

PUBLIC SAFETY NEWSLETTER



Downtown Parking News

With the transition to the Premium Parking System completed, the Department of Public Works (DPW) has begun removing the old parking meter poles and signs attached to them.

Chief Cutler has ordered new stand-alone parking signs with updated parking information. These signs will be placed on every block in the Downtown Business District, and the project is expected to be completed by May 30.

While the project is underway, please remember that **all parking spaces still require payment**, even if there isn't a pole or sign at your spot.

Updates will be shared through the Haddonfield Happenings App.

Newsletter Highlights

Biking Safety
Tips

Public Safety
Team 2024
STATS

Smoke Alarm
Information

Grilling and
Fire Pit Safety

Pedestrian
Safety

Wood Lane Improvements

Recently, Mayor Bianco Bezich, Chief Cutler, and Lt. Holloway met with residents living on or near Wood Lane to address concerns about reckless driving and the safety of pedestrians and drivers.

The public safety team will be implementing the following improvements:

- Advanced warning signs reading “Stop Ahead” will be installed at all approaches.
- Stop bars and the word “STOP” will be painted on the pavement at cross streets.

These measures aim to improve visibility and awareness, creating safer conditions for all who navigate Wood Lane. The new safety features have been ordered, and the project is expected to be completed by the end of May.



Car Seat News

A recent study released by Safe Kids Worldwide, found that four out of five parents moved their child out of a booster seat before the child was big enough— and that three in four are unaware that kids need to ride in boosters until they're at least 4-foot-9-inches tall. To read the entire report click here: [Booster Seat Study](#).

Free Car Seat Installations

HPD has two officers that are certified in installing car seats. To schedule an appointment, click here: [Schedule Child Seat Installation](#) which takes you to the HPD website. After sending your information, an officer will respond with available times. The installation takes place in the parking lot behind Borough Hall.



Public Safety Team 2024 Stats & Highlights

Haddonfield Police Department

STATS

- Lowest Burglary numbers in a decade – 24 in 2024 (the highest was 75 in 2016).
- Domestic Violence calls were the lowest in a decade – 16 in 2024, compared to 45 calls in 2021 during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Motor Vehicle thefts – 8 in 2024, compared to 14 in 2023.
- Senior Parking Permit: In 2024, the first year, HPD sold 850! In 2025, 760 have been sold to date.

GRANTS and PROJECTS

- New Police Headquarters: \$5.5 million, including the largest award of state funding ever received for a Haddonfield Borough project. Completion date is estimated for September.
- Installed 20 “Cross Traffic Does Not Stop” signs on cross streets at Wood Lane, Westmont, and West End.
- Installed solar-powered stop signs at Westmont Avenue and Mt. Vernon.
- Cross County Connections: Received a \$2,000 grant for street signs. Six new lighted stop signs were ordered.
- Parking App: 10 minutes free at all Borough spaces became effective in April 2024.

NEW HIRES

- One new officer was hired and started in December 2024.
- Officer Leverick was rehired as a part-time Class II officer for Downtown District patrol and as a court-appointed officer.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- HPD hosted its first Bike Rodeo in September, organized by Mayor Bianco Bezich and Lt. Grasso.
- Officer Earney serves as the School Resource Officer and continues to engage with students across all grade levels in the district.
- HPD and Mayor Bianco Bezich staffed tables at two elementary school fairs.
- Sgt. Sorg, Blue, and Mayor Bianco Bezich attended a back-to-school event at Inkwood Books with the literary character Dogman.
- HPD's Halloween tradition continued on Washington Avenue, with officers distributing candy to the community.
- HPD continues to support the Marine Corps Toys for Tots as a drop-off location for gifts.
- HPD and Haddon Fire Escort Santa throughout the Borough during the Holidays, a tradition that Mayor Bianco Bezich started during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- HPD and Haddon Fire Co. No. 1 continue to participate in community events in the Borough, including but not limited to the Mayor's Health & Wellness Festival and the Tree Lighting Ceremony.
- HPD and Mayor Bianco Bezich hosted two Movie Nights.

Public Safety Team 2024 Stats & Highlights

Haddon Fire Company No. 1

STATS

- **Fire Total Calls and Response Time** – 623 calls. The average response time is 3:01, and the average arrival time is 4:59. Times are below the NFPA 1720 standard of 9 minutes and 20 seconds for fire apparatus arrival time.
- Haddon Fire Co. active membership: 46, representing a 28% increase.
- Stipend Program - 33 stipend participants, representing an 85% increase.
- Borough's Emergency Medical Service (EMS) staff: Total Calls – 1,230. Staffing: 7 full-time EMTs and 6 part-time EMTs.,

TRAINING

- Conducted two live burn sessions at the Burlington County Fire Training Center.
- The department held 127 documented drills in 2024.
- All personnel, including EMS, completed a four-hour vehicle operation course (CEVO).
- Completed an Advanced First Aid course sanctioned by the Department of Health.
- EMS has integrated Continuing Education Units (CEUs) into its mandatory training, as required by the State Department of Health.

GRANTS

- The borough received New Jersey's American Rescue Plan Grant of \$54,000, which was used to purchase turnout gear. Mayor Bianco Bezich submitted a grant application for over \$200,000 for SCBA.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- Install Fire alarms for Borough senior residents.
- Fire Prevention Week School Visits.
- Fire Prevention Night at the Firehouse.
- Hosts the Annual 9/11 Ceremony.
- Participates in the July 4 parade and staffs the Fireworks.
- Hosted a Friends School summer camp tour and presentation.

NOTABLE INCIDENTS

- January 22 - Early morning dwelling fire on Chestnut Street.
- May 13 & December 18 - PATCO technical rescue.
- August 20 - Dwelling fire on Jobel Drive.
- September 8 - Chews Landing Road MVA and HAZMAT.
- September 16 - Dwelling fire on Walnut Street.
- November 7 - Forest Fire Task Force dispatched to Voorhees.

Biking Safety Tips and Reminders

- Get fitted for a helmet. Everyone riding a bike should wear an age-appropriate helmet;
- Teach and/or remind children of the rules of the road and to obey biking laws;
- Use hand signals when biking;
- Stay alert while biking. Remind children to be aware of their surroundings and watch for cars and pedestrians;
- Avoid distractions. Don't talk on the phone or text while biking;
- Check equipment: The seat should be adjusted to the appropriate height, the tires should be inflated properly, and ideally, the bike should be inspected by a professional;
- Wear appropriate clothing. Remind children to wear closed-toe shoes. At night, wear bright or reflective clothing.



Officer Donnelly teaches bike safety rules at HPD Bike Rodeo

Parents, for more Bike Safety Tips, visit the SafeKids website:
<https://www.safekids.org/bike>

Downtown Biking RULES



THE BASICS

- Walk - don't ride - bikes on sidewalk.
- No trick riding or weaving.
- Don't dump bikes on sidewalk.



THE PENALTIES

- Bikes may be seized and impounded for 30 days.
- Daily storage fee of \$25.00 will apply.
- Bikes will be sold at auction after 30 days.



THE EXPECTATIONS

- Wear a helmet.
- Obey traffic laws.
- Respect others.



HADDONFIELD
— Est. 1713 —

Spring Forward!

Chief Gorman says the change in seasons is a perfect time to remember to check the batteries in your smoke detectors.

For more information, read the Safety Sheet on *Smoke Alarms at Home* from the National Fire Protection Association.

Smoke Alarms at Home

SMOKE ALARMS ARE A KEY PART of a home fire escape plan. When there is a fire, smoke spreads fast. Working smoke alarms give you early warning so you can get outside quickly.

SAFETY TIPS

- Install smoke alarms in every bedroom. They should also be outside each sleeping area and on every level of the home. Install alarms in the basement.
- Large homes may need extra smoke alarms.
- It is best to use interconnected smoke alarms. When one smoke alarm sounds, they all sound.
- Test all smoke alarms at least once a month. Press the test button to be sure the alarm is working.
- Current alarms on the market employ different types of technology including multi-sensing, which could include smoke and carbon monoxide combined.
- Today's smoke alarms will be more technologically advanced to respond to a multitude of fire conditions, yet mitigate false alarms.
- A smoke alarm should be on the ceiling or high on a wall. Keep smoke alarms away from the kitchen to reduce false alarms. They should be at least 10 feet (3 meters) from the stove.
- People who are hard-of-hearing or deaf can use special alarms. These alarms have strobe lights and bed shakers.
- Replace all smoke alarms when they are 10 years old.



FACTS

- ❗ A closed door may slow the spread of smoke, heat, and fire.
- ❗ Smoke alarms should be installed inside every sleeping room, outside each separate sleeping area, and on every level. Smoke alarms should be connected so when one sounds, they all sound. Most homes do not have this level of protection.
- ❗ Roughly 3 out of 5 fire deaths happen in homes with no smoke alarms or no working smoke alarms.



Stay Safe While Walking



- Be aware: Pay attention to traffic conditions and obey traffic signals;
- Be visible: Wear bright colors and reflective materials, and carry a flashlight at night;
- Cross with care: Cross at marked crosswalks and intersections, and look left, right, and left again before crossing;
- Avoid distractions: Don't use your phone or wear headphones while crossing the street;
- Don't assume: Don't assume drivers will stop for you;
- Avoid dangerous behaviors: Don't jaywalk, and don't step into traffic from behind an obstruction.

Grilling and Fire Pit Safety Tips and Reminders

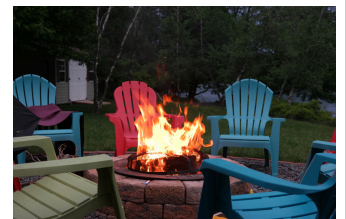
Grilling

- Only grill outdoors: Always use your grill in an open, outdoor space, away from flammable structures like overhangs or siding.
- Keep a safe distance: Maintain at least 3 feet of space around your grill to prevent accidental contact with children and pets.
- Never leave unattended: Always stay near your grill while it's in use.
- Check for leaks: Inspect your gas grill hoses for leaks using a soapy water solution before each use.
- Clean your grill regularly: Clean your grill thoroughly after each use to remove grease buildup, which can cause fires.
- Have a fire extinguisher ready: Keep a fire extinguisher nearby in case of a flare-up.
- Open the lid before lighting: When using a gas grill, open the lid before igniting to release any gas buildup.
- Properly dispose of coals: Allow charcoal to fully cool before disposing in a metal container with a lid.



Fire Pit

- Check the weather: Check weather conditions before starting a fire, avoid windy days as sparks can quickly spread.
- Clear the area: Remove flammable debris like leaves and branches within a safe distance around the fire pit.
- Proper fuel: Use only seasoned hardwood for burning, avoiding softwoods that create excessive sparks.
- Never leave unattended: Always monitor the fire pit and extinguish it completely before leaving.
- Fire extinguisher nearby: Keep a fire extinguisher or bucket of sand readily available to quickly put out a flare-up.
- Safe distance: Maintain a safe distance from the flames while sitting or standing near the fire pit.
- Proper placement: Set up the fire pit on a non-flammable surface, far from structures and flammable materials.
- Extinguish properly: Douse the fire with water and stir ashes to extinguish embers.



Happy Spring from your Public Safety Dir., neighbors!

Welcome to the second edition of the Borough's Public Safety Newsletter! This issue is filled with helpful news and tips as we embrace the joy of spending more time outdoors.

I invite you to join me at an event I started three years ago: The 3rd Annual Health & Wellness Festival on May 10. This special day unites our remarkable Public Safety Team, local hospitals, practitioners, and nonprofit organizations to offer health screenings, live fitness classes, demonstrations, and valuable health resources. If you're a practitioner, part of a health-related business, or represent a non-profit health organization and wish to participate, please email Louise Salvatore at lsalvatore@haddonfield-nj.gov.

As I write this final letter, the only woman to have ever served as Director of Public Safety, I'm filled with immense gratitude. Shortly after I took office, the COVID-19 pandemic began, bringing unprecedented challenges. I took on the responsibility of ensuring that our Public Safety Team, residents, and small businesses had the resources needed to remain healthy & safe. In the years that followed, my focus shifted to strengthening our Department of Public Safety and community connections - securing grants to relocate the Police Department from the basement and reinforcing Fire Dept. compliance & training requirements while also sourcing funding for Haddon Fire Co. No. 1 volunteers.

Serving as Director of Public Safety for the past six years has been one of the greatest honors of my life. Collaborating with Chief Cutler and the dedicated officers of the Haddonfield Police Department has been profoundly rewarding and humbling. I have an incredible love for and loyalty to our men and women in blue - and I cannot wait to visit you all in your new home at 1 Walnut Street (and yes, of course I'll bring food!)

Working with Chief Frontino and Chief Gorman to adapt to 21st-century norms with a volunteer fire company that is over 250 years old was challenging yet fulfilling. We battled misinformation and deliberate attempts to derail progress from my first term in 2019 to recent months. Thank you for standing with me and recognizing that I could and would be your loudest cheerleader and fiercest advocate, just as I was for HPD.

Thank you to all our LEOs, EMTs, and FFs who work collaboratively and diligently to safeguard Haddonfield and our mutual aid partners - I am eternally grateful for your courage, trust, and unwavering dedication to the safety and well-being of our Borough. Together, we have cultivated a community rooted in resilience, compassion, and care.

Mayor Colleen Bianco Bezuch