

# THE HATFIELD CONNECTION

A Publication of the Hatfield Township Board of Commissioners

SPRING/SUMMER 2023 Vol. 25 No. 1

A photograph of two women standing in a lush garden. The woman on the left is wearing a purple t-shirt with 'Garden of Health' written on it, black pants, and black gloves. The woman on the right is wearing a black tank top, black pants, and black gloves. They are both smiling. The garden is filled with various green plants, including leafy greens and tall grasses. In the background, there are trees and a fence.

## IN THIS ISSUE:

**Meet Scott Hutt, Assistant  
Township Manager**

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**Clemens Park welcomes  
the Garden of Health**

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**Get to Know Your Neighbor  
Dr. William H. Harris**



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## Hatfield Township Offices

1950 School Road  
Hatfield, PA 19440-1992

Telephone: 215-855-0900

Fax: 215-855-0243

Website: [www.hatfield.org](http://www.hatfield.org)

**Township Manager:** Aaron Bibro

### Office Hours

M, T and Th: 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Wed: 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Fri: 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

### Township Municipal Schedules

Please visit [hatfield.org](http://hatfield.org) for location details.

#### Board of Commissioners

7:30 p.m. | 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays of each month

#### Planning Commission

7:30 p.m. | 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month

#### Zoning Hearing Board

7:00 p.m. | 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of each month

### Stay Connected



Twitter: @HatfieldPA



YouTube: HatfieldTownship



Facebook: HatfieldTownship



Email: Sign up for the Hatfield Township email newsletters at [hatfield.org](http://hatfield.org)



TV: Verizon Channel 31  
Comcast Channel 965



Who should be  
featured next?

Email [abibro@hatfield.org](mailto:abibro@hatfield.org) to  
nominate a Hatfield resident that  
is doing good in the community.

## Hatfield Board of Commissioners



From left to right: Gerald Andris (Ward V), Bob Rodgers (Ward II, Vice President), Deborah Zimmerman (Ward III), Greg Lees (Ward I), Tom Zipfel (Ward IV, President)

Hatfield residents elect five Commissioners to four-year terms of office. Each Commissioner represents a geographical "Ward" of the township. The Commissioners are part-time volunteers who make decisions on behalf of the 18,000+ residents of Hatfield Township. The Board of Commissioners meets twice a month to discuss and adopt policies for Hatfield's local government services. These policy decisions include items such as land development applications, road improvements, public safety matters, capital improvement projects, and open space preservation. While each year may bring different projects and policies, the overarching goal of the Board of Commissioners is always to promote the health, safety, and welfare of the community.

To find out which ward you live in and which commissioner represents you, please refer to the township map at [www.hatfield.org/your\\_government/board\\_of\\_commissioners](http://www.hatfield.org/your_government/board_of_commissioners).

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# Pursuing a Different Path

Assistant Township Manager Scott Hutt considered law school, but decided that path wasn't for him—a decision that was Hatfield's gain.

When Scott Hutt completed his undergraduate degree in political science at Kutztown University, he considered attending law school.

"That is a huge commitment, so I decided to work at a law firm to see if legal work suited me," he says. He earned a paralegal certificate at Widener's law school and went to work for several years as a paralegal.

"I decided to pursue a different path," Hutt says. That path eventually led him to Hatfield Township, where he was named the Assistant Township Manager in September 2022.

"I have always enjoyed government, and began looking at graduate programs in that arena," he says. "The Villanova program really stood out to me." While he was earning his Masters of Public Administration, he was elected to the Pottsgrove School District Board of Directors.

"During my tenure on the board, we negotiated a new teacher's contract, hired multiple administrators, devised a long-range building and maintenance program, and dealt with the COVID-19 pandemic," he says.

Once he earned his MPA, Hutt was hired as Township Manager in West Pottsgrove Township, a small town at the western end of Montgomery



County whose population is one-fifth the size of Hatfield's. "My education, school board experience and two years at West Pottsgrove prepared me to work for a larger municipality that offers more to its residents," he says. "Working in local government allows you to have an impact on residents' day-to-day lives, following through and pushing projects that have a tangible benefit to them. Each organization I have been a part of has taught me to value different opinions and take others' feedback into account when proposing a course of action. It's important not just to lay out the plan, but to explain the 'why.' Transparency is paramount in local government."

Working for a larger municipality has required some adjustments, he adds—but they have all been positive. "In a small municipality, the manager wears many hats—finance director, zoning officer, right to know officer, emergency management coordinator, code enforcement official, etc.," he says. "One of the biggest adjustments, and one I was happy to make, was not having to do every task. Working in Hatfield allows me to focus on the departments I am tasked with overseeing, and try to see how we can improve our processes to make government more efficient."

"I don't think anyone is more excited about Scott's arrival than me. We have been without an Assistant Manager since early 2015," says Township Manager Aaron Bibro. "In addition to his talent, experience and education, Scott's thoughtful approach will be appreciated by our residents as well as Hatfield employees."

Speaking of the residents, another thing Hutt appreciates about Hatfield is the high level of feedback he receives from them. "Many municipalities do not have a lot of resident engagement," he says. "Hatfield residents are great about letting you know about issues, but they also let you know when they appreciate something you do for them."

“Each organization I have been a part of has taught me to value different opinions and take others' feedback into account when proposing a course of action. It's important not just to lay out the plan, but to explain the 'why.' Transparency is paramount in local government.”

— Hatfield Assistant  
Township Manager  
Scott Hutt

## Snapshot: Assistant Township Manager

### About the position:

The Assistant Township Manager oversees planning and zoning, parks and recreation, and the Hatfield Aquatic Center, with oversight over all land development projects in the township. "Hatfield has a tremendous amount of development in the works, and managing those projects involves coordination between staff, the planning commission, third-party consultants and the county," Hutt says. "We are also placing more emphasis on staff training, a responsibility I am happy to help coordinate with all departments."

### Education:

- BA in political science at Kutztown University
- Masters of Public Administration and Certificate in City Management, Villanova University
- Paralegal Certificate, Widener Law School

### Professional Involvements:

- President (2019-20) of the Villanova chapter of Pi Alpha Alpha, the National Honor Society for Public Administration
- Co-Executive Director (2021-present) of the Montgomery County Association of Township Officials

### Personal:

- Scott is a big Philly sports fan, with the Phillies his favorite team. He also roots for Penn State football and Villanova basketball.
- Golf is high on his list of enjoyable activities, but he and his wife Kara also enjoy traveling, riding bikes, kayaking, and taking their dog Penelope for hikes.





# Join us for a weekend of **Earth Day** Celebrations



## RECYCLING & SHREDDING EVENT

**Saturday, April 15 | 8:00 am - 12:00 pm**

Available and FREE to Hatfield Township/Borough Residents. Must show valid ID with address.  
1 visit per household.

**Location 1: Hatfield Township Public Works,  
2590 Unionville Pike**

### Collected Items:

- Yard Waste & cardboard
- Tree branches (limit 1 load)
- Tires no rims (limit 4)
- Small appliances, vehicle batteries, metal pots/pans
- Shredding

**Location 2: CleanEarth  
2869 Sandstone Dr.**

### Collected Items:

- Household hazardous waste
- Oils
- Electronics/batteries (1 tv per household)

## EARTH DAY COMMUNITY CLEANUP

**Saturday, April 15 | 8:00 am - 12:00 pm**

Looking to help clean up your community? Volunteer and help us clean up parks and trails in Hatfield Township! We provide gloves, vests, water and snacks. Email [abroudy@hatfield.org](mailto:abroudy@hatfield.org) to sign up.



## SPRING 5K AND POST RACE PARTY

**Sunday, April 16 | Race start: 9:00 am**

Run this 5k for time or participate in the scavenger hunt! Invite family and friends to run with you or cheer you on and join us for the post-race party featuring music, inflatables, crafts, and tips and education on environmental topics for your home.



Weekend events sponsored by **CleanEarth™**



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# SUMMER CONCERT SERIES

## MUSICFEAST

SCHOOL ROAD PARK, 1619 School Rd.

MONDAYS 6 PM - 8 PM

JUNE 26 - NITE FLYTE

JULY 10 - PENNISE FAMILY BAND

JULY 24 - BIG CHILL

AUGUST 7 - AM RADIO BAND

AUGUST 21 - CHALLENGE ACCEPTED

Food and drinks available for purchase provided by  
Scouts BSA Troops 229B and 229G.



# SUMMER MOVIE NIGHTS



School Road Park, 1619 School Road | Movies start at approx 8:00 pm

Friday, June 30

Friday, July 14

Friday, August 11

“SHREK”

“Paws of Fury”

“MINIONS: The Rise of Gru”

Bring the family and friends, a blanket, lawn chairs and popcorn or snacks for a series of outdoor movies! Concession items, hot dogs, and drinks available for purchase.





# COOL OFF AT THE POOL

Hatfield Township's state-of-the-art aquatic center features a water castle, a variety of water slides for different swimming levels, a lazy river, a hydrotherapy pool, and more!

From pavilions and picnic tables, to a concession stand and access to an activity center, there is something for the whole family! To become a member and for more information, please visit [www.hatfield.org](http://www.hatfield.org).



Scan me with  
your phone!



## The Y @ Hatfield Township Summer Camp

This year the North Penn YMCA is offering a K-6<sup>th</sup> Summer Camp in Hatfield at School Road Park, 1619 School Road.

For details about The Y at Hatfield camp and registration, scan the QR code or contact Katelyn Adams at [Katelyna@northpennymca.org](mailto:Katelyna@northpennymca.org) or 215-368-1601, x 236



Scan me with  
your phone!



# Do you like to SWIM...Make Friends...Have Fun?

## Come join The Hatfield Sharks Summer Swim Team!

ALL LEVELS WELCOME!



**Email:** [hatfieldsharks@gmail.com](mailto:hatfieldsharks@gmail.com)

**Website:** [www.hatfieldswim.org](http://www.hatfieldswim.org)

**Location:** Hatfield Aquatic Center

# Spring Is in the Air

## Time to Register for Hatfield-Towamencin Baseball!

### Stay Connected

✉ Email: [HTbaseball@hotmail.com](mailto:HTbaseball@hotmail.com)

🌐 Web: [www.tyasports.org](http://www.tyasports.org)

📘 @Hatfield-Towamencin Baseball

🐦 @TowamencinCMB and @HatfieldALB

### 2023 CALENDAR BY DIVISION

Hatfield-Towamencin offers a competitive and fun vertically integrated baseball program spanning Quickball through American Legion.

#### Spring Intramural Season (March - June)

**Quickball** — Ages 4-6 (Coach Pitch w/Quickball)

**A: Coach Pitch** — Ages 6-7

**AA: Player Pitch** — Ages 8-9 (46/60 Field)

**Minors** — Ages 9-10 (46/60 Field)

**Majors** — Ages 11-12 (50/70 Field)

#### Connie Mack & American Legion Baseball

**Early Spring Connie Mack** — Ages 13-16 (April-May)

**Summer Connie Mack** — Ages 13-16 (May-July)

**Summer Junior Legion** — Ages 14-16 (May-July)

**Summer Senior Legion** — Ages 16-19 (May-July)

**Senior Connie Mack** — Ages 17-40 (May-July)



### Register Today!

Registration is quick and easy at [www.tyasports.org](http://www.tyasports.org). If you run into any issues, please email us right away at [HTbaseball@hotmail.com](mailto:HTbaseball@hotmail.com), and we will find a spot for your player.





# A FRESH APPROACH TO FOOD SECURITY IN HATFIELD AND BEYOND

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## Clemens Park welcomes the Garden of Health

**W**e all know that people around us are hungry, don't have enough food, and don't have the resources to get the nutrition they need. This is certainly not a new problem in the United States; the first official food banks opened in the late 1960s. However, for those

who suffer from food allergies, the options at food banks are often slim or non-existent. That is where the Garden of Health comes in.

Launched in 2015, Garden of Health Inc. is a non-profit food bank founded by Carol Bauer. After years of painful symptoms that went



undiagnosed, or misdiagnosed, one of Carol's four daughters was diagnosed with Celiac Disease (gluten intolerance). At the time, her nephews were also experiencing food allergies, and her father and grandmother also had diet-related health issues. As a frequent volunteer at a local food bank, she recognized the lack of allergen-free foods and unprocessed nutrient-dense foods.

More than a food bank, Garden of Health Inc. was founded with the specific goal "of using community gardens to educate and empower low-income families to grow their own food." Carol planted the first eight gardens; by 2016, over 20 gardens were growing produce to donate to local food banks. In 2019, the Garden of Hope was launched, with volunteers farming a one-acre plot in Harleysville. Over the next couple of years, and during Covid, the organization was able to shift focus and begin to serve the food needs of those with dietary restrictions. Food that adheres to these restrictions is vital for those with medical dietary requirements, and for those who are vegan, vegetarian, or have specific needs based on their culture or religion.

The Garden of Health produced and distributed over 380,000 pounds of healthy food in 2021. They provide food for organizations all over Montgomery and Bucks Counties, including two food pantries in Hatfield (Emmanuel Evangelical Congregational Church and Hatfield Church of the Brethren).

Recently, the Garden of Health received approval to plant a garden on eight acres in Hatfield's Clemens Park. The garden will include roughly 350 3'x6' raised beds. Eight beds are designed in a horseshoe

shape to be wheelchair-accessible; there are also child-height and adult-height beds. Some beds will be in greenhouses for an extended growing season, while others will be outside. "We want this farm to be as accessible as possible to everyone," Bauer says.

In addition to vegetables, the Hatfield location will also have fruit trees and bee hives for honey production. The Garden of Health focuses on having a variety of fresh produce to donate so that those who visit the food pantry can receive maximum nutrition while having choice and autonomy regarding what they eat.

While fresh produce is still a huge focus of the Garden of Health, they are also branching out into frozen and prepared foods. The Garden has partnered with local kitchens to freeze and distribute produce. They also send "seconds" to be turned into sauces and salsas. As a result, less waste and more food make the garden more sustainable and give families more autonomy over when and how they eat.

Carol is grateful for Hatfield Township's support on this project. "The new garden location in Hatfield is a huge undertaking," she says. "The township commissioners have been extremely supportive. They have encouraged the project by writing grants, raising funds, and being present in the planning of the garden."

This new garden will support the charitable work of Garden of Health, as well as beautify and add value to the township. "This is going to be good not just for the township, but for the Garden of Health, and the community as a whole," Bauer says.

Wondering how you can donate or get involved with the Hatfield Garden of Health? They will be looking for volunteers in the early spring to begin planting cold-weather crops. Visit <https://www.gardenofhealthinc.org/> for volunteering opportunities and to learn more about Garden of Health.



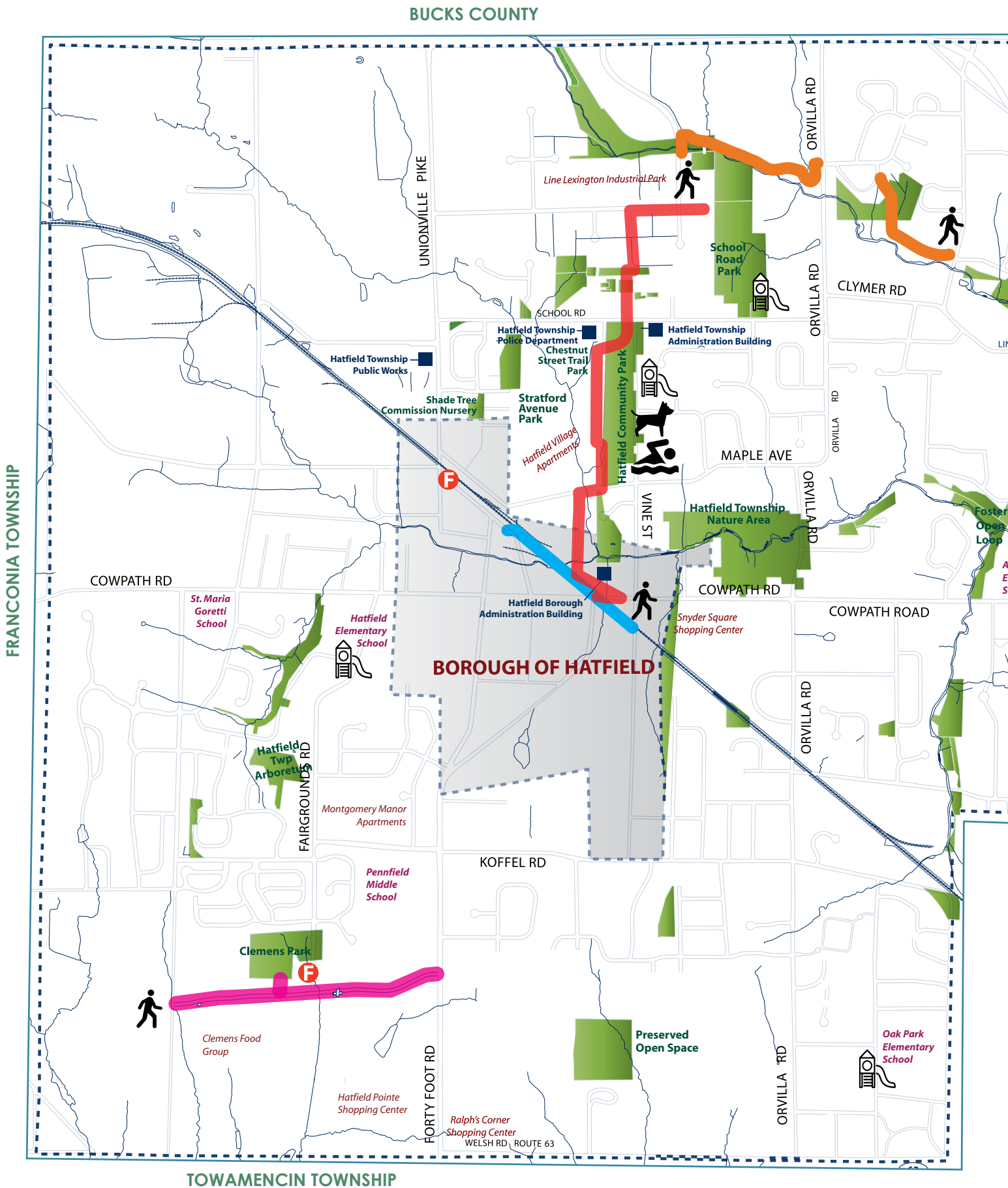
*Hatfield commissioners and Garden of Health staff celebrate their partnership at Clemens Park.*



*Volunteering as a family makes it more fun!*

**“ This is going to be good not just for the township, but for the Garden of Health, and the community as a whole.”  
– Carol Bauer, Founder, Garden of Health**

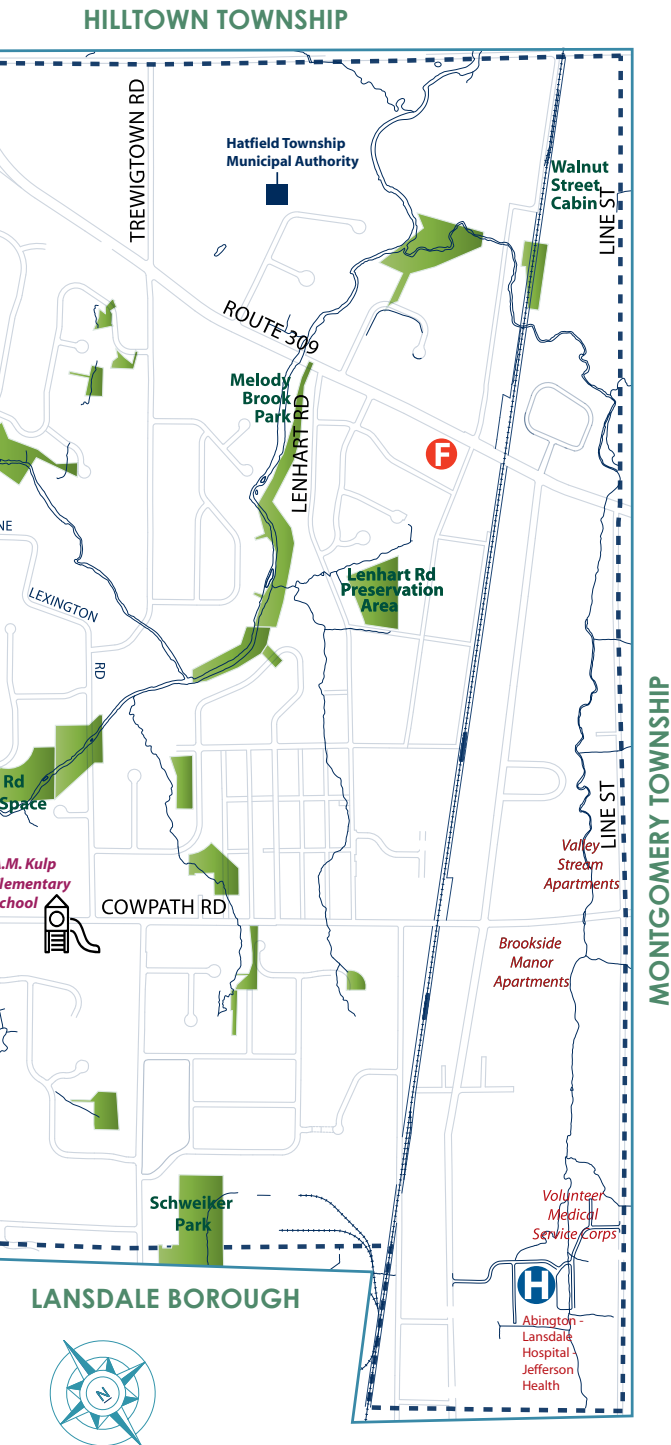
# Hatfield Township Public Parks





# Hatfield Township Public Parks

Explore the more than 100 acres of parks Hatfield Township has to offer.



	<b>Clemens Road Trail</b>		<b>Fire Companies</b>
	<b>Chestnut Street Trail</b>		<b>Hospital</b>
	<b>Liberty Bell Trail</b>		<b>Township Borders</b>
	<b>Fricks Trail</b>		<b>Streets and Roads</b>
			<b>Railroads</b>

To find your ward and polling location, visit [www.hatfield.org/your\\_government/board\\_of\\_commissioners](http://www.hatfield.org/your_government/board_of_commissioners).

## Chestnut Street Trail

School Road Park to Hatfield Borough



## Chestnut Street Trail Park

1950 School Road



## Clemens Memorial Park

500 Fairgrounds Road



## Frick's Trail

2900 Line Lexington Road



## Hatfield Aquatic Center

2500 N. Chestnut Street



## Hatfield Community Park

2500 N. Chestnut Street



## Hatfield Dog Park

2500 N. Chestnut Street



## Hatfield Township Arboretum

830 Princeton Place

## Hatfield Township Nature Area

1575 Cowpath Road

## Lenhart Road Preservation Area

2509 Lenhart Road

## Liberty Bell Trail

76 E. Broad Street



## Melody Brook Park

2772 Lenhart Road

## School Road Park

1619 School Road



## Schweiker Park

1275 Moyer Road

## Shade Tree Commission Nursery

2310 Stratford Avenue

## Stratford Avenue Park

2201 Stratford Avenue

## Walnut Street Cabin

2991 E. Walnut Street

## Hatfield, A.M. Kulp, Oak Park Elementary Schools



Playground can be used after school hours as long as the After School Care Program is not using it.

# 2023 Parks and Recreation Programs

## Get Fit Series



The Get Fit series features a variety of fitness classes such as Yoga, Zumba, Remix, and POUND. Register for sessions of these classes and meet weekly with trained instructors to improve fitness and unwind. Classes are geared towards all levels. Full list of classes available on the township website.

## Seminar Series



Hatfield Township offers a variety of educational seminars. Join us and receive information and training from seminars such as “Ready, Set, Medicare,” American Red Cross Babysitting courses, Pruning Workshops or First Aid and CPR courses. Details for different seminars provided on the Hatfield Township website.

## Pickleball



Hatfield Township partners with XL Sports to bring you indoor pickleball (October – May). There are multiple sessions offered at different costs depending on the session length. Through the summer months, pickleball is played at the Hatfield Community Park (June–September).

## Fall Trail Cleanup



September 2023

Looking for volunteer hours or a way to get involved with your Hatfield community? Join us for our fall cleanup event at School Road Park. After the cleanup, all volunteers are invited to join us for a pizza party! Check the township website for details. Email [hatfield@hatfield.org](mailto:hatfield@hatfield.org) to sign up!

Pre-registration is required for all programs. All programs are tentative and subject to change or cancellation. Please check the Hatfield Township website for details and up to date information throughout the year. Register at [www.hatfieldrec.com](http://www.hatfieldrec.com).

## POP UP EVENTS



### School Road Park

1619 School Road,  
Hatfield, PA 19440



May & June



FREE



Keep an eye on the Hatfield Township Facebook page and [www.hatfield.org](http://www.hatfield.org) for details on these NEW PopUp Events in 2023!

**FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!**





**CALLING ALL RUNNERS!** Details, information, and registration is available at: [www.runtheday.com](http://www.runtheday.com).



APRIL

16

### Spring Scavenger Hunt 5K

Our Spring Scavenger Hunt 5k offers the opportunity to run a 5k and add the fun of a scavenger hunt throughout the race.

9:00 a.m. | School Road Park



AUGUST

16

### Dash & Splash 5K

The Dash & Splash 5K is an evening race with a post-race pool party for runners and their friends and family.

7:00 p.m. | Aquatic Center



OCT

7

### Rocktoberfest 5K

Finish off our race series with our Rocktoberfest 5k. Enjoy a morning run in cool fall weather that ends at our Rocktoberfest Fall Festival event.

10:30 a.m. | Hatfield Township Admin Building



Don't miss out on the chance to run this great race series through Hatfield Township – run one race or all three.

Grab your family and friends to run with you or cheer you on at the finish line. These races are unique and offer great activities for the entire family.

Finishers receive a medal, post-race activities, and a race-themed gift.



**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 7**

**11AM - 3PM • SCHOOL ROAD PARK**



**LIVE MUSIC • FOOD • VENDORS • GAMES & ACTIVITIES •  
CRAFTS • BALLOON ANIMALS • AND MORE**

# Meet Your Neighbor, Dr. William H. Harris

## Living an Exemplary Life

---



Most people dream of living a long and fulfilling life. We dream of having healthy and happy families and hope to succeed academically and professionally. Many strive to serve others, and some daydream that their artistic pursuits will bear worthwhile fruit.

One Hatfield resident has made these dreams a reality. Dr. William H. Harris has lived an exceptional life, recently celebrating his 101<sup>st</sup> birthday. His longevity alone is something to recognize, but his character and accomplishments make him exemplary.

Born in North Carolina in 1922, he attributes much of his success to his mother. Her love for him, encouragement, and example have shaped his life. Dr. Harris could read at age three and began writing poetry at age 5. His mother encouraged him to pursue reading, writing, and education.

Shortly after entering college, William Harris was drafted into the United States Army. While serving in World War II, he was awarded the Purple Heart for injuries sustained during battle. After the war, he traveled throughout Europe and Africa for three years. When he

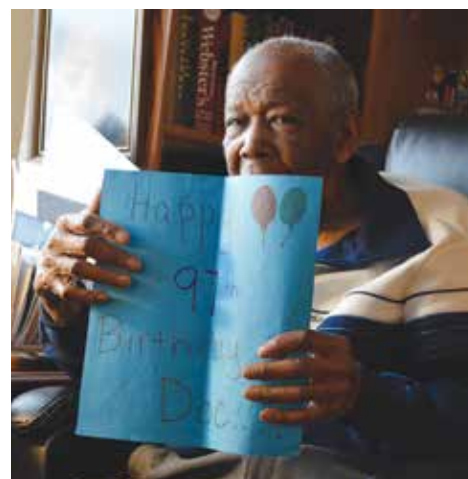




*Dr. Harris' mother, Zeola Harris Reid*



*Dr. Harris (standing, left) in his Army days*



*The birthday card that meant so much*

returned to the states, his mother (who only went to school until fifth grade) encouraged him to keep moving forward and continue his education—and he certainly did.

Not only is Dr. Harris a graduate of West Virginia State University, but he also attended the University of Pennsylvania, Temple University, West Chester University, and Penn State University, where he earned a Ph.D. in Economics. He believes that college not only helps students grow academically, but also develop discipline. “If you don’t have discipline, you aren’t going to be successful anywhere,” Dr. Harris says. “Discipline—I was taught that at home.” While he attended excellent universities and had enormous academic success, he believes none of it matched the knowledge, wisdom, and discipline he received from his mother.

Poetry was a lifelong pursuit for Dr. Harris. Inspired by his experiences, thoughts, and feelings, he wrote poetry only for himself. Lucky for us, after sharing some of his work with others, he was encouraged to publish a collection of his poems called “Everyday Sunshine: Led My Way,” (available on Amazon). The poetry spans his life, from age 5 to 95. When asked about his inspiration, he said, “I write in the whims. What I feel, I write then. Not tomorrow, not next week. I write how I feel then. Because you forget, and tomorrow is not like today.”

During his long and industrious life, Dr. Harris has had time to develop some philosophies for living. According to Dr. Harris, one key to life is to live selfishly. Before you balk at this advice, he would tell you that to live selfishly is to take care of yourself first so that you can help others. For example, if you are hungry, you can’t feed someone else. Likewise, if you haven’t invested in yourself, you can’t invest in others.

Dr. Harris’s life can be an example to all of us of how to live and live well, to leave things better than we find them, and to be selfish in order to serve.

For over 20 years, Dr. Harris has called Hatfield home. When asked what he likes most about living here, he quickly answers: “The people.” He opens a hand-made card a neighbor had given him on his 97th birthday, and proclaims it was more important to him than any award he’s ever received. “It was something that was good,” he says. “Something that’s decent. Something that’s thoughtful, kind.”

When asked how he wanted to be remembered, Dr. Harris spoke with a smile about wanting to be remembered just like he remembered the kind neighbor that gave him the birthday card—good, decent, thoughtful, and kind.

## MY NINETY-FIVE YEARS

By William H. Harris

My ninety-five years of living  
and breathing God's wonderful air  
were filled with great adventures  
that I was allowed to share

The joys of loving relatives  
the sharing of generous friends  
the pleasure of all my travels  
were gifts without ends

How grateful I am  
for living such wonderful years  
all flush with a creator's blessings  
and minimum of pains and tears

I will not pass this way again  
the road of life does turn  
but perhaps there are a few days left  
and still new lessons to learn

and when my journey does end  
I shall not regret or care  
for my gift of ninety-five years  
was more than just and fair

*Everyday Sunshine: Led My Way, Pg. 125*

# A Look at Hatfield in 1776

Washington didn't sleep here—but he probably stopped for dinner.

By Larry Stevens, President of the Hatfield Museum & History Society

During the time of the American Revolution, Hatfield Township, formed in 1742, was only 34 years old! The land of Hatfield was first settled by Europeans around 1730, although the Lenape Indians had established settlements on this land many years earlier. One known settlement, in fact the last Indian village in Montgomery County, was located on the banks of the Neshaminy behind the present Hatfield Church of the Brethren.

In 1776, there were only four established roads in the Township: Bethlehem Pike, Cowpath Road, Allentown Road, and Forty Foot Road. A stage coach, the mass transit of the day, made scheduled trips between Philadelphia and Bethlehem on the Bethlehem Pike. The stage coach would stop at the village of Line Lexington, which was the half-way point of the route, for a change of horses, and to give passengers a chance to dine. The 1774 assessment records show that there were 51 property owners in Hatfield Township at that time. The population of Hatfield in 1776 was around 475. (The earliest recorded census information for Hatfield is from 1800 when the population was 520.)

The only church in Hatfield at the time of the Revolution was the newly established Plains Mennonite Church, which built a log meetinghouse around 1765. The log building was also home of the first established Township school. A second schoolhouse, the Davis Free School, was established around the same time in a log structure located on Cowpath Road, between Moyer Road and Lenhart Road. As one could imagine, farming was the primary way of life for those living in Hatfield during the time of the Revolution.

The Revolutionary War did not cause as much interest in Hatfield Township as it did in other townships. This was because the people who settled here in Hatfield were mainly against taking part in public matters, and many were opposed to entering into military service or bearing arms because of religious conviction. There was, however, a militia company formed in Hatfield, which was made up of those fit for military duty. They were expected to take part in training to prepare them for military service, or else pay a fine. There were 55 men enrolled in the Hatfield militia, although only a few of these men actually saw any military service. There were also 52 men who were listed as “non-associates” who were not enrolled in the militia, either because they were opposed to the bearing of arms on account of their religious belief, or because of old age or physical infirmities.

Here in Hatfield, there are six houses still standing that date back to the time of the Revolutionary War. Some have rather interesting stories associated with the war, but those stories will have to wait for a future article.



*Wright House 1976*

The oldest home in Hatfield, which dates back to c.1717, is located on Colonial Dr. and is known as the Wright Conspiracy House. The former Johannes Johnson Homestead, now located on Addison Lane, served as a field hospital for a brief time following the Battle of Germantown.

The most notable figure living in Hatfield that was connected with the Revolutionary struggle would be Colonel Jacob Reed. Colonel Reed's former home is now located on the Hatfield-Souderton Pike, near Township Line Road.

In June of 1778, General George Washington and his army broke camp at Valley Forge and headed north, towards Trenton, following after the British army. It was on this march that the American army passed through or near Hatfield, and was probably when General George

Washington and some of his staff paid Colonel Reed a quick visit at his Hatfield home, and enjoyed a hastily prepared meal. So, although Washington apparently never slept here in Hatfield, it seems that he did at least enjoy a meal in one of our oldest homes.

To learn more of Hatfield's fascinating history, schedule a visit to the Hatfield History Museum at [www.hatfieldhistory.org](http://www.hatfieldhistory.org), or call 215-362-0428.



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