

Hopewell Township Environmental Newsletter

A Publication of the Environmental Commission

Drivers Beware - It's Deer Season

Environmental Commission Members

Jerry Lewis - Chair
Jane Hankins - Vice Chair
Beth McClain - Secretary
Ken Strait - Liaison to Land Use Board
Burt Doremus
Marion Carll
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Meetings

The Hopewell Township Environmental Commission meets the second Wednesday of each month @ 7 PM except for November and December when meetings are held the first Wednesday of the month. The meetings are open to the public and all are welcome to attend.

Newsletters are available on the township website and the township Facebook page. Printed copies available in the municipal building.

Additional Resources for this edition : For general information about white-tailed deer in New Jersey, visit <https://dep.nj.gov/njfw/wildlife/white-tailed-deer/>

“Deer are involved in thousands of collisions with motor vehicles in New Jersey each year, with the highest number occurring during the fall mating season,” said NJDEP Fish & Wildlife Assistant Commissioner Dave Golden. “It is very important that motorists in all parts of the state be alert to the possibility of deer suddenly darting onto roadways, and to follow some basic guidelines to stay safe.”

Deer are entering the fall mating season, known as the fall rut, and may suddenly sprint onto roadways as bucks actively pursue does. Rutting activities are most pronounced in the very early morning and around sunset, when visibility can be limited.

Exercising caution becomes even more important when Daylight Saving Time ends Nov. 5, causing commutes to align with periods when deer are most active and lighting conditions can be most difficult for motorists. For motorists, low levels of light and sun glare can make it very difficult to see deer that are about to cross the road.

The following tips can help motorists stay safe during deer mating season:

If you see a deer, slow down and pay attention to possible sudden movement. If the deer is in the road and doesn't move, don't go around it. Wait for the deer to pass and the road is clear.

Pay attention to “Deer Crossing” signs. Slow down when traveling through areas known to have a high concentration of deer so you will have ample time to stop if necessary.

If you are traveling after dark, use high beams when there is no oncoming traffic or vehicles ahead. High beams will be reflected by the eyes of deer on or near roads.

If you see one deer crossing, be on guard: others may be in the area. Deer typically move in family groups at this time of year and cross roads single-file.

Don't tailgate. Remember: the driver in front of you might have to stop suddenly to avoid hitting a deer.

Always wear a seatbelt, as required by law. Drive at a safe and sensible speed, accounting for weather, available lighting, traffic, curves and other road conditions.

If a collision appears inevitable, do not swerve to avoid impact. The deer may counter-manuever suddenly. Brake appropriately but stay in your lane. Collisions are more likely to become fatal when a driver swerves to avoid a deer and instead collides with oncoming traffic or a fixed structure along the road.

Do not use handheld devices while driving.

Report any deer-vehicle collision to a local law enforcement agency immediately.

Hopewell Township Update

The township has received a public facilities grant for ADA (American Disabilities Act) compliance which will be used to reconfigure the entrance and ramps at the township's convenience center on Trench Road. The hope is to help disabled persons as well as alleviate the amount of traffic on the road. More news will be forthcoming.

Did You Know?

Farmland Preservation -

Governor Murphy and Assistant Secretary of Agriculture Joe Atchison announced that New Jersey has reached the milestone of preserving 250,00 acres of farmland using the State's Farmland Preservation Program. With this milestone, over 1/3 of all NJ's farmland has been preserved under the program, and the State is approximately halfway to its goal of permanently preserving at least 500,000 acres of farmland.

21 Species Delisted from the Endangered Species Act due to their Extinction -

US Fish and Wildlife Service reports that they determined that 21 species are now extinct and should be removed from the list of species protected under the Endangered Species Act. These species include both plants and animals. For more information check www.fws.gov.

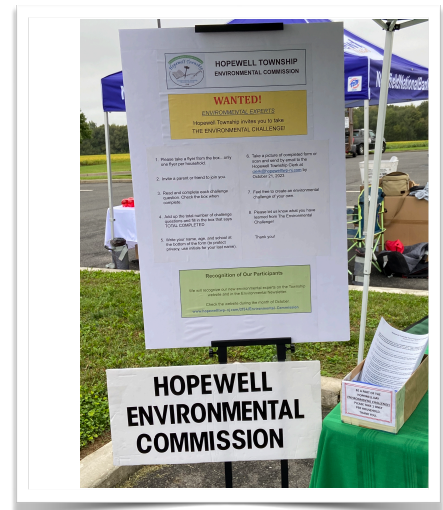
American Climate Corps -

In September 2023, President Biden launched the American Climate Corps (ACC), a new program that will train tens of thousands of young people for high-demand careers in climate and clean energy. The ACC will train and employ 20,000 people in climate and clean energy jobs. The ACC will prioritize equity and environmental justice. ACC will employ an all government approach partnering with AmeriCorps and at least 5 other federal agencies. Employees will have a full living wage and benefits; there will be accessibility to disadvantaged communities and populations; include availability in all age groups; and support unions. If interested read the full article in [Evergreen Action - www.evergreenaction.com](http://www.evergreenaction.com).

Clean Communities Program -



Cumberland County and Hopewell Township participate in the New Jersey Clean Communities, a statewide, comprehensive, litter-abatement program created by the passage of the Clean Communities Act in 1986. The Act provides a funding source for the program by placing a tax on 15 categories of businesses that may produce litter-generating products. The New Jersey Clean Communities Council (NJCCC) oversees the implementation of litter abatement programs in 558 municipalities and all 21 counties. The NJCCC implements a statewide program of public information and education and targets schools, and the general public. The Authority through the Cumberland County Clean Communities Program works to keep 540 miles of county roads and bridges litter-free. There is focus on innovative ways to engage volunteers who are willing to initiate or join in cleanup events.



The Hopewell Township Environmental Commission thanks you for stopping by our booth on Hopewell Day and chatting with us about what we do.

Your questions about the Pollinator Garden and its progress were important to understanding some of the activities and things the community can do to improve the environment.

Those of you who chose to participate in the [Hopewell Challenge](#), be sure to let us know what you think about the activity and what might be done for a future challenge.