Remember, you may always return your mail ballot directly to the county board of election's office by 8:00 p.m. on election day. Your Election Ballot Status can be checked at [www.pavoterservices.pa.gov](http://www.pavoterservices.pa.gov).

Provisional ballots are discrete and a determination by the county Bureau of Elections will decide if you were eligible to vote and if your provisional ballot should be counted. To verify, call (877) VOTESPA or (877) 868-3772.

Finally, counties are authorized to begin processing mail-in applications more than 50 days before the election. Beginning 50 days before the election, counties must begin transmitting mail-in ballots as soon as the ballot is certified and the ballots are available. Counties may await the result of a court proceeding that would affect the content of ballots before delivering mail-in ballots, but in any case, counties must begin to send out Mail-In and Absentee ballots no later than the second Tuesday before the election (May 19, 2020).

Emergency Absentee ballots have a more simplified process. More than one voter may now designate the same person to deliver their ballot. For example, the same hospital employee may deliver ballots for multiple patients.



**IF YOU VOTE AT THE POLLS on June 2, you will be using our new voting machines. The Verity Scan is a digital scan ballot tabulator that is used in conjunction with an external ballot box. The unit is designed to scan marked paper ballots, interpret and record voter marks on the paper ballot and deposit the ballots into the secure ballot box.**

## Endorsed Democrats in State & Local Elections

### Mary Gay Scanlon

U.S. House of Representatives

Congresswoman Mary Gay Scanlon, an education and human rights advocate, currently represents Pennsylvania's 5th Congressional District. She was first sworn into U.S. House of Representatives on November 13, 2018. Congresswoman Scanlon's priorities in Congress include voting rights, education, common sense gun safety legislation, and protecting the rights of children, families, veterans and our seniors. She currently serves as Vice Chair of the House Judiciary Committee, the House Rules Committee, and the House Select Committee on the Modernization of Congress. Congresswoman Scanlon played a vital role in the impeachment proceedings against President Trump.

### Nina Ahmad

PA Auditor General

A resident of Philadelphia for 35 years, Nina is a tireless progressive advocate for women's rights. In her extensive record of service, advocacy, electoral support and activism, Nina has always centered women's rights with a focus on intersectionality and diversity. As a scientist, Dr. Ahmad is uniquely qualified to bring expertise to the data collected by the state of Pennsylvania. Nina has earned several important endorsements such as the Delaware County Progressive Activist Caucus, Philadelphia's Southwest Coalition, State Senator Art Haywood, State Senator Katie Muth, Philadelphia Local AFL-CIO Council, IBEW Local 98, and of course Delaware County Democrats and Lansdowne Democrats!

### Josh Shapiro

Pennsylvania Attorney General

Attorney General of PA Josh Shapiro previously held office as Chairman of the Montgomery County Commissioners. The highlights of his work as AG include: identifying 301 predator priests and thousands of victims of the Catholic Church. He has twice secured national injunctions protecting women's access to no-cost contraception as required by the Affordable Care Act. He is currently leading a multistate investigation into pharmaceutical manufacturers and distributors.

### Joseph Torsella

Pennsylvania State Treasurer

Ambassador (Ret.) Joseph M. Torsella is a successful civic leader who will bring integrity, energy, and vision to the office of Pennsylvania State Treasurer. A Democrat, Joe was the first declared candidate for the April 2016 primary election. Prior to serving as Treasurer, Torsella served as an U.S. Representative to the United Nations and led the development of the National Constitution Center.

### Margo Davidson

Pennsylvania  
House of Representatives

Davidson was first elected to the House of Representatives in 2010. Throughout her years in public service, she has fought to stabilize communities and create jobs. Davidson serves on the Commerce, Consumer Affairs, Finance, Insurance, and Professional Licensure committees, as well as the Committee on Committees. She has authored and co-sponsored legislation that supports small business growth, public safety and minimizes the tax burden on the middle class and working families. She serves as vice chair of the PA SAFE Caucus. Davidson is the first Democrat, the first African American and the first woman to represent the 164th Legislative District. Representative Davidson's daily COVID-19 email newsletter has been a vital source of local information during the crisis, sign up at [RepDavidson@pahouse.net](mailto:RepDavidson@pahouse.net)

**VOTE  
Tuesday, June 2**



## Coming to the Avenue: Bonnie's Uptown Flower Shop

Preparations are ongoing for the eventual opening of Bonnie's Uptown Flower Shop, an expansion of Bonnie's Wondergardens on Scottsdale Rd. The Uptown Flower Shop will be in the Pennock building, the space formerly occupied by Mane Attraction. Renovations to the space include the removal of drop ceilings to expose the historic architecture. Owner Bonnie McShane plans improvements to the entryway, including creative plantings, and seasonally decorated shop windows, aimed at making the business attractive to the after-work crowd departing from the train. Bonnie especially thanks Deb Brodeur and LEDC for their assistance with the renovations and planning of the new store, which will be a creative portal for her and her staff, and provide an attractive meeting space for event planning.



### VIEW FROM THE AVENUE

## A Pre-COVID Shopping Trip around Lansdowne

By Jayne Young

Now that Pennsylvania is in lockdown, the only shopping trips we can take are to the grocery store, or some of the big boxes like Lowe's or Target. Maybe our time in lockdown will make us appreciate our small town local businesses, and this walkthrough will make us eager to patronize our friendly neighboring shops the minute we are able!

I began my shopping trip at Todaro's Music on N. Lansdowne Ave. This destination store is owned and operated by Joe Todaro. It has been in its current location for 20 years. Joe has nothing but nice things to say about the borough and having a business here. He finds the location to be well situated for customers that visit from all over the region.

He extends an invitation to casual shoppers to stop in and have a look around. Along with musical instruments he offers lessons to budding artists and all kinds of music related supplies. He wants people to know his shop is not just for the accomplished musician. There are so many items appropriate for any level of player. Small children can find plenty of items designed to entertain and help them develop talent. More skilled players will be impressed by the store's offerings.

Joe serves the school band clientele and the adult musician. Interestingly, he wishes more young people would start their own bands, "just the like the old days". I realized, after hearing this, that it had been a long time since I'd seen a teen playing air guitar. Modern sound suggests too many of them rely on digital accompaniment. The lack of the garage bands of yore have created a noticeable, yet fixable, commerce hole. That said, musicians of all ages still enjoy holding a physical instrument, possibly strumming "Stair Way to Heaven". You can't do that when shopping online. Customers will find quality items at competitive prices when they walk into Todaro's Music.

After chatting with Joe, I called Crystal at the A Star Bazaar. Crystal is the go-to at this communal business. There are currently 6 vendors and the offerings run the gamut from crystal items, to hats, to vintage doodads, collectables, soaps and decorative oil burners that fill the area with lovely scents.

The bazaar has been in this location for six years now. Crystal had a booth at the Pennsy Flea Market. When it closed suddenly, she had 4 days to relocate and was pleased to find this location on Lansdowne Avenue. Other vendors joined her.

The Bazaar's business volume is helped by its neighbors; I've Got the Juice and the Burger Bank, and on farmers market days she displays items outside on the sidewalk. But customers are always welcome. If you love thrifting and the unusual it is worth a stop at the Bazaar. Be sure to make it part of your regular shopping routine because the stock is mostly one of a kind. Crystal loves doing business in Lansdowne and would love to see more of the community stop in to see what's happening at the Bazaar.

**When residents shop in the local business district, they create a demand for more businesses. We are all participants in revitalization.**

Travelling further down the Avenue and crossing Baltimore I came to Heffernan's Little Craft Shop and spoke with owner Teresa. Small and mighty is a good way to describe this merchant. Heffernan's has been operating for 2 years and Teresa has some concerns about the lack of foot traffic. When people stop in, they often find something to buy, but more shoppers need to stop in. I was charmed by the hand made 4 packs of decorative magnets for only one dollar and the Lansdowne mug on display. Oh, and the knitted "Baby Yoda" was adorable. Her shop also features jewelry and crafts made by local artists. For a small space she has a well-balanced variety of merchandise that appeals to all ages.

In her opinion the Avenue needs more gift and craft shops. It would create more of a draw if customers could go from shop to shop. All businesses need customers. I know where to go on my next gift buying mission. When I asked her for ideas to improve commerce, she too wished for more business connectivity. Just like Joe Todaro, Teresa would like to see more cooperative promotion from one store to the next.

So, what is the secret sauce to a successful business? Champagne, honey mustard, sweet and spicy. Maybe it's the chaos wings (reported to make a grown man cry). I asked Steve from Crystal's Comfort Food, (his favorite is

the Honey Mustard, be sure to ask him why). Steve and Crystal are the husband and wife team that opened this wing joint in September of --2017. Crystal is a graduate of Penn Wood High School, and although she lives in Delaware with Steve and four boys, she wanted to open her business in her hometown.

It all started when Steve complained about not being able to get a decent wing in Delaware. Crystal put her culinary talents to work and made him food that just had to be shared.

On a busy football game day they can sell up to 5,000 wings. On an average day they are still in the 2,000 range. I have often seen Facebook posts apologizing for running out of food and announcing an early closure. If you have never eaten a Crystal's wing you are in for a treat. These are meaty and delicious with several award-winning sauces to choose from. The menu also includes sandwiches: chicken, hamburgers, and seafood, plus fries with and without adornment. The food is delicious, and they always add the love.

Steve shared that he has customers from all over, as far away as Massachusetts and South Carolina. How did he get discovered? He uses social media every day. He makes a sandwich and posts a picture on Facebook or the web site, cooks up a pile of wings and posts that as well. He buys Facebook ads regularly and has seen the positive results. From the beginning he was determined to grow the business beyond the borough and his strategy has paid off.

Soon we will all be able to watch him, and Crystal compete on the Food Networks, "Great Food Truck Race". I tried to get Steve to tell me how it worked out but he was close-lipped so I will have to watch the show.

What all these business owners have in common is a passion for what they do. Crystal from the Bazaar takes so much pride in finding a variety of quality products. She wants you to love the shop as much as she does. When Steve from Crystal's Comfort Food conveys the quality of the product his family has to offer you can taste the pride he has in his food. When Teresa from Heffernan's encourages customers to look around her shop you can hear the personal delight, she takes in the adorable niftiness of what she has curated. And when Joe Todaro answers questions about music, his instruments and his business you get a real sense of the joy he has in it even after all these years.

Our borough has been engaged with the business community for decades. The Lansdowne Business and

*continued on page 8*

# Polling Place Updates for Lansdowne Borough

June 2, 2020 Primary Election

Due to health concerns caused by COVID-19, the Delaware County Bureau of Elections voted to consolidate numerous precincts in Lansdowne Borough for the June 2, 2020 Primary Election.

**Precincts 2, 3, and 4** will now vote at Penn Wood High School.

**Precinct 10** will now vote at the Twentieth Century Club.

## UPDATED POLLING LOCATIONS

**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 Ave. Elementary School

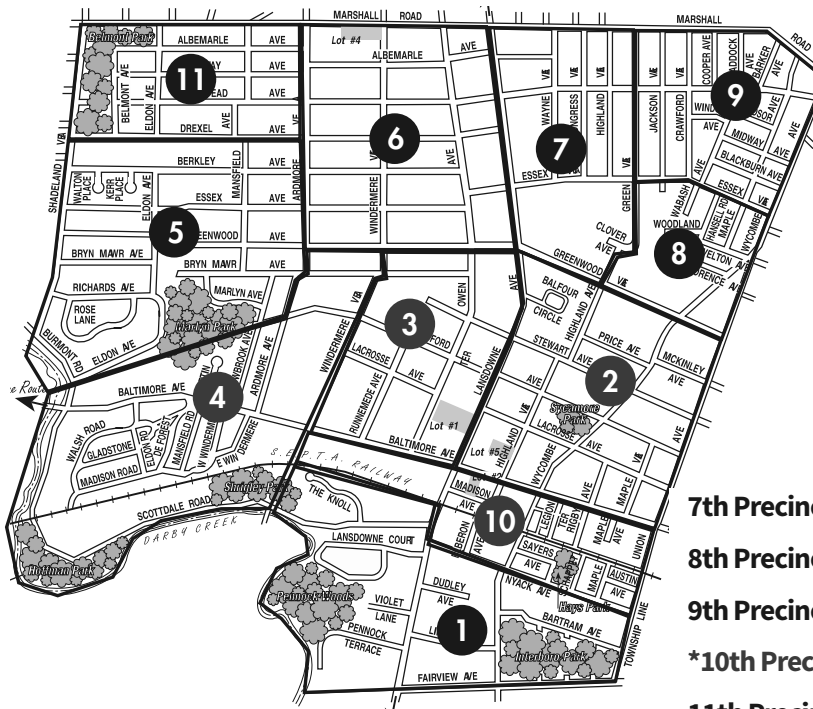
**6th Precinct:** Ardmore Ave. Elementary School

If you **PREVIOUSLY VOTED** at Simpson Gardens or Lansdowne Fire Company

**VOTE JUNE 2** at Penn Wood High School

If you **PREVIOUSLY VOTED** at Lansdowne Public Library

**VOTE JUNE 2** at Twentieth Century Club



**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 Ave. Elementary School

**\*NEW LOCATION**

### JOE BIDEN

continued from page 1

restore legitimacy to the Supreme Court. With the tragic Janus decision fresh in mind, labor unions representing millions of workers, such as NEA and United Autoworkers, have endorsed Joe Biden. Vice President Biden has also been endorsed by all of his major competitors for the nomination, including Senator Kamala Harris, Senator Amy Klobuchar, South Bend, Indiana Mayor Pete Buttigieg, Senator Bernie Sanders, and Senator Elizabeth Warren. President Obama has also released a ringing endorsement of Joe Biden as the experienced statesman and unifying leader that will be needed to confront the public health and economic crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

These are just a few chapters in Joe Biden's long experience as a statesman, but many voters cite more personal reasons for wanting to see Joe Biden leading the country right now. Biden's history of overcoming personal tragedy is the reason why he would never minimize or deny another American's pain. Biden's son Beau received a Bronze Star for his service in Iraq, prior to his tragic death from a brain tumor. Voters trust that Joe Biden will never make light of any veteran's pain or suffering, and he will respect their families as well.

Democratic voters have resoundingly chosen Vice President Joe Biden to restore dignity, honor, respect, compassion and common sense to the White House in 2020. The Lansdowne Democratic committee is proud to endorse Vice President Biden. We know that Pennsylvania will show up for Joe, and that Joe will in turn show up for us. We will do everything we can to deliver those votes in November.

### WORD FIND

**Lansdowne has no streets, only parks, lanes, avenues, places, courts, and woods.**

**Can you name which park is missing?**

ANSWER ON PAGE 8

- |               |           |               |
|---------------|-----------|---------------|
| Bartram       | Kerr      | Sayers        |
| Belmont       | Knoll     | Shrigley      |
| Borough Green | Landing   | Sycamore      |
| Clover        | Lansdowne | Veterans Park |
| Drexel        | Marlyn    | Violet        |
| Eldon         | Marshall  | Walsh         |
| Essex         | Nyack     | Wayne         |
| Green         | Owen      | Willowbrook   |
| Hayes Park    | Pennock   | Wycombe       |
| Hoffman       | Rigby     |               |
| Interboro     | Rose      |               |

B E L M O N T M A R S H A L L  
 O H X E S S E O S A Y E R S T  
 R R O S E A C A T E L O I V E  
 O L K F W X L W A L S H G E W  
 U E A Z F E M A R T R A B A I  
 G L E N X M A R L Y N M Y Y L  
 H A Y E S P A R K L O N G E L  
 G N R A Y D E N O C E R N L O  
 R D I X C R O N Y W E S O G W  
 E I N Y A C K W N E E N D I B  
 E N G A M E I R N O K N L R R  
 N G C L O V E R A E C E E H O  
 I N T E R B O R O P X K R S O  
 D L O V E T E R A N S P A R K

**ACT 77 SIGNED INTO LAW**

# Historic Election Reform Bill Secures PA Voting Process

On October 31, 2019, Governor Wolf signed Act 77 of 2019 into law. The Act is an historic election reform bill that makes the most significant improvements to Pennsylvania’s elections in more than 80 years. Act 77 allows more convenient and secure voting. Most voters can now vote by mail-in ballot, and voters will have more time to register to vote and to return their absentee or mail-in ballots. In addition, the Act provides \$90 million in funding for new voting systems. Here are some highlights of these improvements to the election code.

**FOR VOTERS**

- Voting by mail is extended to all voters, either through the Absentee ballot (specific reasons needed) or Mail In ballots (no reason needed).
- Voter registration deadlines are now 15 days before an election (reduced from 30 days).
- Straight party voting by one button is eliminated; selection of each candidate in a party is needed to accomplish this.
- Write-in names must be written or stamped; no stickers or paste-in labels can be used.

**FOR CANDIDATES**

- Circulators of nomination petitions must still be a registered voter in Pennsylvania, but no longer need to be residents of the election district where they circulate petitions.
- Circulators of nomination papers by minor political

party and political-body candidates do not need to be registered voters in Pennsylvania or Pennsylvania residents.

- Circulators of nominating petitions must complete a statement under penalty of perjury for signature pages, instead of a notarized affidavit.

**FOR COUNTIES**

- With \$90 million bond, PA Department of State will reimburse counties (who apply for the grant) for 60 percent of the costs of their new voting systems.
- Any money left over after all counties have been reimbursed can be used by counties to purchase election security equipment.
- Voting district (or precinct) freeze is placed until after the decennial census is finalized.

Absentee and mail-in ballots must now be counted centrally at the county board of elections office. They will no longer be sent to polling places and counted there. Canvassing (or counting) must begin by the third day after election day and must be finished within eight days after the election.

Counties must keep additional public records for absentee and mail-in ballots. They must keep a record of the date the county receives the application; the date the application is approved or rejected; the date the county mails or delivers the ballot, and the date the completed ballot is received.

The PA Department of State may not decertify a voting system that is being used by 50 percent of counties, unless it submits a written plan to the General Assembly at least 180 days in advance.

**Election Security**

Reports of attempted foreign interference in our electoral process have only reinforced our dedication to protecting election integrity. Since 2016, the PA Department of State has greatly intensified its election security efforts with increased monitoring, fortified voting system defenses, auditing, and added layers of protection to the commonwealth’s voter registration database. PA Department of State is dedicated to making your vote count.

## LANSDOWNE DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE

- Charlotte K. Hummel, Chair .....610-626-7086
- Suzanne K. McElroy,  
First Vice Chair .....610-213-1172
- Clare Hughes,  
Vice Chair for Engagement .....610-613-3997
- Catherine Coll,  
Vice Chair for Communications .....202-669-7933
- Kate Schleigh, Secretary .....610-284-0411
- William T. Smith, Treasurer ..... 610-213-2022

**■ COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

**1st Precinct**

- William Horton ..... 267-240-6747
- Sinoe Naji-Taylor.....267-716-1867

**2nd Precinct**

- Michael Schleigh .....215-740-7047
- Kate Schleigh .....610-406-3660

**3rd Precinct**

- Elliot Borgman .....610-715-6803
- William Hodgson .....610-259-0884

**4th Precinct**

- Craig Horle .....215-823-9607
- Susan Corbin .....610-284-0411

**5th Precinct**

- Michael McElroy .....610-284-5503
- Desmondé Pringle .....610-202-2743

**6th Precinct**

- William T. Smith .....610-213-2022
- Allison Truman.....610-453-2547

**7th Precinct**

- Mark Anthony French .....610-517-5251
- Bernadette Domenick.....610-585-2353

**8th Precinct**

Two vacancies

**9th Precinct**

- Antoine R. Mauldin .....267-205-4809
- One vacancy

**10th Precinct**

- Peggie McCormack.....610-772-3947
- One vacancy

**11th Precinct**

- Kellie Bowker .....484-410-9209
- Kristin Bellafante .....703-597-5857

**At-Large**

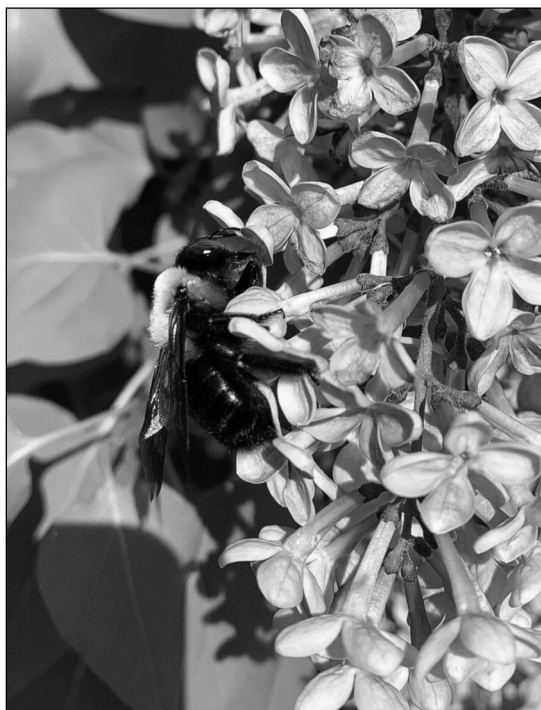
- Magda Byrne .....484-362-3351
- Tony Campuzano .....610-259-0543
- Caryl Carpenter .....610-623-6449
- Catherine Coll .....202-669-7933
- Andy Farquhar .....610-626-7086
- Wardell Holt II.....215-704-3869
- Benjamin Hover .....610-357-3731
- Clare Hughes .....610-613-3997
- Charlotte K. Hummel .....610-626-7086
- Suzanne McElroy .....610-213-1172
- Charles L Royal .....610-284-9338
- Joe Stevenson .....610-623-3487
- Laurie Wolfe .....215-823-9407



Left: Lansdowne resident Sugar contemplates the Lansdowne Sycamore. Lansdowne’s parks are still a great way to get sunlight and fresh air while observing social distancing precautions.

Bottom left: An essential worker goes about their duties.

Bottom right: Lilacs bloom on the west side of town.



# ESSENTIAL COVID-19 RESOURCES

## GOVERNMENT & SCHOOLS

**Delaware County** provides resources tailored for individuals, businesses, seniors, families, veterans, non-English speakers and others; updates from Governor Wolf, PA Dept of Health; and data and maps for Delco COVID-19 cases, broken down by municipality. [www.delcopa.gov](http://www.delcopa.gov)

**Lansdowne Borough**  
[www.lansdowneborough.com](http://www.lansdowneborough.com)

**William Penn School District**  
Email: [webmaster@wpsd.k12.pa.us](mailto:webmaster@wpsd.k12.pa.us)  
[www.williampensd.org](http://www.williampensd.org)

**Greater Philadelphia COVID-19 Helpline**  
800-722-7112

## FOOD & MEAL ASSISTANCE

**COSA and Community Transit** offer seniors free shopping assistance: 215-900-2519 or [GroceryDrop@CTDelco.org](mailto:GroceryDrop@CTDelco.org)

**Family & Community Services** offers home delivered food for low income individuals: 610-566-7540

**William Penn School District** provides free Grab-n-Go lunches for school-age children:  
*Lansdowne Presbyterian Church, 140 N. Lansdowne*  
*Mon-Fri 11 am - 1 pm*

## NON-ENGLISH SPEAKERS

Information on COVID-19 is available in Arabic, Bengali, Punjabi, Spanish, Urdu and Vietnamese:  
[www.Chesco.org/coronavirus](http://www.Chesco.org/coronavirus)

## HUMAN SERVICES

**Delco Ombudsman** offers help regarding long term care facilities:  
610-872-1868

**Drug & Alcohol assistance:** 610-619-8616  
**Homeless Resources** by Community Action: 610-874-8451

**Mental Health** 24/7 Crisis Support and Referral Helpline: 855-284-2494

## STAY CONNECTED WITH SOCIAL DISTANCING

Lansdowne Groups on Facebook to join:

- Buy Nothing Lansdowne
- Lansdowne Borough
- Lansdowne Democrats
- Lansdowne Proud
- Lansdowne Today
- My Hometown is Lansdowne, PA
- You Know You're from Lansdowne PA when...

## MAKING DEMOCRACY WORK

How to check if you are **registered to vote:**  
[www.votespa.com](http://www.votespa.com)

How to apply for **Mail-In Ballot:**  
[www.votesPA.com/ApplyMailBallot](http://www.votesPA.com/ApplyMailBallot)  
or in-person to county election office:  
201 W. Front St, Media, PA 19063

**Deadline for Mail-In Ballots: Tuesday, May 26, 5 pm**  
*Applications for both absentee and mail-in ballots must be received by Delco election office for Primary Election. No reason needed for mail-in ballot.*

**How to check status of your mail-in ballot**  
[PAvoterservices.pa.gov](http://PAvoterservices.pa.gov)

## PRIMARY ELECTION: TUESDAY JUNE 2

You can vote on candidates affiliated with your political party.

*Your vote counts! You can vote by mail or in person.*

**Polls Open 7:00 AM – 8:00 PM**

## GENERAL ELECTION: TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 5

*Your vote! Your voice!*

See map of polling places.

**Polls Open 7:00 AM – 8:00 PM**

## Top 10 Reasons Everyone in Lansdowne Should Complete the Census



#10: An accurate count = more \$ for healthcare (who doesn't want that?).

#9: An undercount = not enough \$ for schools (take my kids!).

#8: An accurate count = more \$ for roads & highways (potholes, anyone?).

#7: An accurate count = more \$ for employment training (we all MIGHT need that, too!).

#6: An undercount = we get fewer representatives in Washington (wanna let other states decide our fate?).

#5: Completing the Census is patriotic.

#4: It's private -- NO ONE except the Census Bureau sees your answers.

#3: It's quick -- just 9 questions.

#2: It's simple -- you don't even have to wear a mask to do it.

And the #1 reason to complete the Census...IT'S CRAZY EASY!

It's essential that every Lansdowne resident completes the 2020 Census. It takes just five minutes, so do it today!

You can complete the form that was mailed to you and send it back. Or, you should have received a letter with online instructions and an access code. Can't find that? Don't worry, other ways to complete the census: Get one online at **2020Census.gov** OR by phone at **844-330-2020**

Remember, the census counts residents (people) not citizens. There is no citizenship question on the census. According to the Census Bureau, each resident counted brings about \$2,000 per year to Lansdowne, Delaware County, and Pennsylvania.

## JAYNE YOUNG

continued from page 5

Professional Association LBPA and the Lansdowne Economic Development Corporation LEDC are both dedicated to supporting our business districts. But even the casual observer will note room for improvement. There are new stores on the Avenue and some much-anticipated additions are expected soonish. But development is a cooperative effort and the stakeholders include residents as well as support organizations and local government.

So, what can we do as a community to support economic revitalization? PATRONIZE LOCAL

BUSINESSES. When residents shop in the local business district they create a demand for more businesses. Cool right? We are all participants in revitalization. I only visited 4 shops but there are more in the central district and beyond. Parking is no more an issue than at the mall. A short walk will beef up your step count and \$.25 is a small price to pay for an hour on the Avenue. Bring your neighbors and make it a social event. If you haven't patronized one of our local businesses before, do yourself a favor and check out all they have to offer. Review the business directory, published by the LBPA, so you can be a conscientious consumer. Engage with the LEDC by supporting their events. Many of the locals refer to Lansdowne as "Our Village", and it takes a

village to create a bright future. Small changes in habits can have immediate and monumental impact and we all end up with more shopping options. Win, Win.

*Jayne Young was Mayor in Lansdowne from 2002 to 2013. She was appointed to the Delaware County Transition Team examining Economic Revitalization. Jayne sits on Lansdowne Borough's Zoning Hearing Board. She is the Volunteer Coordinator for the Arts on the Avenue event under the LEDC umbrella. Jayne is a regular shopper on the Avenue.*

**ANSWER TO PAGE 6 WORD FIND QUESTION:  
Reservoir Park**