

NORTHAMPTON *Township*

SUMMER 2023

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BUCKS COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

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Chairman's Message

Dear Residents,

My Summer 2023 letter is going to focus on a very important issue that affects everyone in Northampton Township. We need your help!

The Board of Supervisors is always looking at how we can return the best value to the community for the tax dollars we receive to run the Township. One concern that we have been fighting for years is the amount of income tax dollars we don't receive as a result of residents working in Philadelphia. The **STERLING ACT** created in 1932 is the name of a law that created the Philadelphia Wage Tax. The act allows the city of Philadelphia to assess a tax on earned income for non-city residents that work for employers in Philadelphia. We don't want our residents to pay more in taxes. We just want Philadelphia to be subject to the same rules that apply to the rest of the State. The reason you should care is there are many Northampton residents who work in Philadelphia. Their hard-earned income dollars are being retained by Philadelphia and not coming to Northampton where they live. Our tax rate on earned income is 1% shared equally with Council Rock. Philadelphia charges our residents 3.44 % and keeps it all. IF the Township received its share of those tax dollars, we would receive over \$1,000,000 additional earned income tax revenue every year. That's money that needs to be made up from other sources. That is not fair to our residents. **This is an outdated law that does not reflect the current reality of local funding practices.** Philadelphia should be required to return Northampton's portion of the tax collected back to our community!

Your Board of Supervisors and Administration is working with Pennsylvania State Senator Frank Farry and State Representatives Kristen Marcell and Joe Hogan to keep these hard-earned income dollars in Northampton Township, where they belong. **Please contact these State Legislators and let them know you agree that the Sterling Act must be revised especially if you are one of the affected residents paying your earned wage tax to Philadelphia.**

To receive updates on this and other important topics, please sign-up for e-newsletters and information

Senator Frank Farry
215-638-1784

<https://senatorfarry.com/>

Representative Joe Hogan
215-942-4067

<https://www.rephogan.com/>

Representative Kristin Marcell
215-364-3414

<https://www.repmarcell.com/>

Northampton Township
215-357-6800

www.northamptontownship.com

Have a safe and fun summer!

Sincerely,
Adam M. Selisker
Chairman

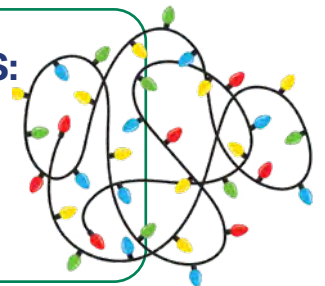
THE STERLING ACT IMPACT:

- Earned Income Tax loss to Bucks County School Districts and Municipalities – Approximately \$18 Million in 2021.
- Earned Income Tax loss to Northampton Township – Approximately \$1.1 Million per year based on 2021 wages, or 2-mills in real estate taxes. Significant loss of revenue to our community.
- Earned Income Tax loss to Council Rock School District – 5 municipalities - Approximately \$1.75 Million based on 2021 wages.
- Township and School District real estate tax rates are higher for all residents because of this lost revenue, and this particularly impacts lower income families and persons on fixed incomes.

ADMINISTRATION BUILDING HOLIDAY CLOSINGS:

The Administration Building will be closed on the following dates:

Tues., July 4 (Independence Day), Mon., September 4 (Labor Day),
Mon., October 9 (Columbus Day), Thurs., November 23 (Thanksgiving Day),
Fri., November 24 (Day after Thanksgiving Day), Mon., December 25 (Christmas Eve),
Tues., December 26 (Christmas Day), Mon., January 1 (New Year's Eve)



NORTHAMPTON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS



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 Planning Dept:215-357-6800 x207 Recreation Center:215-357-5396
 Codes/Zoning/Permits: 215-357-6800 x207 Senior Center:215-357-8199
 Public Works Dept:215-357-6800 x216

Emergency * 911

Police Department Non-Emergency: 215-357-8700 • Fire Marshal: 215-357-6800 x210



2023 Board of Supervisors

Northampton Township Says Goodbye & Wishes Many Adventures to Our 2022 Retiree's

LINDA ROWAN, *Reference Librarian*

Linda retired at the end of December after 10 years for loyal service to the Northampton Township Public Library. Linda stated she had enjoyed working for Northampton Township as a Reference Librarian, and she will miss the library staff members as they have become family. She noted the library staff is a team that always puts the patrons first. Almost daily, Linda heard people remark about how beautiful and big the library is, commenting that the library staff is always exceedingly helpful.

The Township is grateful to Linda for her hard work and dedication. The Library field is always evolving and changing and Linda took it all in stride making it look effortless. *Northampton Township wishes Linda the best of luck in her future endeavors.*



Linda Rowan



Matt Baxter (center front)

MATT BAXTER, *Parks & Recreation Maintenance*

The Northampton Township Board of Supervisors and the entire staff at Northampton Township wish Matt Baxter a happy and healthy retirement! Matt worked for the Parks Maintenance Crew under the Parks and Recreation Department for seven years until his retirement this past January.

We will miss Matt's infectious smile and positive attitude. Matt always had kind words of encouragement and funny stories to share that brightened our workday, even when he was going through difficult times himself. He even wrote a song for the Public Works maintenance crew to encourage them and make them laugh while they spent long hours plowing the streets from a heavy snowfall.

Matt is planning on spending precious time with his wife and family and travelling in his retirement. *Thank you for the laughter and smiles Matt! Best of luck and enjoy your well-deserved retirement!*



Nancy Opalka

NANCY OPALKA, Parks and Recreation Director

You can't think of Parks and Recreation in Northampton Township without thinking about Nancy Opalka. Nancy dedicated over 35 years of her career to Northampton Township as the Parks and Recreation Director. Nancy has carried more titles than just Director as part of her tenure; she was a leader, mentor, friend, instructor, and most recently has adopted a new title as "grandmother". Anyone who knows her will say this is her favorite role.

Nancy has been such an integral part of the growth of Northampton Township, and it would take the entire newsletter to list her achievements and the numerous accolades she has received. No matter what obstacles were put in her way, she found a way to conquer and find a solution. Her perseverance through the COVID-19 pandemic is just one small accomplishment. She found work arounds to make sure families, adults and co-workers stayed safe and still found a way for residents to participate in classes, camps and other activities. Nancy's leadership made her an asset to the Parks and Recreation Department and all that knew and worked with her. *Northampton Township wishes Nancy the best wherever her road takes her next.*

Residents Sought for Volunteer Boards

Would you like to share insight on historic preservation, Parks, and Recreation, or have a say in your local community?

Northampton Township is seeking volunteers for advisory boards.

Serving is a great way for residents to stay updated about the topics of greatest interest.

Volunteers can take pride in helping to shape their community.

Information on what duties these Board and Commission perform go to www.northamptontownship.com. Select Board and Commissions tab under the Government heading. An application can also be found there. You may also stop by the Township Administration Building at 55 Township Road, Richboro, Pa. Monday – Friday 8:30 am until 4:30 pm to pick up or drop off an application. All applications should be submitted to the attention of Lisa Russo at the above address or via email at lrusso@nhtwp.org. All applications are due by September 1st of the current year and are kept on file for one year from the date of receipt. Appointments to Boards and Commissions are made in January of the following year.

HERE IS AN OVERVIEW OF THE OPENINGS

Blighted Property Commission

- Comprised of 5 members
- One vacancy for a one-year term.
- Meets as needed.

Board of Appeals

- Comprised of 7 members
- Two vacancies (1) for a 5-year term and (1) to fill an unexpired term ending December 31, 2025.
- Meets as needed.

Historic Commission

- Comprised of 7 members
- (1) Vacancy to fill a term until 2026. (1) Vacancy to fill a term until 2027.
- Meets the second Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m., as needed. All meetings are held in the Archivist Room of the Library, 25 Upper Holland Road, Richboro, PA.

Library Board

- Comprised of 7 members
- Two vacancies for a 3-year term.
- Meets the second Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m., as needed. All meetings are held at the Northampton Township, Library Board Room, 25 Upper Holland Road, Richboro, PA.

Parks and Recreation Board

- Comprised of 5 members
- No vacancies.
- Meets on the first and third Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. as needed in the Township Administration Building, 55 Township Road, Richboro, PA.

Planning Commission

- Comprised of 7 members and two alternates
- Two vacancies for a 4-year term and Two vacancies for 4-year alternate terms.
- Meets the first and second Tuesday of each month at 7:00 pm as needed in the Township Administration Building, 55 Township Road, Richboro, PA.

Veterans Advisory Commission

- Comprised of 7 members
- Three vacancies for a 3-year term
- Meets on the third Monday of each Month at 7:00 pm, as needed, all meetings are held at the Township Administration Building, 55 Township Road, Richboro, PA.

Wall of Honor

- Comprised of 7 members
- One vacancy to fill an unexpired term ending December 31, 2024
- Meets as needed

Zoning Hearing Board

- Comprised of 3 members and two alternates
- One vacancy for a 3-year term
- Meets on the second and fourth Monday of each month as needed at 6:00 pm in the Township Administration Building, 55 Township Road, Richboro, PA.

WALL OF HONOR CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

The Northampton Township Wall of Honor is an award to recognize individuals who have made lasting contributions to the community and have contributed to the quality of life for the residents of Northampton Township, Bucks County PA. The objective of the Wall of Honor Program is to see that individuals who have made such contributions to the community are recognized.

To be considered for this award, nominees: must have been a resident during the time of community service, contribution, or accomplishment; must have participated as a volunteer in activities and/or accomplishments that benefited or have had a positive impact on the lives of the residents of Northampton Township; demonstrated outstanding qualities of leadership, community spirit and would be considered a role model.

The Northampton Township is now accepting nominations for the Wall of Honor Award until November 30, 2023.

- 1) To nominate an individual for this honor, a nomination form must be completed and submitted to the Wall of Honor Committee for review. The committee is made up of 7 individuals who represent the diversity of the community.
- 2) Nominations will be called each year and accepted up until November 30 each year.
- 3) All new nominations will be reviewed and voted on by the committee no later than March 31, 2024.
- 4) The person who submitted the nomination will be notified shortly after the vote is finalized. Notification to the recipient's family will be planned out accordingly.
- 5) The number of recipients will be limited to a maximum of two per year; there may be years when no individuals are nominated and/or no nominees are selected to receive this award.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Nominations must be forwarded to the Northampton Township Wall of Honor Committee, 55 Township Road, Richboro, PA 18954

Nomination forms can be downloaded from the Township website www.northamptontownship.com or emailed to Lisa Russo at lrusso@nhtwp.org. The nomination must be received no later than November 30, 2023 to be accepted for the next calendar year.



“To Recycle, or not to Recycle, that is the question”



Stop wishcycling. It's commendable that you want to recycle as much as you can, but putting everything into the recycling bin in the hope that it will get recycled isn't the right approach. It's much better to know your local rules and stick to them, even if this means some items will be sent to a landfill. This reduces contamination of the items that can be recycled, so they're more likely to be made into new products.

Get to know your local recycling rules. It can be frustrating that rules vary so much from one place to another, but there are often good reasons for this. Sticking to the rules in your area will help reduce contamination and ensure your recyclables get recycled.

Most curbside recycling services accept only paper, cardboard, glass, certain plastics, aluminum, and bi-metal containers. **So, keep the following items out of your curbside recycling bin:**

- **Food waste:** Food is a large contributor to climate change as it emits methane in landfills, so finding ways to reduce your food waste is a great idea. Any remaining food waste can be composted either commercially or at home but does not belong in your recycling container.
- **Soft plastics:** These plastics can be scrunched into a ball, like plastic bags, bubble wraps, pasta packets, or plastic wrapping on a case of soda bottles. They don't belong in your curbside recycling bin because they will clog the machinery used to separate recycled products!
- **Tangling items:** These include anything that can wrap around machinery parts, including ropes, garden hoses, cables, textiles, and clothing.
- **Used tissues or paper towels:** In fact, anything with the yuck factor can stay out, like dirty diapers or dog-poop bags.
- **Household or garage items:** Household or garage items like home decor, toys, textiles, rugs, carpets, and appliances don't belong in your curbside recycling bin and are considered trash, or in some cases bulk.
- **Bioplastics, biodegradables, and compostable plastics:** None of these items can be recycled and should be placed in your regular trash.
- **Leave items loose unless specifically instructed by your local government.** This means don't put your recyclables into a plastic bag; keep them loose in the recycling bin.
- **Keep things clean.** The most important thing is to remove any leftover liquids or foods that can contaminate your recyclables. You might need to give the item a quick rinse. But if it's full of sticky honey or mayonnaise, give it a more thorough wash. Only clean recyclable materials can be recycled!



DON'T BAG IT

Remember to never put your recyclables in containers or bags. Never bag or bundle your recyclables. Items should be placed in the container individually. Plastic bags can get caught in the machinery causing delays and damage to equipment. Bundled recyclables can't be sorted at the facility, so all of them end up in a landfill.

What are the 3 rules for recycling?

Use these 3 basic recycling rules to help get it right: 1) Recycle clean bottles, cans, paper, and cardboard. 2) Keep food and liquid out of recycling. 3) No loose plastic bags or bagged recyclables.

Plastic Bottles & Containers: Clean and dry containers, then put the cap back on before tossing them in the bin

Food & Beverage Cans: Recycle empty tin, aluminum, and steel cans. Empty aerosol cans are also recyclable. If they have a plastic lid, remove it before recycling.

Paper: Paper, newspaper, and magazines can be recycled unless they are wet or soiled. If the paper does get wet, compost it instead.

Flattened Cardboard & Paperboard: Flatten and recycle all cardboard and paperboard. Cardboard pizza boxes can be recycled as long as the cardboard is clean and does not contain grease stains. Leftover pizza and pizza box liners are not recyclable! Please do not allow food leftovers to contaminate your recycling bin.

Cans
Aluminum and Steel Cans
empty and rinse

Cartons
Food and Beverage Cartons
empty and replace cap

Glass
Bottles and Jars
empty and rinse

Paper
Mixed Paper, Newspaper,
Magazines and Flattened
Cardboard

Plastic
Kitchen, Laundry, Bath:
Bottles and Containers
empty and replace cap

NO!

- Do Not Bag Recyclables and No Garbage
- No Plastic Bags (return to retail)
- No Food or Liquid (empty all containers)
- No Clothing or Linens (use donation programs)
- No Tangles (no hoses, wires, chains or electronics)

What Do I Do For Items That Are Not Recyclable Or Trash?

The Bucks County Planning Commission's website has a comprehensive list of drop-off locations and scheduled events to dispose of things that don't fit the recycling or trash categories. Visit their website at <https://www.buckscounty.gov/444/Household-Hazardous-Waste-Recycling> to sign up for notifications and how to properly dispose of these items below:



- E-waste or WEEE (waste electrical and electronic equipment): Electronic items with a cord or battery such as a laptop, mobile phone, toaster, or microwave.
- Batteries: You can recycle your batteries at a specialist location. They don't belong in your curbside recycling bin or your trash.
- Light bulbs: Even though they appear to be made from glass, bulbs contain many other materials and don't belong in your curbside recycling bin.
- Hazardous waste: This needs to be treated carefully so it doesn't damage the environment. Hazardous waste includes things like paint, wood stains, and other finishes; herbicides; antifreeze; fuel; and medical supplies like hypodermic needles.



GET READY!

FLOODS

Floods can happen everywhere, making them one of the country's most common natural disasters. Flooding poses a greater threat in low-lying areas, near water, downstream from dams. Even the smallest streams, creek beds or drains can overflow and create flooding. During periods of heavy rain or extended periods of steady rains, be aware of the possibility of a flood. Flash floods develop quickly—anywhere from a few minutes to a few hours. Listen to local weather reports for flooding information.

Before

- Check to see if you have flood insurance coverage.
- Raise your furnace, water heater, or electrical panel if they are in areas of your home that may be flooded.
- Install “check valves” in sewer traps.
- Construct barriers, such as levees, berms, or flood walls, to stop floodwater from entering the building.
- Seal walls in basements with waterproofing compounds.
- During a flood or flash flood watch, be prepared to evacuate, including fill your car's gas tank; bring in outside furniture; move valuables to high points in your home; and unplug electrical appliances and move them to high points.
- During a flood warning, evacuate if you are so advised.
- During a flash flood warning, immediately seek higher ground.
- Keep your emergency supplies kit, including water, stored in an easily accessible, waterproof place.

During

- If time allows, call someone to let them know where you are going, and check with neighbors who may need a ride.
- Stay out of flood waters, if possible. Even water only several inches deep can be dangerous. If you have to walk through water, use a stick to check the firmness of the ground ahead of you. Avoid moving water.
- Do not drive into flooded areas. If your car becomes surrounded by rising water, get out quickly and move to higher ground.
- Stay away from downed power lines.



After

- Do not return home until local authorities say it is safe to do so.
- Do not drink or cook with your tap water until local authorities say it is safe.
- Avoid floodwaters, which could be contaminated or electrically charged.
- Watch out for areas in which the floodwaters may have receded, leaving weakened roadways.
- Be extra careful when entering buildings that may have hidden structural damage.
- Clean and disinfect everything that got wet.
- Service damaged septic tanks, cesspools, pits, and leaching systems as soon as possible. Damaged sewer systems are a serious health hazard.

For more information, visit the National Fire Protection Association at www.nfpa.org/disaster.
Developed by NFPA. Funding provided by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Office of Domestic Preparedness.

From the Building and Codes Department . . .

Given the potential for power loss from storms over the years, generators have become a popular addition to many households. It is very important to be fully-informed before purchasing a generator. Below are tips from the Building and Codes Department to help guide you in the process:



- Determine how much power and what type of generator you will need. Do you want a standby or portable generator? It may be useful to consult with a professional for advice.
- Evaluate your existing electric and/or gas service. An electric service or gas meter upgrade may be necessary. Contact PECO (215-956-3270) for additional information.
- Hire an experienced licensed contractor to perform the work.
- Secure a proper construction permit from the Township before installation.
- Obtain final inspection approvals from an electrical inspection agency and from the Township before using your generator.
- Feel free to contact the Building and Codes Department at 215-355-3883 with questions or if you need assistance with the permit process. Hours of operation are Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS



Northampton Township is susceptible to a variety of events both man made, and natural which can affect our community. These include hurricanes, tornados, winter ice, and snow storms, severe thunderstorms as well as hazardous materials incidents, and acts of terrorism. Many of these events can create situations which will disrupt your lives. Therefore it is important for you to have plans which address communications with your family, as well as a disaster supply kit in your home Do register with ready notify PA to receive important emergency communications from Northampton Township and Bucks County at www.readynotifyPA.org. Do make a family communications plan that includes an evacuation plan, and coordinates with school, work, and community communications plans. Practice this plan with your family. Do build a disaster supplies kit for your home. The kit should include enough supplies for each family member for four days. Remember to check your kit every six months. If you have special needs assess them before the event, and make the appropriate plans.

Additional information is available by contacting the Northampton Township Office of the Fire Marshal, at **215-357-6800**, or visiting the FEMA website at www.fema.gov, or www.redcross.org.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

MAKE A PLAN **BUILD A KIT** **BE INFORMED**

graphic from healthychildren.org

2023 ROAD MAINTENANCE PROGRAM



With the adoption of the 2023 Township Budget, the Board of Supervisors utilizes a Road Maintenance Fund. This fund allocated a tax of 0.500- mills dedicated to maintaining the 180 miles of Township-owned roads. Assuming that the average lifespan of a road is eighteen (18) years, the Board established a goal of maintaining approximately ten (10) miles of Township roads annually based on available funds.

The Public Works Department prepares a list of roads that need maintenance based on many factors including but not limited to the age of the road, type of traffic using the road (main roads with trucks vs small neighborhood roads), condition of the pavement, number of patches, types of cracking and the budget factors in too. We also use a software package called Roadbotics to assist with the process. Roadbotics uses technology that takes a picture every ten feet (10') of all 180 miles of Township roads. These images are analyzed with an algorithm to assess the conditions of the road and generate an average rating from 1-5. All roads that are Green represent roads ranked one (1) or good condition. Roads that are in fair condition are Yellow and rank three (3) and roads ranked five (5) are in bad condition. The road maintenance program is designed to address Township roads that are in the worst condition by repaving and preventing yellow roads from deteriorating further by extending their useful life span by micro-surfacing.

These Township roads below are part of the 2023 Township Road Program: (Roads to be repaved) –almost six (6) miles of Paving and just over four (4) Miles of Micro-Surfacing for approximately ten (10) miles of Road!

LIST ROADS TO BE PAVED:

W Rambler Dr (0.33 miles)
E Rambler Dr (0.54 miles)
Christoper Dr (0.24 miles)
Ronald Dr (0.24 miles)
Wooden Bridge Rd (0.64 miles)
Wooden Bridge Cir (0.10 miles)
Kings Way Dr (0.06 miles)
Pine Run Dr (0.39 miles)
Pine Run PI (0.05 miles)
Black Rock Dr (0.24 miles)
Black Rock PI (0.08 miles)
Brookside Dr (0.47 miles)
Mill Creek Rd (0.30 miles)
Gate House Dr (0.12 miles)
Heron PI (0.05 miles)
Heron Way Terr (0.07 miles)
Treeline Dr (0.26 miles)
Seedling Dr (0.42 miles)
Joyce Kilmer Dr (0.12 miles)
Spring Garden Mill Dr (0.40 miles)
Woodstock Dr (0.30 miles)
Verna Way (0.05 miles)

LIST ROADS TO BE MICRO-SURFACED:

Anselm Dr (0.54 miles)
Matthew Cir (1.03 miles)
Emily Dr (0.11 miles)
Erin Dr (0.04 miles)
Bryan Dr (0.38 miles)
Lisette Dr (0.15 miles)
Bucknell Ln (0.06 miles)
Yale Dr (0.42 miles)
Dartmouth Ln (0.27 miles)
Auburn Dr (0.11 miles)
Lenape Rd (0.53 miles)
Syracuse Ln (0.09 miles)
Purdue Dr (0.29 miles)
Colombia Cir (0.07 miles)

As a reminder, the following roads are state roads, owned and maintained by PennDOT: Almshouse Road/Rte. 332 Newtown-Richboro Road, Bridgetown Pike, Bristol Road, Buck Road, Bustleton Pike, Chinquapin Road, Churchville Lane, Holland Road, Jacksonville Road, Old Bristol Road, Second Street Pike, Worthington Mill Road

Northampton, Bucks County Water & Sewer Municipal Authority

TYPICAL PRV

Is your water pressure regulator valve working? Important information you need to know.



Q: What is the function of a water pressure regulator valve (PRV)?

A: A water pressure regulator reduces the water pressure from the public water main in the street to a pressure that is compatible with normal household plumbing and fixtures. It prevents high pressure and surges from entering the household plumbing from the public main which could damage your pipes and appliances. Water pressure coming from the public main in the street is more than 100 pounds per square inch (PSI) in certain areas of Northampton Township.

Q: Are water pressure regulators required?

A: Yes. All properties in Northampton Township are required to have a pressure regulator since water pressures can fluctuate within the public system.

Q: Where is my pressure regulator located and what is a normal pressure?

A: The pressure regulator is located near the water meter, which is typically in the basement or utility room. Normal household pressure with a properly functioning regulator valve is between 25 to 75 PSI.

Q: How does a pressure regulator work?

A: A pressure regulator is a spring-loaded valve that regulates pressure on the house side of the valve. As water moves through the valve, it must pass through a spring and diaphragm which causes resistance and lowers the pressure to a desired level as the water leaves the valve through the outlet. Should pressure in the public system increase, the spring and diaphragm in the valve will tighten to maintain the specific pressure setting.

Q: Who is responsible for maintaining the pressure regulator?

A: The PRV is maintained by the homeowner, and it is the owners' responsibility to make sure the PRV is working properly and adjusted to their system's needs. NBCMA cannot and does not guarantee that the public water system pressure will not change from time to time, regardless of fault or conduct of the municipal authority. We recommend referencing the PRV manufacturers' maintenance instructions.

Q: Can I adjust my pressure regulator?

A: Yes. A homeowner or plumber can accomplish this by consulting the pressure regulator manufacturer's instructions. The adjustment mechanism is typically a screw or bolt on top of the regulator. Turning the screw changes the compression on the spring. Normally, turning the screw clockwise increases the house pressure and turning it counterclockwise reduces the house pressure.

Q: How do I know if the PRV is working?

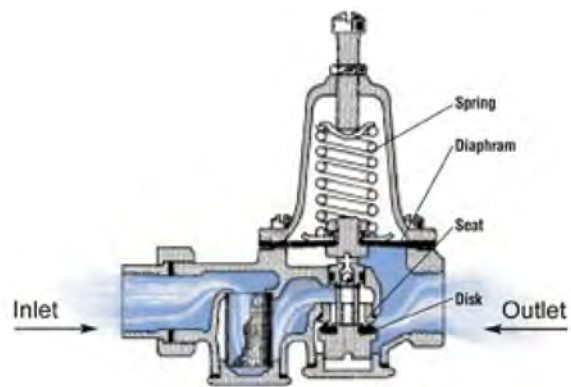
A: There are a few ways to ensure proper regulator operation. One option is to install a pressure gauge on both sides of the PRV to monitor the incoming pressure from the public main and the pressure in the home. If the water pressure on the house side of the valve is greater than 75 PSI, the regulator is not working properly. Without gauges, there might be some symptoms of pressure malfunction, such as, "clanging", "rattling" or "banging" of pipes. Experiencing variations or inconsistencies in water pressure, particularly higher than normal pressure, is a sign the PRV is not working. High pressure can cause toilets to run and faucets to drip. Sometimes the PRV will begin to leak, which can be an indication the valve has or is going to fail.

Q: How long do water pressure regulators last?

A: On average, a PRV can last 4 to 15 years, however, many factors can affect the longevity of the valve. Some manufacturers recommend rebuilding or replacing water pressure regulators about once every 5 years to limit the potential damage high pressure could have on a home's plumbing system.

Q: Who should I call if I have questions about the pressure regulator valve?

A: Please contact Northampton, Bucks County, Municipal Authority at 215-357-8515, Monday through Friday between 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM.





NORTHAMPTON TOWNSHIP FIRE DEPARTMENT



Public Safety Enhancement!

On Sunday March 5, 2023, Northampton Township Fire Department (NTFD) expanded career firefighter coverage to a 24/7/365 truck manned in the Richboro Station. Previously, the career staff was covering 6AM-6PM, however, it remains difficult to provide adequate coverage overnight with volunteer firefighters only. This change significantly improves response times, ensuring help arrives to you faster for fire, rescue, and critical medical emergencies. NTFD is a combination career/volunteer department and continues to rely on our volunteer staff as well. If you would like to volunteer, call 215-357-8277 or email chief@ntvfc.org for information.



Hear the
BEEP
where you
SLEEP

Every Bedroom Needs a Working Smoke Alarm!

Half of home fire deaths happen between 11 p.m. and 7 a.m., when most people are asleep.



Install smoke alarms in every bedroom, outside each separate sleeping area, and on every level of the home, including the basement. Larger homes may need more alarms.

For the best protection, install interconnected smoke alarms in your home. When one sounds, they all sound.



Test alarms at least once a month by pushing the test button.



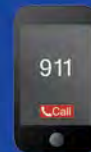
Some people, especially children and older adults, may need help to wake up. Make sure someone will wake them if the smoke alarm sounds.



Replace all smoke alarms when they are 10 years old or if they do not sound when tested.



When the smoke alarm sounds, get outside and stay outside. Go to your outside meeting place.



Call the fire department from a cellphone or a neighbor's phone. Stay outside until the fire department says it's safe to go back inside.



Northampton Township Police Department

111 Township Rd. Richboro, PA 18954 • Non-Emergency Number: 215-357-8700 • Steven LeCompte, Chief of Police

Technology Grant

On March 8, 2023, the Northampton Police Department was awarded a law enforcement support grant from the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD) for \$197,850.00. This grant will help to fund new body worn cameras for our officers, in-car video recorders and mobile computers for our police vehicles. The grant was secured through the diligent work of our Technology Specialist, Alex Sharp.

The Police Department has a history of obtaining evidentiary recordings that corroborate facts leading to successful prosecutions that hold offenders accountable. A recent study has shown that officers wearing body worn cameras receive significantly fewer complaints and use of force reports, compared to officers that are not issued cameras. The in-car computers permit officers to instantly receive dispatch calls for service which decreases response time, obtain additional information concerning suspects and vehicles which increases officer safety, and allows them to complete reports while on the street, increasing efficiency. This equipment will support our mission of providing excellent police services and protection through leadership and partnership with our community.

AWARDS CEREMONY

The Northampton Township Police Department recognized a number of our department members for exemplary work last year. Department awards and the Officer of the Year award were presented in our station's meeting room on January 31, 2023.

Distinguished Unit Citation: A Police Honor Guard unit was created in December 2022, members included: Officer Zachary Wyant, Detective T. J. Martin, Officer Marcus Wigler, Officer Robert Wehrmann, Officer Ryan Jumper, Officer Cullen Rota, Officer Collin Leaper and Officer Orenda Geller. Officers trained and drilled so they could perform Honor Guard and Graveside Flag Services. Their impeccable appearance and professionalism during their duties was noteworthy.

Distinguished Unit Citation: Cpl. Dominic Dovidio, Officer Christopher Clifton, and Officer Collin Leaper were dispatched to the Ivyland section of Northampton Township for a reported "suicide attempt". Officers located a 61-year-old intoxicated male holding 12" butcher knife. The subject stated the he was going to hurt himself momentarily. The officers on scene quickly established a rapport with the subject and convinced him to drop the knife. The officers on scene were compassionate and displayed true professionalism. Their teamwork was key to the successful outcome.

Life Saving Award: Officer Collin Leaper, Officer Christopher Clifton, & Sgt. Ryan Share were dispatched to a 60-year-old male in cardiac arrest on Bristol Road in Ivyland. Police arrived and the driver of the truck had pulled his friend out of the truck and began CPR. Officers quickly assessed the situation and took over life saving measures. Officers took over CPR and applied an Automatic External Defibrillator (AED) and two shocks were administered. The Officers on scene continued CPR which allowed the patient to regain a pulse. The patient was transported to Abington Memorial hospital and has made a full recovery.

Commendatory Citation: Officer Collin Leaper initiated a traffic stop on Second Street Pike for traffic violations. A passenger was found crouched on the passenger rear side of the truck. He and the driver were taken into custody for drug related offenses. A search incident to arrest on the passenger found a 9mm pistol magazine with hollow points and an empty pistol holster on his person. During a later search of the truck, a loaded handgun was found in the vehicle. The gun was stolen and the passenger was charged with gun related offenses.

Letter of Commendation: Officer John Hearn conducted a traffic stop on a Honda Accord in the parking lot of a local business for equipment violations. The driver had a suspended driver's license. During Officer Hearn's investigation a loaded Ruger handgun was recovered in the rear pouch in the front seat. Officer Hearn's traffic stop and subsequent investigation resulted in recovering one handgun, small amount of marijuana, one criminal arrest and forfeiture of over \$5,000.00 in cash.

Commendatory Citation: Officer John Hearn conducted a traffic stop on a black Ford Expedition on Buck Road. The vehicle registration was expired/suspended for insurance cancelation. The driver was found to be carrying a loaded handgun in a holster and wearing body armor. The vehicle was impounded and a search warrant was obtained for the vehicle. Officer Hearn's traffic stop and subsequent investigation involved the seizure of four handguns, and ten bags of suspected marijuana. Two suspects were arrested.

Officer John Hearn- Officer of the Year: The Officer of the Year is selected through a voting process within the police department. Any officer receiving the award, exemplifies our core values of honor, integrity, courage, loyalty, duty, respect, and service. Officer Hearn is a seven-year veteran of NTPD and patrols Northampton with his K9 partner Pako. The respected K9 team is dedicated to serving and protecting residents of Northampton Township.

Communications Center and Recognition of Service

Communication Center Clerk, **Joanie Haegele**, recently completed 25 years of service in the Northampton Township Police Department. Ms. Haegele is by far our longest serving Communication Clerk in our history and a longtime resident of Northampton.

The Northampton Township Police building is staffed and open to the public 24/7. Our Communication Center Clerks meet with visitors in our lobby to assist them with services needed. Clerks will handle all phone calls coming into our headquarters on our direct line, (215) 322-6111. This line can be used to leave a message for an officer or to obtain information, but NOT for any police calls for service. Call 911 for crimes or emergencies in progress and (215) 357-8700 for other non-emergency police calls.

DRUG TAKE BACK 2023

A new Milestone was reached in Bucks County this year. 200,000 lbs. of unwanted/expired medication have been collected since this initiative first took place back in 2010.



On April 22, 2023 Northampton Township Police Department participated in the annual Drug Take Back Event. We were able to collect 240 lbs. of medication and almost 100 lbs. of sharps. This was the first year Northampton Township had two collection sites, one at our Police Headquarters and the other in front of the Village Shires Pharmacy. Both sites were a success. Northampton Township Police Department has been a big supporter of the Drug Take Back initiative from the very beginning; providing a safe, convenient, and responsible way of disposing medication.

The Goal of this program is to keep medication out of the wrong hands and out of our water supply. We offer a Drug Drop Box in our lobby 24/7/365 if you ever want to get rid of your medication. Please do not throw them in the trash or flush them down the toilet.

Thanks to all our residents for properly disposing of your medication in a safe way and making the Drug Take Back Program a great success.

WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW

Prevent Vehicle Theft:

PARK in well-lit areas.

STOW away valuables.

LOCK cars and windows.

DO NOT leave keys in car
AND

NEVER leave your vehicle
while it's running.



In the United States,
a vehicle is stolen every



32 SECONDS



PROTECT YOUR VEHICLE FROM THEFT



NHTSA

[NHTSA.gov/theft](https://www.nhtsa.gov/theft)

Sources: NHTSA and NICB



Summer Quest Kids Programs

Free Library of Northampton Township



Magician Ran'D Shine
Monday, July 10 | 6:30 PM



Da Vinci Science Center: Grossology
Tuesday, July 18 | 6:30 PM



Talewise: Science Heroes
Tuesday, July 25 | 6:30 PM



NJ Snake Man
Tuesday, August 1 | 6:30 PM

Storytimes

Summer Stories | All ages welcome
Mondays and Thursdays | July 10 - August 10 | 10:30 AM
Join us for stories and more during the summer at this fun storytime for the whole family!

Story Explorers | All ages welcome
Saturdays | July 15, 29 & August 12 | 10:30 AM
Let's explore a book! We will read the story, followed by a craft and activities that make the story come to life.

July 15 - **Elephant and Piggie**
July 29 - **Saturday**
August 12 - **The Book With No Pictures**



All Together Now!

Programs



Weekly Computer Lab D.I.Y. Challenge | Best for Grades 2+

Mondays | July 10 - August 7 | 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Stop by our Computer Lab anytime between 10 and 12 to challenge yourself with a new coding puzzle. Work together with friends, with our teen volunteers, or on your own. Challenges are designed to take between 15-30 minutes.



Summer Chess Club for Kids | Grades 3+

Mondays | July 10 - August 7 | 2:00 - 4:00 PM
Anyone for chess? Join us each week this summer to make new friends, level up your skills, and play chess and other board games with other older elementary-aged kids.



Kids Art Lab | Grades K-6

Tuesdays | July 11 - August 8 | 10:00 - 11:30 AM
Calling all creative kids! Explore a different art technique or project every week. Each class will feature a short lesson or demonstration followed by lots of time for open creativity so you can practice at your own pace.



LEGO Master Builders | All Ages Welcome

Wednesdays | July 12 - August 9 | 2:00 - 4:00 PM
Can you rise to the LEGO challenge, builders? Build something new each week and work on your master builder skills with different LEGO themes and challenges.



Read to the Dogs | Grades K-5

Thursdays | July 6 - August 3 | 1:00 - 2:00 PM
Drop in and read with our canine friends, the Nor'Wester Therapy Dogs. They love to share a good story!

For more information about Nor'Wester Therapy Dogs, visit them online at <https://norwestertherapydogs.org/>



Morning Movie: Encanto | PG | 99 minutes

Wednesday | July 12 | 10:00 AM

Walt Disney Animation Studios' "Encanto" tells the tale of an extraordinary family, the Madrigals, who live hidden in the mountains of Colombia, in a magical house, in a vibrant town, in a wondrous, charmed place called an Encanto.



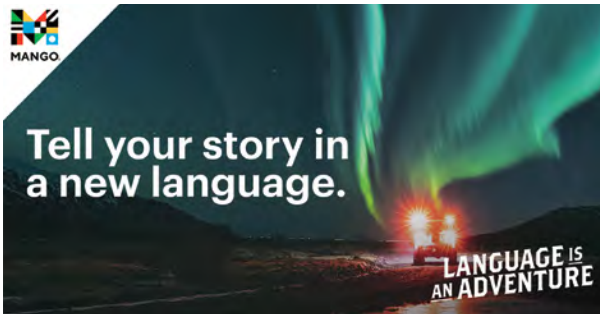
Morning Movie: The SpongeBob Movie: Sponge on the Run | PG | 91 minutes

Wednesday | July 26 | 10:00 AM

After SpongeBob's beloved pet snail Gary is snail-napped, he and Patrick embark on an epic adventure to The Lost City of Atlantic City to bring Gary home.

“BEYOND THE STACKS”

Library Resources You May Not Know About



Shared languages create community. At the Free Library of Northampton Township, it is the library's mission to foster and support this community by providing access to various information resources. "Mango Languages" is one such resource available beyond the stacks to Northampton Township residents via our home page at www.northamptontownshiplibrary.org. Go to E-resources and select 'Research & Learning' from the dropdown menu—then scroll down to Mango Languages. Enter a library card and PIN and one has instant access to language learning by computer or mobile app. In addition, an email address and password will allow students to mark progress through their language lessons.

Mango Languages is a unique online language learning system, and it resembles nothing of the language classes you remember from school. Choose from over 70 languages from French, Spanish, and Tagalog to Tamil, Arabic and all Cyrillic languages. Mango superbly meets the needs of ESL students too.

Each language has four learning sections—Learn, Vocabulary, Explore and Tools. "Learn" consists of lessons with real language applications, and thus, the student is not bogged down in endless grammar. Instead, the language and its structure can be absorbed by the student who learns introductions, relationships, directions, food and the weather. The "Vocabulary" section provides flashcards of pronunciations and definitions, and the "Tools" section links to word translation software. "Explore"

lets students view language specific videos to test overall understanding. The best part of Mango Languages? The student is able to hear accurate pronunciations by native speakers.

Expand your mind and create community. Try Mango Languages--an online resource that is "beyond the stacks" at the Free Library of Northampton Township.



Northampton Township James E. Kinney Senior Center

Be active, meet people, try something new, stay healthy and energized.

Today is the day to see what we offer. Be Here Be Awesome!

The center welcomes those who are 55 or better to join the center. The new membership year runs from July 1 - June 30, 2024, with membership dues at just \$25.00 per year. Seniors can get moving with **Exercise Classes** such as Aerobics, Zumba Gold, Seniorcise, and Balance and Strengthening; **Dance Classes** such as Tap, Jazz It Up and "dance through the decades" with Luv 2 Dance; **Wellness Classes** such as Meditation, Tai Chi and several levels of Yoga; **Seasonal Leagues** Billiards, Bocce, Darts, Golf and Table Shuffleboard. The activities aim to energize body and mind with **Art Classes** such as Stained Glass, Watercolors, Coloring Club and our newest, Doodles and Drawings; **Card, Board and Tile Games** such as Poker, Bridge, Canasta, Mah Jong, Rummikub and Scrabble; **Bus Trips and Workshops**; and our popular Table Tennis and Cornhole activities.

For more information, visit the center at 165 Township Road in Richboro, view the website at www.northamptonsc.com or call the office at 215-357-8199. The center is open Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9:00 AM—3:30 PM, Tuesday and Thursday from 9:00 AM—8:00 PM.

Pollinator "Giving Garden" and a Girl Scout with a Green Thumb



The senior center struck gold when local resident, Taylor Smith, chose our center to be the beneficiary of her beautiful Gold Award Project for the Girl Scouts Eastern Pennsylvania. Taylor proposed a perennial "**Giving Garden**" for the center with flowers and plants for pollinators, and even a bird bath for our feathered friends. Taylor, under the guidance of her Girl Scout Director and help from family and other Scouts, mapped out the design, obtained donations, constructed the garden and created a plan to maintain the future of the "**Giving Garden**."

This vibrant pollinator garden serves an important purpose to the continued existence of bees, butterflies and hummingbirds.

These pollinators are vital to maintain the habitats and ecosystems that many animals rely on for food or shelter. Enjoy the garden, smell the flowers and watch the colorful butterflies. Visit Taylor's **Giving Garden** website at www.thegivinggarden.website to learn how you can create your own oasis.



**Do you Need a Room
for a Party, Event or
Business Meeting?**

The Senior Center can help make your event a success! Our BRIGHT 3,000 sq. foot room can seat up to 200 people. If a smaller space is needed, our retractable partitions configure the room to meet your needs.



The rental space includes chairs and six-foot tables, an on-site rental attendant and a separate entrance for the rental space. For information, please contact the Center Director, Sheila Jobs, at 215-357-8199.

Northampton Township Veterans Advisory Commission

Calling All Northampton Township Veterans:

The Northampton Township Veterans Advisory Commission is attempting to compile a database of veteran alumni residing in the community. We would like to honor your service and recognize your contribution. Please provide us with your name, rank, email, branch of service, and years served so we can contact you for special events and announcements. Please send questions and submissions to Erik Saracino at erik.saracino26@gmail.com.



NORTHAMPTON TOWNSHIP VETERAN'S DAY CEREMONY

**Saturday, November 11, 2023
At 10:00 a.m.**

Memorial and Brick Unveiling

*Located at the
Northampton Township
Administration Building
55 Township Road
Richboro, PA 18954*

RECOGNIZE A VETERAN BY PURCHASING A BRICK IN THEIR HONOR

**ALL ORDERS NEED TO BE SUBMITTED
BY 10/1 OF THE CURRENT YEAR.
OPEN TO ALL RESIDENTS AND EMPLOYEES
OF NORTHAMPTON TOWNSHIP**

Family and friends have an opportunity to honor a special veteran with the purchase of a memorial brick in their honor. The cost is \$100 per brick. The Memorial Walkway is located in front of the Township Administration Building in the Veterans Memorial. The brick will be revealed at the annual Veterans Ceremony. See the Township Website for details as the event draws near.

To purchase a brick you can print the order form and return it to the attention of Lisa Russo, Administration Office along with your check.

[https://www.northamptontownship.com/
media/1798/memorial-brick.pdf](https://www.northamptontownship.com/media/1798/memorial-brick.pdf)

TIPS ON ORDERING YOUR BRICK

- Typical brick engraving includes the name of the veteran, rank, branch of service, years of service or war, and special honors. An example is shown on the order form.
- No personal messages are allowed.
- Contact us if you need assistance with standard abbreviations or completing your form or verify if a veteran has already been honored with a brick at the Memorial at Irusso@nhtwp.org or via phone at 215-357-6800 x201.





Northampton Township Veteran's Memorial Walkway of Honor



OPEN TO ALL RESIDENTS AND TOWNSHIP EMPLOYEES



Purchase a Memorial Paver

4"x8" \$100

Name, Rank, Unit & Era

15 Characters per line

(additional characters may be added to accommodate longer names)

MEMORIAL PAVER ENGRAVING

**All Orders Need to be
submitted by 10/1
of the current year!**

PLEASE INITIAL TO VERIFY YOUR ENGRAVING:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE
TO: NORTHAMPTON TOWNSHIP
V.A.C. 55 Township Road, Richboro, PA.
18954 Email: LRUSSO@NHTWP.ORG

PLEASE CUT ALONG DOTTED LINE

NORTHAMPTON TOWNSHIP NEW PARTNERSHIPS = STRONGER COMMUNITY

Prior to the pandemic, a committee of Northampton Township department leaders was formed to brainstorm the fusion of three separate entities, the Northampton Township Free Library, the James E. Kinney Senior Center and the Northampton Township Parks and Recreation Department. Their collective purpose was to bring new community programming to residents, while achieving the individual goals of each. A Wellness Fair for June, 2020 was planned. As with everything else, the pandemic caused the cancellation of that special day.



Now, in 2023, some of the faces have changed, but the sentiment of that original committee remains. How can parks and recreation, the senior center, and the library work together to provide an abundance of rich, beneficial, and diverse programming together - in addition to the robust activities each department hosts individually? Instead of doing a large, one-time event, the departments have taken a small step toward obtaining their common goal, rather than that giant leap planned in 2020.



The Senior Center Staff has committed to keeping their doors open during weekday evenings to give working seniors access to the amenities that are so popular during the day. (Pool tables, games, Bocce Courts, etc.) In addition, the Parks and Recreation Department will expand their adult programming beyond the walls of the Recreation Center. Additional adult programming, including more adult fitness classes, art and special interest workshops, will be scheduled during the Senior Center's new evening hours. Parks and Recreation is now offering Adult Jazz Exercise (And All That Jazz), Zumba 20-20-20, Beginner Line Dancing, Pound Fitness (cardio drumming exercise) ,adult art classes and adult special interest workshops.



The Northampton Township Free Library is partnering with the Parks and Recreation Department by providing bi-monthly story time and activities to the Preschool Potpourri program during the school year, hosting special events like "Book and Bedtime with Mrs. Claus" and by providing space for some of the department's daytime exercise programs that cannot run at the Rec Center during the summer.

Although they may have different individual goals to be met, the importance of coming together to present cooperative programming and to enrich the lives of Northampton Township residents is clearly a collective goal for all three departments. Stay tuned for more community programming* in the Fall of 2023 and for years to come!



FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT ALL THE PROGRAMS OFFERED, VISIT THE FOLLOWING WEBSITES:

- James E. Kinney Senior Center:<https://www.northamptonsc.com>
 - Northampton Township Free Library:<https://www.northamptontownshiplibrary.org>
 - Northampton Township Parks and Recreation*:<https://www.northamptonrec.com>
- (*includes Community Programming Listings)

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Here's What Your Neighbors Are Saying About Realtor Hazel Smith...



Carol and Rob Weissberg
with their Realtor, Hazel Smith



Hazel is a fabulous Realtor! We highly recommend her. Hazel helped us with all stages of selling our home – and buying our new home, as well.

From coordinating repairs and staging – so that our home stood out from the competition – to guidance with packers and movers, and most importantly, the invaluable “hand-holding” and positive emotional support at every step of the way, we just cannot thank Hazel enough.

Hazel really made the process easy and seamless.

We are so grateful that we chose Hazel Smith as our Realtor.

– Carol and Rob Weissberg





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Extended hours are offered for no additional cost! 7 AM - 6 PM.

Activities include swimming, arts & crafts, nature, adventure, athletics, archery, and much more! Visit our website or call the office to learn more about the 2023 camp season starting on June 26th.



DAY SCHOOL

We are now accepting registration for the 2023-2024 school year!

We offer a complete curriculum for ages 1 through Kindergarten and unique outdoor spaces to promote creative play and exploration. Our teachers have Bachelor, Associate, or CDA degrees in Early Childhood or Elementary Education, and many staff members have been BP employees for decades. Call the office today to schedule a tour with our school director.

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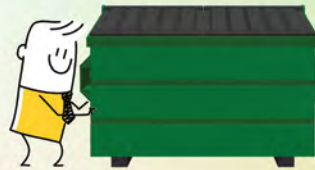


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Danielle Adrienne Thomas, F.D., Supervisor



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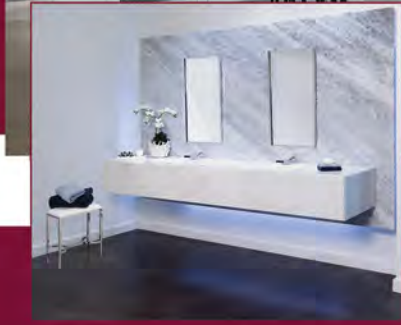
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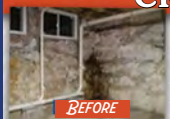
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