



Sandyston Township Sentinel

2023 FALL NEWSLETTER

Sandyston Township Volunteer Fire Department Celebrates 70th Anniversary



Congratulations to the Sandyston Township Volunteer Fire Department on their 70th Anniversary.

Today, our beautiful new fire house is brimming with both pride and appreciation for the dedication of our loyal members and volunteers, past and present, and the support of the community.

How did our fire department begin?

"On June 22, 1953, the Sandyston Methodist Church was having a Father/Son Dinner. During the evening a group gathered outside the church and casual mention was made as to the dilapidated condition of 'the old church across the road'."

Due to lack of funds, the Hainesville Methodist Church was unable to keep up with the increased maintenance of the former church building. Many meetings were held within the next month and at a public meeting held July 27, 1953, at the Grange Hall in Layton, it was unanimously decided to organize and incorporate a fire department and community center. Calvin Agar, Frank B. Ayers and Harry C. Harper were designated as Trustees for the purpose of Incorporation. An Organizational Meeting was held at the Grange Hall in Layton on October 1, 1953 and Agar, Harper and Ayers were re-elected as trustees. Officers elected were Lawrence C. Ellet, President, Abe Aber, Vice-President, George Barnard, Secretary, Benjamin Jager, Treasurer, Edward Spears, Chief, Edward Hull, Jr., Assistant Chief, and Rev. Harold Green was appointed as the department's Chaplain. The first meeting was held on December 10, 1953 in the reconstructed church basement. A special 24 hour celebration was held to commemorate the dedication and formal opening of the building on Saturday, July 3, 1954. This building served as a fire house and community center for 50 years until the Sandyston Township Municipal Building and Fire Department Complex was built across the street and dedicated on September 25, 2004. The former fire department was then sold to the St. Thomas the Apostle Church to be used as an education center."



(Source: Patte Haggerty Frato, Sandyston Twp. Historian)

On August 8, 2023, the fire department dedicated a beautiful new plaque which was installed by their entrance commemorating the history of the department which was purchased by the historical society with funds received in memory of Louis Frato.

Thank you to the volunteers of the department, both past and present, for all you have done for our community.

Updates and Information

WANTED

A vacancy exists on the Planning Board and we seek interested residents to fill this position.

Meetings are held the first Monday of each month, may involve additional sub-committee meetings, you must file a financial disclosure statement and you will be required to take a class on Land Use Regulations which will be paid for by the Township.

If you are interested, please send a letter of interest addressed to Amanda Lobban, Municipal Clerk, 133 Route 645, Sandyston, NJ 07826 or drop off your letter in person between the hours of 9 am to 2 pm.

Deadline to submit your letter is Friday, December 15, 2023.

Tell us about yourself, your work experience, hobbies and interests and why you would be perfect for the position!

DEER CARCAS REMOVAL



During the fall and winter, we experience higher incidents of deer being hit or injured by automobiles. If you live on a Township, County or State Road and notice a deer that has suffered the effects of an automobile accident, please call

and report this to the municipal building as soon as possible. We will do our best to expedite the removal of the deer by contacting the appropriate agency. Please be advised, it can take up to 24 hours once we make the call and there is no removal on the weekends..

Please also be advised, should a dead deer be found on your property it is your responsibility to have this deer removed. The service for deer removal does not extend to residential property.

You may report this information by calling 973-948-3520 extension 200 or 201. Should you leave a message, please be sure to leave information on the location of the deer (road name, nearest intersection, mile marker, nearest residence or landmark) to help in the removal of the deer.

Municipal Landscaping Refresh



After 20 years, many of the trees and shrubs around the municipal building had become overgrown, discolored and unmanageable. While the trees and shrubs were beautiful when first planted, through the years we found the trees could not remain so close to the building and the shrubs could not be trimmed back any as parts of them had started crowd each other and began to die. They had started to outgrow the space they were in and it was time for a refresh.

In October, the Township Committee requested proposals from local landscape architects for the removal of the trees and shrubs, installation of new, low maintenance shrubs, and fresh mulch. David H. Wright Landscape Architect of Branchville spent about a week working on the project.

The outcome is beautiful! Stop by and take a look!

Important Things To Remember

VETERANS

★ Breakfast ★



Delaware Valley United Methodist Church invites Veterans and family to a **free** breakfast in appreciation of your service to our country.

WHEN: Sunday November 12, 2023, at 10:00 am

WHERE: Sandyston Township Municipal Building, 133 County Road 645, Sandyston, NJ 07826

RSVP: Please call 973-948-3193 and leave your name, phone number and how many will join us.

We look forward to serving those who have served in the United States Military



SANDYSTON TOWNSHIP "SHRED EVENT"



Saturday, November 18, 2023 9 am—12 pm

**Sandyston Township DPW Garage
1 Maple Lane, Sandyston, NJ**

Important Info:



Sandyston Township has contracted with SK Paper Shred who will have their mobile shredding truck onsite for this event



Sandyston Residents Only— No Charge - up to four banker box size containers per household



What to shred? Any document that contains confidential information. This is a great way clean out clutter, recycle unwanted paper and protect yourself from identity theft!

Paid for by Sandyston Township Clean Communities Grant

Keeping Roads Safe for Travel



With the possibility of snow and ice in the forecast, this is just a friendly reminder to please be courteous when plowing and/or maintaining your driveway.

As per the Sandyston Township Ordinance "no owner, tenant or occupant of any premises abutting on any street, nor any other persons, shall throw, place or deposit snow or ice into or upon any street, it being the intent and purpose of this provision to prohibit all persons from throwing, casting, placing or depositing snow and ice which accumulates on private property upon the streets of the township."

Please remember to keep vehicles out of the roadway so snowplows can get through safely. We know everyone is busy after a storm trying to get things done, but please take an extra second and clean up the roadway so it is safe for everyone and doesn't create a dangerous situation. Thank you for your help in keeping the roads safe for travel.

Sandyston Township Tire Day

Sat., November 18, 2023

9:00 am to 1:00 pm

at the Sandyston Township DPW Garage located on Maple Lane



There is no fee to drop off your tires at the garage; however, you must be a township resident and only four tires per household will be permitted.

Rims must be off of the tires and large truck/tractor tires must be cut in half. If you have any questions, please call 973-948-3520, extension 200 or 201.

Sponsored by Clean Communities Program

Sandyston Recreation League
presents the 10TH ANNUAL

Gobble Hobble 5K



All Proceeds
Benefit
Sandyston
Recreation

RUN. WALK. HOBBLE.

Sandyston Recreation 2023

THANKSGIVING MORNING—11/23

8:30 AM—Kids Fun Run (10 & under)

9:00 AM—OFFICIAL 5K Start

SANDYSTON MUNICIPAL BUILDING
133 Route 645
Sandyston, New Jersey 07826



Scan for
all the info
~

Enjoy an out and back course with rolling hills.
Runners and walkers welcome. **Please no pets.**

REGISTER!!!!

Scan the QR Code above, visit either the
SANDYSTON RECREATION or GOBBLE HOBBLE
Facebook pages for details!

Little Turkeys Fun Run



A SMALLER PART OF THE GOBBLE HOBBLE 5K

Sandyston Recreation 2023

THANKSGIVING MORNING—11/23
8:30 AM—Kids Fun Run (Age 10 & under)

A tiny, pre-race warm-up for the kids along the beautiful
walking path behind Sandyston Municipal Building

SANDYSTON MUNICIPAL BUILDING
133 Route 645
Sandyston, New Jersey 07826



Scan for
all the info
~

REGISTER!!!!

Scan the QR Code above, visit either the
SANDYSTON RECREATION or **GOBBLE HOBBLE**
Facebook pages for details!

Sandyston Recreation

"Deck the Homes" Holiday Decorating Contest

SPONSORED BY SANDYSTON REC

Check the Sandyston Township Website-
Recreation tab as well as the Rec Facebook
page for more details as December
approaches.

Check Us Out On Facebook

Did you know Sandyston Township, Sandyston Township Volunteer Fire Department and Sandyston Township Recreation all have Facebook pages?

Be sure to like each page to keep up on news, information and fundraisers for our these organizations and surrounding municipalities. We work hard to keep you informed about:

- *Weather related emergencies
- *Volunteering
- *Fundraisers, Events and meetings
- *Chicken BBQ
- *Tractor Parade
- *Community Dinners
- *Soccer Sign-Ups
- *Trunk or Treat
- *Santa Breakfast
- *Sandyston Day
- *Gobble Hobble 5K
- *Used Book Sale
- *Yoga
- *Fishing Club
- *Santa Parade

Be sure to visit our website, too!
www.sandystontownship.com





Sandyston Recreation



Sandyston Recreation Department

BOOK DONATIONS



We will be accepting book donations at upcoming Recreation Dept. meetings. Keep an eye out on Facebook for dates and times or email sandystonrec@gmail.com to set up an appointment to meet a Recreation volunteer and deliver your donation of books.

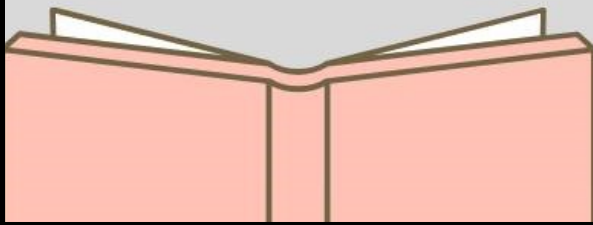
Start sorting through your book collection and gather up gently used books for our upcoming sale tentatively scheduled for January 12—14, 2024!

****Please ONLY** donate books during designated times. This is when the members of the Recreation Dept. are on site. Leaving them in front of the Municipal Building is not allowed.

Currently accepting gently used donations of:

Adult Fiction/ Non-Fiction, Adult + Children's Special Interest Books, Children's Books + Puzzles

We will **NOT** be accepting Cookbooks, Health/Fitness, Reference/Text Books/Encyclopedias or any damaged, dirty, moldy and super old books.



Book Sale Volunteers Needed

Sandyston Township Recreation is always in need of volunteers. The Book Sale fundraiser is so appreciated by the public and we need volunteers for ease and success of the event.

How can you help?

Setting up tables and the room for the sale, organizing the books by genre, helping during the sale, tentatively scheduled for January 12, 13 and 14, 2024, boxing up books after the sale and putting them in the basement.

Are you able to help? Please contact sandystonrec@gmail.com. Many hands make light work!



Note from the new SWS principal:

Dear Sandyston Community:

I am thrilled to join your community as Sandyston-Walpack School's new Principal and Supervisor of Special Services. The school year is going great; meeting so many families and residents around the community has been a pleasure.

As a sixteen-year educator and parent of three grown children, I share with our community the desire to see our students grow, succeed, and enjoy learning. It is a gift as an educator to join a community like SWS, where there is a rich tradition of positively impacting young lives and setting them on a path to becoming lifelong learners. My goal here at SWS is to build on all the strengths already in place and develop a learning community grounded in trust and collaboration. As a neighboring resident just one town over, I am an invested and dedicated citizen of our school community, which makes this principalship all the more special for me and my family.



I join the SWS team after four years of middle school administration. Before this work, I taught fifth-grade Language Arts/Social Studies for nine years and completed three years of assignments in grades kindergarten, three, and four. My special education certification allowed me to teach at a K-5 summer extended school year program for many years. My heart is so full returning to our elementary setting!

Some of our important initiatives at SWS this year include:

- We have departmentalized our third and fourth grades. Departmentalization means our students have one teacher for math/science and another teacher for English/Social Studies. This structure provides our upper grades 3-6 students with highly specialized and trained teachers in vital content areas.
- This year's building goal is to strengthen our inclusive education practices and ensure we are meeting all students' diverse needs and abilities in the classroom. We are focusing on impactful co-teaching techniques, academic intervention, small group teaching strategies, and analyzing classroom and state testing data to reflect and improve our teaching strategies.
- Check out some of our social-emotional initiatives this year below, such as Caught Being Kind, SWS Shout Out, and PositiviTEE Day!

My door is always open for all community members, so please stop by to say hello or reach out anytime.

Sincerely, *Brooke Phillips*



Schoolwide Student Recognition Program

The goal of the **Caught Being Kind** program is to foster a positive, helpful culture in the school. A safe and comfortable environment is crucial for students to learn and grow. It's important that we recognize and praise kindness in our students in any way, shape, or form.

Staff can nominate a student for this program for a variety of reasons...if they clean up, share with a classmate, make someone feel good, help out, pick up trash, hold a door, say thank you... anything and everything to praise kindness in action.

Nominees will be announced on morning announcements, and their Polaroid picture goes on the hallway bulletin board for the month; an email will also be sent home sharing the news. At the end of each month, several winners will be drawn via lottery to win a thank you gift from the PTO!

PositiviTEE Days at SWS



The last Friday of every month will be "PostiviTEE Day," and everyone can wear a shirt with any positive message or image on it. We hope that students will enjoy seeing and reading each other's shirts that day, and it naturally just gives the school an extra positive vibe for the day.



Schoolwide Staff and Student Recognition Program

It's important that we recognize when our school community does something good - this is why we have the SWS SHOUT OUT program.

Nominations for staff or students can be made by faculty to SHOUT OUT someone for going above and beyond, reaching a goal, helping out, giving a best effort, persevering, etc. A SHOUT OUT can be for something in or out of school. SHOUT OUTS are a great way to spread good news in the community!



When someone gets a SHOUT OUT their name and nomination goes on the principal bulletin board, and students get to call home with the principal to share the news. Nominees also get a SHOUT OUT sticker to wear all day, their accomplishment gets displayed on our SWS Shout Out bulletin board, and it's announced in the morning announcements.



Check out our website:

www.sandystonwalpack.org

Here you can find:

- Minutes from Meetings
 - Staff Listing
 - Newsletters
- Calendar of Events
 - Parent Pages

Sandyston-Walpack Education Foundation Empowering Education and Enriching Communities



Vision: We aim to foster a thriving school-community partnership where the exchange of knowledge, resources, and support is mutual and enriching. Through innovative collaboration and strategic initiatives, we aim to supplement the learning experiences in our schools and enhance the overall well-being of everyone in our Sandyston-Walpack community.

Mission: The foundation is a community-based 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that raises funds for capital projects, special events, academic enhancement, and extracurricular activities that benefit our school and our community at large.

Some of the goals for SWEF this year include

- After-school enrichment activities for students in cooperation with community citizens
- Spring talent show and mini-grants or technology pilots for classrooms
- Down the road...improve and beautify the baseball field and snack shack

Partners In Our Community - Have you seen our new pickleball courts now available for playtime at Sandyston-Walpack School? These two new courts, made available through a generous donation to **SWEF**, will provide our K-6 students with an outdoor playing space to learn and practice this lifetime sport. In addition, Sandyston Township residents may use the courts during non-school hours. Courts are available for courteous, first come, first serve play during the school year, Monday-Friday after 3:15 p.m., and weekends until dusk.



Seeking Volunteers - We welcome community members to join us for this important initiative. If you are interested in joining the SWEF to give some time to help us grow the foundation, please email Principal Phillips at bphillips@sandystonwalpack.org.

Animal Control Information

FREE RABIES CLINICS



The Sussex County website has a list of upcoming free rabies clinics. This list can be found by using the following link:

www.sussex.nj.us/cn/news/?NID=55353

Please remember, these dates are subject to change and you should verify them before attending, as well as question if you are required to bring any paperwork about your pet with you. This could be the difference between a one-year or three-year vaccination. Remember to have your dog on a leash and your cat in a carrier!

Lost/Found Pet Checklist



We have all been there, you open the door and your pet is gone in a matter of seconds. In the panic, you can't think of who to call to get help. In situations like this, be sure to contact the following for help:

- ⇒ Call Animal Control: 973-670-3299.
- ⇒ Call the municipal building: 973-948-3520 x200/201
- ⇒ Call the New Jersey State Police 973-383-1514 (this is their non-emergency line)
- Is your property near a State or Federal Park?
- ⇒ Stokes State Forest Office 973-948-3820
- ⇒ Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area Dispatch 570-426-2457
- ⇒ Call Kountry Kennels 973-948-0624 -Dog Pound Facility
- ⇒ Call your neighbors

Give each agency a good description of your pet (name, type, color, collar/no collar, license number, microchipped, etc.) and a picture if they ask for one.

What's next?

- ⇒ Drive around and look for your pet
- ⇒ Do you have social media? Post on your page.
- ⇒ Make flyers and post in local businesses and neighboring towns
- ⇒ List your pet on local lost and found websites

Once you find your pet, be sure to contact everyone and let them know so information can be updated.

Dog License Renewals!



Please remember dogs must be licensed at six months old. If you currently have a dog or recently moved to Sandyston and you did not obtain a license—please call the Municipal Clerk.

You may obtain a dog license application at the municipal building or on the Township website:

www.sandystontownship.com

Remember to provide spay/neuter information & valid rabies certificate with an expiration date of at least November 1, 2024 (per State of New Jersey). Dog licenses fees \$13 unaltered/\$10 altered.

Dog licenses expire in December of each year. Be on the look out for the renewal letter and send your information in as soon as possible to avoid late fees and Court costs.

Keep Them Close

If you find a lost dog in your travels, please report this to the local authorities where the dog was found immediately.

If you are willing to stop and help the dog, then you must be willing to keep them close where they are found. Removing this dog from the area you found it causes confusion and makes it harder for the owner to get their dog back.

Your first call should always be to the New Jersey State Police non-emergency phone (973-383-1514). They will contact Animal Control and advise you where to take the dog. This allows the proper authorities to be notified and a quicker return of the dog to the owner.

Fire Department News

Volunteers Always Needed

Firefighters

If you are at least 18 years of age and have a desire to serve your community why not join us? *Junior Members are welcome 14-17 years old.*

- Free Training
- Sense of Accomplishment
- Give Back to Your Community

Auxiliary Members

Kids grown? Have some time to spare? Just need to get out of the house? Help is needed for fire department fundraisers. A great way to give back to your community, meet new people !

Interested? Chief House 973-960-4882

Tractor Parade Success! A Great Day for Sandyston

*Thank
You*

We had a great Tractor Parade. Over 130 tractors participated in the event. The roads were lined with visitors and parties along the route and the

fire department had a great turnout of support for the fundraiser. Thank you for your donations to our tricky tray, purchasing t-shirts and supporting our fundraiser. Thank you to all our sponsors who we proudly displayed on the hay wagons. It was a beautiful day and a great celebration for our volunteers and our farmers who we appreciate a great deal!

Save the date for our 2024 STVFD Tractor Parade—Saturday, August 24, 2024.

Please consider making a tray for our tricky tray—drop off is always the Friday before the event.

STVFD: Supporter Shirts For Sale \$20.00 each



Sandyston Township Volunteer Fire Department is having an awesome fundraiser—“Supporter” T-Shirts!

The t-shirts are navy blue with the fire department emblem on the front left and the American Flag on the back in white with a red line offering the word “Supporter” on the back.

You can proudly show your support by purchasing a t-shirt for \$20 each! Shirts are available at the municipal building between 9 am and 2 pm and at upcoming fundraisers by the department.





Fire Department News

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Sussex County Firemen's Association Inspection Day and Parade



On Saturday, October 7, 2023, our beloved fire department participated with other fire departments in the County, and out of county, in the Sussex County Firemen's Association Inspection Day & Parade. This year, the parade was held in the Borough of Hopatcong, hosted by the Hopatcong Fire Department in celebration of their 100th Anniversary! Our volunteers came home with trophies for 1st Place Best Appearing Small Company (marching) and 2nd Place Best Appearing Rescue for Engine #3.

Congratulations to the volunteers of their department on their hard work and well-deserved awards.

Fire Prevention at Sandyston-Walpack School



Each year the Sandyston Township Volunteer Fire Department visits the Sandyston-Walpack School and does a presentation for the students for Fire Prevention Week. This great outreach assembly is designed to bring

the firefighters and fire personnel into the school and talk with the students about fire safety, fire precautions, and give them a hands-on appreciation of the trucks, tools and equipment that the firefighters use to serve the community. This program also allows children to interact with the fire department members and ask questions. This year's message is ***"Cooking safety starts with YOU! Pay attention to Fire Prevention"*** **Please take the time to check the date on all your smoke detectors!**

Be Sure to Clean Your Chimney on a Regular Schedule

WHY RISK A CHIMNEY FIRE?



It is extremely important to have your chimney cleaned. How often depends on how regularly you use your fireplace or woodstove.

Why should you clean your chimney?

It is important to remove debris/sticky deposits deposited along the chimney walls. The sticky deposits are called creosote. Creosote deposited over a long period becomes highly flammable and it's often the cause of chimney fires. Creosote removal is vital to your safety.

It's important. **VERY IMPORTANT!**

When was the last time your chimney was cleaned? Protect your home, yourself and/or your family by getting your chimney properly cleaned.

ALWAYS REMEMBER to properly dispose of ashes in a safe location/receptacle **AWAY** from your home.

Welcome New Emergency Management Coordinator



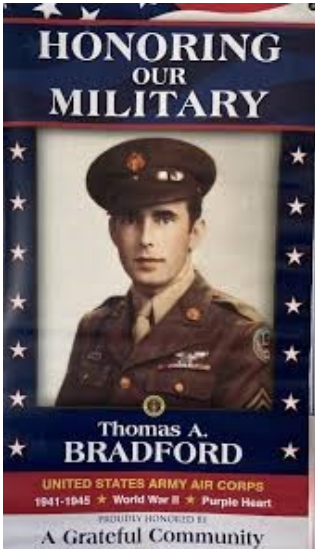
After two years serving as the Emergency Management Coordinator, Shane Houghtaling has stepped down to Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator and the Township Committee unanimously appointed Kevin Pumphrey as the new EMC.

Kevin is a member and former Assistant Chief of the Sandyston Township Volunteer Fire Department and lives in Montague with his wife, Betty.

Kevin will be responsible for working with municipal, County and State officials during all types of emergencies, filing the necessary paperwork for FEMA related reimbursements for the Township and fire department, as well as maintaining Emergency Operation Plans, Hazardous Mitigation Plans, NIMS Officer, RTK Officer, Delaware Flood Mitigation Officer, E911 Coordinator & Hazard Mitigation Plans and Radio Officer.

Hometown Hero Program

Sandyston Hometown Hero Program



The Sandyston Hometown Hero Program was created for paying tribute and honoring soldiers who are originally from Sandyston or who currently reside from Sandyston and who are active military personnel or veterans that have served this nation in any branch of our Armed Forces.

A 24" x 38" banner can be purchased to be displayed on various lamp posts and light posts in Sandyston Township. The Hometown Hero Banners will be displayed from with a photo of the soldier in uniform, their name, and armed service branch placed underneath their photo.

The Hometown Hero Banners can remind all Sandyston residents and visitors passing through Sandyston of our hometown heroes that have served or are serving our country, and the sacrifices each have made, who deserve our respect and gratitude.

Cash, Check or Money Order can be made payable to "Sandyston Township Historical Society" in the amount of \$200. Please reference on the memo line of your check or money order "Hometown Hero Program". Application and payment can be dropped at municipal building or mailed to the address below. Do not mail cash.

What you will need to submit:

- ⇒ All applications must be submitted **by December 31, 2023** to have flags ready by May 2024. Applications received after this date will still be honored but may not be hanging in May 2024.
- ⇒ You may drop off or send application by mail to the following address:
Sandyston Township Historical Society
133 Route 645
Sandyston, NJ 07826
- ⇒ 8"x11" or 5"x7" high quality photo (resolution 200 dpi) of the Service Person in uniform.
(Photo will not be returned. Please do not send original photo)
- ⇒ Military Verification Form (e.g. Military ID, Dd214. etc.)
- ⇒ \$200.00 Cash, check or money order made payable to:
"Sandyston Township Historical Society or STHS"
- ⇒ Please reference "Home Town Hero" on memo line of check.

You can verify military records online by visiting: The Department of Defense website:

<http://www.defense.gov/> <http://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records/>

For additional information or questions, please contact Gail Just 907-355-4063

Eras of Service:

- GWOT- Sept 11, 2001 to present (List this even if veteran hasn't been to Iraq or Afghanistan)
- Persian Gulf- August 2, 1990- August 31, 1991
- Cold War- September 2, 1945 -26 December 1991
- Vietnam Era- Feb 29, 1961- May 7, 1975
- Korean Conflict Era- June 27, 1950- Jan 31, 1955
- WW II- December 7, 1941 – December 31, 1946
- WW I – April 6, 1917 – November 11, 1918

Download Sandyston Hometown Hero Application from the Sandyston Township Website:
www.sandystontownship.com



14th Annual *Sandyston Has Heart*

The Sandyston Township Historical Society is honored to present "Sandyston Has Heart"

During the holiday season we are asked for donations to help families or organizations in need. Many times we have thought "Wouldn't be nice to make a donation for someone in our own town?"

In cooperation with the Sandyston-Walpack Consolidated School and the Sandyston Township Committee, the Sandyston Township Historical Society will sponsor "Sandyston Has Heart". This program will run November 1—December 22, 2023. You are welcome to make a cash/check donation (made payable to STHS) or a donation of a gift card (Shop-Rite, Weiss, Walmart, K-Mart) in any denomination. Please bring your donation to the Sandyston Township Municipal Building between 9 am and 2 pm, Monday through Friday. When you make the donation, a paper heart with your family or business name will be created and this heart will hang in the lobby of the municipal building. All donations must be received by Friday, December 22, 2023. These donations will then be turned over to the nurse at the Sandyston-Walpack School for distribution to families in need in Sandyston Township. We will also use donations toward the St. Thomas the Apostle Church Food Pantry.



Sandyston Has Heart Challenge!



Through your donations, this program has been a huge success helping struggling families in Sandyston Township during the holiday season.

This year, Stevie, Eric & Rory Collins have agreed to match all donations up to \$3,500..... AND when we reach that goal they will donate \$2,000 to the Sandyston Township Volunteer Fire Department, too!

Once again, each donation will also be given a "thank you" heart donated by Patte Haggerty Frato & Lou's Glass & Custom Truck Accessories.

If you wish to donate, please bring all donations to the Sandyston Township Municipal Building (for bookkeeping purposes) by Friday, December 22, 2023. Questions, call Amy 973-948-3520 x200. Thank you to Stevie, Eric & Rory Collins & Patte Frato/Lou's Glass for their continued generosity and support of the program. Thank YOU for your donation and help making the holidays a little brighter and showing Sandyston truly does have heart!





Important Tax Office Reminders



ANCHOR Deadline Approaching



ANCHOR (formerly Homestead Rebate) benefit filing season is under way.

If you received an **"ANCHOR Benefit Confirmation Letter"** and did not make any updates

to your application by **September 30, 2023**, no further changes can be made to your application at this time.

Payments have started being made both electronically and through the mail. Most applicants can expect to receive their payment approximately 90 days after filing the application, unless the State of NJ requests additional information to process your benefit.

Filing Deadline

There is still plenty of time to file. You have until **Friday, December 29, 2023**, to file an application.

How to Apply

Taxpayers who received a green or purple filing packet should follow the instructions in the packet to apply for their benefit. If you meet the qualifications for the benefit based on 2020 residency, income, and age eligibility - **but you did not receive a packet from the State of NJ**- you may still apply for the program.

Homeowners. Most homeowners may file online or by phone with an identification number (ID) and PIN. However, if you bought your home in 2020, altered your deed, or had certain life changes such as a divorce or death of a spouse, you must file an application by mail.

Renters. Renters may file using the online option. They **do not** need an ID and PIN

Questions: Call the Helpline 1-877-658-2972

Scam Alert

*Scammers often send you texts or emails to steal your identity. The State of NJ **will never initiate** a text exchange to request personally identifiable information regarding your ANCHOR benefit. Contact them directly before providing personal information in response to communications you receive claiming to be related to the ANCHOR program. Visit their Scams page for more information.*

Property Tax Reimbursement (Senior Freeze or "Blue Book")

Important Reminder

The Senior Freeze Program reimburses eligible senior citizens and disabled persons for property tax on their principal residence. To qualify, you must meet all the eligibility requirements for each year from the base year through the application year (the next application year will be 2023).

If you have already filed the PTR-1 Application, the State of NJ will mail the PTR-2 application to you in March or April to the to the last filed address. It is important that you keep track of this booklet and file each year **so you do not lose your base year amount.** If you do not receive a PTR-2 booklet, contact the Senior Freeze Property Tax Reimbursement Information Line for assistance at 1-800-882-6597. It is very important that you file every year. Do not wait until the last minute!

Qualifications for the Senior Freeze have changed. Be sure to contact the Tax Collector in the Spring to seek information on this program if you are 67 years old or older!

Sandyston Township Offers Many Ways to Timely Pay Taxes

There are many ways to pay your property taxes due to Sandyston Township:

- ◆ US Mail (remember to mail plenty of time before due date and follow up to be sure the taxes were received on time to avoid late fee—postmarks are not accepted per NJ Statute.)
- ◆ Drop off at municipal building either in person or by using drop box (green—secured to building) to the left of the front door.
- ◆ You may make payments online by accessing the township website: www.sandystontownship.com/departments/tax. (On Tax Collector Page)



There is a 2.965% fee if your payment is made using a credit or debit card and a flat fee of \$1.50 for payments made using an e-check.

Important Tax Office Reminders

UNDERSTANDING ADDED AND OMITTED TAX BILLS



It is only logical that an improvement to your home will result in an increased selling price of your home and therefore, your property tax assessment will increase.

This will take the form of an added assessment tax bill which you will receive in the mail on or about October 25th after the improvement is substantially completed for its intended use. This bill shall be payable on November 1st, February 1st and May 1st and then the added assessment amount will be included in your annual tax bill received in June for the new tax year. Therefore, just as you planned ahead for this improvement, you should also plan ahead and set aside funds for the added assessment tax bill.

Difference between an "Added Assessment" and an "Omitted Added" Assessment:

The added assessment is the amount of the difference between the property assessment before the improvement and the value of the entire property after the improvement. It does not reflect the cost of the amenity itself or the cost of the project. If you did not receive an added assessment tax bill for work completed in the previous year, you will receive an "Omitted Added" assessment bill in addition to an "added assessment" bill the year following the improvement.

"A structure is considered 'completed' when it is ready for the purpose for which it was intended. This does not mean that the structure actually must be in use; it does not have to have a certificate of occupancy; it is taxable when it is ready for use."

- This added bill is to be paid in addition to the original tax bills that were mailed out at the end of August.
- Added bills are due in three installments (like regular tax bills), on November 1st, then February 1st and May 1st of the succeeding year.
- The first added tax payment is due November 1. The last day to pay without penalty is November 10.
- If there is a mortgage, they will also receive a copy of this added/omitted tax bill. You will then receive an advice copy of the added/omitted tax bill.

Important: If you have a mortgage company escrowing for taxes, they may or may not pay this bill for you, depending upon your particular agreement with that company. Some mortgage companies will NOT pay added assessment bills, simply because they have not escrowed enough tax money from you to pay it. You are advised to call your mortgage company to determine which of you should pay the three installments shown on the bill. The Tax Collector's office does not know which party will be responsible for this payment. A bill is mailed to both the homeowner and the mortgage company, so that both parties are aware of the amounts due.

Please note: Not scheduling a final inspection for your building permit does not delay the added assessment tax bill.

For information on the added/omitted **assessment**, please contact the Tax Assessor, Kathleen DeKorte, 973-948-3520 x203.

For information on the added/omitted **tax bill**, please contact the Tax Collector, Theresa Doyle, 973-948-3520 x202.

If you disagree with the Added or Omitted Assessment that is placed on your property, you can appeal it to the Sussex County Board of Taxation prior to December 1. An appeal form can be requested from the Sussex County Board of Taxation or found on their website.



Construction Department News



Do I Need A Permit??

Contact the Construction Official

Zoning Approval and Construction Permits are required for certain types of installations, remodeling, renovations and repairs around your home. If you are unsure if you need zoning approval or a construction permit, please contact the Construction Department and speak to the Construction Official, Robert Huber, who will provide you with the information and forms necessary. Zoning Permits are required when you change the footprint of the existing property (decks, additions, sheds, pools, etc.).

Construction permits are required for tank installations and removals (propane or oil), deck installation and repairs, additions, remodeling/alteration of rooms, electrical and plumbing work, wood stoves, pellet stoves, gas appliances, sheds, pole barns, air conditioning and generator installation, furnace replacement, water heater replacement, pools (all kinds), hot tubs and more. To be sure a permit is/is not needed please call!

Please remember, realtors and potential homebuyers check for permits to be sure the work was done to code!

Doing the work yourself? That's great! But if you are using a contractor, be sure to have that contractor fill out, seal (if required) and sign the permit. If you have a contractor, but fill out the permit under your name—you have no recourse should a problem arise!

Your home is a huge investment—be sure to protect your investment and ensure the safety of your family by making sure to take out a permit!

Switching Propane Companies

Information on Permits



Thinking about changing propane companies?

If you rent your propane tank(s) and you decide to change propane companies you need a permit. The propane company you are leaving will remove the old tank(s) and the new propane company of your choice will bring and set the new tank(s) and pressurize the line for the air test inspection to be sure it holds before the propane is added to the tank(s).

propane is added to the tank(s).

If you own your tank(s), you do not need a permit to change propane companies. You simply call and cancel service with your current propane company and initialize service with the new company.

Why do you need a permit?

Inspections check location of the tank, proximity to combustibles, windows, and property lines, connection of the gas lines and pressure test the tank. The safety of you and your family is the most important thing!

Wood Stove, Pellet Stove, Gas Insert Permits Required



With electric, oil and gas prices higher these days.....many families are looking to supplement the heat in their home.

Whether you decide on a wood stove, pellet stove or a gas insert (or similar unit) a permit is required for this install. Make sure you get the most out of your purchase by taking out the proper permits and having these types of units inspected. Many insurance companies will want a copy of the certificate of approval showing these units were properly inspected. In the event of a problem, insurance companies will contact the municipality to find out if proper permits were taken out for this installation. What is the inspection for? Inspections check the clearance to combustibles, make sure the door is properly sealed, proper fire protection in front of or behind the unit and inspect the chimney (if needed). Contact the Construction Department at 973-948-3520 x201 to discuss your purchase,

obtain the proper permits and schedule your inspections.



Sandyston Township Volunteer Fire Department

911 Reflective Address Marker Order Form

*Per Sandyston Township Code, Chapter 47 "Buildings, Numbering of", as well as N.J.S.A 40:23-50, residents are required to have a **VISIBLE** house number by the road for 911 emergencies. The color of the numbers shall be in sharp contrast to the background color and be constructed of reflective material to permit the identification during daylight and nighttime hours.*

Sandyston Township Volunteer Fire Department would like to get more reflective address signs in the community as a way to help emergency responders find addresses more quickly.



Mail Form with Payment to:
Sandyston Township Volunteer Fire Department
133A Route 645
Sandyston, NJ 07826

\$25.00 each

(Sign only—Stake Not Included)



Vertical

Horizontal

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____

SANDYSTON TOWNSHIP



FOOD DRIVE

To benefit St. Thomas Food Pantry in Sandyston

Anytime now through December 31, 2023

***You may drop off items at the Sandyston Township Municipal Building
located at 133 Route 645, Sandyston, NJ
by the front door or during the hours of 9 am and 2 pm***

Most Needed Items *:

- ⇒ Peanut butter/jelly
- ⇒ Canned meats
- ⇒ Rice, pastas, "Ramen Noodles"
- ⇒ Tomato sauce
- ⇒ Potatoes (boxed)
- ⇒ Powdered milk
- ⇒ Canned beans, fruits, and veggies
- ⇒ Mac & Cheese
- ⇒ Cornmeal, flour, sugar
- ⇒ Soups/Stews
- ⇒ Whole grain, low sugar cereals
- ⇒ Personal hygiene products
- ⇒ Laundry detergent
- ⇒ Diapers
- ⇒ Dog/Cat food
- ⇒ Non-perishable goods are ideal



Individually
wrapped toilet
paper, soap,
tooth brushes,
toothpaste!

**Please— no expired dates*

**Together We CAN
Make A Difference!**



Questions? Contact us at 973-948-3520 x200 or 201



ATTENTION TOWNSHIP OF SANDYSTON RESIDENTS

YOU MAY BE ELIGIBLE FOR A LOAN FOR HOME IMPROVEMENTS WITH NO MONTHLY PAYMENTS*

MONEY MAY BE USED FOR THE NECESSARY REPAIR OR REPLACEMENT OF:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Roofs & Gutters ✓ Doors, Windows & Siding ✓ Indoor Plumbing or Septic Systems | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Insulation ✓ Heating Systems ✓ Electrical Systems ✓ Minor Structural Issues |
|---|--|

*The loan is for eligible repairs to income eligible homeowners in the Township.

FAMILIES MUST OWN THEIR HOME & BE CURRENT ON TAXES
TOTAL FAMILY INCOME MUST FALL WITHIN THESE LIMITS:

Persons in Household	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8+
Maximum Income	\$58,277	\$66,602	\$74,928	\$83,253	\$86,583	\$96,573	\$103,233	\$109,894

Simply fill out this application form and the Program Coordinator will contact you for an interview to determine eligibility. Bring or mail this application form to:

Township of Sandyston Rehabilitation Program
Township Clerk's Office
133 County Route 645
Sandyston, NJ 07826
Office Hours: 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Name: _____ Home Phone #: _____ Street Address: _____ Work/Cell Phone: _____ E-mail: _____ Name(s) on Deed: _____ Total Persons in Household: _____ Total Annual Family Income: _____ Our gross family income is below maximum shown in above chart? Y/N (circle one)
--

For additional information contact: Jessica Caldwell, Program Coordinator: 973-300-5060 Ext. 100

I/We certify that all information submitted on this application is correct to the best of my/our knowledge. I/We understand that any willful misstatement of material fact may be grounds for disqualification.

Applicant Signature: _____

Co-Applicant Signature: _____

Solutions to Stormwater Pollution: Easy Things You Can Do Every Day To Protect Our Water A Guide to Healthy Habits for Cleaner Water



Pollution on streets, parking lots and lawns is washed by rain into storm drains, then directly to our drinking water supplies and the ocean and lakes where our children play. Fertilizer, oil, pesticides, detergents, pet waste, grass clippings: You name it and it ends up in our water. Stormwater pollution is one of New Jersey's greatest threats to clean and plentiful water. By sharing the responsibility and making small, easy changes in our daily lives, we can keep common pollutants out of stormwater. It all adds up to cleaner water, and it saves the high cost of cleaning up once it's dirty. As part of New Jersey's initiative to keep our water clean and plentiful and to meet federal requirements, many municipalities and other public agencies including colleges and military bases must adopt ordinances or other rules prohibiting various activities that contribute to stormwater pollution. Breaking these rules can result in fines or other penalties.

As a resident, business, or other member of the New Jersey community, it is important to know these easy things you can do every day to protect our water.

Limit your use of fertilizers and pesticides: Do a soil test to see if you need a fertilizer. Do not apply fertilizer if heavy rain is predicted. Look into alternatives for pesticides. Maintain a small lawn and keep the rest of your property or yard in a natural state with trees and other native vegetation that requires little or no fertilizer. If you use fertilizers and pesticides, follow instructions on the label on how to correctly apply the product. Make sure you properly store or discard any unused portions.

Properly use and dispose of hazardous products: Hazardous products include some household or commercial cleaning products, lawn and garden care products, motor oil, antifreeze, and paints. Do not pour any hazardous products down a storm drain because storm drains are usually connected to local waterbodies and the water is not treated. If you have hazardous products in your home or workplace, make sure you store or dispose of them properly. Read the label for guidance. Use natural or less toxic alternatives when possible. Recycle used motor oil. Contact your municipality, county or facility management office for the locations of hazardous-waste disposal facilities.

Keep pollution out of storm drains: Municipalities and many other public agencies are required to mark certain storm drain inlets with messages reminding people that storm drains are connected to local waterbodies. Do not let sewage or other waste flow into a stormwater system.

Don't litter: Place litter in trash receptacles. Recycle. Recycle. Recycle. Participate in community cleanups.

Dispose of yard waste properly: Keep leaves and grass out of storm drains. If your municipality or agency has yard waste collection rules, follow them. Use leaves and grass clippings as a resource for compost. Use a mulching mower that recycles grass clippings into the lawn.

Clean up after your pet: Many municipalities and public agencies must enact and enforce local pet-waste rules. An example is requiring pet owners or their keepers to pick up and properly dispose of pet waste dropped on public or other people's property. Make sure you know your town's or agency's requirements and comply with them. It's the law. Remember to use newspaper, bags or "scoopers" to pick up wastes. Dispose of the wrapped pet waste in the trash or unwrapped in a toilet. Never discard pet waste in a storm drain.

Don't feed wildlife: Do not feed wildlife, such as ducks and geese, in public areas. Many municipalities and other public agencies must enact and enforce a rule that prohibits wildlife feeding in these areas.

Contact information: For more information on stormwater related topics, visit www.njstormwater.org or www.nj.gov/dep/dwq/bnpc_home.htm. Additional information is also available at U.S. Environmental Protection Agency websites www.epa.gov/npdes/stormwater or www.epa.gov/nps. New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, Division of Water Quality, Bureau of Nonpoint Pollution Control, Municipal Stormwater Regulation Pro-

Sandyston Township Municipal Building
133 Route 645
Sandyston, NJ 07826

PRESORTED STANDARD
US POSTAGE PAID
SPARTA, NJ
PERMIT NO. 118

Phone: 973-948-3520 Fax: 973-948-0783

Pay Your Property Taxes ONLINE:
www.sandystontownship.com

Sandyston Township Directory

<u>Department</u>	<u>Contact</u>	<u>Office Hours</u>	<u>Ext./Contact Info</u>
Mayor	George B. Harper, Jr.	By Appointment	973-417-1396
Deputy Mayor	Kammy Hull	By Appointment	973-222-7722
Committeeman	Ronald Green	By Appointment	973-886-4120
Municipal Clerk	Amanda "Amy" Lobban, RMC	Mon-Fri/9 am-2 pm	200
Deputy Clerk/ Board of Health & Construction Secretary	Theresa "Teri" Doyle, CTC	Mon-Fri/8:30am-12pm	201
Tax Assessor	Kathleen DeKorte	Tues/8 am -11 am	203
Chief Financial Officer	Toni Grisaffi	By Appointment	200
Tax Collector	Theresa "Teri" Doyle, CTC	Tues/ 12 pm—2 pm Thursday/ 9am—12 pm	202
Construction Official/ Building Subcode	Robert W. Huber	Tues 12:30 pm—2 pm 5:30 pm—7 pm Thursday 10:30 am—12 pm	201
Land Use Administrator, Planning Board Secretary & Zoning Official	Beth Brothman	Tues 5 pm - 7 pm	205
Recreation	Jennifer Lubeck, President	Meets 4th Monday at 6:30 pm	sandystonrec@gmail.com
Road Department Foreman	Roy C. McClain, CPWM	Contact Municipal Building	200
Fire Chief	Scott House	Drill Night Tues 7 pm	973-306-2285
Township Historian	Patte Haggerty Frato	By Appointment	973-948-7443
Fire Prevention Official	Charles E. Luxton	By Appointment	208
Code Enforcement Official	Michael Johnson	Contact Zoning Official	205
Animal Control Officer	Jonathan Hagen	By Appointment	973-670-3299
Emergency Mgmt Coord.	Kevin Pumphrey	By Appointment	301