



Photography by Jonathan Smith

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER | FALL ISSUE 2025

A NOTE FROM THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT

After spending the summer making some important improvements in the Borough, we're ready to usher in the fall season with new parking kiosks, a refurbished lot at Union Square and a fresh coat of paint on our Visitors Center. Work continues to update our Comprehensive Plan, and we are in the early stages of developing a comprehensive green initiative program for improvements to our parks and public spaces.

Over the last few years, we've gathered quite a bit of feedback about the parking kiosk system, and we heeded as many of your suggestions as we could when it came time to replace the 7 year old system this year. The new kiosks were installed in August, and we think it is a much improved product. We hope the new units are more user-friendly and easier on the eye than the kiosks they replaced. Let us know what you think of them!

Another concern we addressed this summer was the state of the parking spaces all the way in the back of the Union Square parking lot. About 40 lot spaces were reconstructed with new paving, a fresh curb and a guardrail, making it a much safer place to park.

Our efforts to maintain and improve the Visitors Center continued this year with exterior work, including a new coat of white paint. Last year, we focused on rehabilitating the windows – right down to the sash weights – to restore them to full historical working order.

The Borough is looking into a comprehensive green initiative program for improvements to our parks, municipal buildings and other public outdoor spaces. The goal is to identify maintenance needs and improvements we can make to these outdoor areas, and set out short-, medium- and long-term priorities. As we develop this outline, we'll keep a sharp eye out for projects that are good candidates for state and county grant funding, as well as any projects that our Borough committees might undertake themselves.

Our Comprehensive Plan update will wrap up its workshop phase this fall, with residents invited to work with professional planners and subject matter experts to help establish a vision and discuss possible solutions over a wide range of topics affecting New Hope. These topic areas were identified in a series of community workshops this spring and summer, which were well-attended by a good cross-section of residents.

The plan was last updated in 2011. The Borough is working with the Bucks County Planning Commission on this once-a-decade revision, which is an official document that serves as a guide to land use decision making.

Public involvement is very important in revising our Comprehensive Plan, and many residents have made their voices heard through surveys, workshops and public hearings. You can stay up to date on the planning process, join one of the workshop sessions, leave a comment or ask a question at the project website, Connects.BucksCounty.gov/NewHopeCompPlan.

Wishing everyone one a happy and healthy holiday season!

Ken Maisel

Ken Maisel, *New Hope Borough Council President*



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BOROUGH MANAGER MESSAGE

The last few months have been busy in the Borough. We have implemented new software for use by the Administrative Staff to aid in the permitting process, improving efficiency and reducing some of our overhead costs.

The Public Works Department, led by Public Works Director Matt Decker, has spent the summer keeping our various parks and streets in an orderly fashion, putting their best face forward for residents, shoppers and tourists alike.

The Borough Staff is here to help. If you see anything of concern in our public locations or if you need assistance with permits and general information, feel free to contact the Borough Office at (215) 862-3347.



Peter Gray
Borough Manager

Peter Gray
Borough Manager

BOROUGH CONTACT INFORMATION

Borough Office.....215-862-3347	Police Dept. Office — Non-Emergency215-862-3033
General Information.....x151	EMERGENCY911
Code Enforcement.....x154	New Hope Eagle Fire Department215-862-2692
Code Officialx154	Lambertville-New Hope Ambulance
Zoning.....x155	& Rescue Squad609-397-0945
Public Works.....215-862-3031	The Free Library of New Hope and Solebury215-862-2330
	Greater New Hope Chamber..... NewHopeChamber@gmail.com

Public Comment for Council Meeting:
PublicComment@NewHopeBorough.org

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NEW HOPE BOROUGH COUNCIL

New Hope has an elected 7-member Borough Council which plays a central role in borough government. Council sets policy, enacts legislation, adopts budgets, controls expenditures, appoints advisory commissions and boards, and hires employees. Council members are elected to four year terms, with either 3 or 4 members up for election every two years.

Council elects a President, Vice-president, and President Pro Tem from its ranks. The President, in cooperation with council, establishes standing committees and makes appointments thereto.

These standing committees generally consider all matters pertaining to a particular area of public policy, such as land use regulation, historic preservation, or recreation, and make recommendations to the full council.

Monthly public meetings are held on the third Tuesday of the month at 6:30 PM in the Community Meeting Room at 125 New Street. Workshop meetings are held at 6:30 PM on the first Monday of each month in the Community Room. Meeting dates and times are subject to change, so please visit the Borough website for the latest information.



*Ken Maisel
President*



*Michele Becci
Vice President*



Connie Gering



Joseph Kassick



Peter Meyer



Kelly Whitman



Trish Herlan



*Laurence D. Keller
Mayor*

BOROUGH MAYOR

The New Hope Mayor, Laurence D. Keller, has several roles:

- The Mayor works with the Police Chief to set police policy and work rules and is responsible for emergency proclamations.
- The Mayor attends Council meetings and generally votes when there is a tie.
- The Mayor also represents the Borough in local functions and events and may perform weddings.



*Vickie Lupisella
Tax Collector*

NEW HOPE BOROUGH ELECTED TAX COLLECTOR

The elected Tax Collector bills and collects all real estate taxes for the Borough, County and School District. Each taxing district sets its own tax rate and informs the elected Tax Collector. The Borough's elected Tax Collector is:

Vickie Lupisella
PO Box 444
New Hope, PA 18938
Phone: 267-221-4426
taxcollectornewhope@gmail.com



*Frank DeLuca
Constable*

NEW HOPE BOROUGH ELECTED CONSTABLE

A PA State Constable is a sworn peace officer of the executive branch who is directly elected by and answerable to the voters of their borough. Along with other duties, Constables are charged with keeping order at the election polls and ensuring that no qualified voter is obstructed from voting.

ALERTS SIGN UP

Remember to sign up for alerts through the Borough website to receive notifications regarding Borough activities and news. www.NewHopeBorough.org > Sign Up for Alerts

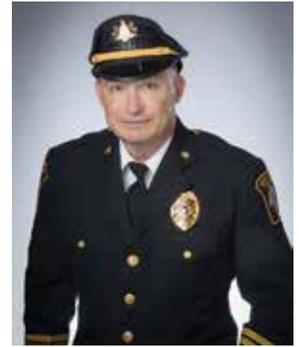
Choose the notifications that you wish to receive and the method of delivery - email, text message or both.

- Borough Council meetings
- Meeting Agendas and Minutes
- Road Closures
- Boards and Commission meetings
- Emergency Notifications
- Press Release / News Flash

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF OF POLICE NEW HOPE BOROUGH POLICE DEPARTMENT



As the leaves begin to turn and the crisp air signals the arrival of fall in our beautiful town of New Hope, I want to take a moment to connect with you, our residents and visitors, and provide some updates from your Police Department.



Kevin Edwards

First and foremost, I want to express my sincere appreciation for the continued support and cooperation we receive from the community. Your engagement and trust play a critical role in helping us maintain the safety, vibrancy and quality of life that make New Hope such a special place to live, work and visit.

This fall, our department continues to focus on a few key priorities:

Community Safety and Visibility

Our officers are increasing foot patrols throughout town, particularly during peak hours and special events. This initiative not only enhances our visibility but also allows our officers to connect more personally with residents, business owners and tourists. Please don't hesitate to stop and say hello!

Traffic and Pedestrian Safety

With the increase in fall tourism, we urge all drivers to remain vigilant, especially near crosswalks and in our downtown area.

Technology

New Hope Police will be installing new in-car computers which will provide officers with faster, more reliable access to critical information while in the field, allowing them to efficiently run vehicle and person checks, complete reports and receive real-time updates from dispatch. These systems will streamline communication, improve situational awareness and reduce the need for officers to return to the station, enabling them to remain visible and available within the community. Ultimately, this technology will enhance officer safety, improve response times and support more effective policing.

Emergency Preparedness

As we head into colder months, we encourage everyone to review emergency plans and stay informed of potential weather-related advisories. Our department will continue to coordinate with emergency services to ensure we are ready to respond quickly and effectively should severe weather impact our area.

National Night Out Success

Thank you to everyone who joined us for **National Night Out** in August at Laurel Park. It was a fantastic evening of community-building, food, fun and connection with local police and fire departments. Events like these remind us why public service matters.

As always, the New Hope Borough Police Department remains committed to community-oriented policing – built on relationships, trust and shared responsibility.

Wishing you and your families a safe, peaceful and colorful fall season.

Kevin M. Edwards
Chief of Police



NEW HOPE SIDEWALK SAFETY

New Hope Borough is currently working with a number of properties that were brought to our attention due to unsafe conditions regarding our sidewalks. What we realized was that there was some confusion regarding who is responsible for sidewalks, trees and other areas of concern. Whether you're the property owner or a tenant, it is your responsibility to address these unsafe situations. Be proactive not reactive. As always when in doubt reach out.

How does this affect me?

- Know your property, inspect for any trip hazards or conditions that can cause unsafe conditions.
- Are you located in the Historic District or a PennDot road?
- Before starting any repairs/replacement contact the Borough to see if a permit is required.
- Remember if you have trip hazards and someone trips on your property you could possibly be opening yourself up to litigation.



Chapter 233 Streets and Sidewalks

§233-3 When any sidewalk in front of any property within the limits of the Borough shall be in such a condition in the judgment of the Borough Council as to require repaving and recurbing, or both, to be safe and convenient for public travel, the owner of such property shall be given written notice of the fact and shall be required to repave or recurb, or both, or make such repairs to the sidewalks within 20 days after the service of written notice upon him to do so. In the event of his failure to do the work required within the time prescribed hereby the Borough may proceed to do the said work and recover the costs thereof with a penalty of not less than \$100 and not more than \$1,000 added thereto as provided by law.

Any raised concrete causes unsafe conditions or cracked deteriorating concrete.

New Hope Arts Brings Sculpture, Creativity and Community to Life



New Hope Borough continues to shine as a destination for outdoor art, thanks to the ever-growing New Hope Arts Public Arts Program (PAP). This initiative now features nearly **50 outdoor sculptures**. The sculptures, created by talented regional and national artists, are on view year-round and free for all to enjoy. Most of the sculptures are available for purchase, making them a unique opportunity for collectors or anyone looking to enhance a garden, lawn or property with a truly distinctive piece. Five sculptures have already been sold and remain permanently installed, proof of the program's lasting impact. Guided group tours of the borough sculptures can be arranged by reaching out to the PAP chairperson, Pamm Kerr, at pammkerr@comcast.net.

Beyond the Public Arts Program, New Hope Arts has an exciting calendar of exhibitions and events. This fall, we partnered with the New Hope Historical Society for a special exhibition, *New Hope Then and Now*, where artists showcased works celebrating the character and beauty of our unique river town. Our programs also include improv comedy, poetry, tarot card readings, figure drawing sessions, a children's musical concert, a spirited Monster Prom and more.

We'll close out the year with two signature favorites: the *Works in Wood* exhibition (November 1-30), highlighting the region's rich heritage and contemporary talent in woodworking, and the return of *A Levittown Christmas Carol*, a locally written and produced musical that has become a beloved holiday tradition.

New Hope Arts extends its gratitude to the Borough Council, local businesses and community partners for supporting the Public Arts Program and our year-round programming. If you are interested in **becoming a site host, purchasing or commissioning a sculpture, or volunteering**, please call 215-862-9606, email info@newhopearts.org, visit www.newhopearts.org or stop by **2 Stockton Avenue** for a complete list of sculptures, pricing and an interactive map of locations. Your continued support ensures that art remains a visible and vital part of our community.



Christine Ramirez
Executive Director, New Hope Arts



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When “Mr. Copacabana” Opened a Nightclub in Village 2

Monte Proser founded the legendary Copacabana on E. 60th Street in Manhattan in 1940, but mob boss, Frank Costello, soon took control of the popular nightclub and eventually muscled Proser out. The “big-hearted” gangster compensated Monte by setting him up at a Las Vegas casino, where Monte produced Jayne Mansfield's striptease revue “The Tropicana Holiday” at the Tropicana that co-starred her husband, Mickey Hargitay.

Monte had learned about the charm of New Hope, Pennsylvania early on, probably through his work in the entertainment business. He married actress Jane Ball there in 1945, and they settled on Eagle Road in Jericho Mountain where they raised five sons. Seeing the growing popularity of the Bucks County Playhouse, he opened Monte Proser's Playhouse Inn in 1954.

Monte was robbed and beaten to an inch of his life by three teenagers in the parking lot of the Trenton train station in 1969, interfering with his plans to open his last venture, The Little Club. It was located in the 200-year-old Joshua Ely House in the center of an old 161-acre farm that was being developed by Gerald Finn and soon to be known as Village 2. Despite his serious injuries, Monte persisted. Hiring a chef from the Four Seasons in New York and Harry Rosin, a prominent interior designer from Philadelphia, he got The Little Club opened that same year. The nightclub was part of Finn's grand design for the Village 2 complex which would have included a golf course, swimming pool, tennis court, restaurant, ski slope and a 200 room motor lodge. Absent any snow, the slope, located behind the present Village 2 swimming pool, was covered with a slippery, plastic polyethylene surface, a rope-tow returning the skiers to the top of the hill. Houston architect William Jenkins designed Village 2 homes. Prices started at \$29,000.



The Joshua Ely House in 2025



The Bar in The Little Club as is appeared in 2025

The injuries Monte suffered led to his steadily diminishing health, forcing him to give up management of the club a year later. He died of a heart attack with his wife Jane at his side in his Eagle Road home on October 6, 1973.

Rozanne and Gerard Caronello purchased the Joshua Ely House in 1972. There was little remaining of The Little Club décor at that time. But they recall vividly how their daughter would gleefully slide down that plastic “snow” hill. The Caronellos opened the fabulous La Bonne Auberge restaurant that year, serving some of the finest classic French cuisine on the East Coast until retiring in 2009. They had incorporated the space occupied by The Little Club into their top-rated restaurant. Now it is their home, and they intend to stay at the legendary Joshua Ely House permanently. No doubt it is the rich history and unique beauty of the place that their elegant home in the center of idyllic Village 2 possesses that inspired Rozanne to remark to a reporter after they retired, “We could never sell it. They can bury us in the garden, but we won't leave.” Rozanne and Gerard still feel that way today.

Roy Ziegler

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL (EAC)

Environmental Interest is Growing in the Borough

In late May and early June, the Bucks County Planning Commission facilitated two sessions to gather resident inputs on key issues that should be addressed in the Borough's next comprehensive plan. After reviewing the results from these meetings, it is clear that environmental issues are forefront in residents' minds. Several environmental themes emerged including:

- Managing the environmental impacts of traditional development, such as increased stormwater and reduced sewer capacity
- Ensuring our infrastructure and emergency response capabilities are fit for the future in a changing climate
- Promoting sustainable development, preserving green spaces and increasing tree cover
- Promoting sustainable energy and transportation

However, the Comprehensive Plan meetings aren't the only place where residents can raise ideas that they have on how to make the Borough a greener, more sustainable and more resilient place to live, work and visit. The Environmental Advisory Council (EAC) meets the first Wednesday of every month at 6:30pm and discusses the environmental challenges and opportunities that face the Borough in order to advise the Borough Council on ways to make the Borough more sustainable. The EAC is also looking at ways to engage more Borough residents and get them active in events that help keep the Borough clean and green. For example, we participated in the Aquetong watershed cleanup in April and in a watershed tree planting event in May. We also recently advised the Council on how to introduce EV charging into the Borough. If you have ideas or issues that you want to discuss, please come out on a first Wednesday evening and join us.



FROM NEW HOPE PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD



Fall is a vibrant, fun-filled time here in New Hope with so much to see and explore. Our parks will be filled with the beautiful colors of the season along with scarecrows, pumpkins and cornstalks! Autumnal bliss abounds in our Borough!!

We hope that you will take advantage of this season and visit our Borough parks to see our many improvements, such as the new stone retaining wall at Ferry Landing Park.

And don't forget that P&R still offers legacy bricks to recognize milestones/achievements or in honor of/memory of a loved one. Log onto [newhopeborough.org>Government>Boards & Commissions>Parks & Recreation Board>Brick Order Form](https://newhopeborough.org/Government/Boards%20&%20Commissions/Parks%20&%20Recreation%20Board/Brick%20Order%20Form) document: <https://newhopeborough.org/DocumentCenter/View/1013/Brick-Order-Form-PDF>

Our Naturalizing New Hope campaign is still going strong, so if you have not yet registered your property, please consider doing so at the website below where you will find useful information on how easy it is to create a wildlife habitat garden and become certified! Now more than ever it's crucial for all of us to play a part in sustainable, healthy gardening.

www.nwf.org/garden

Beth Hasher

Chair, New Hope Parks and Recreation Board



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SHADE TREE COMMISSION



Arbor Day Celebration

This April, the Shade Tree Commission gathered with neighbors and friends to celebrate Arbor Day 2025 on Main Street. Together, we planted a new Crabapple tree to replace an invasive species and unveiled a newly completed Porous Pave tree pit, designed to support healthy root growth and improve stormwater management for years to come.

The celebration was made even sweeter through the partnership with the Bucks County Playhouse during their run of the Apple Boys. Playhouse staff handed out crisp apples to attendees, tying the performance's orchard-inspired story to our own efforts in growing and sustaining New Hope's urban forest. Local dogs and families added to the lively spirit, reminding us that Arbor Day is truly for the whole community.

The Arbor Day celebration was also an exhibit of community partnership, with funding provided by the property owner, the Playhouse and the Borough.

Borough Tree Review: Nurturing the Tree Canopy

Members of the Shade Tree Commission took to the streets this summer for their seasonal review of borough trees, checking on overall health and performing light pruning where needed. Each tree along the main business corridor was carefully inspected for signs of stress or disease, helping to ensure that our town's canopy remains strong, vibrant and welcoming for everyone.

During the review, the Commission removed small dead or overhanging branches to encourage healthy growth and maintain clear, safe sidewalks and streets. These hands-on efforts help protect trees for the future while preserving the charm of the tree-lined neighborhoods. Residents may notice these subtle improvements as our trees continue to thrive throughout the Borough.

The Shade Tree Commission welcomes community interest in caring for our urban forest. If you see a tree in need of attention or have questions about proper tree care at home, reach out and join us in protecting and growing New Hope's trees – together we can ensure our town's leafy canopy flourishes for generations to come.

Growing Strong: New Hope Earns Another Growth Award

New Hope continues to shine as a Tree City USA community, marking six years of recognition and, once again, earning a Growth Award from the Arbor Day Foundation. These honors reflect the dedication and commitment of the Borough and Shade Tree Commission in nurturing and expanding the town's tree canopy, keeping New Hope green, vibrant and thriving.

NEW HOPE EAGLE FIRE COMPANY

Support Your Local Fire Company:

For over 200 years, the **New Hope Eagle Fire Company** has proudly served our community as a **volunteer, non-profit organization**. From responding to fires and assisting EMS to conducting search and rescue operations and managing hazardous materials incidents, our dedicated volunteers are always ready to answer the call – day or night.

As we head into fall, we're kicking off our **recruitment and fundraising season**, and we'd love your support. Whether you're interested in volunteering, donating or just learning more about what we do, now is a great time to get involved.

Feel free to stop by the fire station (46 N. Sугan Road, New Hope, PA) to learn more or visit us online at www.nhefco.org or just drop us an email at info@nhefco.org.

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RAIN BARREL: WHAT IS IT & HOW IT IS USED

A large storm event has just occurred, and rain is rushing down your gutters and into your lawn. What if you could capture that water and use it later to water your gardens?

That's where a rain barrel or cistern comes in handy. These nifty devices situated near the end of your gutter capture rainwater and store it for later use in yards and gardens, saving you, the homeowner, money on watering your yard.

A rain barrel is always a great option to help reduce flow volume when the property in question is small, on steep slopes, has a shallow water table or depth to bedrock, or you're looking for a budget friendly way to water your garden or yard.



Image from The Homeowner's Guide to Stormwater

Produced by Lancaster County Conservation District

Installation of your Rain Barrel:

- **Step #1** – Install a barrel at the base of your downspouts.
- **Step #2** – A screen should be placed between the gutter and the barrel to prevent debris from collecting in the barrel.
- **Step #3** – Connect an overflow hose and spigot.
- **Step #4** – Sit back and watch rain events fill your barrel.

Care for your Rain Barrel:

- Clean the screen and filter regularly.
- Direct the overflow hose away from the building toward an existing garden or lawn.
- Empty before the winter months to avoid damage due to freezing water.

For more information about rain barrels visit:

<https://www.epa.gov/soakuptherain/soak-rain-rain-barrels>

or

<https://extension.psu.edu/rain-barrels-information-and-guide>

For any questions regarding stormwater or to report any pollutants entering the storm sewer system or a stream, please call the Borough at 215-862-3347.



THE FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

We're pleased to announce that the Friends of the Library (FOL) are publishing a new book this fall: *Vibrant New Hope: Our 21st Century Stories*. It is a beautiful collection of local stories and images celebrating our special borough. Want to support our wonderful library and enjoy reading stories from your neighbors? Pre-order your copy at a discounted rate before November 10th – or purchase it at full price afterward – either:

– BOOKS/EVENTS – Friends of the Free Library of New Hope & Solebury <https://friendsflnhs.org/booksevents.html>

– In person at the New Hope Library or Farley's Bookshop

This keepsake book makes a fun holiday gift for family and friends!

If the annual New Hope holiday parade is held this year, the Friends of the Library will be walking in it; we'd love to have you join us! Whether you're a longtime member or just want to be part of the fun, you're welcome. To let us

know you're interested, email Kris Reilly, FOL President, at friends.nhslibrary@gmail.com.

Although this year's weekend book sale season was shorter – running only from May through early September – it was still a big success! Thank you to everyone who volunteered or stopped by!

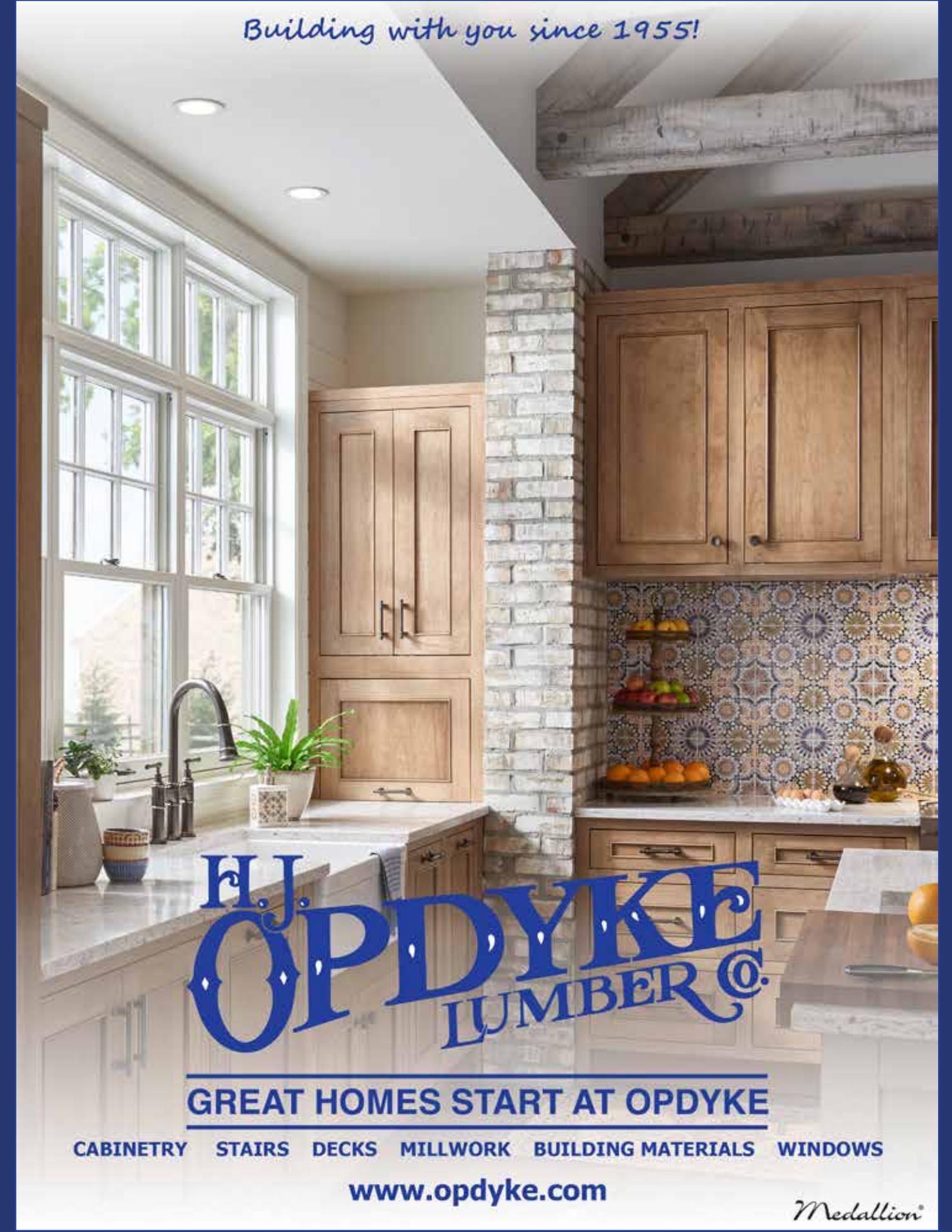
Interested in helping next year? It's a great way to meet other local volunteers and be a friendly face to visitors. Just email Kris at the address above.

So far this year, The Friends of the Library has donated funds for storage, shelving, programming and lots of things for the children's library. Because our volunteers handle fundraising and outreach for these specialty extras, the Library's Board of Trustees can focus on staffing and maintaining our historic building.

Want to support our mission? Become a member – whether to donate or volunteer – at:

<https://friendsflnhs.org/joincontact.html>

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