

# BOROUGH INFORMER

FALL/WINTER 2023



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Then and Now

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The Hatfield Speedway

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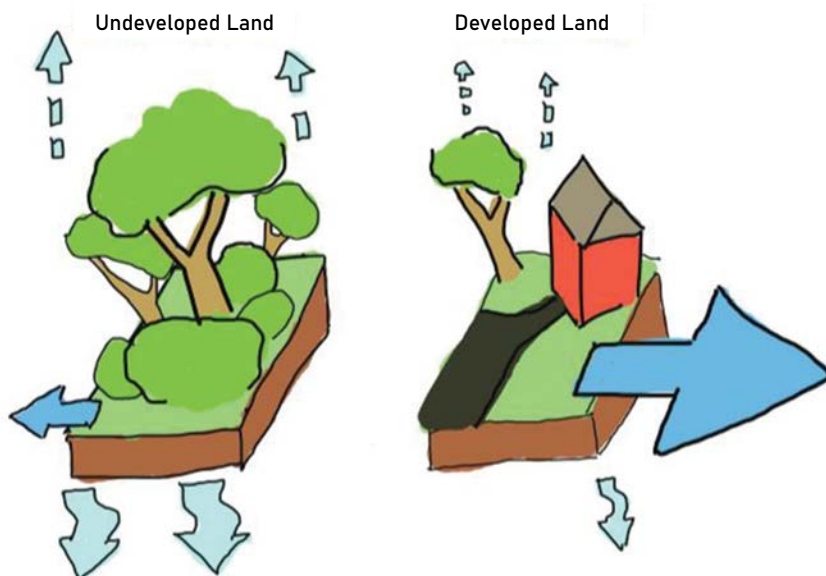
Fall Fest

# WHAT IS STORMWATER

Stormwater is the water that runs off the land after precipitation, either rain or snowmelt. Rain or snow can drain down into the soil (called infiltration), evaporate back into the atmosphere, be used by plants, or flow into streams or water bodies. The water that runs off the land to streams or lakes is referred to as stormwater runoff.

Stormwater runoff happens in natural, undeveloped areas, but typically only for larger storms. For most areas in Pennsylvania that are wooded or natural meadows, it takes about an inch or more of rain to produce runoff.

After development, the natural wooded or meadow areas are replaced with roofs, driveways, sidewalks, and streets. These hard surfaces are called impervious surfaces, and they do not allow water to drain through them, unlike how rain can drain into soil (which is called a pervious surface). When rain falls on impervious surfaces, it runs off rather than infiltrating into the soil or being taken up by vegetation.



When it rains on an undeveloped piece of property, much of the rainwater infiltrates into the soil or is evapotranspired back into the atmosphere. When vegetation is replaced with streets, driveways, sidewalks, houses, and lawns, less rainwater is able to infiltrate or return to the atmosphere, and more of the rain turns into runoff.





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Cover photo from previous Fall Fest

## HATFIELD BOROUGH ELECTED OFFICIALS & STAFF

### HATFIELD BOROUGH ELECTED OFFICIALS



**Jason Ferguson**  
Borough Council  
President  
jferguson@hatfieldborough.com



**Richard Girard**  
Borough Council  
Vice-President  
rgirard@hatfieldborough.com



**James Fagan**  
Borough Council  
Member  
jfagan@hatfieldborough.com



**Michelle Kroesser**  
Borough Council  
Member  
mkroesser@hatfieldborough.com



**Lawrence Stevens**  
Borough Council  
Member  
lgstevens@hatfieldborough.com



**Mary Anne Girard**  
Mayor  
magirard@hatfieldborough.com



**Mohammed Haque**  
Tax Collector  
mhaque@hatfieldborough.com

### HATFIELD BOROUGH STAFF



**Jaime E. Snyder**  
Borough Manager  
jsnyder@hatfieldborough.com  
(215) 855-0781 Option 1



**Stephen S. Fickert Jr.**  
Public Works Director  
Electric Superintendent  
sfickert@hatfieldborough.com  
(215) 855-0781 Option 2

### ADDITIONAL STAFF

**Diane Farrall**  
Treasurer/Finance Department  
dfarrall@hatfieldborough.com  
(215) 855-0781 Option 6

**Lindsay Hellmann**  
Public Information Coordinator  
lhellmann@hatfieldborough.com  
(215) 855-0781 Option 9

**Kathryn Vlahos**  
Assistant to the Manager  
kvlahos@hatfieldborough.com  
(215) 855-0781 Option 5

**David Weiss**  
Utility Billing Department  
dweiss@hatfieldborough.com  
(215) 855-0781 Option 4

## STAY CONNECTED

### HATFIELD MUNICIPAL COMPLEX

**Address:** 401 S. Main St., Hatfield, PA 19440  
**Telephone:** (215) 855-0781  
**Fax:** (215) 855-2075  
**Email:** admin@hatfieldborough.com  
**Website:** www.hatfieldborough.com  
**Office Hours:** Mon., Tu., Th: 8:30-4:00 p.m.  
Wed.: 8:30-6:00 p.m. | Fri.: 8:30-3:00 p.m.  
Staff begins answering the phone at 8:00 a.m.

### COUNCIL MEETINGS

**All Borough Council meetings begin at 7:00 p.m.**  
Meetings are held at the Hatfield Municipal Complex (401 S. Main St.)  
*Live-streaming is now available. The link may be found on our website.*

### SOCIAL MEDIA

Twitter: @HatfieldBorough  
 YouTube: Hatfield Borough, PA  
 Facebook: HatfieldBorough19440  
 Instagram: @hatfieldborough19440



TV: Comcast Channel 22  
Verizon Channel 24

# Then and Now:

## The legacy of 41 E. Lincoln Avenue

If you've lived in Hatfield for any amount of time, you've probably noticed the historic brick building at 41 E. Lincoln Avenue. This remarkable structure once housed Kulp's Garage from 1921 to 1997 and today stands as the Hatfield Auto Museum. This attraction holds within its walls a rich legacy and an irresistible draw for anyone captivated by Hatfield's history or America's transportation evolution.

When Clayton Kulp returned to his Hatfield roots after his service in World War I, instead of working on his family's farm, he opted for a different path and took an apprenticeship as a mechanic. Clayton recognized that automobiles were becoming a necessary part of rural life in Hatfield, so in 1921, he embarked on an ambitious venture—the establishment of Hatfield's first automobile repair shop.

Initially, Kulp's Garage focused on fuel sales and servicing cars in the Hatfield area. Then in 1923, the garage transformed into a Ford dealership. The showroom on the first floor displayed a range of automobiles, from the iconic Model Ts, Model As, Ford trucks, and tractors. Meanwhile, the second floor hummed with vehicle servicing activity. After years as a Ford dealership, the Kulp family sought to expand their scope, enabling them to cater to additional brands of automobiles. So, from 1928 to 1942, the garage assumed the role of a Hupmobile dealership. In addition, they sold and serviced Dodge and Plymouth cars from 1935 to 1942.



Walter (left in uniform), Clayton on right. Brick building off to the right is the garage

Throughout its existence, Kulp's Garage was a family business. And in 1966, Clayton stepped back, passing the torch to his sons, Walter and Paul Kulp. A final shift in ownership took place in 1972, with Walter, fondly known as Walt, purchasing his brother's stake in the business.

Walter's wife, Thelma, contributed her expertise as the garage's bookkeeper, secretary, and treasurer. The involvement of their sons, Cliff and Steve, further solidified the family-centric nature of the business. Cliff learned the essentials of automobile repair from his grandfather and fondly recalls the meticulous nature of both his father and grandfather when it came to car repair. He shares a vivid memory of his grandfather, a perfectionist, working on cars in pristine white attire, ensuring not a fingerprint marred the final product. This commitment



Cliff, Walt, Steve





*Some of the items on display at the museum*

to excellence was manifest in their spotless and organized garage, underscoring their dedication to delivering vehicles in impeccable condition.

Working alongside his father posed challenges for Cliff, leading to intermittent resignations over the years. However, his mechanical prowess and an innate connection with the trade led him back to the garage multiple times. In 1988, Cliff ventured into different pursuits, leaving the family business behind. Meanwhile, his brother Steven established his own body shop but eventually joined their father in their final years of service. For 76 years, the garage dutifully served the Hatfield community until its closure in June 1997.

Advancements in technology, accompanied by a shift from mechanical to computerized repair approaches, rendered the continuation of Kulp's Garage unfeasible. In response, the family decided to auction their accumulated inventory. Subsequently, the building that had been the garage's steadfast home was listed for rent, signifying the end of one era and the imminent dawn of another.

After passing through the hands of various tenants, the Kulp's Garage building found a new chapter when Todd Wish and his partners acquired it in 2004. Todd's passion for automobiles, antiques, and collectibles made the garage an ideal setting for his extensive collection. Todd's connection with the world of automobiles originated during his youth, living near Mark Smith's Old Philadelphia Motor Car Company. This formative experience saw Todd collaborat-

ing with Mark on antique and classic cars from his teenage years through his thirties.

Mark's influence sparked Todd's goal to curate his collection, a dream sparked at the age of 15. His first antique purchase, a Pop-eye figurine, set the stage for years of dedicated collecting. With time, his treasures required storage across various family locations—his grandmother's basement, his parents' home, garage, and driveway. Eventually, Todd secured a building to house his growing treasure trove.

Luckily, the search for a suitable property led Todd to the heart of Hatfield Borough in the former Kulp's Garage building. Todd breathed new life into the space as the Hatfield Auto Museum emerged, realizing his longstanding dream. Since then, he has



*Display cases of vintage automotive toys including pre-1970 1/24 scale slot cars*

continued to update the interior decor with vintage charm, including many projects using salvaged wood from a barn on the property brought down by Superstorm Sandy.

For Todd, this space isn't a conventional business; it's a personal passion, a haven to house and share his collection with friends. It also extends its offerings to locals by providing storage space for antique and classic cars.

The Hatfield Auto Museum museum operates by appointment only, but it will be open to the public during the upcoming fall festival and car show on September 23rd. Todd hopes visitors will seize the opportunity to explore the museum, commemorating the bygone days of Kulp's Garage that faithfully served Hatfield for decades. Visitors will be treated to Todd's ensemble of antique automobiles, vintage trinkets, and memorabilia among the storied walls.

Beyond his role as a collector and curator, Todd wears the hat of an Automotive Consultant with over 25 years of expertise in various facets of the antique and classic car realm. His wealth of knowledge is readily available for those who seek insight into buying, selling, collecting, and investing in these automotive treasures.

In Todd's words, "Hatfield is a car town, and the people are great. I try to collect as much Hatfield memorabilia as possible to keep memories alive." The Hatfield Auto Museum stands as a beacon of nostalgia and passion; it keeps the spirit of Hatfield's automotive heritage alive, inviting all to share in its lasting allure.



*Todd Wish explaining photos of the Hatfield Speedway*

# FALL FEST

## AND CAR SHOW

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# SEPTEMBER 23

Saturday | 3:00 - 7:00 pm

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Moonbounces & childrens activities

Face Painting & Balloon art

Vendor/Merchant Sale

Fall Backdrop photo-op

Food for purchase

Canned food collection & raffle

DJ Hill & Sharp Sounds Entertainment

Hatfield Auto Museum will be open for the event

Live Music! Project 31 at Franconia Auto Repair

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To register for the Car Show, contact Lindsay Hellmann

lhellmann@hatfieldborough.com | 215-855-0781 opt 9

Location: East Lincoln Avenue

# MARK YOUR CALENDAR



**Halloween Happy**  
**October 31<sup>st</sup> | 4:30 to 6:30 pm**

Location: Borough Office



**Curbside Chipping**  
**Monday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>**

Please have branches no greater than 6 inches in diameter at the curb by 7:00 am. Please, no bushes or shrubs.



**Leaf Pickup**  
**Every Monday from**  
**October 30<sup>th</sup> - December 4<sup>th</sup>**

All leaves must be in brown biodegradable bags at the curb by 7:00 am Monday mornings. Bags are available for purchase at the Hatfield Borough Office 401 South Main Street, Hatfield, PA 19440.

**Christmas Tree Lighting**  
**Saturday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>**

Location: Memorial Park. Hosted by Grace Lutheran Church. Details to follow.



**Christmas Tree Pickup**  
**Monday, January 8<sup>th</sup>, and**  
**Monday, January 15<sup>th</sup>**

Please have undecorated holiday trees at the curb by 7:00 am.



# AMERICA 250

## BE A PART OF HISTORY IN THE MAKING

The Hatfield Museum and History Society, Hatfield Borough, and Hatfield Township have joined together to plan, organize, and promote Hatfield's participation in America's 250th celebration in 2026.

Subcommittees are forming to

- Create property maps from 1776 and locate living descendants
- Conduct local student engagement with contests, visits, and displays
- Seek funding via grants, sponsorships, and donations
- Organize lectures, tours, parades, and discussion groups
- Coordinate with local churches, groups, and neighboring historical societies and government bodies
- Develop publicity, promotions, and marketing.

We extend a warm and open invitation, inviting you to become a part of our committee. Together, let's honor and celebrate the role of Hatfield's people in the founding of this nation and its future.

**Interested in volunteering? Please contact us**

**Hatfield Museum and History Society**

PO Box 111, Hatfield, Pa. 19440-0111 | 215-362-0428 | Email: [HatfieldHistory@comcast.net](mailto:HatfieldHistory@comcast.net)



# The Hatfield Speedway

by Larry Stevens, President of the Hatfield Museum & History Society

Few communities, it seems, were immune from horse racing fever back in the early 1900's. Even here in Hatfield, which was predominantly a farming community, horse racing was quite popular. The first recorded horse racing in Hatfield occurred in 1908 during the Trewig-town Fair, held at Trewigtown Road and Bethlehem Pike, when horses raced up and down the dirt Bethlehem Pike!

Then, in October, 1920, a group of men started talking about building a track for racing horses in Hatfield. They soon formed the Hatfield Driving Association and leased land off of Forty Foot Road, just outside of Hatfield Borough, where they constructed a half-mile dirt track. On July 9, 1921, the first sulky horse race was held on the new track, drawing large crowds.

By the mid-30's, although harness racing remained quite popular, auto racing had become even more popular and was the competition of choice at what had, by then, become known as the "Hatfield Speedway."

Back in the 1930's, in a time before roll cages, multi-point harnesses, and full-face helmets, auto racing was a risky sport. So, it's not surprising that any accident could lead to serious injury or even death. One of the early fatalities at the Hatfield track, perhaps the first, was Vernon Cook who died on October 15, 1932 from injuries sustained when his car crashed through the track fence.

In 1941, a new class of auto racing, Midget Racing, was introduced at the Hatfield Speedway, and quickly grew in popularity. The small cars, also known as "doodlebugs", reached speeds of 75-80 mph, making for exciting racing. The dirt track at Hatfield was recognized by racing experts as the fastest half-mile track in the east. In addition to horses and cars, motorcycle races also took place at the Hatfield Speedway.

With the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, and the U.S. entering World War II, all racing was discontinued at the Hatfield Speedway as everyone focused on the war effort, and the track sat quiet and empty for a number of years.

Following the end of the war, racing resumed in 1946. Midget racing, which had grown quickly in popularity right before the war, got even more popular in the post-war era. The high power and small size of the

midget cars, however, combined to make midget racing quite dangerous since the cars were very susceptible to roll-overs.

In 1952, a one-third-mile dirt oval track was constructed inside of the half-mile track. Then the half-mile dirt track was closed in November 1953 and reopened as a paved, banked speedway on May 27, 1954, just in time for the hugely popular Memorial Day races. Around 1955, the Hatfield Speedway established a Powder Puff division for women who enjoyed the thrill of racing. In 1958, the front stretch of the Hatfield Speedway's paved half-mile track was converted into a one-eighth-mile paved drag strip.

The last race at the Hatfield Speedway was held on September 24, 1966, after which it was closed forever. At least 12 racers lost their lives in accidents during the Hatfield race track's 45-year history. It is also noteworthy that a couple of racing superstars spent time circling around the Hatfield oval before they became racing legends, including Richard Petty, A.J. Foyt, Mario Andretti, Parnelli Jones, and others.

Neighboring dairyman, Raymond Rosenberger, who was no fan of the noise and dirt created by the races, purchased the Hatfield Speedway property and soon had the whole site bulldozed. For many years after, as trees and weeds grew to slowly overtake the grounds of the former racetrack, the only remnant of the speedway that remained was the track's paved drag strip. The construction of the Fairfield housing community in the late 1980's removed that as well.



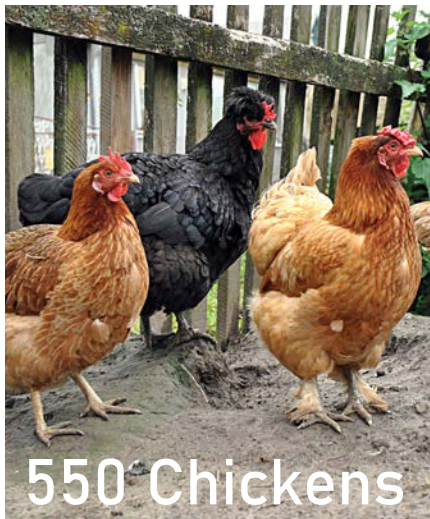
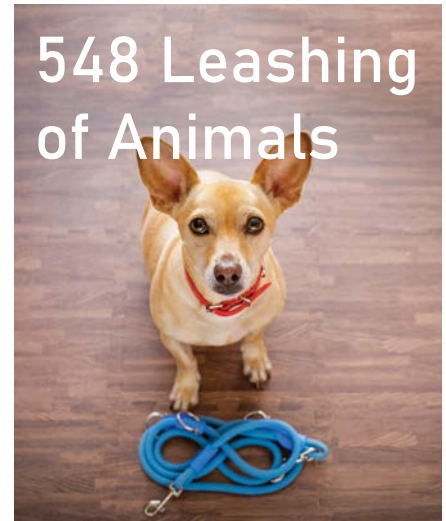
A.J. Foyt at the Hatfield Speedway

To learn more of Hatfield's fascinating history, schedule a visit to the Hatfield History Museum at [www.hatfieldhistory.org](http://www.hatfieldhistory.org), or call 215-362-0428.



# Learn about the Borough's New Ordinances

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## 340 Sewer Requirement

Ordinance No. 340 Effective January 1, 2022, the seller of any property connected to the public sewer system is required to have their private sewer lateral televised by a Master Plumber or Utility Contractor. This video must be reviewed and approved by the Hatfield Borough Code Department prior to any transaction of real estate taking place and before any Use and Occupancy Permit can be issued.

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You may view the full ordinances on the website at [www.hatfieldborough.com](http://www.hatfieldborough.com)  
(Click on the government tab, then click on ordinances).

Residents may also stop into the Borough Office, 401 South Main Street, to view a hard copy.

# 7 WINTER ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIPS



## Take advantage of heat from the sun

Open curtains on your south-facing windows during the day to allow sunlight to naturally heat your home, and close them at night to reduce the chill you may feel from cold windows.



## Cover drafty windows

To save money on your utility bills, use a heavy-duty, clear plastic sheet on a frame or tape clear plastic film to the inside of drafty window frames during the cold winter months. Make sure the plastic is sealed tightly to the frame. Install tight-fitting, insulating drapes or shades on windows that feel drafty after weatherizing.



## Adjust the temperature

When you are home and awake, set your thermostat as low as is comfortable.

When you are asleep or out of the house, turn your thermostat down 5°-10° from your usual setting. This change could save you 10% a year on your electric bill. A programmable thermostat can make this change easy.



## Maintain your heating systems

Schedule service for your heating system and replace your filter as recommended by the manufacturer, usually every 2-3 months, or as needed.



## Reduce heat loss from the fireplace

Keep your fireplace damper closed unless a fire is burning. Keeping the damper open is like keeping a window wide open; it allows warm air to go right up the chimney.

When you use the fireplace, reduce heat loss by opening dampers in the bottom of the firebox (if provided), closing doors leading into the room, and lowering the thermostat while the fire is burning.



## Lower your water heating costs

Turn down the temperature of your water heater to the warm setting (120°F). You'll not only save energy and money, you'll avoid scalding your hands.



## Lower your holiday lighting costs

Reduce the cost of decorating your home for the winter holidays by using light-emitting diode -- or LED -- holiday light strings

Source: <https://www.publicpower.org/>

**ReadyMontco is your official source for notifications about emergencies, disasters, and community information in Montgomery County, Pennsylvania.**

ReadyMontco is administered by the Montgomery County Department of Public Safety and comes to you free of charge (text messaging and voice rates may apply). **All it takes is ten minutes to create a profile, and you'll be READY to go!**

You will receive time-sensitive messages wherever you specify, such as your home, mobile or business phones, email address, text messages, and more. You pick where you pick how.



**To sign up, visit [readymontco.org](http://readymontco.org)**



# Information Corner

## Emergency Services Contact Information

**\* In the event of a fire or emergency, please call 9-1-1. \***



### Hatfield Township Police Department

2000 School Rd., Hatfield, PA 19440  
Phone: (215) 855-0903 | [www.hatfield.org/Police](http://www.hatfield.org/Police)

### Hatfield Volunteer Fire Company

75 North Market St., Hatfield, PA 19440  
Phone: (215) 855-2121 | [www.hatfieldfire.com](http://www.hatfieldfire.com)

### Volunteer Medical Services Corps of Lansdale (VMSC)

175 Medical Campus Dr., Lansdale, PA 19446  
Phone: (215) 855-3779 | [www.vmsclansdale.org](http://www.vmsclansdale.org)

## Sewer & Electric

### Contact & Hours

- Borough of Hatfield Office hours are Monday - Friday 8:30 am - 4:00 pm
- Electric bills are due by the 15<sup>th</sup> of every month.
- For Sewer & Electric call (215) 855-0781, opt 4.

### Paying Your Bill



You can pay your Sewer and Electric Bill

- Check
- Money Order
- Cash (exact change)
- Visa, MasterCard, Discover, American Express in-person and online (fees apply)

## Building & Zoning

### Bob Heil

#### Code Enforcement/Zoning Officer

[code@hatfieldborough.com](mailto:code@hatfieldborough.com)  
(215) 855-0781, Option 8

Tue & Th: 8:00am-3:00pm or, call for an appointment

## Voting & Polling Place



All registered Hatfield Borough Residents vote at the Hatfield Volunteer Firehouse.

Hatfield Firehouse address: 75 North Market St., Hatfield, PA 19440

To register to vote <https://www.montcopa.org/761/Voter-Registration>

## Trash & Recycling



Hatfield Borough is a member of the Northern Montgomery County Recycling Commission (NMCRC), a group of 11 municipalities that work together to increase recycling and promote recycling awareness and education in compliance with the state's recycling law, PA Act 101 of 1988, as amended. For recycling information and Hatfield Borough's recycling requirements please visit: [www.northmontocrecycle.com](http://www.northmontocrecycle.com)

### Branches & Leaves



- The Borough offers curbside chipping and disposal of branches and limbs on **the first Monday in May** and the **first Monday in October**. There will be one sweep through every neighborhood until all are picked up. *Only tree limbs and branches up to 6" in diameter will be chipped, and absolutely no leaves, bushes, or other debris will be accepted.*
- Christmas trees will also be picked up on **Mon. January 8<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024**. Please have undecorated trees at the curb by 7:00 am.
- The Borough provides leaf pick up every Monday beginning the last Monday in October through the first Monday in December. Only biodegradable paper bags will be collected. They can be purchased at the Borough Hall for \$.25 each. No plastic bags will be accepted.

The Borough does not provide trash service although residents can pick up recycling bins at the Borough Office. Residents must contract with a private hauler. The following is a list of some haulers in our area:

- Republic Services, (215) 723-0400
- JP Mascaro & Sons, (215) 721-1600
- White Tail, (610) 754-0103
- Waste Management, (215) 257-1142
- Advanced Disposal, (610) 584-5450

There are several household hazardous waste collection days held throughout the year by Montgomery County. Please visit their website for a complete listing of dates, locations, items to collect, and other helpful recycling tips. <http://www.montcopa.org/637/Recycling-Information>

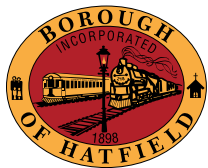
## Paying your taxes

Payments may be made by check and money order. You may also pay online at [www.hatfieldborough.com](http://www.hatfieldborough.com) using a Visa or Mastercard. You may drop these payments off in the Hatfield Borough outside dropbox 24/7 or in the tax collector's lockbox during normal business hours. To make an off-collection-hours appointment, please kindly leave a message and I will get back to you promptly.

Mohammed Haque, Tax Collector  
[mhaque@hatfieldborough.com](mailto:mhaque@hatfieldborough.com), (215) 855-0781 Option 7

## Volunteer

Hatfield Borough is always looking for residents and business owners to join our growing list of volunteers for the numerous events, activities and projects we have planned for the coming years. Email Lindsay Hellmann, Public Information Coordinator at [lhellmann@hatfieldborough.com](mailto:lhellmann@hatfieldborough.com) if you are interested in volunteering.



**Municipal Complex**

401 S. Main Street  
PO Box 190  
Hatfield, PA 19440

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# Businesses of the Borough

## Businesses of the Month



### Fall/Winter

**Emmanuel EC Church  
Food Cupboard**  
100 South Main Street  
(215) 855-2540

**Hatfield Volunteer Fire Company**  
75 North Market Street  
(215) 855-2121

**Spotless Grill Cleaning**  
37 North Market Street  
(215) 393-3948

**Hatfield Police Department**  
200 School Road  
(215) 855-0903

**Morales Business Solutions**  
210 West Broad Street  
(267) 520-0270

**Volunteer Medical Services Corps**  
175 Medical Campus Drive,  
Lansdale  
(215) 855-3779

# Get Involved:

## Exciting Volunteer Opportunities in Hatfield Borough!

Are you looking to make a positive impact in Hatfield Borough?

Our vibrant community hosts a variety of free events all year round, and we're thrilled to invite residents like you to join us in creating memorable experiences from behind the scenes. Volunteering strengthens community bonds and offers fantastic perks along the way. Join us today and be a driving force for community engagement!

Reach out to Lindsay at [lhellmann@hatfieldborough.com](mailto:lhellmann@hatfieldborough.com) to explore exciting volunteer opportunities!