

# Limerick TOWNSHIP

2022 WINTER NEWSLETTER



## - Change of Watch -

Limerick's New Police Chief, Robert J. Matalavage

Beginning with this quarter's newsletter, we will hide a tiny illustration of a shamrock (this is the exact size & color you are looking for...  ).

See the back page for more information. Have fun in your search!

# Message from the Chairman



**Kenneth W. Sperring, Jr.**  
*Chairman*

**C**ongratulations to new Police Chief Robert Matalavage, we look forward to the continued leadership he brings to the department. We also thank Chief Brian Skelton for his 32-years of service and wish him a happy and healthy retirement. Both Brian and Bob began their police careers here with Limerick. Through their many years of service beginning as a patrol officer and then as Sergeant and Lieutenant, each gained valuable experience that helped them succeed in their role as Chief. We continue to focus on training for the next generation of leaders to ensure they can succeed and follow this model including newly promoted Lieutenant Patrick Roche, Sergeant Stephen Winneberger and Corporals Michael Hull and James Reilly. All have demonstrated the necessary leadership skills to serve within the department's command staff. We congratulate them and look forward to the contributions and service they will bring to the department and this community.

I am also pleased to report that the Township is approaching full staffing levels across all departments, which were below approved budgeting levels for a few years, due to attrition and Covid-related issues. All new team members will help the Township provide our residents and business community with the high-level of services that this community has become accustomed to.

Over the past several years, efforts to strengthen police, public works, fire protection, parks and open space services have proven successful and have not negatively impacted the Township financial structure. This same philosophy will now be extended to Emergency Medical Services (EMS) as we begin to work with the newly formed Freedom Valley Medical Rescue organization highlighted in this newsletter. All EMS organizations continue to struggle across the country as insurance reimbursements dwindle due to healthcare regulations. PA laws mandate local municipalities to be financially responsible for EMS services and Limerick will be required to support Freedom Valley at a higher level to ensure this new organization can continue to provide high-level emergency medical services to the township. Projections show that increased attention to both fire and EMS services will be warranted as volunteer staffing, outside funding, inflation and cost of services will strain these vital service organizations. The Board continues to discuss the need to amend insurance regulations with our state and federal elected officials, so the burden of these vital emergency services is not so heavily reliant on local taxpayers.

I wish you a wonderful Christmas and holiday season!

*- Ken*



*Introducing...*

## Freedom Valley Medical Rescue

If you haven't heard, Harleysville Area EMS and Trappe Ambulance merged to provide regionalized coverage and now operates under the name, Freedom Valley Medical Rescue (FVMR). The merger will reduce operating costs and establish a long-term, sustainable organization that can meet the challenges confronting EMS providers across PA.

The primary struggle EMS organizations face is declining funding from healthcare insurance providers which is forcing them to reduce operating costs to keep their doors open. Many ambulance companies cannot pay adequate wages to maintain the highly skilled EMS first responders who provide the lifesaving services that the community expects and deserves.



PA laws must be changed so healthcare insurance companies are mandated to pay their fair share to EMS organizations such as FVMR, who provide emergency medical services to those they cover. To close the funding gap, EMS organizations are now turning to local communities for support since PA laws now mandate that municipalities are financially responsible for ambulance and fire services.

How will the merger benefit you? While continuing to receive quality emergency service response, Limerick's increased financial contribution will recognize all Township residents as subscribing members of FVMR. This membership status will provide that no residents will be solicited for subscriptions or be billed for ambulance costs not covered by their insurance company. This is a \$90 savings for those who paid such a subscription to Trappe Ambulance in the past.

FVMR will continue to operate out of the Limerick Fire Station on Ridge Pike as well as from their Harleysville, Phoenixville, Trappe, and Green Lane stations. It is projected that FVMR will respond to 6,000+ emergency calls annually!

*A message from Freedom Valley Medical Rescue:*

*Freedom Valley Medical Rescue looks forward to continuing to work with each of your municipalities and continue to provide a professional emergency pre-hospital Ambulance service to the community. In establishing FVMR, we not only focused on a service delivery model that is professional, high quality and cost efficient, but also has long-term sustainability as a pre-hospital emergency medical care organization. We believe working together with our municipal stakeholders in an open and transparent partnership will lead to a successful organization.*

*Thank you,*

*Board of Directors  
Freedom Valley Medical Rescue*



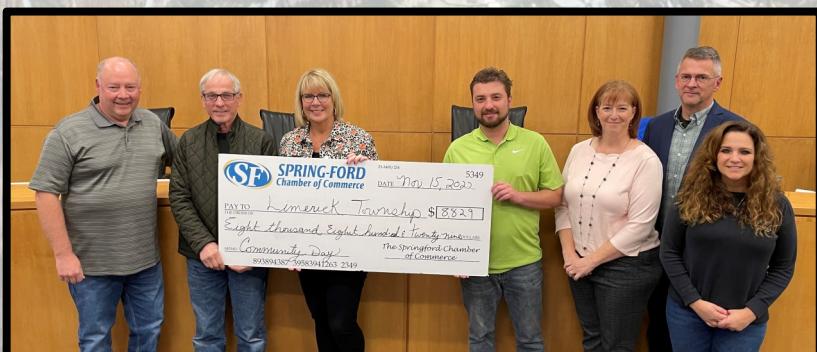
# Recognitions

Limerick's partnership with the **Spring-Ford Chamber of Commerce** and the **Spring-Ford Area Rotary Club** has garnered \$28,829.00 in donations this year from Community Day and Limerick Uncorked.

Both events are held annually at the Limerick Community Park.



*Members of the Spring-Ford Area Rotary Club presented a check to Limerick Township.*



*Members of the Spring-Ford Chamber of Commerce presented a check to Limerick Township.*

*Donations support children's camps, senior programs, and continued maintenance of the Community Park.*



*Left to Right: Walter Schneider (PA Building Code Officials President) and Jim Lucas*

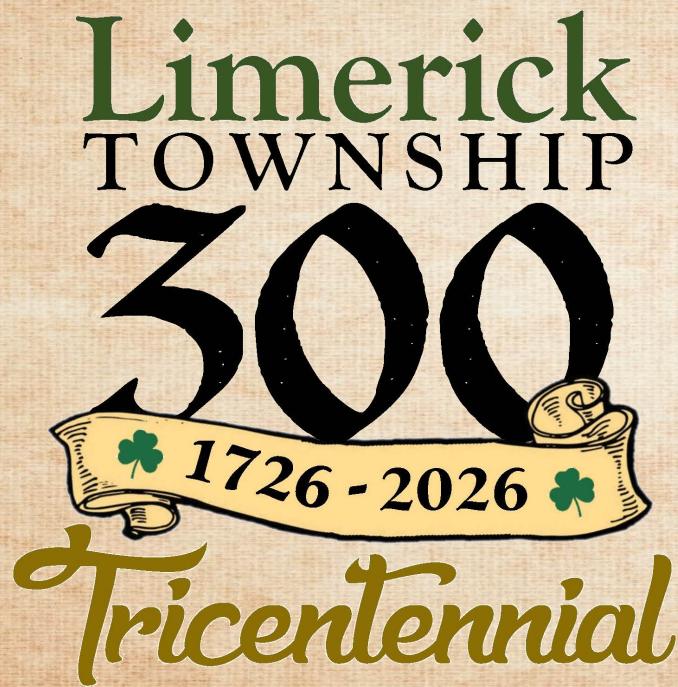
## Jim Lucas - Receives PA Building Code Official of the Year Award

Limerick Township Building Code Official, Jim Lucas, was recognized as the "PA Building Code Official of the Year" at the PA Building Officials' Conference held in Allentown earlier this year. Jim was also recently appointed by the Governor to the ICC Code Review Council.

We are proud to have him on the Limerick team.

*Congratulations, Jim!*

## Important Reminders



The Board of Supervisors wishes to establish a committee of residents interested in assisting with the planning process for Limerick Township's celebration of its Tri-Centennial.

The first step is to gather interested residents to help with the planning process.

If you wish to participate, please join us at our General Interest Meeting on **Wednesday, January, 11th at 6:30pm** in the Public Meeting Room of the Township Building.

Any questions can be directed to the Township Administration Office at 610-495-6432 or [info@limerickpa.org](mailto:info@limerickpa.org).

Scan this QR code to fill out our interest form.



## Holiday Schedule

The Township Administrative Offices & Public Works Department will be **CLOSED** on the following dates in observance of Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, and New Year's Day:

**December 23<sup>rd</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup>, and January 2<sup>nd</sup>**

*Note: The Board of Supervisors will meet for their reorganizational meeting on Tuesday, January 3, 2023 at 7:00 P.M.*

# Police Department Highlights



## Lieutenant Robert J. Matalavage promoted to Chief

The Board of Supervisors and Limerick Township is pleased to congratulate Lieutenant Robert J. Matalavage on his promotion from Lieutenant to Chief of Police. Bob began his career in 1986 as a police officer for Wernersville and also as a part-time officer for Limerick Township. He became a full-time officer for Limerick Township in June, 1987, and has risen through the ranks from patrol officer to Corporal to Sergeant and onto Lieutenant. He started the first K-9 unit in July 1990, and was also a K-9 officer through 2008.

Bob is a graduate of St. Pius X High School and the Reading Police Academy. In addition to his extensive training, he is a graduate of the Police Staff and Command from Northwestern University. He holds

both a LEEDA Trilogy Award through the FBI Law Enforcement Executive Development Association and Penn State POSIT and POLEX programs. Bob was sworn in as Chief earlier this year on August 2nd by Magisterial District Judge Welsh. He is responsible for 30 sworn officers and ensures the operations of the entire Police Department are functioning properly. Congratulations, Chief Matalavage, and thank you for continuing to serve and protect the citizens of this great community!

## Department Promotions

The Limerick Township Board of Supervisors approved promotions within the Police Department at their meeting on Tuesday, November 15, 2022. Sergeant Patrick Roche was promoted to Lieutenant. Corporal Stephen Winneberger was promoted to Sergeant. Officer James Reilly and Officer Michael Hull were promoted to Corporal. Stay safe and congratulations!



*Left to Right: Supervisor Sperring, Lt. Roche, and Chief Matalavage*



*Left to Right: Supervisor Sperring, Corporal Hull, Corporal Reilly, Sgt. Winneberger, and Chief Matalavage*

## Police Trilogy

Congratulations to the Limerick Township Police Department for receiving the FBI LEEDA Trilogy award! FBI-LEEDA presents law enforcement agencies whose entire Command Staff have completed the FBI-LEEDA Trilogy Leadership series. Agencies that receive this award also demonstrate a great commitment to leadership and the communities they serve. Chief Operations Officer for FBI-LEEDA, Mark Clark, presented the award to Limerick Township Police Chief, Bob Matalavage, during the September 20<sup>th</sup> Board of Supervisors' meeting.



*Chief Matalavage and Mark Clark*

## CHIEF BRIAN SKELTON RETIRES



After 33 years with our department, Chief Brian Skelton has retired. Chief Skelton began his career with Limerick Township in 1989. He rose through the ranks from Community Policing Officer to Patrol Sergeant, to Patrol Lieutenant, and to Chief of Police. He established Limerick's first Bike Patrol Unit and assisted in the development of the Montgomery County Youth Aid Program. He also assisted in the development of the Montgomery County model policy on Domestic Violence. He was sworn in as Limerick Township's 5th Chief of Police in February of 2016. Since then, the department has grown to 30 officers and 4 civilian staff. Chief Skelton is looking forward to retirement spent with his wife, his children, and his grandchildren. We wish Chief Skelton and his family many years of health and happiness in his retirement.



**It's not good-bye...**



**...it's see you real soon.**

# Our Newest Team Members



## Rebecca Stratz - Police Officer

In June, I graduated from the Montgomery County Police Academy! Prior to that, I attended Penn State University where I majored in Criminology and minored in both Psychology and Business. During college, I was fortunate enough to get an internship with the Bucks County District Attorney's office. I knew early on that I wanted to get into law enforcement in some way. When I was in high school, I realized I wanted to be hands on and protect a community by being a police officer. Once I met with the Limerick Police Department, I knew that this is where I wanted to be. Everyone was so welcoming, and I could really see myself fitting into the community here. In my free time I spend a lot of time with my family, friends, and dog! I also ran track for most of my life so going on runs or hikes is something I enjoy doing a lot as well.

**FUN FACT:** *I grew up in a family of six and my three siblings were all girls! My family has taken to the medical and business field and I am the first person in my family to go into law enforcement.*



## Nicholas Clark - Police Officer

Prior to my current position, I attended the Montgomery County Municipal Police Academy to prepare. I also have been working in emergency services since 2016. I enjoy the challenge of every day being different. Having different problems, different solutions, and interacting with different people on any given day keeps the work exciting and engaging. In my free time, I enjoy hiking, kayaking, and shooting.

**FUN FACT:** *Interesting, but random fact, is that I like turtles.*



## Stephen Maurer - Police Officer

I served as a Police Officer with the City of Philadelphia for almost 7 years. I served in both the 39<sup>th</sup> and 35<sup>th</sup> districts in North Philly, serving a multi-ethnic community with a wide-variety of needs. While serving the citizens of Philadelphia, I received 21 certifications covering areas from drug investigations to terrorism trends. I also received my master's degree in Criminal Justice from St. Joseph's University specializing in Crime Analysis and Intelligence. I am truly grateful to be given the opportunity to faithfully serve the citizens of Limerick Township. My Uncle was an officer for the NYPD, and served the city for an entire career. I grew up hearing stories of self-sacrifice, honor, professionalism, and heroism. He wore his shield with pride and was a model officer who I still admire and try to follow in his footsteps. In my free time, I enjoy time with my girlfriend, listening to podcasts, working out, and reading.

**FUN FACT:** *While in the Philadelphia Police Academy, I tied for the highest score at the range with two of my platoon mates. We entered a shootout competition and I won.*

Welcome

# Aboard!



## Tess Giordano - Assistant Zoning & Code Enforcement Officer

I use bits and pieces of the knowledge and training I've acquired professionally to help me tackle tasks throughout the day. What really piqued my interest about this position occurred when I was told the position involved investigative work. In my free time, I enjoy being outside, kayaking, hiking, and taking pictures. I am a big soccer fan, so I love going to Philadelphia Union games. I am also a volunteer firefighter and spend some of my free time responding to emergencies.

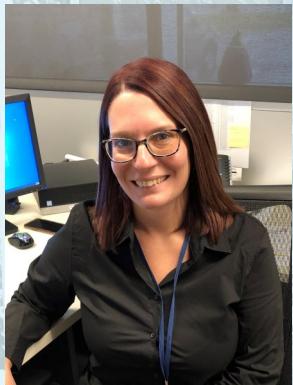
***FUN FACT:*** *I previously worked at The University of Maine's regional campus in Machias, Maine. It is the easternmost university in the nation and is the first university to see the sunrise in the United States.*



## David Sharp - Fire Inspector

I've been a volunteer firefighter/EMT at Cornwells Fire Co. in Bensalem since 2013. I took classes and learned what a fire inspector does to keep the community safe with Fire Prevention and Inspections. I did ride-alongs with Bensalem Fire Rescue to obtain knowledge and further my understanding on Fire and Life Safety Inspections. Before working for Limerick Township, I worked as an Emergency Medical Technician for Mercy Fitzgerald Hospital for over two years while volunteering at Yeadon Fire Company. I always knew I wanted to be a proactive firefighter and do fire inspections while also educating the community on fire safety. I hope to one day have Emergency Management training and investigate fires for Limerick Township. I enjoy spending time with my parents and my family at home, reading books, playing my ukulele and guitar, running, weightlifting, and playing games on my computer.

***FUN FACT:*** *I am ambidextrous when it comes to writing. I learned in high school after having surgery on my left wrist and being in a cast for over 6 months.*



## Kimberlee Stouch - Administrative Assistant (Police Department)

Prior to Limerick Township PD, I was an administrative assistant for the past 8 years at a local commercial general construction company. My father was a retired Pottstown Police Sergeant, and my husband is a full-time State Constable. Coming from a law enforcement family and with my experience in administrative work, I felt it was the perfect opportunity to gain further insight into the full process of police work. In my free time I like to travel, go to the beach and watch the Eagles during football season.

***FUN FACT:*** *My husband and I are animal lovers and also like to travel. On a recent trip to Mexico, we found a baby sea turtle trapped in some netting. We were able to free it and watch it make its way to the ocean!*

# Christmas Tree Recycling

**Christmas trees may be dropped off for recycling at the designated area in the Limerick Community Park 12/26 through 01/31.**

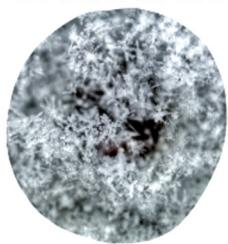
**Please ensure all decorations are removed from the tree prior to drop off.**



## Reducing Pollution This Winter

What you can do to prevent stormwater pollution on your property

1) Shovel as soon as possible after a snowstorm. As a result, less ice will form and you won't need to use as much salt or de-icer.



2) Use safe and effective alternatives to salt. Remember that salt is not effective below 15 degrees Fahrenheit. Sand or kitty litter will give you traction when it's too cold for salt.



3) Plant native species, that are salt tolerant, near paved areas. Not only will these species be able to survive despite the road salt, they will also act as a protective buffer for local waterways.



4) Make sure the storm drains closest to your property are clear of snow and other debris. Do not shovel snow into storm drains since they empty directly into local creeks.



# Upcoming Events

For detailed information on all Limerick Township Parks & Recreation events, programs, camps and more, please visit the Township website at:  
[www.LimerickPA.org /155/-Recreation](http://www.LimerickPA.org/155/-Recreation)

## HOLIDAY BINGO

December 30, 2022  
10:30a - 1:00p  
\$15 per child for ages 6 to 10

## SUMMER CAMPS

Information available January 3rd!

Scan this code with your phone's camera to quickly locate where to register for an upcoming event.

## WE'RE HIRING

JOIN OUR TEAM

SUMMER CAMP COUNSELORS  
COUNSELORS IN TRAINING

HOW TO APPLY:  
VISIT  
[WWW.LIMERICKPA.ORG](http://WWW.LIMERICKPA.ORG)

ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS  
JANUARY 3RD

## Preschool Programs

February 23rd  
March 28th

## Active Adults

March 7 - Heart Healthy Meals  
March 10 - April 21 W.I.S.E.  
March 14 - Depression class  
March 14 - Craft

## **Limerick Township**

646 West Ridge Pike  
Limerick, PA 19468

*If you find the hidden shamrock, send us an email by **1/31/23**.*

*You will be entered into a drawing for a gift card!*

*Winner will be announced in the next newsletter.*

**Please send us your name & location of the shamrock to:  
[contest@limerickpa.org](mailto:contest@limerickpa.org)**



### **2022 Limerick Township Board of Supervisors**

**(From left to right):**

Patrick M. Morrone,  
Kenneth W. Sperring, Jr. (Chair),  
Kara Shuler,  
Michael J. McCloskey, III (Vice-Chair),  
and Linda Irwin

PRSR STD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
PERMIT NO. 182  
POTTSTOWN, PA  
19464

### **Monthly Public Meetings are held at:**

The Limerick Township  
Municipal Building  
646 West Ridge Pike  
Limerick, PA 19468  
**(610) 495-6432**  
[www.Limerickpa.org](http://www.Limerickpa.org)

**Board of Supervisors**  
1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month  
7:00pm

**Planning Commission**  
4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of each month  
7:00pm

**Zoning Hearing Board**  
4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month  
6:30pm



# Holiday Light Competition

December 16-18, 2022

Voting on Facebook

1 "like" = 1 vote

Submit your photos by Thursday,  
December 15th to  
[dawnh@limerickpa.org](mailto:dawnh@limerickpa.org)

PIZZA \* PRIZES \* FUN

# HOLIDAY BINGO

December 30, 2022

10:30a - 1:00p

\$15 per child for ages 6 to 10

Drop off event

at the Limerick Township Building

