

Our Town

HOPEWELL, NEW JERSEY



HOPEWELL BOROUGH AGENCIES AND INFORMATION

Municipal Building

4-6 Columbia Avenue • PO Box 128

Hopewell, NJ 08525

609-466-2636 • fax 609-466-8511

Clerk/Registrar: Mon-Fri 9:00 am-4:00 pm

Look for our Borough website in 1999

George Padgett, Mayor 609-466-9298

Council Meeting.....1st Monday at 7:30 pm
Municipal Court2nd & 4th Thursdays at 6:30 pm
Planning Board.....1st Wednesday at 7:30 pm
Board of Fire Commissioners....2nd Wednesday at 7:30 pm
Garbage Collection.....Tuesday & Friday
Recycling Collection.....Every Other Tuesday

Animal Control Officer.....737-1928
Board of Fire Commissioners.....466-2136
Board of Health (Hopewell Township).....737-0120
Economic Development Committee
Contact Mayor or Municipal Clerk466-2636
Emergency (Fire, Police, Ambulance).....911
Fire Department.....466-0060
Hopewell Museum466-0103
Hopewell Public Library466-1625
Hunterdon Medical Center.....908-788-6100
Licenses and Permits.....466-2636
Medical Center at Princeton.....497-4000
Municipal Court Clerk466-0968
Municipal Offices.....466-2636
New Jersey Poison Control1-800-764-7661
Police Department (Hopewell Township)737-3100
Public Works.....466-0165
Tax Assessor737-9194
Tax Collector466-0965

Cover illustration by Max Hayden

Historic photos courtesy of the The Hopewell Museum

Calvary Baptist Church illustration on page 6 by Audrey J. Jones

Photo from the Harvest Fair on page 12 by Robyn C. Stein

Gazebo illustration on page 13 by Ronica Bregenzer

WELCOME TO OUR TOWN

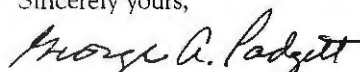
January 1999

Hopewell Borough will be celebrating the tri-centennial of its settlement during the first decade of the twenty-first century. Our town began as a small farming village in the heart of the Hopewell Valley and has evolved over the years into a unique community where people want to live, raise families, work and visit.

Hopewell Borough is more than a traditional, historic small town. In addition to two working farms, our town is home to over 100 businesses, including modern communications, publishing, antiques and manufacturing firms. We have a strong commitment to economic development and growth. We are centrally located next to several metropolitan centers, including Princeton, Trenton, Philadelphia and New York.

If you are a businessperson, we hope that you will contact the Economic Development Committee or the Mayor's Office to find out more about what Hopewell Borough can do for you.

Sincerely yours,



George A. Padgett

Mayor

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INTRODUCTION

Welcome to our town. Designated a "village center," Hopewell Borough is small in size, rich in history and full of good-spirited local flavor. Much of the borough has been designated a historic district and after taking a short walk through town, you'll see why. As borough residents, we exchange services with the surrounding Hopewell Township, yet we retain the sense of community that only a small town can foster. Our children walk to the beautiful Hopewell Elementary School each day, greetered by crossing guards who know them by name. We hold many traditional annual family events and our residents are diverse in ages and incomes, races and religions.

Without leaving the borough, we can go to the doctor, the dentist, the hairdresser, the pastor. We can drop off our dry cleaning and pick up dinner and a movie. We can mail a package, go antiquing and select a bouquet of flowers. We can have our cars serviced, our teeth cleaned and our checks cashed. We can revisit our history at the Hopewell Museum and bring our scout troops to do grave rubbings at one of the cemeteries.

For a breathtaking view of our town, head to the Highland Cemetery or ride up Crusher Road and look down on the church steeples rising to the sky. See the new addition to the elementary school and know that education is taken seriously here. Look up and see a starry night sky. Then look again and understand that this is not a vista you can see just anywhere.

For nearby recreation, hike the Sourland Mountain Preserve and understand why Charles Lindbergh, from an aerial view, chose to build his home in Hopewell. Jog or bike along one of the many area trails. Birdwatch or take an art course at the Stony Brook-Millstone Watershed Association. Enjoy fresh vegetables as a CSA member of the Watershed organic farm. Join one of the local swim, fitness, tennis or golf clubs. Take in a minor league baseball game at Trenton Thunder's Waterfront Park. Get involved in one of the many community groups. Whatever you choose to do, you'll be doing it with friends.

PROFILE OF HOPEWELL BOROUGH

Incorporated in 1891, Hopewell is a town of 2,000 in-borough residents, with an additional 2,000 who consider the borough to be their community. It has been featured in *New Jersey Monthly* magazine as one of the "10 best small towns in NJ" and one of the "25 best places to call home in the Garden State," and the writer notes that "there is more to Hopewell than a quaint veneer. The population...is genuinely friendly. And with topflight schools, the town has become a magnet for young families." As part of the Hopewell Valley Regional School System, whose high school was voted in the top half of the best 75 public high schools in New Jersey, the Hopewell Elementary School is a major draw.

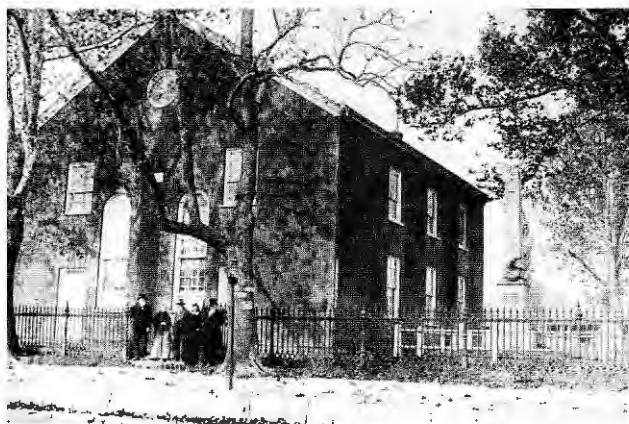
The community center runs along Broad Street. A variety of retail establishments, professional and commercial offices, ~~artisans~~, a host of thriving antique shops and an exceptional professional theater are within walking distance and draw visitors from near and far. A second business center is in development along Railroad Place, where the State Dept. of Transportation (DOT) is considering the reinstatement of passenger service on the West Trenton-Raritan line. The borough has received grants from the DOT and the NJ Historic Trust to restore the train station.

PROFILE OF THE REGION

Surrounded by Hopewell Township and located in Mercer Co., home to the state capitol of Trenton, Hopewell Borough has the best of all worlds. It's a quick trip to both New York City and Philadelphia, with train service from Princeton Jct. and Trenton. The Mercer Co. Airport, located near the southwestern border of Hopewell Township, is fifteen minutes from the borough. Princeton, a cultural, historical, shopping and educational mecca, is close by. Within a few miles of the borough are the corporate headquarters and offices of Bristol-Myers Squibb, Merrill Lynch, Lucent Technologies, Educational Testing Service and Janssen Pharmaceutica. Many smaller firms and manufacturing companies have chosen this region for its high profitability and central location. The Delaware River and the artistic havens of Lambertville, NJ, and New Hope, PA, are nearby to the west.

HOPEWELL HISTORY & HISTORIC SITES

The village originally referred to as "Hopewell Meeting House" gradually grew into existence shortly after Jonathan Stout brought his family to the land where he had earlier hunted with the Lenni Lenape Indians in 1706. At the center of this small community of farmers was the Hopewell Baptist Meeting, organized in 1715. The first church was constructed in 1748, (on the site of the current Hopewell Baptist Church) when the congregation appointed the Reverend Isaac Eaton to be its first pastor. In 1756, Isaac Eaton also founded the first Baptist secondary school in America, the Hopewell Baptist Academy. Eleven years later, the Academy moved north to Rhode Island where it became Brown University.



Hopewell Baptist Meeting and Hart Monument

John Hart, one of the five New Jersey Signers of the Declaration of Independence, donated the land on which the Baptist Meeting House was built. This prominent Hopewell resident, farmer and miller represented New Jersey as a delegate to the Second Continental Congress and served as a member of the Colonial assembly and the Provincial Congress (1775-6) and was Speaker of the New Jersey Legislature.

In 1778, prior to the Battle of Monmouth, George Washington's army was encamped on the hills above

HOPEWELL HISTORY & HISTORIC SITES



Hopewell Train Station

Hopewell Borough while the General called a strategy meeting in the nearby Hunt House. Present at the meeting were Generals Lee, Lafayette and Steuben, to name a few.

For generations, the town was known equally as Columbia and Hopewell; in 1825, when the Post Office was established, Hopewell became the official name. By 1834, the village was described as including "the Baptist Church, two taverns and the Hopewell House, the Blackwell store, a post office, and about a dozen dwellings."

With the arrival of rail service in 1873, Hopewell as we know it today began to take shape. The first company, the Mercer and Somerset Railroad, began the boom in 1873, and was soon taken over by the rival Delaware and Bound Brook Railroad (the present Conrail line). The area near the station, the current Railroad Place, became a focus for related industries, including lumberyards, canneries, a creamery and a shirt factory. Throughout the village, new activities burgeoned; there was a hay press, a second lumberyard, a harness shop, two blacksmiths, three wheelwrights, five stores, a hotel, a saloon and a livery stable.

HOPEWELL HISTORY & HISTORIC SITES



Calvary Baptist Church, illustration by Audrey J. Jones.

In 1891, Hopewell Borough was incorporated and by 1900, the borough had a population of roughly 980, living in about 208 households. Other denominations had built churches, including the First Presbyterian Church, Hopewell Mountain Christian Church, the Methodist Church and St. Alphonsus Roman Catholic Church. The town continued to grow steadily and by 1928, there were 1,339 people living here. Today, we're a town of approximately 2,000 strong and the commercial area is focused around Broad Street.

SOME HISTORIC SITES PRESENT TODAY INCLUDE:

John Hart House

John Hart's house, the 18th-century stone, brick and frame house where Hopewell's "signer" lived and died, is currently a private residence but can be seen from the avenue which bears Hart's name.

HOPEWELL HISTORY & HISTORIC SITES

Hart Monument in Cemetery Yard

Hopewell's illustrious citizen and patriot, John Hart, lies reburied in land he donated to the Old School Baptist Churchyard.

Hopewell House

Hopewell House, originally the tavern owned by the Stout and then the Blackwell families in the early 19th century, is located on the north side of Broad Street. This building later became a hotel, which stayed in business through the 1950s. Today it serves the town as a liquor store and is now known as the Historic Hopewell House.

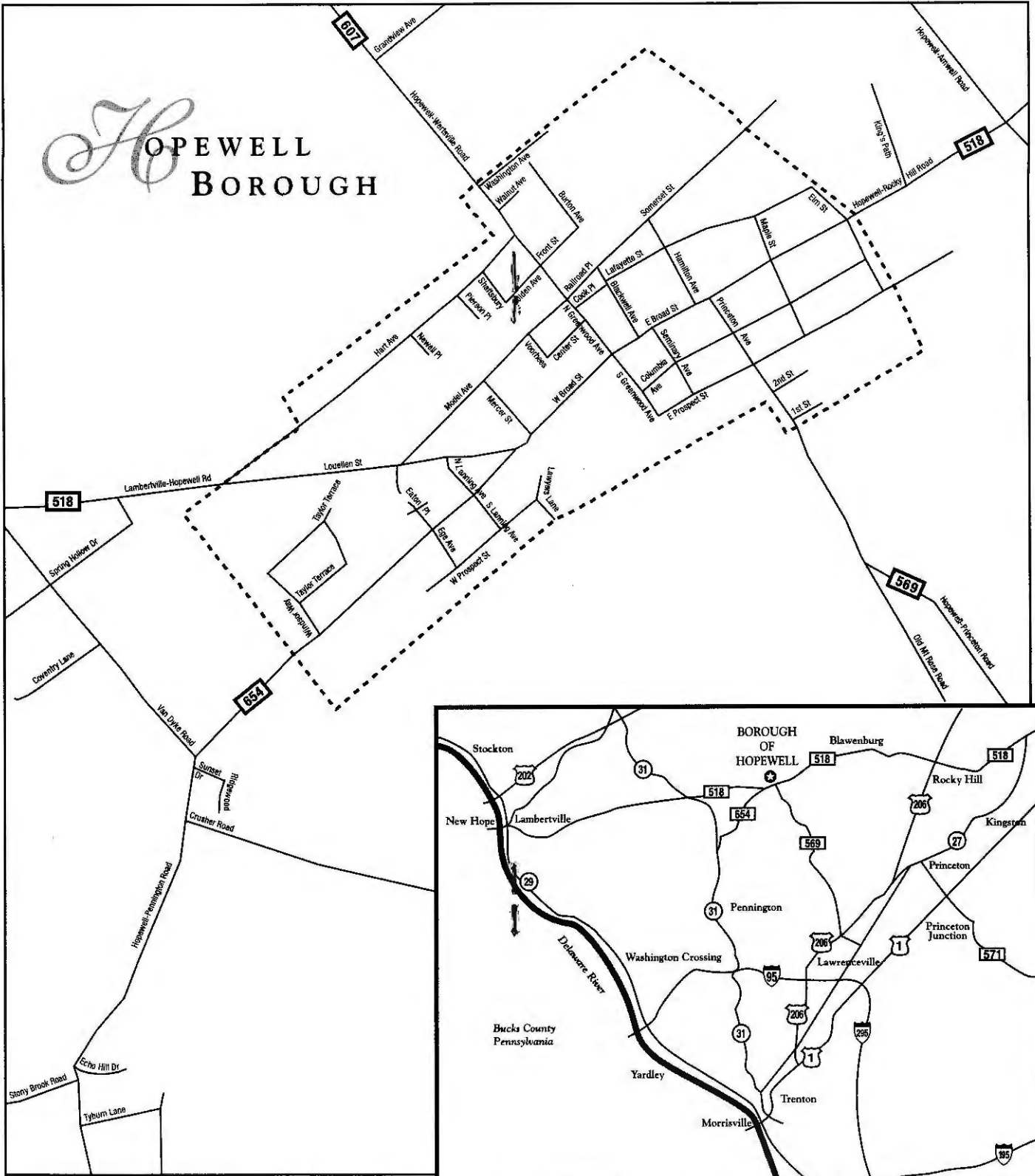
The Old School Baptist Church and Cemetery

The Old School Baptist Church and Cemetery on West Broad Street stand on the site of the original Hopewell Baptist Meeting House. Built in 1822, the current brick structure is also known as the First Baptist Church of Hopewell and the Old School Baptist Church. The Baptist Meeting constituted the center of the community in Hopewell's early history.



Title page from 1897 booklet promoting Hopewell.

HOPEWELL BOROUGH



COMMUNITY RESOURCES

HOPEWELL PUBLIC LIBRARY

Hopewell Public Library was founded on March 14, 1914 and became Municipal by 1917, receiving funding from the Hopewell Borough Council. It has moved several times, from its original location in a harness shop to Borough Hall, to a shared space with the Hopewell Museum, to its present location in the old National Bank building.



While the library continues to offer fiction, biography, non-fiction and reference books and periodicals, it also provides an impressive local historical collection, a vast collection of children's books and videos, internet service, audio tapes, discussion groups, a delivery service to those who cannot leave their homes, and story times, crafts and activities for children.

Additionally, the library provides copier services, space for local meetings and a community Bulletin Board. It currently circulates nearly 17,500 books and estimates its active patronage at over 900. It has an active Friends of the Hopewell Public Library.

HOPEWELL MUSEUM

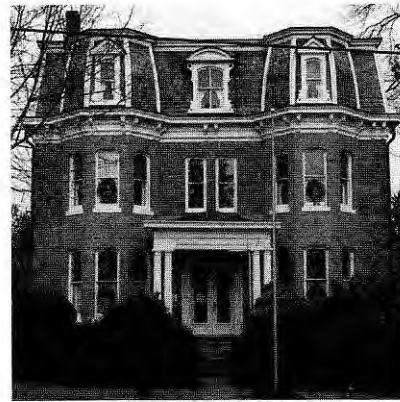
The Hopewell Museum, 28 East Broad Street, was incorporated in 1922 as the Hopewell Free Public Library and Museum Funding and Building Association. It was formed to raise funds for a building to house a collection of antiques offered to the community by Miss Sarah D. Stout. This collection became the nucleus of the present museum which bears the much simpler name of The Hopewell Museum.

Originally the Museum and Public Library were housed in a large, brownstone structure that was built by Randolph Stout in 1877. In 1965 the Library moved to its present location and in 1967 a two-story addition was made to the Museum building through the generosity of Dr. David B. Hill. The additional space enabled the

COMMUNITY RESOURCES

Museum to display its many fine collections to greater advantage as well as house Dr. Hill's superb collection of Southwestern Native American crafts.

The aim of the Museum is to display and preserve what is most typical and interesting of American village life from colonial days to the present. Most of its treasures have been given by residents of the community and surrounding



area with many of the items having been used by ancestors of the donors. In 1998, more than 500 children from area schools visited the Museum on class trips while studying their town and region. Visitors will often see

people engaged in research, quietly poring over the many books in the Museum's genealogical collection.

Photographs, maps, quilts, furniture, costumes, tools, utensils, toys, signs, weapons, deeds, charters and many other items relating to the history of this quiet, industrious community and its people are presented in revue.

The Museum is governed by a Board of Trustees and staffed by two curators who are present during the time the Museum is open on Monday, Wednesday and Saturday from two to five pm. Admission is free and rotating exhibits make repeat visits worthwhile.

HOPEWELL PARK

Located at the intersection of S. Greenwood Avenue and Columbia Avenue is the quaint borough park. It boasts a gazebo where band concerts are held during the summer, picnic tables, a playground, a stream and walking trails. Its proximity to the Hopewell Elementary School and the open space Ruhland tract makes it a community magnet.

HOPEWELL MINI-PARK

Adjacent to the train station on Railroad Place is a small neighborhood playground.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

EASTER EGG HUNT

Sponsored by the Hopewell Valley American Legion Post 339 and the Hopewell Fire Department, an egg hunt is held on the grounds of the American Legion Hall on Van Dyke Road every spring.

MEMORIAL DAY PARADE

Sponsored by the American Legion, children and adults alike enjoy an old-fashioned parade down Broad Street with veterans marching, bands playing and flags waving.

TOWN-WIDE YARD SALE

Every May, borough residents clean out their basements, sheds, garages and barns to participate in a community yard sale.

HOPEWELL HEALTH FAIR

The Hopewell Valley community groups sponsor an annual health fair in the spring.



Bobbing for apples at the Hopewell Harvest Fair, photo by Robyn C. Stein.

HOPEWELL HARVEST FAIR

The fourth Saturday in September finds visitors and locals alike strolling the grounds of the Hopewell Elementary School for the annual Hopewell Harvest Fair. One of the biggest events of the year, the day

COMMUNITY EVENTS

begins with an in-town treasure hunt and 10K run. Locals enter their best recipes, biggest tomatoes and most elaborate Lego® constructions in a variety of contests. There's plenty of food, games, pony rides, scarecrow making and even a live "Where's Waldo?" competition.

HALLOWEEN PARADE

The Sunday before Halloween means it's time for the annual borough costume parade. Lining up near the railroad station, the children get a chance to show off their costumes as they march through town.

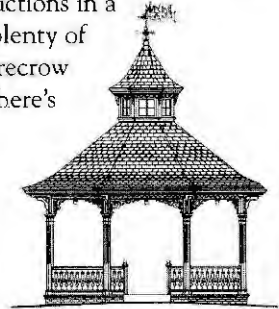


Illustration of Gazebo in Hopewell Park by Ronica Bregenzer.

CHRISTMAS TEA

The Hopewell Museum holds an open house every December. Visitors get to see period holiday decorations and enjoy a traditional tea served in the kitchen.

TREE LIGHTING

One mid-December evening, locals gather in front of the Hopewell Pharmacy to sing holiday tunes and watch for Santa to ride into town on an antique fire engine. When he arrives, he asks for the children to help him light the tree and on the count of three, the huge evergreen across Broad Street lights as if by magic. Santa continues around the corner to the firehouse where children line up to tell him their wishes and have some refreshments.

NIGHT OF LIGHT

To celebrate the holiday season and bring light to one of the darkest nights of the year, hundreds of borough homes participate in the lighting of luminaria candles on the Sunday nearest the winter solstice. A brisk stroll through town is a must that night!

LIVE NATIVITY

For almost half a century, the five borough churches have participated in staging a live nativity scene on the lawn of the Calvary Baptist Church.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Population: 2,000

Land Area: 0.7 square miles

Type of Government: Borough Council

Police, Fire, Rescue Squad Emergency Number: 911

Area Code: 609

Zip Code: 08525

Major Highway Access: Hopewell Borough is located along Rt. 518 between Rt. 206 to the Northeast and Rt. 31 to the West with easy access to US #1 and I-95, I-195 and I-295.

BANKS

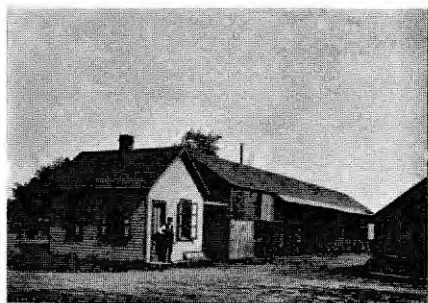
Amboy National Bank, 84 E. Broad St., Hopewell 466-2100

First Union Bank, Maple & E. Broad St., Hopewell 466-0266

Hopewell Valley Community Bank

Pennytown Shopping Village, Pennington 466-2900

PNC Bank, E. Broad St., Hopewell 800-762-3955



J. B. HILL

LUMBER, COAL, MASONS' MATERIALS, DAIRY FEEDS, &c.
HOPEWELL, NEW JERSEY.

Ad for J.B. Hill from 1909 Hopewell, New Jersey

CABLE TELEVISION

Comcast Cable Communications 394-2288

CLUBS, ASSOCIATIONS, SOCIETIES & VOLUNTEER ORGANIZATIONS

Boy Scouts of America, George Washington Council

Fish of Hopewell Valley Inc.

Friends of the Hopewell Public Library

Girl Scouts U.S.A., Delaware-Raritan Council

Hopewell Business Association

Hopewell Elks Club

Hopewell Fire Department & Emergency Medical Unit

Hopewell Fire Department Ladies Auxiliary

Hopewell Valley American Legion Post 339

Hopewell Valley Chorus

GENERAL INFORMATION

Hopewell Valley Historical Society

Hopewell Valley Kiwanis

Hopewell Valley League of Women Voters

Hopewell Valley Leisure Club

Hopewell Valley Lions Club

Hopewell Valley Municipal Alliance

Hopewell Valley Republican Association

Hopewell Valley YMCA

Hopewell Women's Club

The Hyacinth AIDS Foundation

Interfaith Hospitality Network

League of Women Voters of Hopewell Valley

Masonic Temple

Mercer County 4-H

Sons of the Revolution

St. Alphonsus Knights of Columbus Council #7103

CONSERVATION/HISTORICAL PRESERVATION CENTERS

Hopewell Museum

28 East Broad St., Hopewell 466-0103

Howell Living History Farm

Hunter Rd., Pennington 737-3299

Stony Brook-Millstone Watershed Association

31 Titus Mill Rd., Pennington 737-3735

Washington Crossing State Park Nature Education Center

Washington Crossing 737-0609

LIBRARIES

Hopewell Public Library

13 E. Broad St., Hopewell 466-1625

Hours: Monday-Friday 10-5

Tuesday and Thursday Evenings 7-9

Saturday 10-4

Mercer County Library-Hopewell Township Branch

245 Pennington-Titusville Rd.

Pennington 737-2610

Hours: Monday-Thursday 9:30-9:00

Friday: 9:30-5:30 Saturday 10:00-5:00

NEWSPAPERS

Hopewell Valley News

53 Pennington-Hopewell Rd., Pennington 466-1190

The Pennington Post, 2 Main St., Pennington 737-3379

The Trentonian, 600 Perry St., Trenton 989-7800

The Trenton Times, 500 Perry St., Trenton 989-5454

GENERAL INFORMATION

PLACES OF WORSHIP

Calvary Baptist Church
3 E. Broad St., Hopewell 466-1880
Hopewell Presbyterian Church
80 W. Broad St., Hopewell 466-0758
Hopewell United Methodist Church
18 Blackwell, Hopewell 466-0471
Saint Alphonsus Roman Catholic Church
54 Princeton Ave., Hopewell 466-0332
Second Calvary Baptist Church
69 Columbia Ave., Hopewell 466-0862

POST OFFICE

Hopewell Post Office
9 S. Greenwood Ave., Hopewell 466-0462

PUBLIC OFFICIALS (1999)

Borough Hall 4-6 Columbia Ave.
PO Box 128, Hopewell, NJ 08525
Mayor: George Padgett
Borough Clerk, CFO: Hilary Fortenbaugh
Borough Council:
Thomas Dallesio
Alice Huston
David Knights
David Mackie
Liza Morehouse
David Nettles
Borough Attorney: Mason Griffin & Pierson PC
Borough Engineer: Dennis O'Neal
Borough Planner: Carl Lindbloom
Planning Board Secretary: Nancy Sobala
Zoning Officer: Hatry Agin

PUBLIC UTILITIES

PSE&G 921-7000
NUI Gas Company 1-800-242-5830
Hopewell Borough Water Department 466-0168
Stony Brook Regional Sewage Authority 924-8881

RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

Hopewell Valley Golf Club, Hopewell-Pennington Rd.
Hopewell Valley Racquet & Fitness Ctr., Titus Mill Rd.
Municipal Park, Columbia & S. Greenwood Avenues
Mini-Park, Railroad Place

GENERAL INFORMATION

Quarry Swimming Club, Crusher Rd.
Stonybrook Golf Club, Stony Brook Rd.
Washington Crossing State Park, Washington Crossing

SCHOOLS

Hopewell Valley Regional School District 737-0105
Hopewell Elementary School (K-5) 466-0272
Hopewell Valley Afterschool Program 466-3555
Hopewell Presbyterian Nursery School 466-4566

SPORTS

Hopewell Valley Baseball/Softball Association 737-9548
Hopewell Valley Soccer Association 737-3432
Hopewell Valley YMCA
425 S. Main St., Pennington 737-3048

THEATERS

The Off-Broad Street Theatre
S. Greenwood Ave., Hopewell 466-2766
Washington Crossing Open Air Theatre
Washington Crossing State Park, Titusville 737-1826
McCarter Theatre
91 University Place, Princeton 683-9100

VOLUNTEER BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

Contact the Mayor or the Municipal Clerk 466-2636

VOTER REGISTRATION

Municipal Building, 4-6 Columbia Ave., Hopewell

