FREE

FLEMINGTON NEWS

PUBLISHED BY THE HISTORIC BOROUGH OF FLEMINGTON | SUMMER 2025 ISSUE

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Council	Adrienne Fusaro
Council	Trent Levitt
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NOTES FROM THE MAYOR

2025 BUDGET INFORMATION

Since 2022, the municipal tax has increased a total of 4.68%, slightly over 1% per year on average in spite of inflation. In dollars and cents, this equates to a municipal tax increase based on the value of the average house in Flemington to about a $935.75 over four years. Home values have risen dramatically in this period in the Borough also in spite of inflation.

However, the 2025 budget decreased the tax rate by 0.76% or $0.008 while still permitting the Borough to continue to aggressively address the municipality's high debt issue. For example, the 2024 budget increased the tax rate by 2.16 cents and, through careful and conservative operational spending, paid down debt by $614,130, or 5.51 percent of borough debt while still managing to fund important utility and infrastructure projects.

Several major cost categories went up worth noting including another large increase in the cost of public health insurance, capital improvements, emergency service expenses, and the reserve for uncollected taxes.

The 2025 Budget aggressively pays down principal on financing notes in the amount of $500,000 over the next three years avoiding costly and wasteful interest payments. Through this strategy, the Borough avoids paying over $60,000 in interest payments and thus avoids a more than 6% tax increase over the same period.

This budget continues to keep the Borough on a track of financial soundness and positions us to pay off debt and plan for future capital projects such as the long overdue Main Street project, fixing the Wet Weather Facility, Academy Street, finishing the new Police Facility and building at least one additional well while doing so with a stable and predictable financial environment.

The 2025 Budget brings our surplus to just under $2 million dollars, the highest it has been in the history of the Borough, and close to the amount recommended by our auditor, 25% of our budget total or $2.25 million, as well as where our bond rating company wants to see the Borough financially.

Mayor Marcia Karrow

BOROUGH CALENDAR

JULY 4
Borough Offices Closed for Independence Day

JULY 7 | 7PM
Environmental Commission Meeting

JULY 8 | 7PM
Planning Board Meeting

JULY 16 | 7PM
Historic Preservation Meeting

JULY 21 | 7PM
Mayor & Council Meeting

JULY 22 | 7PM
Planning Board Meeting

AUGUST 4 | 7PM
Environmental Commission Meeting

AUGUST 8
Bulk Pickup (Stickers at Borough Hall)

LIBRARY CALENDAR

KIDS READING PROGRAMS

Storytimes: Ages 3-5 Years
Tuesdays 10:30 AM

Baby Time: Ages 6-24 Months
Wednesdays 10:00 AM

Toddler Tales: Ages 2-3 Years
Wednesdays 10:30 AM

ADULTS

Daytime Book Club:	First Thursday 10:30 AM
Evening Book Club:	First Monday 6:00 PM
Saturday Book Club:	Second Saturday 11:00 AM
Writers Workshop:	First Saturday 11:30 AM
	Third Monday 7:00 PM
Mahjong:	Mondays 5:00 PM
Card Games:	Thursdays 7:00

FLEMINGTON EVENTS!

Sip & Strolls on Stangl: Thursday, 7/17 & 8/21 | 5 - 8pm

Stangl Moon Markets: Saturday, 7/26 & 8/21 | 3 – 8pm

Food Truck Festival @ Shoppes of Flemington : 8/9 | 11am - 7pm

Main Street Tent Sales: 9/6 | 10am - 4pm

Central Jersey Jazz Festival on Main Street: Saturday 9/13 | 5 - 9pm

Flemington Car Shows on Stangl: 7/5 & 8/30 | 5 - 8:30pm

Flemington Car Shows on Main Street: 7/19, 8/2, 8/16, 9/6 | 5 - 8:30pm

***Note: The Corn, Tomato and Beer Festival will be delayed this year** into the fall due to necessary Liberty Village Construction on Stangl Road. Therefore, we will host the Hunterdon Harvest Fest this year on October 4th (Raindate 10/18). The Corn, Tomato and Beer Festival will return next August!

EVENTS are FREE and open to the Public!

SAVE THE DATES!

OCTOBER 4 | STANGL ROAD

SEPTEMBER 13 | MAIN STREET

FLEMING CASTLE CALENDAR

Samuel Fleming House Museum and Garden
"The Heart and Start of Flemington" 2025 Calendar of Events

Saturday, July 12: Ice Cream Social

Saturday, September 13: Historic House Tour

Saturday, October 11: Pumpkin Decorating

Events run from 1 p.m.—3 p.m. unless otherwise noted
*Events are subject to change, please check our website, Facebook, or Instagram for up-to-date information.
5 Bonnell Street, Flemington, NJ 08822
www.SamuelFlemingHouse.org
@SamuelFlemingHouse1756

Flemington Borough ANNUAL FIREWORKS DISPLAY

JULY 3, 2025

(Rain Date: July 5)

LOCATION: Raritan Flemington Intermediate School, 50 Court Street, Flemington

Fields Open at 6:00PM | Fireworks launch at ~ 9:15PM (Dusk)

- Dr. D will provide entertainment / music starting at 6PM
- Rita's Ice will be available for purchase (benefits event)
- Bring your chairs or blankets for this great show!

Any questions or show sponsorship can be addressed to
Marc Hain- Fireworks Chairman Show Coordinator at mhain@historicflemingtton.com

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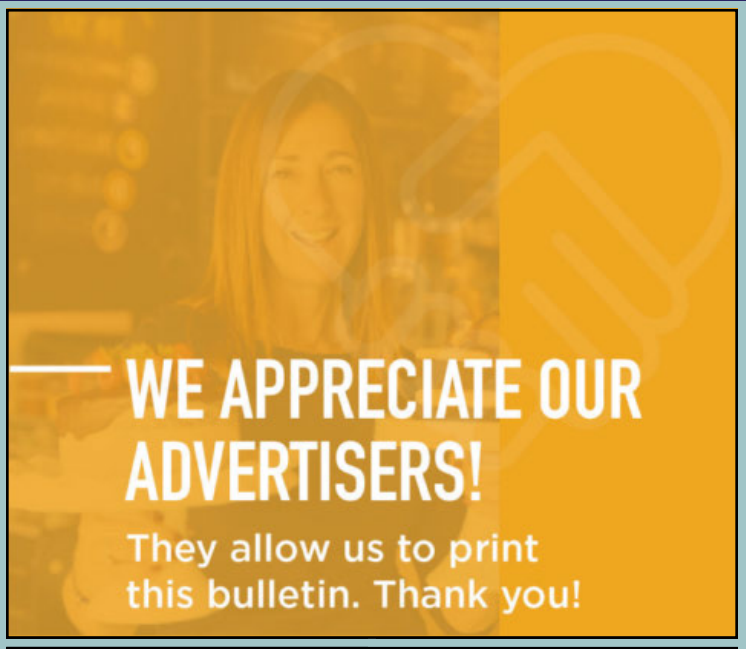

SUMMER NEWS from the SHADE TREE COMMISSION

Did you know trees help prevent flooding, cool our town, and increase property value? If so, you may already be part of our town's Adopt-A-Tree program or have planted a seedling yourself. While healthy trees offer many benefits, neglected ones can become hazardous. Here are a few tips to help your sapling thrive.

WATER, WATER, WATER.

Young trees need lots of water, especially in summer. Watering bags or doughnuts, which are affordable and effective, help during dry spells. Mulch also retains moisture—apply 2-4 inches, avoiding piles at the base. Don't use weed covers or cloth near the trunk. A mulch "doughnut" shape is ideal to promote airflow and prevent rot.

Feed and protect your tree.

Follow nursery guidelines for soil nutrients. Keep the base clear and avoid weed whacking or mowing close to the trunk. Ensure your tree has only one leader by removing competing ones, reducing branch stress.

Planting matters.

Trees should come with specific planting instructions. Always remove any metal from the root ball. Ask the nursery whether to remove the burlap before planting. If professionals are planting your tree, ensure they follow proper guidelines.

Choose the right location.

Large trees (30-60 feet) should not be near power lines or building foundations. While we all love shade trees, a smaller tree might be better suited for your space. Check with the nursery to make sure it's "the right tree for the right space."

STAYING SAFE During Summer Months from our POLICE DEPT.

As warm weather and summer activities increase, so does the potential for crime. With residents spending more time outdoors, leaving town for vacations, and keeping windows open at night to enjoy the summer breeze, it's important to stay mindful of safety.

Here are a few KEY TIPS to help keep you and your community SAFE:

Secure Your Home and Vehicle:

Even if you're only stepping out briefly, always lock your doors and windows. With more people out and about in neighborhoods, it's essential to safeguard your property at all times.

Be Cautious with Social Media:

Summer is a popular time for vacations and day trips—and while it's tempting to share your experiences online in real time, doing so can alert others that your home is unoccupied. Avoid posting travel plans or location updates until after you've returned.

Travel Smart:

When heading out, especially at night, stay alert and try to travel with trusted friends or family. Be aware of your surroundings and trust your instincts.

By staying vigilant and informed, we can all help ensure a safer, more enjoyable summer season. We emphasize that prevention is key to reducing crime and keeping our neighborhoods safe. As always, we encourage residents to report any suspicious activity. A simple phone call to the Flemington Police Department's non-emergency number (908-782-3434) or an anonymous tip to the Hunterdon County Crime Stoppers (1-800-321-0010 or www.crimestoppershunterdon.com) can make a significant difference.

In the case of an emergency, dial 911 immediately.

Flemington Police Department Encourages Summer Bike Safety

Helmets, Sidewalk Use, and Sharing the Road

With the warm weather arriving, the Flemington Borough Police Department reminds residents to stay safe while bicycling and enjoying outdoor activities this summer. Children and families are out in greater numbers, which makes it especially important to follow local ordinances and state laws designed to protect both bicyclists and pedestrians.

One of the most important safety measures for young riders is to wear a helmet. Under New Jersey law, all children under the age of 17 must wear a properly fitted and fastened helmet when riding a bicycle, skateboard, scooter, or using roller skates. This law also includes children who are passengers in bike trailers or restraining seats. Helmets are one of the most effective ways to prevent serious head injuries, and compliance with this law helps ensure that our kids stay safe. Parents are encouraged to check their children's helmets for a proper fit and replace them if they are damaged or outgrown.

In addition to helmet use, the Borough of Flemington has local ordinances that prohibit riding bicycles, skateboards, to ensure the safety of pedestrians and to maintain a safe environment in our downtown and residential areas.

Motorists also play a vital role in bicycle safety. New Jersey's Safe Passing Law, which went into effect in 2022, requires drivers to provide at least four feet of space when passing a cyclist or other vulnerable road user, such as a pedestrian. If it's not possible to move over or give that space, drivers must slow down to 25 miles per hour and pass only when it is safe to do so. This law helps reduce crashes and ensures that everyone on the road is treated with the same respect and caution.

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From the Flemington Borough Office of Emergency Management

Hurricane Preparedness

As hurricane season approaches, the Flemington Borough Office of Emergency Management (OEM) wants to remind residents that even though our community is not located along the coast, we are still vulnerable to serious impacts from tropical storms and hurricanes. Hurricane season runs from June 1st through November 30th, and while we may not face storm surges, inland towns like Flemington can still experience heavy rain, flooding, damaging winds, and prolonged power outages.

One of the most significant threats to our area during a hurricane or tropical storm is flooding. Torrential rains can overwhelm storm drains and waterways, leading to flash flooding in low-lying neighborhoods, along roadways, and near the South Branch of the Raritan River. Even a downgraded storm can drop several inches of rain in just a few hours, making travel hazardous and potentially damaging homes and businesses.

High winds are another concern. While wind speeds tend to decrease as storms move inland, they can still be strong enough to bring down trees and power lines. This can result in blocked roads, property damage, and extended power outages especially if utility crews are unable to safely access affected areas right away. Loose items like lawn furniture, trash cans, and decorations can also become dangerous projectiles in high winds, so securing outdoor belongings ahead of a storm is critical.

OEM encourages all residents to be proactive and prepare now rather than waiting until a storm is on its way. Every household should have an emergency kit with enough supplies to last at least 72 hours. This includes water, non-perishable food, flashlights, extra batteries, a first-aid kit, essential medications, and copies of important documents stored in a waterproof container. It's also a good idea to keep a portable phone charger and some cash on hand, as ATMs and credit card systems may not function during a widespread power outage.

Just as important as supplies is having a family emergency plan in place. Talk with your household members about how you'll communicate and where you'll meet if separated. Make sure everyone knows your designated emergency contact person preferably someone outside the immediate area who can help coordinate if local communication lines go down.

Finally, staying informed is one of the most effective ways to stay safe. Flemington Borough has launched a new emergency alert system to keep residents updated with real-time information during storms and other emergencies. We strongly encourage everyone to register now at www.historicflemington.com by clicking on the "Emergency Alerts" link. This free service will send updates directly to your phone or email about weather alerts, road closures, shelter locations, and other critical information.

Even though Flemington is inland, the risks from hurricanes and tropical storms are real. Taking simple steps today can make all the difference tomorrow. For questions or assistance with preparedness, contact the Flemington OEM at oem@historicflemington.com.

PROPERTY TAX RELIEF

For Senior Homeowners and Renters

Age 65 and Over

Eligibility requirements, including income limits, and benefits available for all property tax relief programs are subject to change by the State Budget.

FILE BY 10/31/25

For program details, scan the QR code or visit: bity.ly/NJPropTaxRelief

Are You READY!

Some disasters strike without any warning. Have you thought about those supplies you'll need the most? They will usually be the hardest to come by. Enlist your children to help gather supplies for your family's emergency kit. It'll bring you a sense of relief, and your kids a feeling of empowerment.

Make sure you have enough supplies to last for at least **three days**. Think about where you live and your needs. Consider having a large kit at home, and smaller portable kit in the car or your workplace.

If a big storm is coming...

- ✔ Fill your car with gas
- ✔ Fill plastic bags with water and place them in the freezer
- ✔ Get extra cash out of the bank
- ✔ Fill prescriptions

Emergency Supplies List

- ☐ 3-day supply of non-perishable food (dried fruit, canned tuna fish, peanut butter, etc.)
- ☐ Can opener
- ☐ Paper plates, plastic cups and utensils, paper towels
- ☐ Moist towelettes, garbage bags and plastic ties for personal sanitation
- ☐ Water – at least a gallon per person, per day for drinking and hygiene
- ☐ First aid kit
- ☐ Prescription medication and glasses
- ☐ Sleeping bag or warm blanket for everyone in your family
- ☐ Change of clothes to last for at least 3 days, including sturdy shoes; consider the weather where you live
- ☐ Matches in a waterproof container
- ☐ Toothbrush, toothpaste, soap and other personal items
- ☐ Feminine hygiene supplies
- ☐ Fire extinguisher
- ☐ Wrench or pliers to turn off utilities
- ☐ Dust mask, and plastic sheeting and duct tape, to help filter contaminated air
- ☐ Battery-powered or hand-cranked radio and extra batteries
- ☐ Flashlights and extra batteries
- ☐ Cell phone with charger, extra battery and solar charger
- ☐ Whistle to signal for help
- ☐ Household chlorine bleach and medicine dropper (when diluted nine parts water to one part bleach, bleach can be used as a disinfectant. Or in an emergency, you can use it to treat water by using 16 drops of regular household liquid bleach per gallon of water. Do not use scented, color safe or bleaches with added cleaners.)
- ☐ Local maps
- ☐ Cash or traveler's checks
- ☐ Emergency reference material such as first aid book or information from www.ready.gov
- ☐ Important family documents such as copies of insurance policies, ID, and bank records in a waterproof, portable container
- ☐ Pet supplies
- ☐ Infant formula and diapers
- ☐ Paper and pencil
- ☐ Books, games or puzzles (let your kids pick these out themselves!)
- ☐ Your child's favorite stuffed animal or security blanket
- ☐ Pet food and extra water for your pet

Don't forget to think about infants, elderly, pets, or any family members with special needs!

Why is it Important to LICENSE YOUR PET?

To safeguard public health

Every licensed pet has been vaccinated against rabies. This protects your pets, children and neighbors against this deadly disease! When the license tag is visible, you know that the animal has been vaccinated!

To help your pet get home

If your pet gets lost, your pet can be returned more quickly and sometimes without a trip to the shelter! If it is impounded and taken to the shelter, it is safer there than it would be roaming the streets in harm's way. A license tag can be easily traced to the animal's owner with a phone call. A license tag is your pet's ticket home.

To help us to enforce laws on responsible pet ownership

If we can track pet ownership, then we know where to focus our services and education efforts.

IT'S THE LAW!

Dogs and Cats must be licensed and vaccinated against rabies. Any person who owns, keeps or harbors a dog or cat of licensing age (over 6 months old) shall annually apply for and procure from the clerk a license and official metal registration tag for each dog or cat, and shall place upon each such dog or cat a collar or harness with the registration tag securely fastened. Your animal must have a valid rabies vaccination that is good through October 31st of the issuing year, or we will not be able to issue or renew per State Regulations. Please contact Borough Hall for more information.

DPW UPDATES

• **Free mulch and delivery** is still available to borough residents. Two yards maximum per address. Please reach out to Mike Campion at 908-531-4395 or mcampion@historicflemington.com to schedule a delivery.

• **NJDOT with Black Western Railroad** will be installing a new train crossing signal at the Broad Street Railroad Crossing. No detours or road closures are required.

• **Williams Street Road Project,** which was awarded to the lowest responsible bidder, should begin shortly. Williams Street between Broad Street and Elwood Avenue will be closed when construction begins.

• **Elwood Avenue gas main installation:** Elizabethtown gas will be installing a new gas main between New Jersey Avenue and Highland Avenue. This project will begin once Hunterdon Central High School is in summer recess.

• **Bulk Item Collection:** The next scheduled bulk item collection is scheduled for Friday, August 8. Please purchase bulk item stickers at Borough Hall.

• **New weight limit restrictions** have been placed on Court Street between Park Avenue and Main Street. Trucks over four tons are restricted on this section of Court Street.

***Reminder:** the public trash receptacles around town are for causal pedestrian use. Please do not place business or household trash in the receptacles.*

NEW Wildlife Feeding Ordinance

On June 9, 2025, the Borough adopted Ordinance 2025-16 into law making it illegal to feed wildlife other than birds. This includes deer, raccoons, foxes and other mammals found in the Borough. It is already against NJ State law to feed bears. Please immediately cease putting any food out for deer or other wildlife regardless of the time of the year or weather conditions.

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A NOTE from the PLANNING BOARD CHAIR

Dear Flemington Residents,

I'm excited to have the opportunity to update you on the work that your Planning Board has been doing since I had the honor of becoming Chair last year. Although I'm guessing many of you aren't aware of the work The Planning Board does on your behalf, I encourage you to peruse our section of the Borough Website, contact any of us or even attend a meeting or two. We are still broadcasting our meetings on zoom and welcome input on any applications we are dealing with, any work we are undertaking on ordinances or the Master Plan, or also just on any concerns you have with the town. Every member of the Board is a volunteer who takes the responsibility of representing the stakeholders in the town very seriously. We have a wide range of expertise represented on the Board but always welcome new viewpoints or ideas.

Although what we do may seem isolated from your everyday concerns as a resident, the work we do impacts us all in both long term planning via the Master Plan, and short term changes when we assess an application that wants to be approved outside of the current ordinances or regulations; These are called variances, and we take those decisions very seriously considering what we feel you would feel comfortable with us approving.

I am working towards both increased transparency and simplification in our processes. All application documents are available on the Planning Board section of the borough website for you all to review, we post our agenda there as well as our minutes and we notice all Public Hearings. You may notice we are a little behind on minutes recently, but we unfortunately lost our amazing Planning Board Secretary Eileen Parks after 17 years with the Borough, I'd like to take this opportunity to thank her once again for her service, and I am hopeful we will have a replacement soon. Borough Clerk Carla Conner is ably stepping in to assist in the interim. We generally meet on the second and fourth Tuesday of the Month but check the borough website as some months are changed because of public Holidays or Council needs.

In terms of simplifying our processes we tidied up our application checklist to make it clear and open what we need from applicants to move forward, an improvement which reduced the time needed for our Professionals to assess applications, minimizing costs for all and reducing delays caused by missing documentation. This year we are going to review our internal procedures to make sure all stakeholders are represented properly, and meetings are shorter for the sake of our volunteer Board members and members of the Public who wish to attend. We are also excited to work closely with the Zoning and Construction Office to clarify and simplify the signage application process to again minimize costs and delays for applicants.

If there are any Planning related issues that you feel we should be working on or considering, please reach out or come to a meeting, the first item on our Agenda is always public comments, we'd love to see and hear from you!

Karen Giffen
Chair, Planning Board

Advanced Gastroenterology & Nutrition
Welcomes
Keri Lee Pinnock, MD, Gastroenterologist

Dr. Keri Lee Pinnock recently joined the staff at Advanced Gastroenterology & Nutrition, specializing in digestive health and cancer prevention.

Flemington
1100 Wescott Drive, Suite 304

Bridgewater
Bridgewater Medical Office Building
1121 Route 22 West, Suite 203

To make an appointment, call 908-788-4022.

Scan the QR code to learn more about Advanced Gastroenterology & Nutrition.

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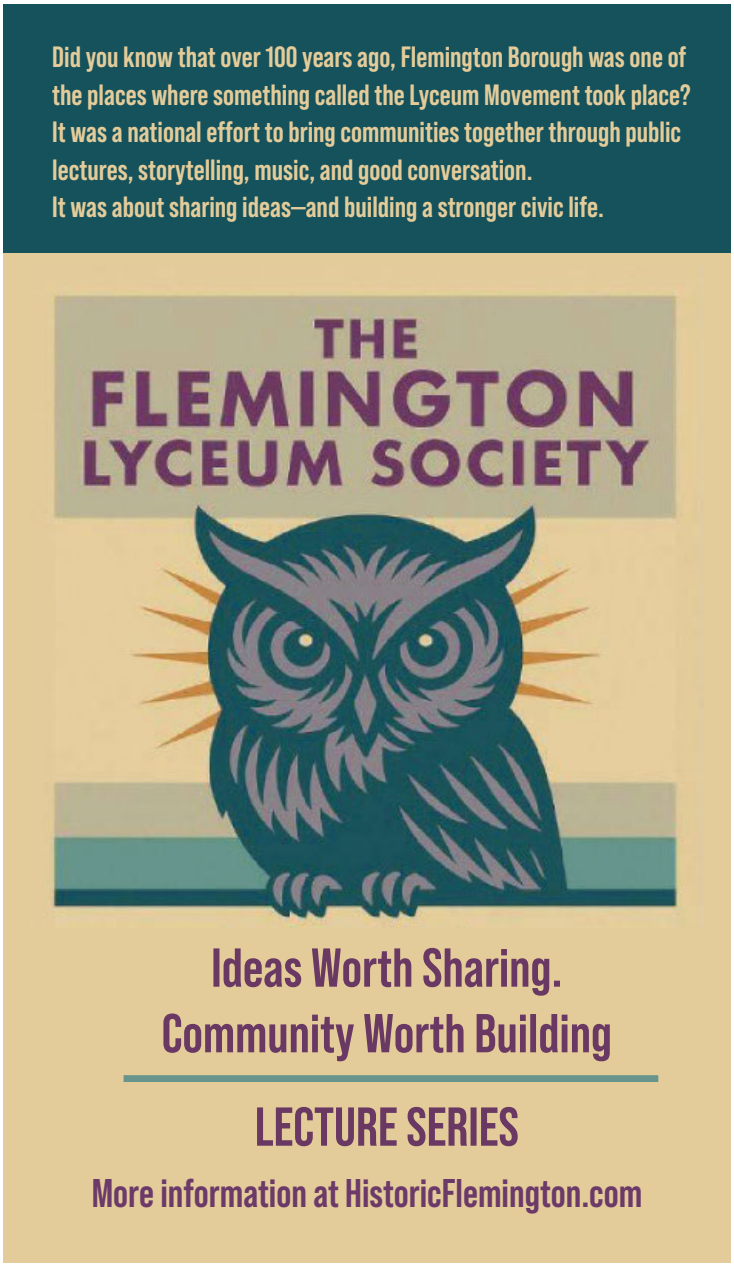
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION (HPC) UPDATE

Flemington's Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) remains active reviewing applications for changes to properties in the Historic District and pursuing ongoing projects. We meet monthly on the third Wednesday at 7 PM. The public is welcome to attend in person at Borough Hall or via Zoom—links are posted on the Borough calendar.

The volunteer Commission consists of five regular members and two alternates, all appointed by the Mayor. We currently have an alternate member vacancy—those interested should contact the Mayor or HPC Chair.

In 2024, the HPC reviewed 22 applications and hosted two major events: a fall Walk and Talk, and a spring House Tours event that drew over 500 visitors. The next House Tours is scheduled for Saturday, June 21, 2025. We also completed an updated Historic District Map, reflecting changes in roads and properties. The district covers more than two-thirds of the Borough and includes over 500 historic properties.

Our 2025 goal is to achieve Certified Local Government (CLG) status through the State Historic Preservation Office. This would make us eligible for additional funding, training, and support. We're currently updating our procedures and ordinances to meet CLG requirements—only one HPC in Hunterdon County currently holds this status.

We also plan to expand our self-guided Walking Tours. If you haven't tried it yet, explore 17 historic properties on Main Street using the free Pocket Sights app, which provides GPS guidance, images, and historical context:

https://pocketsights.com/tours/tour/Flemington-Flemington-Historic-Walking-Tour-Main-Street-North-7711