



MOUNT LAUREL

100 MOUNT LAUREL ROAD, MOUNT LAUREL, NJ 08054

APRIL 2021

This newsletter serves to inform Mount Laurel residents on updates and information pertaining to the Township. The new Township council for 2021 is excited to share clear communication on Township business.



MEET YOUR COUNCIL



MAYOR STEPHEN STEGLIK

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Stephen Steglik is the youngest person in Mount Laurel Township history to be elected to Council and the youngest to serve as Mayor of Mount Laurel (2021). Before graduating from Hofstra University with a Bachelors Degree in Political Science and the University of Pennsylvania with a Masters Degree in Public Administration, Stephen attended classes at Burlington County College, now Rowan College at Burlington County, for 2 years. Currently Stephen works as the Director of Communications for the Camden County Democratic Committee in which he helps elected officials throughout South Jersey implement and improve their communication practices in order to properly inform their constituents. Stephen has been recognized by the Southern Burlington County NAACP for his work on town council and was nominated for the "Millennial of the Year" award by a grassroots organization that promotes young leaders throughout New Jersey.

DEPUTY MAYOR KAREEM PRITCHETT

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Currently Kareem Pritchett serves as the Deputy Mayor of Mount Laurel Township and is passionate about developing key solutions to the Townships most pressing agendas. In 2003, Kareem Pritchett was hired by the N.J. Juvenile Justice Commission and started his impeccable career as a Correctional Police Officer. Striving to take advantage of every opportunity, Kareem has always been determined to become an invaluable asset to his department and personal endeavors. Kareem takes great pride in his leadership qualities and professionalism. He remains committed to serving others in the workplace and the community. In 2011, Kareem was voted Officer of the Year. A year later he was elected by his peers to represent them in their union, PBA Local 105. Kareem served two terms as an Executive Vice President representing the Juvenile Justice Commission and State Parole Officers on the executive board of PBA Local 105, which is the largest law enforcement local in the state serving over 6000 members. Later, Kareem took the leap and with support of his family decided to run for Town Council of Mount Laurel Township representing the Democratic Party and was elected in November of 2018.



MEET YOUR COUNCIL



COUNCILWOMAN KAREN COHEN

Karen Cohen is a 25 year resident of Mt Laurel and an active member of many community organizations. Karen and her husband Ed raised two children who attended Mt Laurel's public schools. Karen's early involvement with her children's education led her to join the Countryside School PTO board where she served as treasurer, ran the school's book fair, and volunteered in the library and art room. With her children active in Mt Laurel's Scout organizations, Karen served as Girl Scout leader and Treasurer of the 42 Girl Scout troops in the community as well as Treasurer and Merit Badge Counselor of Boy Scout Troop 76. Karen's strong interest in community service led her to volunteer for 16 years as a telephone worker for CONTACT of Burlington County. She remains an advocate for the Mount Laurel Library and was appointed to the Library Board of Trustees. Karen is passionate about environmentalism and sustainability which led her to take classes and become certified as a Rutgers Environmental Steward by completing an internship involving storm water management. Protecting Mt Laurel's environmental interests is one of her top priorities.



COUNCILWOMAN FOZIA JANJUA

Fozia Janjua is a first generation Pakistani American and resident of Mount Laurel who learned the value of hard work, education and charity from her immigrant parents. Raised in San Francisco, California, Fozia is passionate about building strong communities through mentorship and service. She began her lifetime of volunteerism at a young age, and co-founded a non-profit, CommUnity SJP, where they provide meals for those in need, secure school supplies, distribute blankets to hospitals and shelters. She is married to her husband Safeer and the mother of four boys.



COUNCILMAN NIKITAS MOUSTAKAS, ESQ.

Nikitas "Nick" Moustakas is a first-generation immigrant from Greece and a resident of Mount Laurel for over ten years, where he lives with his family. He is the founding member and the managing partner of Moustakas Nelson LLC, a boutique law firm based in Haddonfield, New Jersey. He recently served as a Trustee of the Burlington County Bar Association and the Co-chair of the Burlington County Bar Association Corporate/Business Law Committee.

Nikitas has spent his life giving back to his community in various capacities including fundraising for numerous organizations, such as healthcare institutions. He has held several Board appointments, including being a Board Member of the Inspira Health Network Foundation, a Board Member of Capital Health System Foundation and a Board Member of the American Lung Association. Currently, he is the President of the American Hellenic Lawyers Association and the Vice President of the Southern Chapter of the Hellenic Federation of New Jersey.

In addition, Nikitas is incredibly proud to support scholarships for students in the Philadelphia, New York and Southern New Jersey community to attend college. Nikitas has earned his Master's in Business Administration, his Juris Doctor degree, and his LL.M. in Taxation.

Library News

The Mount Laurel Public Library is now open!

Hours of operation are Monday-Friday 10AM-6PM, Saturday 10AM-4PM. Sunday closed

Please see the below guidelines in place to ensure the safety of the Library staff and the public:

- Contactless curbside pickup will continue to be available.
- Safety protocols limit the building's capacity, so we are asking everyone to be mindful of their browsing time. Seating will be limited and social distancing is required.
- Computer usage will be limited to 1 hour per day per customer. Our ability to safely provide computer assistance will be limited.
- Face masks (over the mouth AND nose) will be required for everyone.
- Food and beverages will not be allowed inside the Library.
- Safety protocols require that all returns be placed in the outside book drops. No late fees will be charged during this time.
- We are not accepting donations at this time

Have kids and can't make it to the library? Check out Facebook Storytime! Every Monday at 10:30AM the library live streams a story on their Facebook page. Each story time includes a story, rhymes and more. Since the videos are archived on the Facebook page, you and your children can watch them over and over! Learn about this program and more by visiting fb.com/mountlaurellibrary

The Mount Laurel Public Library is proud to offer access to an abundance of materials that can be downloaded for your enjoyment. If you have a Mount Laurel Library card, you can access downloads of movies, TV shows, concerts, magazines, books, music albums and more at the click of a button! Steaming services offered include Qello, Acorn TV, Hoopla and Overdrive. Please visit mountlaurellibrary.org for more information.

Stay tuned for updates on the Library's new outdoor movie nights and annual summer reading program.

New Businesses in Mount Laurel

Mount Laurel Township will welcome three new eateries to offer residents a variety of dining options.

JERSEY MIKES

Jersey Mike's is known for their fresh and tasty sandwiches, offering a quick healthy option for those on the go. Quality meats and cheese are sliced in front of you, served on store baked bread and served Mike's Way, fresh lettuce, onions, tomatoes, oil, vinegar and spices.

Hours of Operation are 10am-9pm.

10 Centerton Road, Suite 202 Mount Laurel, NJ 08054.

TACO BELL

Taco Bell is coming to Mount Laurel on Route 38. The site is currently the home of a former branch of Beneficial Savings Bank, at the intersection of Route 38 and Walnut Drive.

3220 Route 38, Mount Laurel, NJ 08054

DOMINOS

Domino's Pizza is joining the Mount Laurel food scene. Dominos offers everything from mouth-watering pizzas to dippable chicken wings and chocolatey desserts. This is a great option for takeout or delivery.

127 Ark Road, Mount Laurel NJ 08054

COVID 19 Updates

The easiest ways to stop the spread is to wear a mask, wash hands, and practice social distancing.

As more information comes our way over the Johnson & Johnson single shot vaccine we will update our website and push out information.

The New Jersey State Health Department has provided a host of resources to inform individuals about Covid-19. The Vaccine Call Center number **1-855-568-0545** is available to answer questions about vaccines and safety, register individuals for vaccine appointments through a scheduling system, provide contact information for vaccine sites, and to check registration status.

Individuals can also pre-register for vaccine appointments by visiting the website
<https://covidvaccine.nj.gov/>

Please visit our Township resource page for the latest updates https://www.mountlaurel.com/government/covid-19_resource_page/index.php

Information about COVID-19 Testing in NJ can be accessed here <https://covid19.nj.gov/pages/testing>

Information about the COVID-19 Vaccine can be accessed here <https://covid19.nj.gov/pages/vaccine>

Communication Updates

The Township is revamping communication efforts to keep residents updated and informed. Residents will be updated on current events and updates through our Township website, press releases, and social media pages.

The Township has hired two new employees.

Ashlyn Grisetti will be our Communications Director. She can be contacted at the following:

Email: agrisetti@mountlaurel.com

Phone number: (856) 234-0001 ext.1289

Brandon Shillingford will be our new Deputy Township Manager. He can be contacted at the following:

Email: bshillingford@mountlaurel.com

Phone number: (856) 234-0001 ext. 1234

To keep residents and employees safe, the municipal township building has created a walk up window from the hours of 8:00 am to 4:00 pm.

Residents can ask questions, drop off forms, and handle tax payments all in a safe manner. For more information on the walk up window, please see our press release https://www.mountlaurel.com/government/news_and_events.php



The Alerts tab on our official homepage is the source for the most updated information from the Township. Sign up is in 2 simple steps.

Go to the E-Notify tab on the Mount Laurel homepage <https://mountlaurel.com/enotify/index.php>

Sign up for email and text alerts on the updates you choose. Updates include reminders for board meetings, events, press releases, and inclement weather.

Outstanding Resident Spotlight The Larchmont Jogger

Rob Austin knows how to make someone smile even in tough times.



A resident of Mount Laurel Township since 2004, Austin was known for being an avid runner. It wasn't until the last year that he famously became known as the Larchmont Jogger.

When the coronavirus pandemic hit in March 2020, Rob began dressing up in a variety of costumes as he went on his daily jogs. While his goal was to make his friends laugh, neighbors took notice and began posting on social media.

The laughs and smiles from residents brought much needed comfort to the community, and Austin continued to jog around town to raise everyone's spirits. Some of the costume ideas included a hotdog, minion, and mermaid. Residents left requests as to what costume should be next, and Austin constantly used his creativity to bring smiles and waves from residents.

As members of our community struggled with worries of health, employment, or family, Rob continued to provide a much needed smile during his typical 10 mile run.

The Mayor, Township Council and Township Manager of the Township of Mount Laurel commended Rob Austin, the "Larchmont Jogger", on his outstanding service to the community at the Township Council meeting held on March 22, 2021.






CUPS & BALLERS

Thursday, April 22, 2021 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM

PIZZA - KONA ICE - DJ - PRIZES - BASKETBALL GAMES - K-9 UNIT

MEET YOUR LOCAL OFFICERS, PLAY GAMES, SHOOT AROUND, ASK QUESTIONS, AND HAVE SOME COMMUNITY FUN!



1 Francis Way at The Margaret Donnelly O'Conner Education Center

Updates from our Mount Laurel Emergency Medical Services

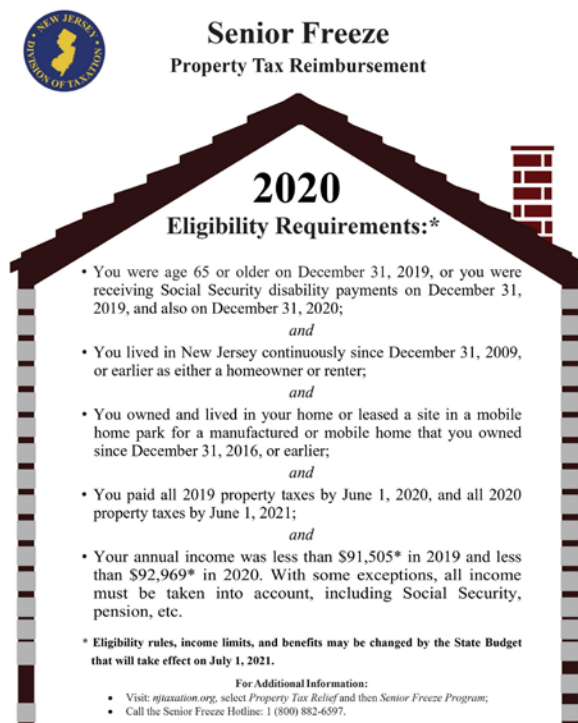
EMS Chief Joseph Stringfellow would like to send a friendly reminder to residents to make sure house numbers can be seen from a distance. Please see the below tips:

Your house number should be visible "At a Glance" from a vehicle approaching your house from either direction on the road in front of your house. Some suggestions:

- The number should be in a color that sharply contrasts with the color of the surface it is mounted on.
- It should be mounted in a location that is unobstructed from view from the road by shrubs, trees, overhangs, etc.
- It should be at least 4" high- the actual size depends on how far your house is from the road.
- In addition to the number on your house, if you have a mailbox along the road, place reflective numbers at least 4" high on both sides of the mailbox or high up on both sides of the supporting post. If possible, they should be in a color that sharply contrasts with the color of the surface they are mounted on.

Help Us Help You.

Please feel free to contact Chief Stringfellow at Mount Laurel EMS if you need any assistance or guidance with ensuring your home is numbered in a manner that best helps. He can be reached at jstringfellow@mountlaurel.com or at 856-778-1274.



Tax Collector Office Updates for 2021

Please note the 2021 2nd quarter property taxes are due on May 1, 2021. Any tax payments received after Monday, May 10, 2021 will accrue interest back to May 1, 2021.

The township offers an ACH Direct Debit program for property tax payments. If you are interested in participating, please check our township website for more information as well as the application.

You may have recently received your "Senior Freeze" Property Tax Reimbursement books in the mail. We will be completing the booklets in the Community Center located directly behind the Municipal Building on **Wednesday, June 16th, and Wednesday, October 20th from 10:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M.** Social distancing and masks are required. You may also stop by our walk-up window any day Monday thru Friday from 8:00 A.M. – 4:00 P.M. to complete your application, use the outside drop box located at the main entrance, or mail in your application.

For additional information or to see if you meet the 2020 "Eligibility Requirements" please visit: www.njtaxation.org, select Property Tax Relief and then Senior Freeze Program or call the Senior Freeze Hotline at 1 (800) 882-6597.



Veterans, Senior Citizens, Disabled Persons Property Tax Deductions

Any resident property owner who qualifies can receive an annual deduction from their property taxes if you are a Senior Citizen, Disabled Person or Veteran. For approved applicants a \$250.00 per year deduction is applied to the property tax bill. Applications are available from the Township Assessor's Office at 856-234-0001 x1256 or x1257 or the township website www.mountlaurel.com.

For details please contact Dennis DeKlerk, Assessor at ddeklerk@mountlaurel.com or 856-234-6272.

SAVE THE DATE

Mount Laurel Police Department's Upcoming Events



April Is Autism Awareness Month

Don't forget The Mount Laurel Police Department is now offering Autism Awareness Identification stickers. Residents can display a Mount Laurel Police Department Autism Awareness sticker on their car or home to alert responding officers and emergency personnel that an Autistic person may be present.
Learn more at Mountlaurelpa.org

SLICES 4 SAFETY



Slices 4 Safety

Starts April 24, 2021

Kids get ticketed a free pizza slice for being safe and having fun. Coming to a neighborhood and park near you.



Cops & Bobbers

Wednesday, June 9, 2021

5:00 PM Until 7:00 PM

Check Social Media For Updates



@mountlaurelpa

Please Email Communityrelations@mountlaurelpa.org with any questions

Protect Yourself and Your Family From Identity Theft
and Take a Step Toward **GOING GREEN**

Mount Laurel Township Shred Day Event



Reduce clutter—clean out and purge
your personal records!

WHEN: Saturday April 24, 2021
9:00 am to 12:00 pm

WHERE: Mount Laurel Township - Police Garage
100 Mount Laurel Road

CONTACT: Public Works Office 856-234-0001 ext 1241

- Bring your bags and/or boxes of paper to be shredded. An experienced operator will move the bins to a highly secure, mobile shredding unit, where your confidential material will be destroyed before your eyes.
- 100% of the shredded paper is recycled!
- Only paper is accepted. Please, no plastic bags or metal (**NO 3-ring binders or binder clips**). Paper clips and staples are OK.
- Limit of 4 bags or boxes per residence
- **FOR TOWNSHIP RESIDENTS ONLY**
- **NO COMMERCIAL RECYCLING ACCEPTED**



Earth Day Event

➤ Location: Community Gardens

- 1256 Hainesport-Mount Laurel Road

➤ Date: April 24th 12pm to 3pm

➤ Pizza Box Collection Box

- Collection box is sponsored by Ella and Sabrina's Girl Scout Project
- Pizza boxes are not recyclable, but this collection box will divert them from the landfills.
- Boxes will be repurposed as weed control barriers at the gardens and at local farms.

➤ Garden Cleanup – Volunteers will be:

- Weeding the pollinator and rain gardens
- Picking up trash
- Sprucing up the gardens for the 2021 growing season

➤ All Participants/Volunteers must wear a mask and maintain social distancing

➤ Email: mtlgreenteam@mountlaurel.com for info



Mount Laurel Green Team

&

Mount Laurel Public Works

Mini Cleanup Events

➤ Mount Laurel Township and the Green Team are planning Mini Cleanups throughout the year:

- **Nature Conservatory/Monastery** – April 24th 10am / Corner of Hartford Rd & Hainesport Mount Laurel Rd
- **Trotters Crossing (Fields and Trials)** – May 15th 10am / 540 Walton Ave
- **Spencer Park** – August 29th 10am / 339 Rancocas Blvd
- **Laurel Acres Park** – September 11th 10am / 1045 S. Church St
- **Memorial Park** – October 2nd 10am / 235 Mount Laurel Rd

➤ Each cleanup will have a maximum of 15 people

- Each person or team (family members) will be provided necessary supplies
- Old clothes and boots/shoes are recommended, as you will likely get dirty or muddy

➤ Cleanups may be cancelled due to weather 24hrs before the event.

- If this happens, we will email you at the address you provide to either reschedule or cancel

➤ Registration will close 2 days prior to each event. To register, please contact either:

- Gina Cohl at mtlgreenteam@mountlaurel.com
- info@mountlaurel.com



Mayor Stephen Steglik
Deputy Mayor Kareem Pritchett
Councilman Nikitas Moustakas
Councilwoman Fozia Janjua
Councilwoman Karen Cohen

Mount Laurel Resident

PRESORTED STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Mount Laurel, NJ 08054
Permit No. 143

A message from Mayor Steglik and Deputy Mayor Pritchett

More than a year, our country and community began our battle against COVID-19. Our schools closed, our businesses shut down, and many of us were facing sobering new realities.

But, like generations before us, we fought back, stuck together, and found a way to persevere.

We persevered as a community by wearing masks, supporting local businesses and restaurants, keeping our distance, and by helping one another when times were the hardest. As many of our friends and family served on the front lines of this pandemic, others donated food and their time to food pantries throughout South Jersey.

That is what a community does during difficult times; they look out for each other ensuring that we all pull through together.

We cannot thank our first responders, healthcare workers, and essential staff enough for their sacrifice and dedication as they battled an unknown threat with relentless courage. To the parents who became full-time teachers and the teachers who mastered digital learning, we thank you for your patience and commitment to our youngest generation.

Tragically, we must acknowledge the tremendous loss our community experienced. Seventy-six Mount Laurel residents sadly passed away from the coronavirus. To the friends and family of the departed, I send my deepest, sincerest condolences.

As we move towards the next phase of our battle with this pandemic, let us remember those we lost, the sense of community we built during the pandemic's most troubling moments and let us continue to be the Mount Laurel that can overcome any arduous obstacle, together.

Sincerely,

Stephen J. Steglik
Mayor of Mount Laurel, 2021

Kareem Pritchett
Deputy Mayor of Mount Laurel, 2021

Municipal Contacts

Mount Laurel Police Department

100 Mount Laurel Road 856-234-8300
Non-Emergency

Mount Laurel Fire Department

69 Elbo Lane 856-234-6053
(Headquarters)

Mount Laurel EMS

201 Masonville Road 856-778-1274

Mount Laurel Library

100 Walt Whitman Avenue 856-234-7319

Tax Assessor's Office

100 Mount Laurel Road 856-234-0001 Ext 1256

Municipal Court Office

100 Mount Laurel Road 856-234-2003

Public Works

100 Mount Laurel Road 856-234-0001 Ext 1241

Mount Laurel Post Office

200 Walt Whitman Avenue 800-275-8777

Municipal Utilities Authority

1201 South Church Street 856-234-0062

Housing - Rentals

100 Mount Laurel Road 856-234-0001 Ext 1224

Tax Collector's Office

100 Mount Laurel Road 856-234-0001 Ext 1283

Community Development

100 Mount Laurel Road 856-234-0001 Ext 1220

Clerks Office

100 Mount Laurel Road 856-234-0001

Marriage Application Appointments Ext 1236

Dog licensing Ext 1235