

the Lansdowne Leader

May 2021

"Accountable Leadership, Accessible Government"

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Elect Magda Byrne for Mayor

By Jayne Young

Fifteen years ago, it was by chance that Magda Byrne found the borough when looking for a location close to the city and the airport. She moved from New York City, a much different place; so she set out to meet people and got involved with community projects. Before long she knew people. From the Farmer's Market committee to a position on borough council, now she is going for the top job, Borough Mayor.

As a three-term former Mayor of Lansdowne myself, I know what it takes to do this job properly and I want the best person possible in the position. Mayor Tony Campuzano has been doing a great job, and we all thank him for his commitment to the borough and the quality job he has done and continues to do. But since he is stepping down, it's time to embrace a new Mayor and in my opinion the job was made for Magda Byrne. It requires a person who will communicate effectively with the people, carefully navigate the position with the council, and work well with staff. Magda has a track record of doing all this as a council person and is ready for the challenge in this role.

Her eyes light up when she talks about our "Village". In the years she has lived here she has taken every opportunity to know her fellow citizens. As their representative on council, she has done a wonderful job considering the needs of the borough and engaging with constituents. Her ideas about how-to mayor are endless.

Her past accomplishments are Comcast Cares Day, The Philadelphia Art Museum Inside Out and the Lansdowne Landing, as right-hand woman to former Councilperson Susan Williams, to name just a few. Her greater accomplishment may be as the Chair of Community Relations. She successfully engaged all the community groups, a demanding and time-consuming job.

She and Kenny live with two cats and a daughter who is a full-time student at Penn State and a part-time roommate. She works a full-time job at a tech company and still commits to the demands of council. Stepping into this new role will offer her many opportunities to try new projects. She will definitely put her own spin on the job.

I look forward to working with her and am eager to see what she will do as our Mayor. I support her candidacy and ask you all to join me in voting for Magda Byrne for Mayor of Lansdowne Borough.



ENDORSED DEMOCRATS FOR LANSDOWNE BOROUGH COUNCIL

Robert Akil Curry

By Jennifer Hoff

Robert Akil Curry is grounded in the life of the Lansdowne community. He not only lives in the Borough, but he works here as well. Robert has been employed by the William Penn School District as Assistant Principal of Penn Wood High School since June 2018.



Asked why he is running for a seat on Lansdowne Borough Council, Robert comments, "I want to serve the people of Lansdowne Borough and provide a culturally diverse opinion on things that will impact the community as a whole. I believe representation in positions that can influence policy and procedures is important."

As a member of Borough Council, Robert hopes to work with fellow council members to improve Lansdowne through facilitating community involvement. He plans to increase and promote resident involvement in community

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Carol Martsof

By Ben Hover

A long time resident of Lansdowne Borough, Carol Martsof is an ideal candidate to serve on Lansdowne Borough Council. Through her professional work and volunteer service in Lansdowne Borough and Delaware County, Carol demonstrates the quiet leadership and attention to detail that has elevated her to leadership positions in her employment at Urban Engineers, on Lansdowne Borough Boards and Commissions, on the Delaware County Sustainability Commission, and at the Lansdowne Friends Meeting.

In her work experience, Carol has worked for 17 years as a Professional Engineer Accredited in LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) at Urban Engineers where she serves not only as the Vice



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Jayne Young

By Bernadette Dominick

Jayne Young loves Lansdowne! She moved to the borough 37 years ago with her husband Ralph, and now cannot imagine living anywhere else.

This passion for her community is evident in all that she does. Highly regarded for her easy leadership style, Jayne was elected as the Mayor of Lansdowne in 2001. She served three consecutive terms from 2002 to 2014. Jayne is most proud of the open-door policy she practiced during her time as Mayor. She loved that folks felt comfortable stopping her on the street to talk, and enjoyed both the compliments and the complaints. She believes in working together to see all sides of an issue and listens to all voices in order to find the best solution.

When Jayne's tenure as mayor concluded, she remained active with many community organizations.



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Kellie Bowker: A Welcoming Neighbor and Vital Community Member

By Kristin Bellafante

Kellie was the first person I met when I moved to Lansdowne five years ago. On move-in day, I was greeted with a cheerful hello and a warm smile from my new neighbor. I have forgotten the details of the conversation, but I remember how friendly Kellie was and how proud she was of the community.

For 25 years, Kellie has called Lansdowne home, where she raised her two daughters Kayla

and Kiara. She lives with her partner Rae and their two rescue dogs Beasley and Lulu. Kellie has been a lower school teacher at Friends Select in Philadelphia for the past 15 years. Knitting, baking, singing, and gardening are just a few of her many talents. She is a passionate advocate for the environment, criminal justice reform, and LGBTQ rights.

Over the years, I have been grateful for my friendship with Kellie and Rae. They are thoughtful neighbors whose

acts of kindness include bringing back goodies from the farmer's market, lending tools and household items, offering rides to local events, and sharing delicious leftovers such as homemade cookies and focaccia bread. They are two of the most generous people I have ever met.

Kellie is not only a dear friend and neighbor, she is also an active community member who devotes her time and energy to support Lansdowne. She was a member of the Parks

and Recreation committee for four years and has served on the Lansdowne Democratic Committee since 2018. Kellie is a strong advocate for local business and has supported several community projects including the Lansdowne Theater renovation and the Lansdowne Landing. Kellie is a member of the Lansdowne Garden Club and the local Buy Nothing group. She regularly volunteers at the farmer's market, and never misses a local festival or parade. Given her



strong ties to the community, along with her skills and experience, there is no doubt Kellie will be a dedicated and effective leader on the Lansdowne Borough Council.

CHAIR’S COLUMN

Creating a Resilient and Caring Community

By Charlotte Hummel, Editor-in-Chief

Often people ask me, “What makes Lansdowne a special place?” If they don’t live here, my answer is, “I do.” If they do live here, my answer is “You do.”

What makes Lansdowne special is our individual and collective commitment to community. Over the last year, this became even clearer in the growth of and activity on Facebook pages

like Buy Nothing Lansdowne, Lansdowne Garden Club, Lansdowne Parents Group, Lansdowne Borough, PA, Lansdowne Arts Board, Lansdowne Votes, Lansdowne Business and Professional Association, and Dogs of Lansdowne, among others. Moreover, attendance at public and private meetings and events via Zoom and other social media platforms increased. Despite the need to self-isolate and social distance Lansdowne residents found ways to stay connected within the greater community and to connect with our immediate neighbors in deeper and more meaningful ways.

I have never lived anywhere like Lansdowne. Some of my out of town friends have described us as a modern day, diverse, welcoming Mayberry RFD.

We find ways to seek out the best each other has to offer; to inspire a spirit of volunteerism to make things better.

Others have said that we are like one of those fictional English villages with quirky characters (you know who you are). This is my children’s hometown, and often, I tell people that the best of who they are comes from having been raised here, by this village.

I have been thinking a lot recently about how one goes about building a community like Lansdowne. More important, how does one go about maintaining and growing such a community?

For me, the cultural construct needed to keep a place like our small Borough a place where people love to live

is one of connectedness and care. It’s a place where, despite the usual modern issues, be they social, economic or political – we find ways to seek out the best each other has to offer; to inspire a spirit of volunteerism to make things better; and to appreciate the contributions and needs of every person, family and group. When we disagree or are unhappy with something, we feel free to express our opinion and to work to change things. Yet, we also know that one issue or event does not make an entire community. We learn to accommodate, adapt, and move forward with kindness.

It’s really simple for me. If you want to live in a community that has certain characteristics, you have to both embody and inspire those same characteristics in

your day to day life. Now, anyone who knows me knows that I have both a sarcastic side and can be cynical at times. These coping mechanisms can be great to vent frustration. But in reality, I know that maintaining a stronger, more resilient community relies on my willingness: to do more for and in our community; to share the history of this place; to acknowledge other people’s investments and activities; and to connect people to one another.

The thing that I would like to work on

in the near future is to create a shift in cultural norms so that we become known as the community that votes, that doesn’t talk trash about our schools, that stops at stop signs and obeys the speed limits, that doesn’t litter and that works to find innovative solutions to our problems. If we can change those few things, our community will flourish even more.

And since I always say it: Please remember to VOTE in the Primary Election on MAY 18th.

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

I’ve lived in Lansdowne since the 1990s, and kept plenty busy running a software business helping publishers and raising two kids (now teens) with my husband. But in 2020, like so many, I wanted to do more than be frustrated and enraged by what I saw going on in our country.

When Charlotte put out the call for a new editor for the Leader, I was excited to use my professional experience to help our community. There wasn’t a lot of competition for the role, so I assume not everyone finds election research, writing, and editing a newsletter as much fun as I do!

As the new managing editor, I’ve been inspired to meet so many neighbors who give their time, energy, and intellect to our community; to interview local business people like Jim Osmanollaj of CRISP Chick’n who are energizing the downtown; and to learn about the amazing candidates running as Democrats in Lansdowne, Delco, and Pennsylvania. I hope the excitement and hopefulness I feel about what’s happening in our Borough comes through in this newsletter, and that I help motivate you to go to the polls and elect Democrats on May 18. Let me know at lansdownedems@gmail.com how the Leader can be even more useful to you, or if there’s a story we should tell.

Vote!

– Lisa Bos, Managing Editor

ENDORSED CANDIDATES FOR OTHER BOROUGH POSITIONS

Jerome Fletcher II

By Suzanne McElroy

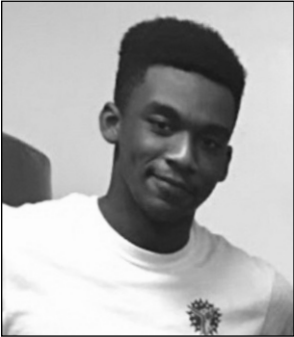
A Lansdowne resident for the past 12 years, Jerome resides here with his parents.

He is a graduate of Penn Wood High School and has a vocational degree in Emergency Protective Services from Delaware County Technical School. This degree includes studies in Criminal Justice and Investigations, Forensics and Tactical Operations. During this time Jerome was mentored by several law enforcement officers and S.W.A.T. teams.

Jerome wants “to be able to better help others in the way that I was helped out while growing up here.” He also has a certification in Emergency Medical Services, which deals with responding to 911 calls, and treating and transporting people in crisis health situations.

As a patrolman with the Delaware County Park Police, Jerome directed his path more into the law enforcement area. He is currently seeking the elected position of Constable, a six year term. One of the routine duties of the Constable is to visit polling places on election day to keep the peace. On election day, the Constable is the only law enforcement person permitted into the polling areas, except in the case of emergencies or 911 calls.

Jerome began volunteering at a karate studio when he was 13 years old. He has taught karate in several studios. He enjoys teaching adults, as well as kids and teens. He specializes in the instruction of ‘tricking’, complicated karate moves similar to those you might see in the movies.



CONSTABLE

William T. Smith

By Suzanne McElroy

Bill Smith has been a resident of Lansdowne for over fifty years and is currently raising his teenage son here. His career began by earning a Bachelor of Science degree in Accounting from St. Joseph’s University in Philadelphia, PA. In order to stay current in his field, he maintains membership in the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners, the Institute of Management Accountants and both the Delaware County & Pennsylvania State Tax Collectors Associations. Bill has over thirty years of professional accounting, finance, auditing, taxation, collections and municipal government financial experience. For added value, he is also a Notary Public. In 2017 he completed Pennsylvania Act 48 qualifications for Tax Collector Certification, just before being elected to his first term in office as Tax Collector.

Public service in Lansdowne has been a part of Bill’s life for many years and is an expression of his abiding interest to give back to his community. He has served as a member of Borough Council for twelve years, as Borough Auditor for two years, and as Borough Treasurer for two years. His service on the Lansdowne Planning Commission for nineteen years also included being chairperson for eight years. Bill currently serves on the Delaware County Planning Commission as Region 3 representative. His municipal experience is not just limited to Lansdowne. His background includes service as Borough Manager and Municipal Treasurer/Finance Director for two other boroughs.

As the Borough’s Tax Collector, Bill faced unprecedented challenges and changes as the County ceased to produce municipal tax bills early in his term. This now requires most local tax collectors to research and migrate data from dual



TAX COLLECTOR

Jan Tong

By Jennifer Hoff

Jan Tong is a long-time educational professional and a parent of five William Penn School District students. As the incumbent, Jan has been serving as Region 6 School Board Director since March 2019, when he was appointed to fill the vacancy created due to Jamese Kwele’s relocation to Oregon and was elected to complete a two year term in November of the same year.

During his 23-year career with the School District of Philadelphia, Jan has served many roles, including teacher, a school-based teacher leader, and a Central Office Coach and Project Manager. Currently, Jan is a Program Specialist with the Office of Educational Technology. In his roles, he provides professional development and support as well as management duties for school district information management systems. This breadth of experience in education serves to make Jan a valuable, highly knowledgeable school board director.

Asked why he wants to continue to serve on the School Board, Jan comments “I want to ensure that students are getting the best education we can offer.” Jan’s accomplishments on the School Board so far include serving on the superintendent search committee, supporting the district through a pandemic, and identifying and purchasing new curricula.

Married for 18 years to Kimberly Tong, the couple has five children: Katelyn, Charlie, Wilson, Jacob, and Michael. The Tong children attend Penn Wood High, Penn Wood Middle and East Lansdowne Elementary Schools.

Jan did his undergraduate studies at York College of PA, earning a degree in Elementary Education, and later earned a Masters in Educational Administration from Gwynedd-Mercy University. In his free time, Jan is an avid photographer and enjoys spending time with his family.



SCHOOL BOARD

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ENDORSED DEMOCRATS IN COUNTY RACES

Democratic Leadership for A Better Delaware County

Kevin Madden

Richard Womack

Kevin Madden is running for his second term on the Delaware County Council. He admits that the first four years were “challenging.” In the first two years, he and Brian Zidek were the minority voices on an entrenched, backward-looking Republican council, and while they made some progress, it was always slow and uphill. In the past two years, Madden has worked quickly and effectively with the all-Democratic County Council that was sworn into office in 2020 – just six weeks before the COVID shutdown. As a senior member of the council, Madden has led the county’s COVID effort. That required close collaboration with the Chester County Public Health Department since Delco’s Republican leadership never created a public health department.

Despite the difficulties, Madden says his first term on the Delco Council “has been the most personally rewarding experience of my life.” He now enjoys council meetings because they are “real discussions” that do not end with a predictably unanimous vote. Madden



looks forward to completing the establishment of a county public health department and continuing the “best practices” for hiring and bidding that the current council has established. As chair of the council’s Jail Oversight Board, Madden sees the end of Delco’s for-profit jail

as “as historic opportunity in criminal justice.” He is proud of council’s reforms in both the D.A’s and Public Defenders’ offices and anticipates a new county jail that will become “a model” for helping people “get back on their feet at a low point in their lives.”

Going forward as a member of the Delaware County Council, Madden points to “sustainability” as one of his top priorities. Service on the Board of the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission has strengthened his view that the county is “over-developed,” and the County Council must intensify efforts to expand both open space and trails.



Richard Womack brings a wealth of governing experience to his campaign for County Council. He has served for 12 years on the Darby Township Board of Commissioners, from 2009 to 2021; for six of those years, he was Vice-President of the board and for two years he was the President. For seven months of his tenure, he even served as the township’s police commissioner. A lifelong resident of Darby Township, where Republicans long held control of township government, Womack developed bi-partisan working relationships on the board of commissioners and has increased revenue, equity in resource distribution, accountability, and transparency in his township’s government.

On County Council, Womack will be guided by the advice his father, a civil rights and labor leader, passed on to him: “the best way to be a good leader is to be a good listener and a good servant.” He looks forward to working alongside



current County Council members on establishing a County Public Health Department, a fair-minded county justice system with a government-run jail, and a hiring process that results in a county workforce that reflects the county’s population. Given his labor background, Womack brings a particular interest in the county’s Workforce Development efforts, hoping to build in incentives for contractors to hire local union labor. His experiences in Darby Township will make him a strong partner in the current council members’ insistence on accountability and transparency in government.

A member of the Communications Workers of America, Womack has worked for the AFL-CIO for twenty years, first as a northeast field representative and currently as the assistant to President Richard Trumka for Civil Rights and Community & Religious Affairs. Early in his career, Womack served as a field director for PowerPac, a non-profit promoting voter registration, voter turnout, and voting rights.

COUNTY SHERIFF

COUNTY CONTROLLER

REGISTER OF WILLS

Jerry L. Sanders, Jr.

Looking back over his four years as Delaware County’s sheriff, Jerry Sanders points with pride to his success at “lifting up” the county’s sheriffs so that they can be effective agents in achieving Sanders’s public safety goals.

Sanders notes that, under Republican rule, Delco’s sheriffs’ wages ranked among “the lowest of the low” in Pennsylvania. Sanders worked cooperatively with the new County Council to raise sheriffs’ wages to \$15/hour. This increases the pool of candidates for sheriffs’ positions in Delco and improves employees’ longevity in the department.

When Sanders became Delaware County Sheriff in 2017, there were no black sheriffs in the department and no women in supervisory roles. Female sheriffs’ leadership qualifications are now acknowledged and rewarded with promotions. As well, by making diversity a priority in hiring, Sheriff Sanders has shaped a department that looks more like the community it serves. Under his leadership, the Sheriff’s Department now reaches out to youth in the community to educate them about what the department does and to encourage young people to consider a career in law enforcement.

Since Sanders was first elected Sheriff, Delaware County’s Sheriff’s Department has become one of only five departments among PA’s 67 counties to earn accreditation based on record-keeping, professional standards, and transparency with the public – all measures that Democrats highly value in our law enforcement agencies.

Saunders is the 63rd sheriff of Delaware County, but is the first Democrat – and the first African-American – elected to that position. He brought to the job his years



Joanne Phillips

Joanne Phillips heard the 2016 presidential election as a call to action and responded to that call by running for Delco County Controller – the one county official with the authority to look under the hood and find out exactly how taxpayer dollars are being spent and why our tax money had been flowing into certain pockets for decades.

The Controller’s office under Republican rule was often described as the epicenter of corruption.” Under Phillips’ leadership, she has brought an “unrelenting work ethic” and the “utmost integrity” to the challenging task of professionalizing her office.

Phillips has devoted the last four years to “changing the way we deliver government in Delco.” It speaks volumes about how Republicans ran the Controller’s office when Phillips lists among her reforms going to the office “every day,” operating “with boots on the ground.” She has hired “real accountants” to manage the Controller’s key functions: payroll, retirement, accounts payable, and audits of every county department. Among her key reforms:

- Hiring a diverse team; making the Controller’s office “transparent and accountable” by putting all reports online; and responding quickly to “right to know” requests.
- Expanding the office’s hotline beyond reports of “abuse and waste” to include “FRAUD, abuse and waste,” (which the previous administration had not approved).
- Resuscitating the moribund “unclaimed property program,” returning tens of thousands of dollars to citizens in the last four years.
- Tracking down and auditing a labyrinth of Delco bank accounts set up by the Republicans and saving the taxpayers \$750,000 in the process.



Rachel Ezzell Berry

Rachel Berry was appointed Register of Wills in March, 2020, after Mary Walk moved to a leadership role in the county Office of Judicial Support. The week that Berry assumed her new duties, Gov. Wolf declared a state-wide COVID shut-down. Berry had to figure out how to perform all of her office’s functions online, and she had to do it fast.

The Register of Wills handles all probate matters, marriage licenses, and adoption records; it coordinates with the Court of Common Pleas in regard to Orphans’ Court; and, as a quasi-judicial position, it conducts hearings to determine who should be appointed as executor or administrator of an estate. These are life-and-death matters, and Berry had to immediately enable Delco residents to conduct their important business online. She also had to re-design the physical office space so that a small crew of staff members could be physically present to accept those documents that could not be handled electronically.

As a result of Berry’s swift action, the Register of Wills office has issued 1,300 marriage licenses, probated 1,000 estates, conducted virtual hearings when a will is contested, and developed e-filing to accept Orphans’ Court filings. During her first year in office, Berry ran a budget surplus and filled all seven of the office’s vacant staff positions.

Berry has recognized the roller-coaster ride that was 2020 but also notes how fortunate it was that Delco had just elected an all-Democratic County Council. “Just in time,” she said, “we had a government in place that was able to steer the county through all of the challenges we have faced.”

Prior to her appointment as Register of Wills, Berry was an attorney at Dechert LLP. She has continued her role as



ENDORSED CANDIDATES IN JUDICIAL RACES

PENNSYLVANIA SUPREME COURT

Maria McLaughlin

Pennsylvania Supreme Court decisions were pivotal after the 2020 presidential election and are likely to be equally consequential for Commonwealth redistricting in coming years. Maria McLaughlin will be an excellent addition to the court.

Judge McLaughlin, a native of Philadelphia, was a cheerleader and honor student at Penn State University and the first person in her family to graduate college. She earned her J.D. from the Delaware Law School of Widener University and became the youngest female chief in the Philadelphia District Attorney’s office, heading the Child Support Enforcement Unit. In 2011 she was elected Judge in the Court of Common Pleas, and in 2017 to the Pennsylvania Superior Court. During that time, Judge McLaughlin was a single mother and found time for volunteer work with women in prison, helping them prepare for careers outside.

Judge McLaughlin says that she has no plans to legislate from the bench, and that “it’s everyone’s office, it’s not mine. The black robe is mine. But it belongs to everyone in Pennsylvania, not just the ones who voted for me, not just the ones who got me elected. Everyone.”

judgemclaughlin.com



PENNSYLVANIA SUPERIOR COURT

Timika Lane

Judge Timika Lane’s life, community, and professional experience make her the right person for Pennsylvania Superior Court, one of the busiest appellate courts in the nation. She pursued the law after a successful teaching career, earning her degree from Rutgers-Camden School of Law in 2002. While attending Rutgers, she volunteered with multiple pro bono organizations. As a family lawyer, she worked on support and custody issues as well as representation for indigent families. She became a major trial attorney for the Defender Association of Philadelphia, litigating complex criminal jury and waiver trials for indigent adults and juveniles.

Timika left the Defender Association to serve as Chief Legal Counsel for State Senator Anthony H. Williams and as the Democratic Executive Director for the Pennsylvania State Senate Government Committee. There, she was on the front lines fighting for Pennsylvanians, organizing rallies and drafting legislation to challenge the state’s restrictive Photo ID law and its unfair impact on seniors, minorities, LGBTQ+ and the poor.

In 2013 Timika was elected to the Philadelphia County Court of Common Pleas, where, assigned to the Criminal Division, she is the sole judge handling human trafficking cases and also works on felony criminal matters.

judgelane.com



PENNSYLVANIA COMMONWEALTH COURT

Lori Dumas

Judge Lori Dumas is a native Philadelphian. She attended Duke University, obtained her J.D. from North Carolina Central University School of Law, and has completed or led professional programs at numerous leading educational institutions including the University of Pennsylvania, Georgetown University, and Cornell University.

Lori Dumas assumed office as a judge of the Philadelphia County Court of Common Pleas in 2003, and has served in Juvenile Division of Philadelphia Family Court for the majority of her tenure, fighting for Philadelphia’s most vulnerable children and families. She has also served in the Criminal and Civil Divisions and has presided over thousands of trials. She is recognized expert in the area of human trafficking.

Judge Dumas also serves as the local Chair of a national anti-violence program which uses literacy as a therapeutic tool to assist youth who have been traumatized by violence, and she works tirelessly with many boards and organizations such as The Mann Center, Big Brothers, Big Sisters, and Northwest Victim Services.

judgedumas2021.com



Amanda Green Hawkins

Amanda Green-Hawkins grew up in a family dedicated to hard work and service. With her bachelors from Duke University and law degree from Northeastern University Law School, she has lived her family’s belief that education is the “gateway to a world of possibilities.” During her first year of law school, she worked three part-time jobs to pay the bills, and learned “that legal careers are not a means to wealth, but a way to protect working families and people who could become marginalized.”

After being a law clerk in the Superior Court of New Jersey, Amanda became assistant general counsel for the United Steel Workers and has been there ever since. Her experience as a union lawyer has prepared her for the work of the Commonwealth Court. During this time, she has also been elected twice to Allegheny County Council, where she sponsored legislation to prohibit discrimination against people because of their gender identity or expression, making Allegheny County the third county in the Commonwealth with such protection.

amandagreenhawkins.com



COMMON PLEAS COURT

Deb Krull

Judge Deb Krull graduated from Fairfield University in 1987 and from Widener University School of Law in 1993. She was admitted to the Pennsylvania bar in 1994 and is the sole practitioner of Media law office. She is deeply experienced in labor and employment law, landlord/tenant law, as well as contract, collection, and criminal matters.

Judge Krull is serving her second term as Magisterial District Judge for five wards in Media, Swarthmore, and Nether Providence. In 2019 she was chosen by her peers as President of the Magisterial District Judges Association of Delaware County,

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Tinu Moss

Tinu Moss grew up in Yeadon and attended its public schools, graduating from Penn Wood High School before heading to Duke University on an academic scholarship. She started her career as a financial consultant, then obtained her law degree from Temple University’s Beasley School of Law in 2005 and her Masters of Law in Taxation from Beasley in 2006.

Tinu practices law in Philadelphia before returning to Delaware County, where, for the last decade, she has been representing Delco residents in matters of family, civil and criminal law. Tinu requested to be on the court-appointed list for juve-

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HOW TO VOTE

For Lansdowne residents, the methods for voting are the same as in November 2020.

STEP 1. REGISTER

To vote in the primary, you must register by Monday, May 3, 2021. Online is fastest: votespa.com. You can check your registration status here too.

Independents can’t vote for Democratic candidates, but come anyway to vote on the proposed Pennsylvania Constitutional Amendments.

STEP 2. APPLY TO VOTE BY MAIL

You MUST APPLY EACH year at VotesPA (votespa.com) for both the primary and general elections. You may apply for BOTH elections if you meet the deadline for the primary election. If you haven’t already applied to vote by mail by May 11th, you may still do so. If you miss this deadline, you may still apply for the November election.

Ballots for the May 18th election are scheduled to be mailed out in late April.

STEP 3. VOTE!

By mail: If you haven’t mailed your mail-in ballot, put it in a drop box instead, or vote in person. The Drop Box in Lansdowne is located in front of the Firehouse on North Highland Avenue. You may also bring your mail in ballot to the Government Center in Media. For more information: delcopa.gov/vote/votebymail.html

In person: Lansdowne polling locations are the same as in November (see the map). More information: delcopa.gov/vote/voting_inperson.html

the
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BALLOT QUESTIONS (PA CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS)

Vote Yes for Equal Rights, No on New Limits of Governor During Emergencies

All registered voters, including those unaffiliated with a major party, are eligible to vote on these questions. Here’s information to help you prepare for your vote.

Referendum: Question 4: “Do you favor expanding the use of the indebtedness authorized under the referendum for loans to volunteer fire companies, volunteer ambulance services and volunteer rescue squads under 35 PA.C.S. §7378.1 (related to referendum for additional indebtedness) to include loans to municipal fire departments or companies that provide services through paid personnel and emergency medical services companies for the purpose of establishing and modernizing facilities to house apparatus equipment, ambulances and rescue vehicles, and for purchasing apparatus equipment, ambulances and rescue vehicles, protective and communications equipment and any other accessory equipment necessary for the proper performance of the duties of the fire companies and emergency medical services companies?”

Recommended position: YES

The referendum does not authorize incurring any additional debt to fund the loan program; it only expands the class of eligi-

ble loan applicants to include those cited.

Question 2. “Shall the Pennsylvania Constitution be amended to change existing law so that: a disaster emergency declaration will expire automatically after 21 days, regardless of the severity of the emergency, unless the General Assembly takes action to extend the disaster emergency; the Governor may not declare a new disaster emergency to respond to the dangers facing the commonwealth unless the General Assembly passes a concurrent resolution; the General Assembly enacts new laws for disaster management?”

Recommended position: NO

Question 3. “Shall the Pennsylvania Constitution be amended to change existing law and increase the power of the General Assembly to unilaterally terminate or extend a disaster emergency declaration – and the powers of Commonwealth agencies to address the disaster regardless of its severity pursuant to that declaration – through passing a concurrent resolution by simple majority, thereby removing the existing check and balance of presenting a resolution to the Governor for approval or disapproval?”

Recommended position: NO

These amendments strip or severely limit the Governor (and any future governor) of the ability to keep our Commonwealth safe from disasters. When disasters strike and lives are at stake, we do not have time to wait for 253 politicians in Harrisburg to have political debate. These amendments may undo all the progress made on mitigating the spread of COVID-19 or any other future crisis.

Question 1. “Shall the Pennsylvania Constitution be amended by adding a new section providing that equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged because of an individual’s race or ethnicity?”

Recommended position: YES

This amendment creates a constitutional prohibition against restricting or denying an individual’s equal rights under Pennsylvania law because of race or ethnicity. This amendment applies to all Pennsylvania state, county, and local governmental entities, and guarantees equality of rights under the law. If approved, the General Assembly may pass new laws to implement the amendment, but it may not pass a law inconsistent with it.

KNOW
WHERE
TO VOTE!

see map of
Lansdowne
polling places
on page 6



SMITH
continued from page 1

software systems for the preparation and tracking of tax bills and payments. While keeping officials of both the Borough and William Penn School District apprised of revenues raised, he also coordinates with mortgage/title companies and fields numerous inquiries from the public on a regular basis. To expand customer service, Bill was the first Borough tax collector to have year round public office visitation hours at the Borough Hall up until the COVID-related closure last year. The open hours at Borough Hall helped some residents get questions answered promptly, and to get any items resolved in an open fashion.

CURRY
continued from page 1

and civic activities, including participation in council meetings. Moreover, Robert will bring his experience and perspective as an educator in the William Penn School District to the work, policies and direction of the Borough.

Robert and his wife Tamika have two children, Jordyn (Penn Wood High School Class of 2021) and Nia. He enjoys spending his free time with family and friends.

Robert holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Logistics from Penn State University, as well as a Masters in Multicultural Education from Eastern University.

MARTSOFF
continued from page 1

President, but also as the Chief Learning Officer for the organization. Carol has experience working with SEPTA, the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, the Department of Conservation of Natural Resources, and numerous other major entities in the region including AMTRAK and the Philadelphia International Airport. Carol’s engineering experience has already served the residents of Lansdowne as she has served as a voluntary consultant to assist the Infrastructure Committee and Environment, Parks, and Recreation Committees in working to save taxpayer money in refining engineering contracts for scope of work and expense.

When Lansdowne Borough Council created the Environmental Advisory Council, Carol stepped up to be the first appointment and later the appointed Chair of the Environmental Advisory Council and has led numerous initiatives including developing Clean Air Policy, Native Plants Ordinance, and Balloon Ordinance, among other environmentally-friendly policies to make Lansdowne a leader in environmentalism. Recently, when a position opened up on the Parks and Recreation Board, Carol again volunteered to serve to assist in the beautification efforts and maintenance of the parks in Lansdowne.

Likewise, when asked, Carol agreed to serve Delaware County as a member of the Sustainability Commission, where the members elected her to be Co-Chair of the organization. On the County level, like the Borough level, Carol works to create 21st Century Solutions to our current problems in developing progressive policy-making to work towards the goals of a Green community.

With Carol serving as a Borough Councilmember, Lansdowne Borough will continue its growth as a green town for us, our children, and our posterity.

SAMPLE BALLOT

DELCO
DEMOCRATS

BALLOT REFERENDUM: EMS COMPANIES

☐ YES

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT:
EMERGENCY DECLARATION

☐ NO

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT:
EMERGENCY POWERS

☐ NO

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT:
RACIAL EQUITY

☐ YES

PA SUPREME COURT

☐ Maria McLAUGHLIN A1

PA SUPERIOR COURT

☐ Timika LANE A5

PA COMMONWEALTH COURT

☐ Lori DUMAS A8

☐ Amanda GREEN HAWKINS A10

COURT OF COMMON PLEAS

☐ Deborah KRULL A11

☐ Tinu MOSS A12

TUESDAY, MAY 18, 2021

Paid for by the Delaware County Democratic Committee.

COUNTY COUNCIL

☐ Richard WOMACK A16

☐ Kevin MADDEN A17

COUNTY SHERIFF

☐ Jerry SANDERS A18

COUNTY CONTROLLER

☐ Joanne PHILLIPS A19

REGISTER OF WILLS

☐ Rachel EZZELL BERRY A20

TAX COLLECTOR

☐ William SMITH A39

CONSTABLE

☐ Jerome FLETCHER A41

MAYOR

☐ Magda BYRNE A44

BOROUGH COUNCIL

☐ Carol MARTSOLF A52

☐ Kellie BOWKER A53

☐ Robert CURRY A54

☐ Jayne YOUNG A55

SCHOOL DIRECTOR, REGION 6

☐ Jan TONG A25

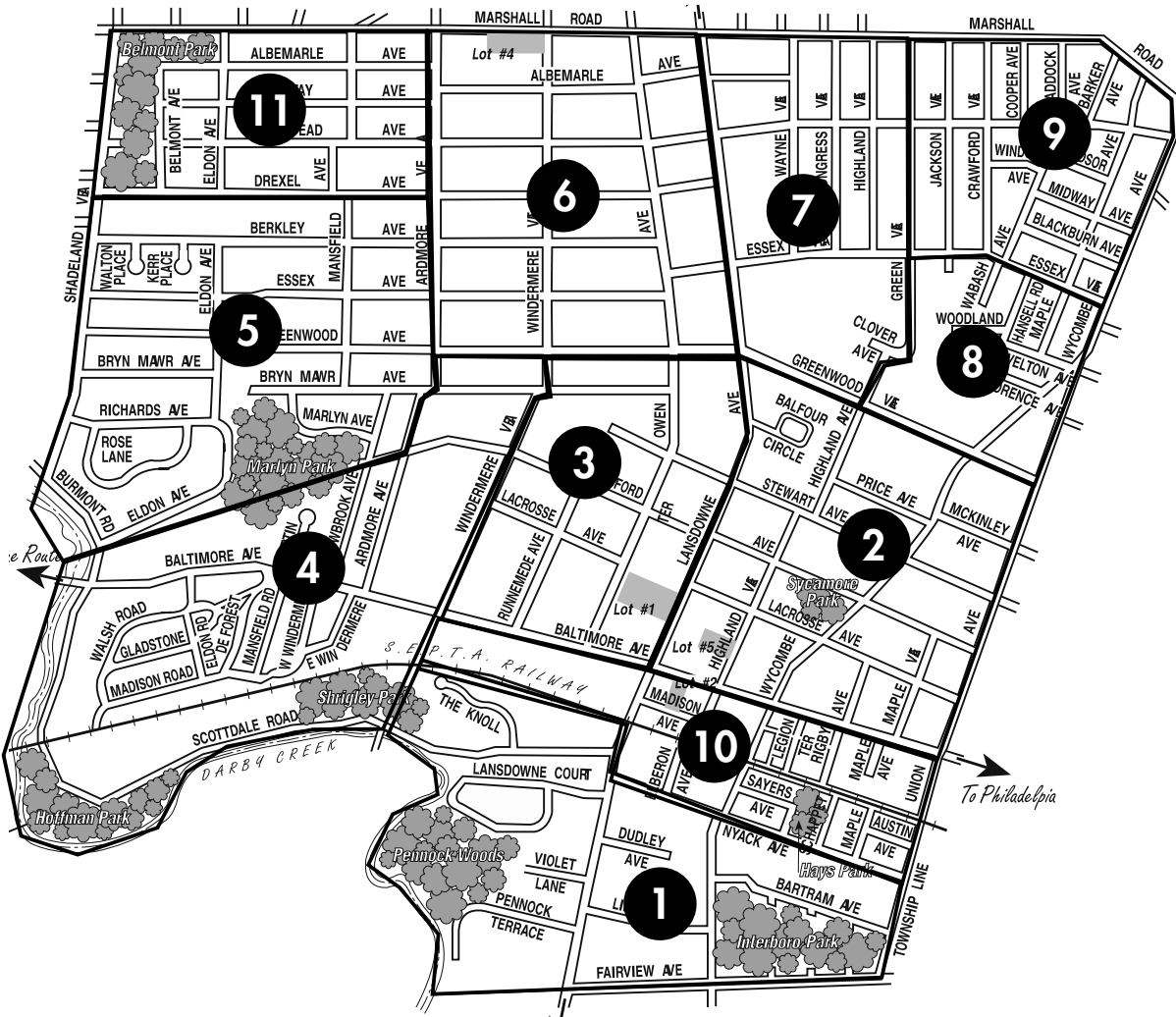
POLLING LOCATIONS & PRECINCTS

The polling locations established in 2020 to provide social distancing are still in effect.

- 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



Are You Eligible for a 2020
State Property Tax/Rent Rebate?

Applications for the 2020 Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program can now be submitted online at mypath.pa.gov. Previously, applications could only be submitted by mail.

This program provides a state rebate on 2020 property taxes or rent to income-eligible residents who are 65 or older; widows and widowers 50 or older; and people with disabilities 18 or older. The maximum standard rebate is \$650.

To be eligible, your household income must be \$35,000 or less if you are a homeowner, or \$15,000 or less if you are a

renter. When applying, only count half of your Social Security or federal railroad retirement Tier I benefits toward your total income.

You can obtain information about the program, an application, and free help applying through state Representative Margo Davidson’s district office or on the state Department of Revenue’s website at evenue.pa.gov. The state will begin mailing rebate checks on July 1. The deadline to apply for this program is June 30, 2021



YOUNG
continued from page 1

Jayne is Volunteer Coordinator for the Arts Festival, and acts as Vice Chair of the Zoning Hearing Board. She worked with the Union AA Board, helped distribute meals at the Life Center every month, and served on the Youth Aid Panel, a tool police use to redirect first offenders.

As a candidate for Borough Council, Jayne brings her experience with and understanding of borough governance with her. With the wholehearted endorsement of the Lansdowne Democratic Committee, Jayne is ready to roll up her sleeves and get to work. She is particularly interested in infrastructure, property maintenance, and adherence to borough codes.

When asked about the future Jayne replied, “Over the years I have had the pleasure of working with the best people, and it will be exciting to work with this slate of candidates because of their commitment to collaboration and teamwork”.

We are lucky to have an exceptionally committed candidate such as Jayne to serve on Lansdowne Borough Council.

SANDERS
continued from page 3

of experience in the Philadelphia Sheriff’s Department, where he rose from Deputy Sheriff to Chief Inspector, overseeing the Sheriff’s Civil and Criminal Divisions, Traffic and Family Court, Civil Service of Warrants and Court Security. He also brought to the Delco Sheriff’s Department his formal training, including a Master’s Degree in Organizational Development and Leadership from Saint Joseph’s University.

facebook.com/Sanders4DelCoSheriff

PHILLIPS
continued from page 3

Phillips brought to the Delco Controllor’s office her professional experience with real estate development and real estate finance as a law partner in Ballard Spahr LLP. As well, she brought what she had learned in her prior government role as the Director of the Commonwealth’s Bureau of Real Estate in the Department of General Services, where she was charged with overseeing a multi-million dollar portfolio of leased facilities and real property.

facebook.com/JoannePhillips17

BERRY
continued from page 3

General Counsel to her family business. She earned her Bachelor’s of Business Administration summa cum laude in Economics and International Business from Temple University. At Michigan Law School, she was Book Review Editor of the Michigan Law Review and graduated magna cum laude with her J.D. degree.

Berry is secretary of the Women’s Committee of the Delco Bar Association and serves as a member of the Delaware County Economic Development Oversight Board.

facebook.com/berry4delco

KRULL
continued from page 4

and she is on the Board of Directors for the Delco County Bar Association.

Judge Krull was elected twice to the Media Borough Council and was co-chair of the Media Democrats. She served on the boards of the Media Arts Council, the PA Veterans Museum, the Media Theatre, and the School in Rose Valley.

facebook.com/JudgeDebKrull/

MOSS
continued from page 4

nile criminal cases, with the hope that she could make a difference in their lives.

Tinu lives in Yeadon Borough with her husband and children. In addition to her legal practice, she was an elected Democratic Committee Member in Yeadon from 2010–2018 and served as the Yeadon Borough Manager.

TinuMoss.com

LEADERSHIP MATTERS

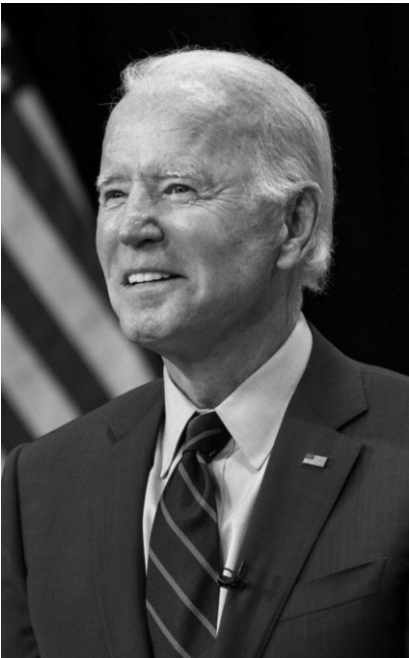
The COVID-19 Pandemic: Be Hopeful, But Please Stay Safe

President Biden beat his promise to have 100 million doses of COVID-19 vaccine administered in his first 100 days in office, and every day we’re closer to a more normal communal life. The disease is still a threat, but let’s be grateful we have leadership with the will and competency to get this done. The alternative would have been unthinkable. In Pennsylvania, and specifically in Delco and Lansdowne, we can be proud of how hard we fought for our new President and Vice President.

Unfortunately, while the vaccine and our new national leadership give us reason to hope, the disease is still spreading, and many in our community are still hurting. Please, continue to follow the advice of health experts. If you haven’t already, we encourage you to get vaccinated as soon as you’re able to. It’s the easiest way to care for yourself, your loved ones, and our community. And please, volunteer if you can and look after each other. Many of our neighbors are hurting in silence.

Visit delcopa.gov/covid/ for details about COVID-19 recommendations, testing, vaccination, volunteer opportunities, and resources if you’re in need.

Thanks to strong leadership, each day brings us all a little closer to our return to normal.



LANSDOWNE DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE

- Charlotte K. Hummel, Chair610-626-7086
Suzanne K. McElroy,
First Vice Chair610-213-1172
Clare Hughes,
Vice Chair for Engagement610-613-3997
Catherine Coll,
Vice Chair for Communications202-669-7933
Kate Schleigh, Secretary610-284-0411
William T. Smith, Treasurer 610-213-2022

■ COMMITTEE MEMBERS

- 1st Precinct**
William Horton..... 267-240-6747
Sinoe Naji-Taylor267-716-1867

- 2nd Precinct**
Michael Schleigh215-740-7047
Kate Schleigh610-406-3660

- 3rd Precinct**
Elliot Borgman610-715-6803
William Hodgson610-259-0884

- 4th Precinct**
Craig Horle215-823-9607
Susan Corbin610-284-0411

- 5th Precinct**
Michael McElroy610-284-5503
Desmondé Pringle610-202-2743

- 6th Precinct**
Bill Smith610-213-2022
Allison Truman.....610-453-2547

- 7th Precinct**
Mark Anthony French610-517-5251
Bernadette Domenick.....610-585-2353

- 8th Precinct**
Two vacancies

- 9th Precinct**
Louis Govinden610-213-3789
Jan Tong.....215-518-3605

- 10th Precinct**
Peggie McCormack.....610-772-3947
One vacancy

- 11th Precinct**
Kellie Bowker484-410-9209
Kristin Bellafante703-597-5857

- At-Large**
Magda Byrne484-362-3351
Tony Campuzano610-259-0543
Caryl Carpenter610-623-6449
Catherine Coll202-669-7933
Andy Farquhar610-626-7086
Wardell Holt II215-704-3869
Benjamin Hover610-357-3731
Clare Hughes610-613-3997
Charlotte K. Hummel610-626-7086
Suzanne McElroy610-213-1172
Charles L Royal610-284-9338
Joe Stevenson610-623-3487
Laurie Wolfe215-823-9407

LANSDOWNE
DEMOCRATIC
COMMITTEE

LansdowneDemocrats.org

COVID-19 PROGRESS



Delaware County Vaccine Rollout

- All Pennsylvania adults are now eligible for free vaccination, although demand is still much greater than supply.
- There are many vaccination sites in Delaware County, including the County-based center in Yeadon.
- An appointment is required to be vaccinated. Visit delcopa.gov/covid/vaccination.html
- If you have barriers that make it difficult to schedule or obtain a vaccination, call the COVID-19 Call Center at **(484) 276-2100** or email covid19resources@co.delaware.pa.us. Vaccines can be given at home for the homebound.



Testing in Delaware County

- There are many COVID-19 testing locations in Delaware County, including drive-through sites. Testing is usually free. Visit delcopa.gov/covid/testing.html



Volunteer Opportunities

- Want to help? Submit an application with the Citizen Corps of Delaware County. No prior training or medical knowledge required. Must be 18 years of age or older. Visit delcopa.gov/ich/resources/ccdc.html

OPENINGS AND REOPENINGS

Jamey’s House of Music is Back!

By Lisa Bos

Jamey Reilly closed Jamey’s House of Music during the pandemic and used that time to reinvent the interior and beautify the exterior including a huge guitar. He has come back better (and more comfortable!) than ever. Take a tour on their Facebook page or read more on the website. Better yet, go to one of their live shows or jams at 32 South Lansdowne Avenue, because they reopened on April 10 with COVID “mitigation measures that greatly exceed CDC guidelines to help keep you safe and worry free.” There’s also an online pay-per-view option.

If Jamey’s is new to you, be sure to experience this Lansdowne treasure. Jamey’s is an “American livehouse,” providing an intimate music setting with a full bar, Asian-inspired American restaurant, and sound quality that makes it “the best small venue on the east coast.”

Visit jameyshouseofmusic.com



Photo courtesy of Jamey’s House of Music

COUNTY BEAT

Democratic County Council Marks a Year of Progress

What have been the accomplishments of Delaware County Council since Democrats were elected to majority in 2020? What have they done to fulfill their campaign promises? Despite coming to power at the same time as the COVID-19 pandemic, they hit the ground running and have made major progress.

PRISON DEPRIVATIZATION

Delaware County Prison can be returned to county control, fulfilling a major campaign promise. George W. Hill is the only privately managed county prison in Pennsylvania, and has been a magnet for controversy in recent years, most notably for allegations of its mistreatment of both incarcerated people and staff. Currently, GEO Group, a for-profit company, manages the facility under a \$259 million contract signed in 2018.

A recent feasibility study initiated by the new Council sought to compare the potential costs of deprivatization with the status quo. To make its financial comparison, Council produced a projection of baseline costs under full prison capacity and developed three scenarios of county management. Each scenario would be cheaper

than GEO Group’s maintaining private control of the prison at full capacity with its base contract.

“I think what it says is that de-privatization is certainly financially feasible. And beyond that, it may actually be a pretty significant saving to the taxpayers of Delaware County,” Councilman Kevin Madden said.

COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Immediately upon taking office as the majority party, County Council Democrats pursued plans necessary to create the Delaware County Health Department (DCHD), beginning with application to the PA Department of Health. They did this even before the arrival of COVID-19, and the pandemic has shone an even brighter spotlight on the need for the DCHD. Fortunately, our neighbor, Chester County, has lent assistance

to us with pandemic issues and statistics in the interim. While this assistance has been greatly appreciated,

Delaware County needs its own health department, and progress is being made.

On January 27 the Delaware County Wellness Center opened in Yeadon. This location serves as a vaccine storage site, vaccination site, and COVID-19 testing site for the county. The 11,235 square foot center will also begin to transition into a clinical space for the future DCHD. On April 7 County Council appointed five members to the new County Board of Health, meeting another requirement by the state for the creation of the new department.

When the health department is launched in January 2022, it will provide a full array of health information and services, and house administration functions for optimal health of all residents.

Despite coming to power at the same time as the pandemic, the new Democratic County Council hit the ground running.

SPRING CLEANING ALERT

Delaware County Sponsoring Hazardous Waste Collection Dates

Delaware County sponsors several Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) collection events each year. These events are a community service for the residents of the county, not businesses, institutions or industry. Registration, which is required, opens six weeks prior to each event. Appointments are required and tickets issued for each car. Please consider taking items for your elderly relatives, friends and neighbors to help ensure that there are time slots available for everyone who needs to bring items for disposal. If you, like so many of us, have been busy cleaning up and sorting out during the pandemic, you just might have items that need this special disposal.

These events will be held from 9 am to 3 pm, rain or shine. Household hazardous waste includes household products labeled poisonous, toxic, flammable, caustic, corrosive, reactive, or explosive. Alkaline batteries as well as smoke detectors can be disposed of with regular curbside trash collection. Items containing Freon and electronic waste will not be accepted. Registration is required for these events and can be done via the website at delcopa.gov/recycle/hhw.html



ADVANCE REGISTRATION REQUIRED:
delcopa.gov/recycle/hhw.html

**All Dates
9 am – 3 pm
RAIN OR SHINE**

SATURDAY, JUNE 12 Rose Tree Park 1671 N. Providence Road, Media, PA 19063	SATURDAY, SEPT. 18 Emergency Services Training Center, 1600 Calcon Hook Road, Sharon Hill PA 19079	SATURDAY, OCT. 16 Upper Chichester Municipal Building, 8500 Furey Road, Upper Chichester, PA 19061
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For more information and to register, call Delaware County Solid Waste Authority at **(610) 892-9627** or visit delcopa.gov/recycle/hhw.html.



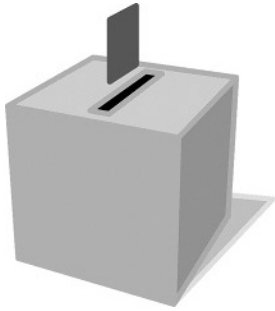
**Lansdowne’s Annual
Town Wide Yard Sale**
**Saturday May 15th at 8am
until you decide to close**
Rain date Sunday May 16th



Please remember to wear masks, limit the number of people gathering at one time and practice social distancing.

Register at LansdowneBorough.com by May 9 to be included in the borough’s yard sale directory

VOTE!



**TUESDAY,
MAY 18TH
IS
PRIMARY
ELECTION DAY**

LEADERSHIP MATTERS

Meet Police Chief Ken Rutherford, New Police Bodycams

Lansdowne Borough Council, under the leadership of Mayor Tony Campuzano and Public Safety Chair, Councilwoman Sinoe Naji-Taylor, performed a thorough Police Chief Search and early this year offered the position to current Interim Police Chief Kenneth Rutherford.

Chief Rutherford became a police officer after serving in the United States Marine Corps, and has served in the Lansdowne Police since 2000, including 12 years assigned to the Delaware County Narcotics Task Force working Narcotics cases in an undercover capacity.

Chief Rutherford said, “We seem to have gotten away from getting to know the residents and it is more about paperwork. My goal is to get myself and all of the officers to get to know all of the residents through all different kinds of policing.”

Borough Council and the Mayor also recently voted to purchase new body cameras for Lansdowne Police Officers through a five-year lease agreement paid for through the general fund. Mayor Campuzano wrote, “I feel that this shows we, as a borough, along with our police department have a strong commitment to quality and transparent law enforcement here in Lansdowne.”

OPENINGS AND REOPENINGS

Growing a New Business During the Pandemic

Lansdowne residents know Jennifer Hoff for her seemingly inexhaustible energy on behalf of Lansdowne, particularly its students – Jennifer is President of the William Penn Board of School Directors. You might not know that she also owns a marketing business at 23 South Lansdowne Avenue. When the pandemic sent everyone home for work in 2020, she saw the opportunity to repurpose the space for a new business, and another way to benefit her community.

In October, she and her business partner, son Zachary McCann, grew the first seedling in their hydroponic farm, and in March they sold their first harvest. As Jennifer wrote, “Our dream is to get fresh lettuce to end users on the same day it is harvested. You deserve fresh food, and Zach and I want to do a small part in making it more accessible.”

Check out their website, and sign up for their contact list to be notified when produce is available.

Visit LansdowneUrbanFarms.com

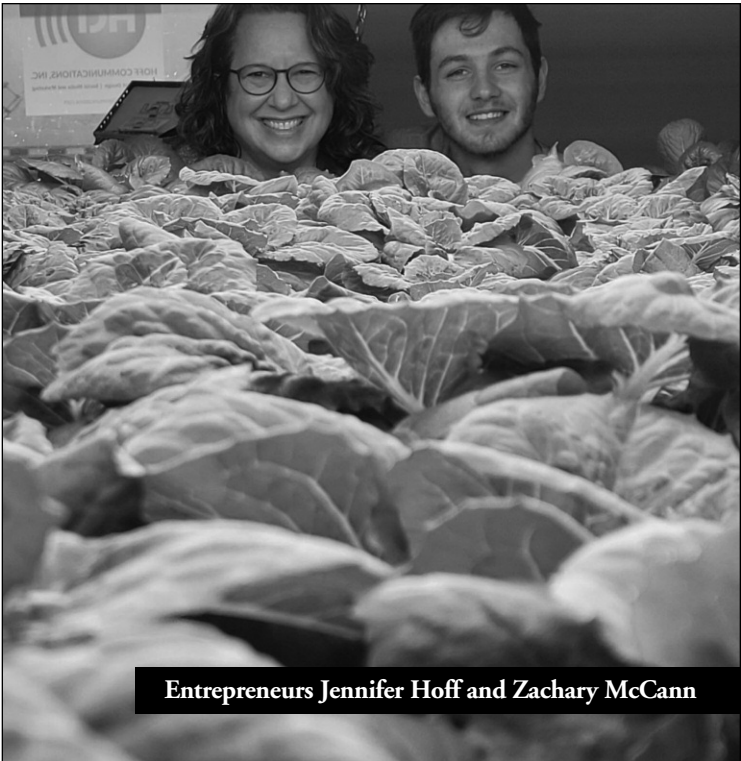


Photo courtesy of Lansdowne Urban Farms

DID YOU KNOW ?

Borough Council and Council Committee meetings are virtual and open to the public. Get involved!
LansdowneBorough.com/Calendar.aspx

Want to post a sign on the marquee or take a private tour of the **Lansdowne Theater**? Make a tax-deductible contribution, and know you’re also helping to revitalize our community!
Lansdownetheater.org

Out of an abundance of caution, the **LEDC** has **postponed the next Lansdowne 5K** until 2022.
Lansdowne5k.com

The Lansdowne Library is open for contactless pickup, or you can check digital books and audiobooks out online.
LansdowneLibrary.org

Your neighborhood might need representing on the **Lansdowne Democratic Committee**. If you live in the 8th or 10th precinct (see map on page 6) and want to get more involved, please email Clare for more information.
lansdownedems@gmail.com

The Lansdowne Economic Development Corporation presents

LANSDOWNE

apts

ON THE AVENUE

FESTIVAL

Sunday October 3rd • 12pm-6pm

30 N. Lansdowne Ave. Lansdowne, PA 19050

40+ LOCAL MAKERS

CONSHOHOCKEN
★ BREWING COMPANY ★
BEER GARDEN

RAIN OR SHINE!

the

X

KIDS | ZONE!

LIVE MUSIC

www.LansdowneArtsOnTheAvenue.com

LANSDOWNE

FARMERS MARKET

SATURDAYS, 9 AM – 1 PM

in the Municipal Lot at 30 N. Lansdowne Avenue
(across from theater)

OPENING DAY MAY 29TH

LansdowneFarmersMarket.com

LEDC

LANSDOWNE

Economic Development Corporation

LansdownesFuture.org

LEADERSHIP MATTERS

A Discussion with Dr. Eric J. Becoats, William Penn School District Superintendent

Dr. Eric J. Becoats joined the William Penn School District after a 10 month exhaustive Superintendent search, facilitated by the Delaware County Intermediate Unit for the WPSD School Board, on May 18, 2020. Dr. Becoats brings a wealth of experience to our School District. In an effort for our Communities to get to know him, here is a Question and Answer facilitated by our two WPSD School Board representatives, Jennifer Hoff and Jan Tong.

Where did you work before WPSD?
Drexel University, Adjunct Professor, 2016 - 2019; The School District of Philadelphia, Assistant Superintendent Acceleration Network, 2015 - 2020; Atlantic Research Partners, 2013 - 2015; Durham Public Schools, Superintendent, 2010 - 2013; Guilford County Schools, Chief Administrative Officer (last position held), 2005 - 2010; Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools, Assistant Superintendent (last position held), 1997 - 2004.

What is your Educational Background?
University of North Carolina at Charlotte, Doctorate of Education, Educational Leadership, 2001 Johns Hopkins University, Master of Science, 1992 Lincoln University, Bachelor of Science, Accounting, 1988 (cum laude)

What are beliefs around how children learn?
Children learn when they are in a safe, nurturing and caring environment. Children learn through play, project based activities, cooperatively and by observation.

Dr. Becoats began his tenure with the WPSD on May 18, 2020, with a contract to serve for five years.

It is our responsibility to help children realize and utilize their innate gifts and abilities – this is accomplished by establishing relationships.

What are your thoughts on a teachers role in education?
A teacher is vital to the educational process of children – school districts must support teachers and ensure they have the resources needed to effectively support students. Teachers should be developed and positioned to lead, guide and able to develop effective relationships with students.

What are your thoughts on a community’s role in education?
Our communities are critical to our success – where we can establish partnerships we must; I truly believe it takes all of us to educate the children we serve. I believe in innovation and creativity – if someone in the community has an idea, let’s explore it and see how we can make it work to benefit our students.

What are the first three things you want to accomplish in WPSD?
Learn, Listen and Lead – complete the Superintendent’s Entry Plan, develop a three-

five year strategic plan and cultivate Board, Community, Superintendent relations.

What is the first picture/trinket/memory, you brought into your new office?
Pictures of my children – it always reminds me of why I serve.

What were you like as a high school student?
Capable but not fully engaged

What are your hobbies?
Traveling, spending time with family, reading, football games

What do you do in your free time (if you have free time)?
Relax, spend time with my family (very important)

Using your parent lens, what is your view of education & WPSD?
My view is one of promise and the ability to grow. The district is positioned to effectively support students – we need to en-

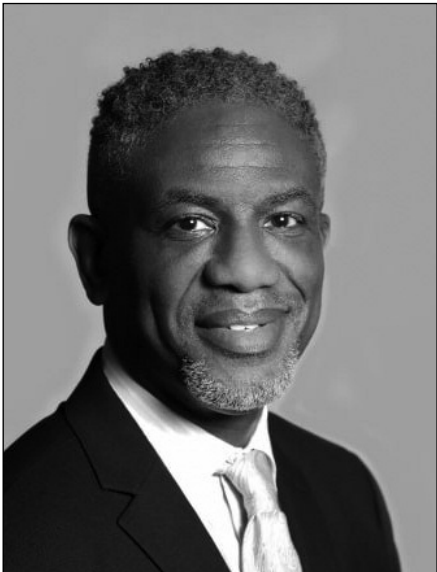


Photo courtesy of Dr. Eric J. Becoats

sure that we are student focused 100% of the time – our support structures/systems must be aligned so that our limited resources are provided to schools in a timely manner.

Tell us about your family
I have a son (Braxton) who is a social studies teacher, and a daughter (Jadyn) who is in the 10th grade. I am an only child. My mother is still living and I visit with her often in Charlotte, NC. A significant number of my family members are in Baltimore, Maryland and I spend time there at least once a month.

Open for Solar

Lansdowne has been designated a SolSmart Bronze community because the borough makes it easy, fast, and affordable to “go solar”. SolSmart is a national designation program recognizing cities, counties, and regional organizations that foster the development of mature local solar markets.

Being solar-friendly means reduced cost and hassle for solar investment, and makes Lansdowne more attractive to solar companies that often avoid communities where it’s harder to do business.

REVITALIZATION

A Safer, More Attractive Gateway for the Borough

If you’ve ever walked from west of Lansdowne up the hill along Baltimore Avenue, you know the sidewalk is uncomfortably close to fast-moving traffic. The Gateway Slope Project will improve the area by replacing the sidewalk with a pathway that is safer for pedestrians and more attractive as drivers enter the borough from the west, making good use of the greenspace on the southeast corner of Scottdale Road and Baltimore. The pathway will connect the existing Hoffman Park

trail with Eldon Road at Baltimore Avenue. The groundbreaking for the project was celebrated April 16th. Construction will be completed in early summer.

This work is funded by two grants totaling \$600,000. One is from the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Community Conservation Partnership Program and the other from the Commonwealth Financing Authority Multimodal Transportation Fund.

Photos courtesy of Elliot Borgman



The ground-breaking ceremony took place on Friday, April 16

GET INVOLVED

Represent Your Precinct on the Democratic Committee

Many of us were dismayed by the direction of the country under our last President, and especially by the speed and ease with which many norms and legal safeguards were dismantled under his administration. Not only were national security and policies at risk, but our democracy itself. Standing in protest on the streets or writing letters to our representatives wasn't enough to make us feel better or bring change. The election of President Biden and Vice President Harris was a victory, but our part isn't over. Democracy isn't a spectator sport; it's an ongoing responsibility for all of us.

We urge you to vote in every election, not just for President. But are you ready to make a difference at a grass-roots level? Representing your precinct (neighborhood) on the Lansdowne Democratic Committee is a great way to

Democracy is not a spectator sport; it is an ongoing responsibility for all of us.

get more involved in our community and to protect your values.

Democratic committee member is a party position elected to a four-year term (May 2018-2022), or appointed if there is a vacancy. Currently, there are committee vacancies on the Lansdowne Democratic Committee in the 8th and 10th precincts (see map on page 6).

A committee member represents their precinct, the local political subdivision which also defines where you vote. The role of the committee member is to keep their neighbors informed and connected to the Democratic Party as well as to the government at all levels. Mostly it's simply getting to know your neighbors and keeping yourself informed about their concerns and ideas. You can be a vital source of help to new residents, provid-

ing information about voter registration, recycling, trash pick-up, and parking regulations. Committee members attend monthly meetings; work outside their precinct's polling place on Election Day to provide voter information; distribute literature and the Lansdowne Leader; and contribute funds to support community education and involvement.

The Democratic Committee also interviews and endorses candidates for county and borough elections and participates in discussion of party positions on essential topics like redistricting. Being a member is a great way to learn about and influence the action taken on local issues.

Email Clare at lansdownedems@gmail.com if you want to learn more about how you can get involved.

REVITALIZATION

Bicycle Facilities and Road Changes Are on the Way

For years, Lansdowne Borough Council has been collaborating with experts, the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC), Delaware County, and nearby municipalities to develop a plan for Lansdowne to become friendlier to cyclists and connected to regional bike pathways.

In 2020 Borough Council, in dialog with residents, developed plans for dedicated, shared, and buffered bike lanes on several streets, as well as improved signage. In some areas this will reduce on-street parking. For instance, parking will be restricted on Greenwood Avenue to the south side and on Highland Avenue to the west side. Council's goal is to attract riders of all comfort levels and to apply a balanced design that works well for all road users. These plans are now being put into action. A specific timeline is not yet in place as the project is dependent on PennDot repaving projects, engineering changes and contractor schedules.

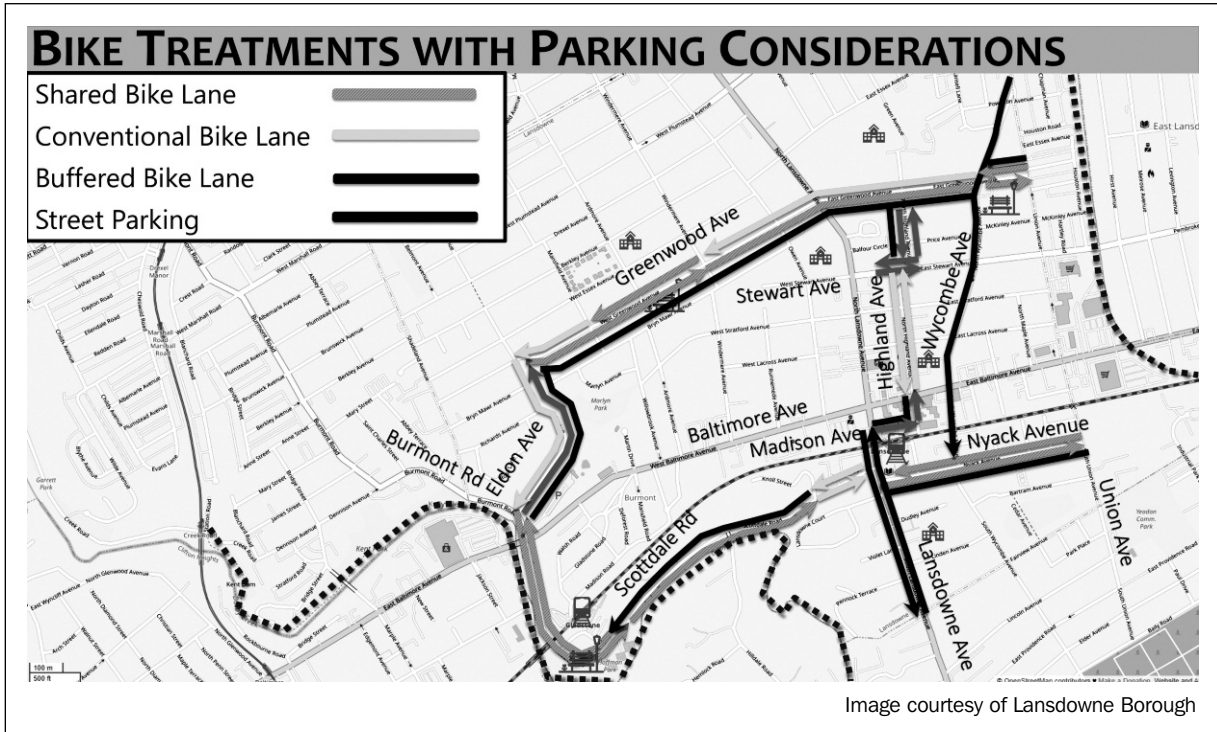
Lansdowne's work supports the Delaware County Bicycle Plan for a regional network of biking in Delaware County and into Philadelphia. Lansdowne is also targeting the connection to rail transit through Lansdowne Station, and SEPTA plans to add bike parking to the north of the station.

Changes that are cyclist-friendly and connected with regional pathways bring a range of positive outcomes beyond the obvious, including greener infrastructure, traffic calming measures, and increased quality of life that

attracts economic investment.

Lansdowne's assessment and development to become cyclist friendly has been funded in part by DVRPC tech-

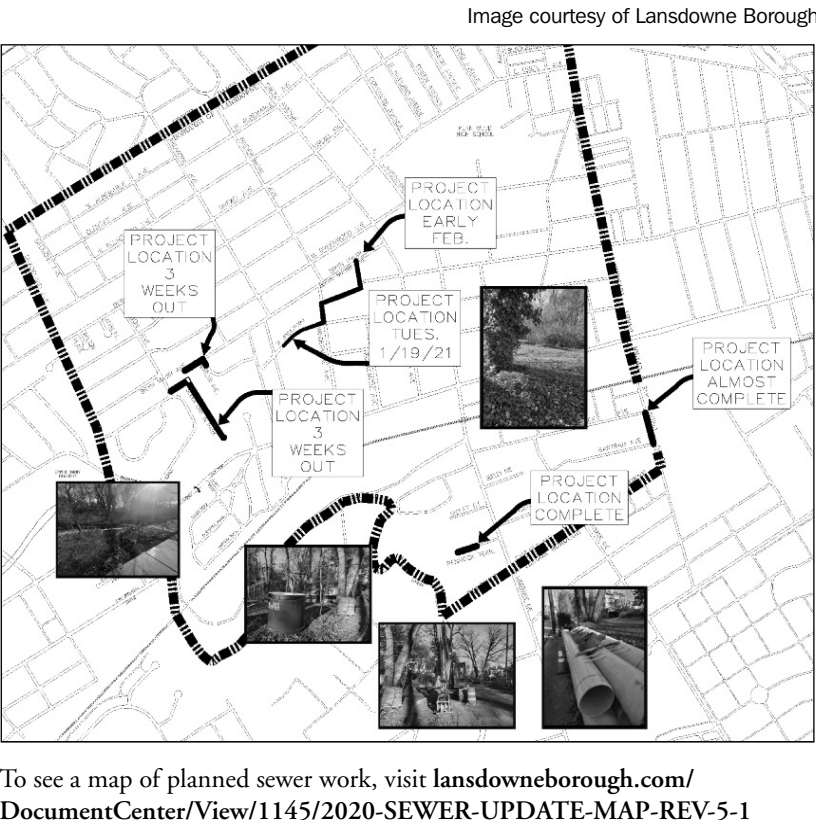
nical assistance and grants. For more detailed information and background on the bike plan, visit lansdowneborough.com/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=299



ABOUT THAT ROADWORK...

\$1M in Grants Fund Borough Sewer System Improvements

If you've wondered about the roadwork in Lansdowne this winter and spring, Borough Council is upgrading the sewer system in several areas using almost \$1,000,000 of grant money. Approximately 2,500 feet of sewer pipe is being replaced, and the work will be completed soon. While sewers don't excite most of us, infrastructure is key to our quality of life and Lansdowne's future.



To see a map of planned sewer work, visit lansdowneborough.com/DocumentCenter/View/1145/2020-SEWER-UPDATE-MAP-REV-5-1

Restoration Project at Reservoir Park

Reservoir Park is undergoing a project to restore its land and water features, which have eroded due to increased stormwater. The park is a passive natural area of daylight for Falls Run, a tributary to Darby Creek. Restoration of Falls Run will enhance its ability to handle peak flows from rain, replenish and improve the vegetation and ecology, and improve the aquatic habitat. Native plants will be used in restoration of the park.

The project is funded through grants from Pennsylvania's Community Conservation Partnerships Program and Delco Green Ways.

Primary Election Day
**TUESDAY
MAY 18**
POLLS OPEN 7 AM - 8 PM

OPENINGS AND REOPENINGS

CRISP Chik’n: Lansdowne’s Newest Restaurant

By Lisa Bos

CRISP Chik’n is open at 27 N. Lansdowne Avenue for dine-in and take-out orders. The restaurant is the latest of a handful in Delco by three brothers – Leo, Pep, and Jim Osmanollaj. Their General Manager, Musa Kajdomqaj, is also an owner of CRISP Chik’n.

When very young, the brothers and their family immigrated to the U.S. as refugees of the Kosovo-Serbia war, and they’ve been in Delaware County ever since. After beginning in other careers, they were inspired to create HaveABURGER and try to make it in the restaurant business. True entrepreneurs, they kept their day jobs and worked as many hours as it took. Jim says being in business together made them even closer, and that they divide up the roles – Leo does social media and marketing, Pep covers finance, Jim is the restaurant guy, and Mus is in the kitchen.

Jim says they were excited in recent years by Lansdowne’s “amazing potential and energy – we could feel the vibe driving through the downtown.” They knew they

The owners have created a menu that appeals to the entire family, using only all-natural chicken, and worked long hours to perfect the flavors.

wanted to open a restaurant here. They were already working on a chicken concept, experimenting with recipes in their burger restaurants to see which customer locations had the greatest appetite for chicken dishes. When the right Lansdowne location became available last fall, they moved quickly. Their landlord introduced them to Deborah Brodeur, Executive Director of the LEDC, and Jim says, “It felt like she was another partner. She made the transition a lot easier.”

As they planned for their soft launch in March, they worked hard to create a menu that would appeal to the entire family, using only all-natural chicken, and invested long hours to perfect the flavors for dishes like The Delco (a sandwich with fried onions, American cheese, and Dijon mustard on a pretzel bun). Jim wants to be sure we “give props to Chef Larry,” a mentor who he says pushed them to keep perfecting their plans until the quality and taste matched their vision.

Even so, Jim says, the unexpected happens, but they’re “motivated by the thrill of seeing the business work, changing things on the fly” when needed. During the first day of the soft launch it was obvious five fryers wasn’t enough to match demand. That night they drove to Baltimore, picked up another fryer at 7am, and headed back to Lansdowne. (“That’s why there’s a soft launch!”)



Mayor Tony Campuzano, Jim Osmanollaj, Debbie Brodeur, Musa Kajdomqaj, Leo Osmanollaj, Shef Osmanollaj (father), and Pep Osmanollaj

Asked whether the pandemic impacted their plans or sales, Jim says they had already learned how to accommodate COVID changes for their other restaurants – he cites endless experiments to create fries that survive traveling as take-out – but they look forward to a time when they can provide a lively dine-in experience. They’ve created an attractive

interior at CRISP Chik’n that reflects their modern fast-casual menu, including a mural of familiar Lansdowne landmarks. For now, they’re pleased with how business in Lansdowne is going and are grateful for the warm welcome they continue to receive from residents.

Order in person or online at crispchikn.com



Photos courtesy of CRISP Chick’n

VOTE!
TUESDAY, MAY 18TH
POLLS OPEN 7 AM - 8 PM

CYCLINGSNEHCIL
HCLRAINBARRELS
ISIWALKWAYSMAE
CNKTWINDMILLS
KITCHENGARDEN
EBECHIHGAMNART
NTANATURALGVPE
SSESTRINEERGEFO
POSISRIRBIRDS
RPBUTTERFLIES
IMEASRECYCLES
NOESLENAPRALOS
GCSRAISED
WENERLOTIUQSOM

WORD SEARCH

Bats
Bees
Birds
Birth
Butterflies
Chickens
Compost Bins
Cycling
Ferns
Green
Kitchen Garden
Leaves
Lichens
Mosquito
Natural

Opossum
Rain Barrels
Rain Gardens
Raised Bed
Recycle
Renew
Snow
Spring
Solar Panels
Stream
Ticks
Trees
Walkways
Windmills

The unused letters spell out an important message about the environment.