

NORTH VERSAILLES TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER – SPRING 2024

WELCOME TO OUR NEW TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER!

North Versailles Township is pleased to introduce you to our new Township newsletter. It is not just about us; it's about you, our valued residents. Our goal is to bring our community together, keep everyone informed, and foster a strong sense of unity. Whether you've been a part of our community for years or have just arrived, this newsletter is designed with your interests in mind. We invite all residents to contribute by sharing your stories, upcoming events, and creative ideas to nvtpa.newsletter@gmail.com.

NORTH VERSAILLES TOWNSHIP BIDS FAREWELL TO CHIEF JAMES MATRAZZO



After 28 years of dedicated service to the North Versailles Township, Chief James Matrazzo is retiring, leaving behind a legacy of safety, and community-oriented leadership. Chief Matrazzo began his journey with the North Versailles Police Department in 1996 as a full-time patrolman. His commitment to public safety and community well-being quickly distinguished him, and in 2015, he assumed the role of Chief. Over his tenure, he prioritized both advanced training and community resources, ensuring the Township's safety amidst a rapidly changing world. During his time as Chief, Matrazzo spearheaded several key initiatives that have had a lasting impact on the department and the community. Under his leadership, the North Versailles Police

Department established a SWAT/field force team, enhancing the Township's capability to respond to high-risk situations. His commitment to excellence was further demonstrated by maintaining training programs that exceeded standard requirements, preparing officers to handle a variety of scenarios with skill and confidence. In 2018, under Chief Matrazzo's guidance, the department acquired a refurbished Brinks armored car, followed by an MRAP (Mine-Resistant Ambush Protected vehicle) through the federal government in 2020. In his drive to adopt safer, non-lethal measures, the department introduced bean bags, pepper balls, and less-lethal 40mm launcher rounds in 2021. These tools have provided officers with alternative methods to de-escalate potentially dangerous situations, reflecting the commitment to preserving life while maintaining public order.

Chief Matrazzo's service extends beyond his tenure with the North Versailles Police Department. Before joining the force, he served in the U.S. Air Force and worked as an EMT, showcasing a lifelong dedication to helping others and serving his country. His diverse background brought a unique blend of discipline, resilience, and integrity to his role as Chief, combined with compassionate leadership that earned him respect and admiration from colleagues and community members alike. Chief Matrazzo's retirement marks the end of an era, but his contributions to the North Versailles Township will be remembered for years to come. His legacy of service, safety, and compassionate leadership will continue to inspire those who follow in his footsteps. The Township extends its heartfelt thanks to Chief Matrazzo for his unwavering service. We wish him all the best in his well-deserved retirement.

NORTH VERSAILLES TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER – SPRING 2024

INTRODUCING KELSEY, OUR TOWNSHIP'S SUMMER INTERN



Hi, I'm Kelsey, the Local Government Academy Summer Intern for North Versailles Township, reporting to Commissioner Beswick. I recently graduated from

the University of Pittsburgh, where I studied Political Science and Economics with a minor in Applied Statistics. I am continuing for my Master's in the fall. I am so excited to be here and kickstart our Comprehensive Plan to drive Community Revitalization and Renewal.

Below is a community survey to pinpoint the top five issues for our Township. Your participation in this survey is crucial to our planning process. Please take a few minutes to complete the survey below:



(hover camera app on smartphone over box and link will pop up on screen to tap)

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/WF3658L>

You can also find the Resident Survey on the Township website: nvtpa.com or stop by the Township Building for a hard copy.

GUIDING OUR TOWNSHIP WITH VISION

The North Versailles Steering Committee is a cornerstone of the Implementable Comprehensive Plan. This plan represents the Township's long-term policy initiative, crafted in alignment with Article 3 of the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code. It outlines the Township's overarching vision and delves into specific goals, objectives, and strategies. Serving as one of the most critical tools for land use planning and local governance, the comprehensive plan is essential for municipal development.

The Committee comprises a broad cross-section of the community, with members acting as liaisons to their respective groups, organizations, and committees, fostering community engagement in the planning process. The Steering Committee convened for the first time on May 22nd, with each Ward represented by a selected community member. This inaugural meeting was both successful and engaging, providing a platform for long-time residents and key stakeholders to share their ideas, suggestions, and concerns.

If you are passionate about the future of North Versailles or wish to offer input on needed changes, please attend one of the upcoming Wednesday meetings at the Township building: June 19th at 6 PM, July 10th at 3 PM, July 17th at 6 PM, and July 31st at 3 PM.

NORTH VERSAILLES TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER – SPRING 2024



CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL THE GRADUATES! WE WISH YOU SUCCESS IN YOUR FUTURE ENDEAVORS!



North Versailles Township has been named a Banner Community by the Allegheny League of Municipalities (ALOM) for providing effective, efficient, and accountable services to its residents and businesses since 2016. The designation also acknowledges North Versailles Township's efforts to inform and engage citizens through frequent and open communication, public and community events, and mentoring. By being a Banner Community, we are challenging ourselves to continue to learn and find ways to improve the quality of our operations for the benefit of our residents.

TOWNSHIP COMMISSIONERS

Ward 1 – George Thompson
Ward 2 – Joe Kutch
Ward 3 – Louise Beswick
Ward 4 – Sam Juliano
Ward 5 – Russell Saula
Ward 6 – Tracy Yusko
Ward 7 – Frank Bivins

TOWNSHIP MEETINGS 2024

January 18, February 15, March 21, April 18, May 16, June 20, July 18, August 15, September 19, October 17, November 21, and December 19. The meetings are all on Thursdays and start at 7:00 p.m.

MEET THE TOWNSHIP MANAGER

Before joining North Versailles Township, Joe Varhola served as the Municipal Manager in his hometown of the Borough of Munhall for 6 years. Prior to his role as a Municipal Manager, Joe worked as a Licensed Relationship Manager in the Financial Industry and as a Sales Consultant for various Fortune 500 companies. In those positions, he was responsible for building and maintaining relationships with businesses, individuals, and government officials to help them achieve their goals and objectives. Joe and his wife Kristen have four adult children and still reside in Munhall. Joe earned his Bachelor of Arts in Business/Communications from the University of Pittsburgh. He is here to serve you and is very approachable, so please feel free to contact him at 412-823-6602 x 101 with any questions or concerns you may have.

NORTH VERSAILLES TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER – SPRING 2024

TOWNSHIP PICNIC

The Township picnic will be held at Idlewild Park on Friday, August 9th, from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. at Pavillion C-7 and C-8 . The residents' fee is just \$35, which includes admission, an all-you-can-eat buffet meal, and a three-hour soda fountain. We'll even provide free bus transportation! Please RSVP by July 19th to 412-823-6602 ext. 104. Call for more information. We can't wait to see you there!

CHECK BACK IN WITH THE NORTH VERSAILLES LIBRARY

By Cindy Coles

Welcome Back! We missed everyone! The library reopened at its temporary location on Friday, May 17th. We are now located at 355 Lincoln Highway in the Great Valley Shopping Center. Our hours are:

Monday, Wednesday, and Saturday
9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Tuesday and Thursday
9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Friday
9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Our summer hours start the week of June 17th. Please visit our website for the new hours.

This year's Summer Reading Program theme is "Adventure Begins at Your Library." Registration will occur at the library from Monday, June 3rd, to Saturday, June 8th. Activities will begin on June 10th and continue through July 20th.

Children can pick up their Summer Reading bag, which includes their time log. Reading for just 6 hours makes them eligible to win a \$25 gift

card. Time logs should be turned in by July 24th. For adults, each completed book or audiobook review handed in by July 24th will enter them for a chance to win a \$25 gift card. For more information, please call 412-823-2222 or visit our website at northversailleslibrary.org.

We are also hosting a Pet Supply Donation Drive for the White Oak Animal Safe Haven. Donations may include dog or cat food, food bowls, blankets, dog and cat beds, toys, leashes and collars, kitty litter, kitty litter pans and scoopers, treats, detergent and bleach, paper towels, and towels.

NORTH VERSAILLES SENIORS BINGO



The North Versailles Seniors Group finally have a home for their bingo games at

Crestas Volunteer Fire Hall. The Crestas Board has been extremely welcoming to our seniors, and they are very happy to finally be back together after 8 months! The bingo starts at 11:00, but be there before 10:30 to purchase your bingo supplies. Please bring snacks and lunch if you will be eating during the break. There is a soda machine with a variety of beverages to choose from for \$1.00. Come and enjoy fun and fellowship with people from your community and our neighboring communities! For more information, call Sallie Kaser at 412-979-1604. If there is no answer, please leave a message.

NORTH VERSAILLES TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER – SPRING 2024

DON'T BE A PROBLEMATIC NEIGHBOR: KNOW THE CODE ON TALL GRASS AND WEEDS

One of the most common complaints the Township receives this time of year concerns tall grass and weeds. Grass and weeds taller than **10 inches** are considered a public nuisance due to their potential health hazards and negative impact on the neighborhood's appearance. Thick growth provides food and shelter for mosquitoes, ticks, flies, mice, and rats and contributes to blight in the neighborhood.

Remember, being a good neighbor means respecting your neighbors and others and maintaining your property responsibility.

SELLING A PROPERTY IN NORTH VERSAILLES TOWNSHIP

When selling a property in North Versailles Township, you must obtain a Municipal and Sewer No-Lien Letter, which costs \$25 each. The checks must be separate and made out to "North Versailles Township" and "North Versailles Sanitary Authority." The Sanitary Authority's website (nvtssa.com) lists the presale procedures required. **Don't wait to get that dye test!** As soon as you make the decision to sell your home, schedule that test. Not only does it take time to get the test scheduled, but it has to be reviewed by the engineer. The Township requires a zoning certificate. The application for the zoning certificate can be found on the Township's website under Departments/Zoning.

ACT 77 – SENIOR TAX RELIEF

North Versailles Township participated in Allegheny County's Act 77 for Senior Tax Relief. To take advantage of this program, applicants must reach the following three requirements:

- Must have owned or occupied a primary residence in Allegheny County continuously for the past 10 years
- Must be 60 or older
- Gross household income must be \$30,000.00 or less.

The program features a flat 30% discount on Allegheny County's real property tax. Acceptance also ensures a 2% discount on North Versailles Township's local tax. Note that the application must be submitted through Allegheny County. For more detailed information, please visit

<https://alleghenycountytreasurer.us/real-estate-tax/real-estate-tax-2>.

TAX COLLECTION

Our tax collector, Mary Ann Fetsick, is available at the Township building on Tuesday and Wednesday from 9 AM to 3 PM, and on Thursday from 12 PM to 7 PM. Taxes can be paid by money order, check, or cash. Payment can also be dropped off in the box outside of the building. The tax office can be reached at 412-824-6616.

NORTH VERSAILLES TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER – SPRING 2024

**ANNOUNCING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY
YEAR - 1974-2024 OF EAST ALLEGHENY
MEALS-ON-WHEELS
600 Lincoln Highway
North Versailles, PA 15137
412-327-6908**

Our host church, Linway United Presbyterian, graciously took a leap of faith 50 years ago and offered their facility and their support to a new non-profit, all-volunteer program where food is cooked daily and driven right to the door of the recipient, hot, ready to eat.

The founding Mothers: Beulah Lowden and Virginia Beswick, were told at the time that their idea would not work. "You will never be able to find enough volunteers to cook, pack, and deliver hot meals 5 days a week" was one person's comment at the Church Board Meeting. Well, we proved them wrong! And by the way, the person making that comment became one of the Program's first and longest serving volunteers.

We are proud and pleased to provide a vital service to residents in North Versailles, East McKeesport, and Wilmerding 5 days a week, 52 weeks a year, including holidays, by over 50 dedicated, generous, faithful, hard working men and women of all ages. We currently have one volunteer who has been with the Program all 50 years!

At this time we serve between 35 and 40 clients a day and would welcome more. If you know someone in your circle of friends or in your neighborhood that could benefit from our service, please offer them our phone number. The process is simple to sign up and can be handled with a 5-minute

phone call. The only requirement is a person's inability to shop and cook for themselves and to pay a nominal daily fee.

We welcome new volunteers who may have a few hours in the morning one day a week to cook, pack, clean up, drive, or be a runner. While there is no financial gain for your time, your reward is in knowing that you were able to help someone, perhaps a perfect stranger, have a better day because of your service. You can't put a monetary value on that.

It is with sincere gratitude, we recognize and thank our neighborhood churches, organizations, and individuals who have supported our program with financial support. We have encountered hard times over the years so be assured your donations have allowed us to reach this amazing milestone.

Our motto speaks for all of us:

"Inasmuch as you have done it to one of the least of these, my brethren, you have done it unto me." (Matt: 24:40)

**To receive the digital newsletter,
please contact us at
nvtpa.newsletter@gmail.com.**