

**TOWNSHIP OF HOPEWELL
COUNTY OF MERCER, STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

ORDINANCE #26-1870

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING VARIOUS CHAPTERS OF THE REVISED
GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE TOWNSHIP OF HOPEWELL, 1978 FOR
CONSISTENCY WITH THE NEW PUBLIC NOTICE LAW**

WHEREAS, the State of New Jersey enacted P.L.2025, c.72 on June 30, 2025 and changed the requirements for notice throughout the State which become effective March 1, 2026; and

WHEREAS, the State now requires municipalities to post and advertise notice on online platforms in lieu of newspaper notices; and

WHEREAS, the update to New Jersey's notice requirements renders Chapters 2, 11, 15, 17, 20, & 23 of The Revised General Ordinances of the Township of Hopewell, 1978 ("Municipal Code") outdated; and

WHEREAS, the Township Committee desires to update the Code to reflect the changes highlighted in P.L.2025, c.72;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED AND ENACTED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Hopewell, County of Mercer, State of New Jersey, that Chapters 2, 11 15, 17, 20 & 23 of the Municipal Code be amended in the following sections to read as follows (deletions are shown as ~~strike throughs~~ and additions are underlined):

ARTICLE I – Amendment to Chapter 2 Entitled “General Licensing”
Chapter 2 entitled “General Licensing” is amended in the following sections:

§ 2-8 BOARD OF HEALTH

Pursuant to the provisions of Title 26 of the Revised Statutes of the State of New Jersey, there is hereby created a board of health which shall have and exercise all the powers and perform all the duties provided for by law and any other statute heretofore or hereinafter enacted and applicable thereto. The board of health shall consist of five members, all of whom shall be members of the township committee. Their terms shall be coextensive with their terms as members of the township committee.

The board of health shall appoint, on the day of its organization, a place, day and hour for the regular meeting of the board for the hearing of complaints, reports, and general business, and shall cause to be published on the Township's official Internet website ~~in the township newspaper notice of the same~~. At least one regular meeting shall be held in each year.

§ 2-33.16 Deer Management.

Hunting, shooting, killing and removal of white-tailed deer on municipally-owned property shall be allowed solely for the purpose of reducing and managing the township's deer population and only in accordance with the following provisions, and only on designated lands, and shall otherwise be prohibited in any township park or open space.

h. Dates and Locations for Hunting. The number of permits issued each year, the properties for

which the permits are issued and the dates on which those properties may be hunted, shall be determined annually by resolution of the township committee as recommended by the deer management advisory committee. A press release and/or notice informing the public of said designated dates and locations shall be published as follows: the Township's official Internet website, and the township's television channels, ~~and a press release shall be provided to the official newspaper(s) of Hopewell Township.~~ Residents within 200 feet of these designated properties also will be notified by mail.

ARTICLE II – Amendment to Chapter 11 Entitled “Building and Housing”

Chapter 11 entitled “Building and Housing” is amended in the following section:

§ 11-4.10 Service of Complaint

Complaints or orders issued by any public officer, or designated agent pursuant to this section, shall be served upon persons either personally or by registered or certified mail, but if the whereabouts of such person is unknown and the same cannot be ascertained by the public officer or his designated agent in the exercise of reasonable diligence, and the public officer, or his agent shall make an affidavit to that effect, then the serving of such complaint or order upon such persons may be made by publishing the same on the Township's official Internet website once in a newspaper circulating within the municipality. A copy of such complaint or order shall be posted in a conspicuous place on the premises affected by the complaint or order. A copy of such complaint or order shall be duly recorded or lodged for record with the clerk of the County of Mercer.

ARTICLE III – Amendment to Chapter 15 Entitled “Streets and Sidewalks”

Chapter 15 entitled “Streets and Sidewalks” is amended in the following section:

§ 15-4.3 Service of Notice.

Whenever any said abutting lands are unoccupied and the owner cannot be found within the municipality, the same may be mailed, postage prepaid, to his or her post office address, if the same can be ascertained. In the event that such owner is a nonresident of the municipality or his or her post office address cannot be ascertained, then the notice may be published on the Township's official Internet website ~~inserted for four weeks, once a week, in the official newspaper.~~

ARTICLE IV – Amendment to Chapter 17 Entitled “Land Use and Development”

Chapter 17 entitled “Land Use and Development” is amended in the following sections:

§ 17-54.9 Notice of Decision.

A brief notice of the decision shall be published on the Township’s official Internet website ~~in the official newspaper of the township or a newspaper of general circulation in the township.~~ Such publication shall be performed by the township administrator within 10 days of the date of the decision.

The township may make a reasonable charge for its publication. The period of time in which an appeal of the decision may be made shall run from the first publication of the decision, whether arranged by the township or the applicant.

§ 17-55 NOTICE OF HEARING.

- a. [remains unchanged]
- b. Public notice shall be given, by publication in an approved online news publication (as defined by P.L. 2025, c.72) ~~in the official newspaper of the township or in a newspaper of general circulation in the township~~ for a hearing on any application for development except regular site plan review, minor subdivisions for which a hearing is waived or for final approval of a major subdivision. Such public notice shall also be given for a hearing which involves a site plan or subdivision and also involves a request that the planning board grant a variance or direct the issuance of a permit for a building in the bed of a mapped street or other specified area or direct the issuance of a permit for a building not related to a street, pursuant to section 17-31, and in such cases the public notice shall include references to the subdivision or site plan as well as to the variance or other relief sought.

§ 17-248.2 Procedure

- a. [remains unchanged]
 - 1. [remains unchanged]
 - 2. [remains unchanged]
 - 3. [remains unchanged]
 - (a) Notice of any proposed demolition shall be posted on the exterior premises of the building, structure, site, object or improvement throughout the Notice Period in a location such that it is clearly readable. In addition, the applicant shall cause to be published in an approved online news publication (as defined by P.L. 2025, c.72) ~~the official newspaper of the township~~ a notice setting forth the following:
 - (b) [remains unchanged]
 - (c) [remains unchanged]
 - (1) [remains unchanged]
 - (2) [remains unchanged]

(3) Provide the commission with a copy of the notice that appeared in the approved online news publication (as defined by P.L. 2025, c.72) ~~official newspaper of the township~~ and a listing of all dates on which the said notice appeared in the newspaper; and

(4) [remains unchanged]

(5) [remains unchanged]

ARTICLE V – Amendment to Chapter 20 Entitled “Recycling”
Chapter 20 entitled “Recycling” is amended in the following section:

§ 20-1.1 Municipality

a. [remains unchanged]

b. [remains unchanged]

c. The Township of Hopewell shall heretofore provide for a collection system for leaves generated from residential premises, prohibit the placement of leaves for collection or disposal as solid waste, and require that persons occupying residential premises within its municipal boundaries source separate leaves from solid waste generated at those premises and, unless leaves are stored or recycled for composting or mulching by the generator, place the leaves for collection in the manner provided for herein.

Residents will be notified on the Township’s official Internet website ~~in the area newspapers~~ when township public works crews will begin the leaf pickup program each year. Signs will be posted in each neighborhood one week before the township's scheduled pickup. Residents are requested to rake their leaves to the curb before the township's scheduled pickup in their area.

Leaves collected will be transported by township public works crews to the Hopewell Township Composting facility.

d. [remains unchanged]

e. The Township of Hopewell shall, at a minimum, within 30 days after the adoption of this chapter and at least once every six months thereafter, notify all persons occupying residential, commercial, and institutional premises within these municipal boundaries of recycling opportunities, and the source separation requirements of its ordinance and the Mercer County Source Separation and Recycling Plan ("Plan"). The municipalities shall inform residents concerning collection schedules and other aspects of recycling at a minimum twice a year.

In order to fulfill the notification requirements of this subsection, this municipality may, in its discretion, place an advertisement on the Township's official Internet website, ~~in a newspaper circulating in the municipality~~, post a notice in public places where public notices are customarily posted, include a notice with other official notifications periodically mailed to residential taxpayers, or any combination thereof, as the municipality deems necessary and appropriate.

At least once annually, the Improvement Authority shall be informed in writing of the manner in which residents were notified.

ARTICLE VI – Amendment to Chapter 23 Entitled “Administration”

§ 23-1.4 Administration.

- a. [remains unchanged]
 1. [remains unchanged]
 - a. [remains unchanged]
 - b. [remains unchanged]
 - c. Issuing periodic press and/or cablevision releases on the Township's official Internet website ~~to the official newspaper~~, to inform the public of news related to the program and to promote interest in the program; and

ARTICLE VII – Repealer, Severability, and Effective Date.

- A. Repealer. Any and all Ordinances inconsistent with the terms of this Ordinance are hereby repealed to the extent of any such inconsistencies.
- B. Severability. In the event that any clause, section, paragraph, or sentence of this Ordinance is deemed to be invalid or unenforceable for any reason, then the Township Committee hereby declares its intent that the balance of the Ordinance not affected by said invalidity shall remain in full force and effect to the extent that it allows the Township to meet the goals of the Ordinance.
- C. This Ordinance shall take effect upon passage and publication according to law.

Date Introduced: March 16, 2026

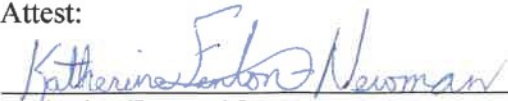
Date Advertised: March 17, 2026

Date Adopted: April 13, 2026



David Chait, Mayor

Attest:



Katherine Fenton-Newman
Municipal Clerk

I hereby certify the foregoing to be a true copy of an ordinance adopted by the Hopewell Township Committee at a regular meeting held on the 13th day of April, 2026.



Katherine Fenton-Newman
Municipal Clerk