



THE LEBANON LANTERN

WINTER 2023-2024

Santa and Mrs. Claus Come to Lebanon!

On Sunday, Dec. 6, Santa and Mrs. Claus arrived in Lebanon to help light the borough's Christmas tree, hear what some children had on their Christmas list and welcomed the holiday season with their traditional tour through town. (See pages 10-11 for more pictures.)



Photos: George Kopp

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6 HIGH STREET • LEBANON, NJ 08833 • 908-236-2425
WWW.LEBANONBORO.COM • LANTERN@LEBANONBORO.COM

GREETINGS, LEBANON BORO!

As I hang the stockings (and maybe a few other decorations at 12 Chestnut Place!), I can't help but think, "How is another year almost behind us?"

I am proud of what we accomplished as a community in Lebanon in 2023.

We celebrated like it was 1776 for the 76th annual Lebanon Fourth of July parade. The Recreation Committee hosted many events. Most recently, we rang in the holiday season with our annual Santa arrival. As is our tradition, Santa was escorted through the town by the Lebanon Fire Dept. The tour was followed by the tree lighting and visit with Santa.

All these accomplishments would not be possible without the tremendous support from our town's volunteers. In October, we recognized the hard work of this group at our Volunteer Dinner, where we honored longtime volunteer **Joe Hauck** and the **Lebanon Borough Fire Company**.

My hope for 2024 is that we can bring this same sense of community to all that we do. In a world where so much divides us, I have faith in the unique ability of small towns to bring people together and understand one another. My promise to you as mayor is that I will continue to create opportunities for us to gather as neighbors. We have some exciting ideas for the new year; if you have any ideas for town events or activities, feel free to reach out to me or **Lisa Porcello**, chair of the Recreation Committee.

I would also like to thank **Mary Logan** for her service as councilwoman, welcome back **Marlene Baldinger** to council, and welcome **Lisa Porcello** as a new council member.

I wish all of you and your families a very happy and healthy season!

Jim Pittinger
Mayor



MARLENE G. BALDINGER

What do you love most about Lebanon?

I love living in Lebanon Borough because it offers the daily opportunity to connect with friends and neighbors, appreciate

the beauty of nature be part of a community that always feels like family.

What kind of experience do you bring to the role of council member?

I have 10 years of government service and leadership experience, as a Lebanon Borough School board member and councilwoman, with participation and advocacy as a member of the public safety committee, office of emergency management, communications, board of health and historical committee. My knowledge of the financial and procedural operations of the borough are the credentials I can offer to the community for effective leadership that listens.

I am also very proud of my career in nursing, as it highlights key qualities of critical thinking, agility, flexibility, ethics and most of all, kindness and compassion. As a healthcare system administrator with oversight of risk, compliance, regulatory and safety, I have extensive experience in financial, legal and governmental matters.

What is one thing you would like to accomplish during your term?

Improving communication, citizen involvement and civic engagement can be facilitated by using live video to stream council meetings. I will work with council to review and look toward best practice implementation of this initiative. Reducing municipal taxes through a proposal for zero-based budgeting and justification/documentation for all budget items is an ongoing priority.

LISA PORCELLO

What do you love most about Lebanon?

The sense of community. I love how the people of Lebanon come together during the tough times and good times. I also love the rich history Lebanon has and learning more about it.

What kind of experience do you bring to the role of council member?

As a life-long resident, I have a lot of experience and knowledge to bring to the table. I accomplished many of life's milestones in Lebanon: hitting my first home run in the park, graduating from Lebanon Borough School, being a part of the Lebanon Fourth of July Parade as a high school senior, voting in my first presidential election, volunteering with the recreation committee and being elected to the borough council.

What is one thing you would like to accomplish during your term?

I would like to be known as an elected official who is approachable and hands on. If there is an issue that is important to residents, no matter how small, I want people to know they can bring their concerns to me.



THE SPIRIT OF GIVING AT LBS!

I hope this letter finds you well as we enjoy the festive month of December. As the superintendent of our beloved Lebanon Borough School, I wanted to take a moment to share some updates and highlights with you.

First and foremost, I want to express my gratitude to our dedicated staff, supportive parents, and incredible students who make our school community truly exceptional. It's heartwarming to witness the enthusiasm and commitment to learning that fills our hallways each day. Together, we have created a nurturing environment where every child can thrive academically, socially and emotionally.

During this holiday season, the spirit of giving and compassion becomes even more prominent. Our school has been actively involved in a local food drive to assist families in need. I encourage everyone to find ways to contribute beyond this traditional month of giving to make a difference in the lives of others.

Additionally, our students have participated in so many activities over the past months. Our wingman, student council and safety patrol role models have provided student leadership through their work to make the school a safe and fun place for all. Our upper grade student entrepreneurs participated in the **TREP\$ Marketplace** and developed, marketed and sold products of their own design. I encourage everyone to make it a point to attend next year's Marketplace. *(Continued on next page.)*



THE SPIRIT OF GIVING AT LBS!

Our students performed in our winter concert at the end of December. The annual winter concert is always a joyous occasion, filled with delightful performances from our talented musicians and enthusiastic singers. If you attended the concert, I'm sure you will agree that it was a memorable event showcasing the remarkable talent within our school community.

Lastly, I would like to extend my warmest wishes to everyone for a joyful holiday season. May this time bring love, happiness, and togetherness to all of our families and friends. It is my hope that the spirit of the holidays will continue to inspire us as we embark on a new year filled with endless possibilities and opportunities for growth.

Thank you for your unwavering support and dedication to our school. Together, we can continue to create an environment where our students can flourish and reach their full potential.



Better Together,
Bruce Arcurio Ed.D.
Superintendent

LBS Preschool Registration

Lebanon Borough School will begin preschool registration in January.

- Jan 2-12 for students currently enrolled in the PreK program
- Jan. 15-Feb. 2 for families who live in Lebanon Borough
- Feb. 5-23 for anyone in or out of district

Informational flyer and new student registration forms can be found on our school website at www.lebanonschool.org or email rmuia@lebanonschool.org for more information.

Families will be notified of enrollment by March 1. Once spots are filled, registration will be closed, and you will be placed on a waitlist if you wish.

LBS Kindergarten Registration

Kindergarten registration is always open. Please encourage Lebanon Borough families you know who have children who will be five by Sept. 30, 2024, to register for Kindergarten.

Informational flyer and new student registration forms can be found on our school website at www.lebanonschool.org or email rmuia@lebanonschool.org for more information

January 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Senior Bingo 1 p.m. Boro Hall	2 Senior Exercise, 1 p.m. Boro Hall	3	4 Enviro/Shade Tree 5 p.m. Boro Hall	5	6 Burning of the Greens
7	8	9 Planning Board, 7 p.m.	10	11	12	13
14	15 Senior Bingo, 1 p.m. Boro Hall	16 Senior Exercise, 1 p.m. Boro Hall	17 Rec Cmte, 6 p.m./Council 7:30	18 LBSA 7:30 p.m. Boro Hall	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

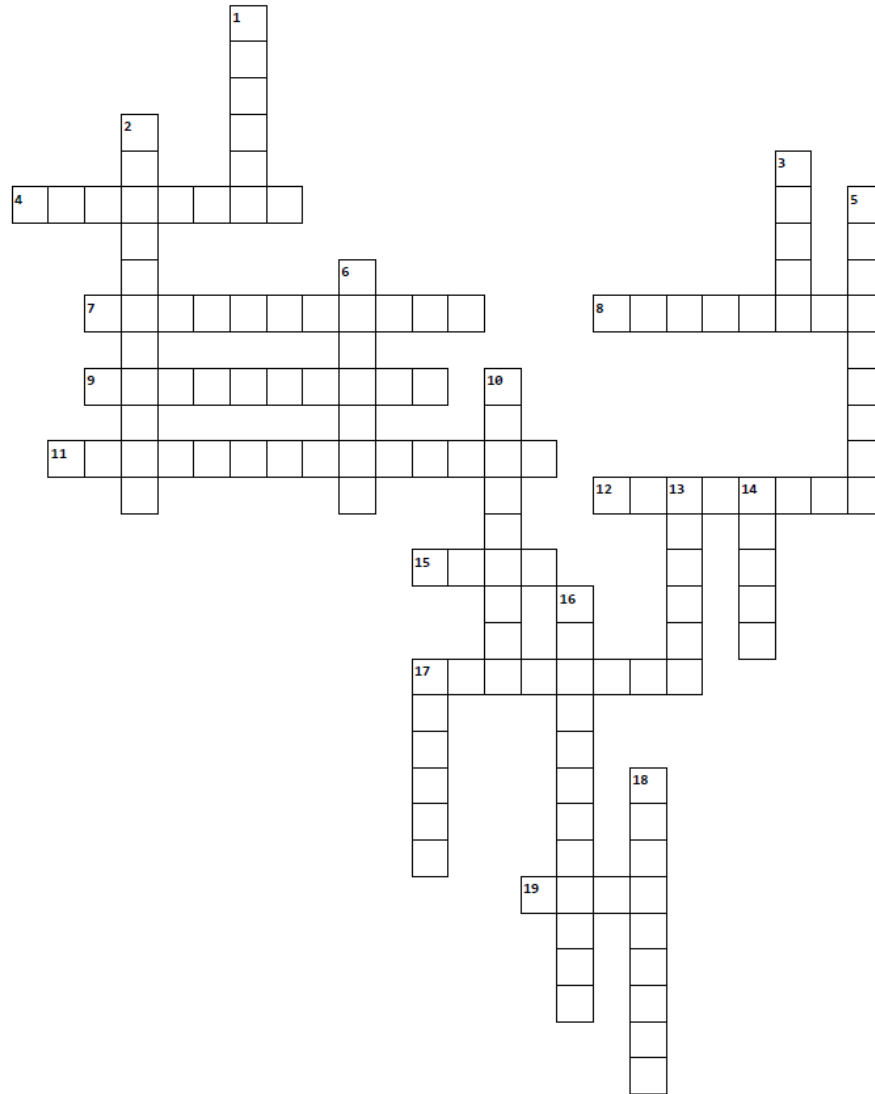
February 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Enviro/Shade Tree Cmte	2	3
4	5 Senior Bingo 1 p.m. Boro Hall	6 Senior Exercise, 1 p.m. Boro Hall	7	8	9	10
11	12	13 Planning Board, 7 p.m.	14	15 LBSA 7:30 p.m. Boro Hall	16	17
18	19 Senior Bingo 1 p.m. Boro Hall	20 Senior Exercise, 1 p.m. Boro Hall	21 Rec Cmte, 6 p.m./Council 7:30	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29		

March 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4 Senior Bingo 1 p.m.	5 Senior Exercise, 1 p.m.	6	7 Enviro/Shade Tree Cmte	8	9
10	11	12 Planning Board, 7 p.m.	13	14	15	16
17	18 Senior Bingo 1 p.m.	19 Senior Exercise, 1 p.m. Boro Hall	20 Rec Cmte, 6 p.m./Council 7:30	21 LBSA 7:30 p.m. Boro Hall	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

ALL THINGS LEBANON CROSSWORD



Across

- 4.** This church has a skunk house but I promise it doesn't smell.
- 7.** It's not a Disney movie but a restaurant.
- 8.** The Lebanon Borough Fire Department is station:
- 9.** Where can you find a tennis court in town?
- 11.** Where is the basketball court located?
- 12.** The Lebanon Borough School mascot.
- 15.** There's no gold there but this street has the same name as a U.S. fort.
- 17.** What street does Mayor Pittinger live on?
- 19.** You can park your car for Borough Hall on this street.

Down

- 1.** A street in town that rhymes with turtle.
- 2.** This road is a boundary between Lebanon and Clinton Township.
- 3.** A Lebanon Borough street named after a tree.
- 5.** You don't need to visit a farm if you want a smoothie from this establishment.
- 6.** The only terrace in Lebanon Borough.
- 10.** What building is the red metal ring located in front of?
- 13.** There's no plague on this drive but it's the same name as one.
- 14.** A Lebanon street with the same name as a candy bar.
- 16.** If you don't have time to go fishing but want fish for dinner, go here.
- 17.** A Lebanon street named after a fruit.
- 18.** What church contains a Cluttered Closet?

RECREATION COMMITTEE NEWS

The Recreation Committee hopes everyone enjoyed visiting with Santa and Mrs. Claus on December 3rd and looks forward to seeing you on January 6th for The Burning of the Greens.

On March 23 the annual Easter Egg Hunt will occur in Holjes-Sheppard Memorial Park, so make sure to hop on over to it.

Also, don't forget to complete the All Things Lebanon crossword puzzle on page 8! Once you're done, cut the page out and drop your completed crossword in the box at Borough Hall. We will randomly pick three completed crosswords for a prize. Make sure to put your name and address on the crossword before handing it in. The deadline for turning in the crosswords is Jan. 31.

If you have any questions or ideas for future recreation events, please contact Lisa Porcello at step-pingbackward@yahoo.com.

THE LEBANON SENIOR CLUB IS HOSTING A CONCERT!

Who: Premium Blend
When: Saturday, Jan. 13, 12 p.m.
Where: Lebanon Boro Hall
6 High Street

Donations welcome!

JOIN THE LANTERN!

The **Lebanon Lantern** is one of the main ways to keep informed about what's happening in the borough and how our community works together to keep safe. It's also a great way to learn about the special people who live here and the important businesses that rely on our support for their success. And so it is *your* newsletter.

If you are interested in contributing, email us at lantern@lebanonboro.com.

Alternatively, you can email a story or article to us.

Here are the deadlines for 2024:

Spring 2024: Feb. 23

Summer 2024: May 24

Fall 2024: Aug. 23

Winter 2024: Nov. 22



The spring issue covers April, May and June, summer covers July, August and September, fall covers October, November and December, and winter covers January, February and March.

SANTA CAME TO LEBANON!



SANTA CAME TO LEBANON!



Photos courtesy of:
George Kopp Photography
george@georgekopp.com/201.709.1355
www.georgekopp.com
[instagram.com/geokopp](https://www.instagram.com/geokopp)

The Lebanon 4th of July Celebration Committee NEEDS volunteers to help ensure that this 76-year-old tradition continues. Here are some of the areas where you can help make the Lebanon 4th of July parade and picnic a success this year and in years to come.

Celebration Committee

- Committee members - assist with annual planning
- Treasurer – Track purchases, update spending/donation reports
- Secretary – Take minutes for monthly meetings (Jan. thru July)
- Communications – Write the annual donation “Appeal” letter. Prepare copy for the Lantern, local news outlets, social media.
- Food Committee – Assisting with food tent activities on July 4th

Volunteers on the 4th

- Serving beer
- Grilling
- Food Tent prep
- Park Activities – supervising/monitoring – games, dunk tank, etc..
- Morning set-up in the park (7:00am) and afternoon clean-up (2:30pm)

The annual Lebanon 4th of July Parade is a perfect opportunity for organizations like book groups, service clubs, school or social groups, etc., to give back to the community in a fun and meaningful way. Please send email to sberger@lebanonboro.com to let us know how you would like to help. Thank you!!



The Lebanon 4th of July Celebration Committee wishes everyone a Happy & Healthy New Year!

The hustle and bustle of the holidays is behind us, and it seems like all we have to look forward to is weeks of short days and long, cold nights before the sun feels warm again. But there is something to get excited about right now!

It's time to start planning the 77th Annual Lebanon July 4th Parade and Picnic!

You read that right! The first Lebanon 4th of July Celebration Committee meeting for 2024 will be held at Borough Hall on **Jan. 31 at 7:30 p.m.** At this first meeting, we'll tackle the most important decision of the year: setting a theme for the parade. Once that's settled, we'll have all kinds of jobs for all kinds of volunteers, from helping with the children's parade to fundraising to selling 50/50 tickets at the picnic...and more!

Get Involved Today! Here's how:

- **Attend Celebration Committee meetings and share your ideas!**
 - We meet at Borough Hall on the last Wednesday of the month from January through July. Join us!
- **Share your special talents and take on one of these important roles:**
 - **Treasurer:** Track purchases, update spending/donation reports
 - **Secretary:** Take minutes at monthly meetings
 - **Communications:** Write the annual donation "Appeal" letter and prepare copy about the Parade for the Lebanon Lantern, local news outlets and social media.
 - **Food Committee:** Help with advance planning and ordering, and help supervise Food Tent activities on July 4th

Get Involved on the 4th of July!

- **Make it a family event and help us host our annual Picnic in the Park after the Parade**
 - Morning set-up in the park (7:00 a.m.) and afternoon clean-up (2:30 p.m.)
 - Food Tent Prep (immediately after the parade)
 - Serving beer
 - Grilling
 - Helping out with park activities (games, dunk tank, etc.). Round up the kids and let them help too.

Everything is more fun with friends! The annual Lebanon 4th of July Parade is a perfect opportunity to make new friends or for organizations like book groups, service clubs, school or social groups, etc., to get involved.

Can't wait to get started? Please email Celebration Committee Co-Chairperson Sam Berger at sberger@lebanonboro.com with any questions or to let him know how you would like to help. Thank you!! See you at Borough Hall on Jan. 31 at 7:30 p.m.

A TALE OF TWO TREES IN THE BOROUGH

1976 was the 200th anniversary of America's independence and the 50th anniversary of the establishment of Lebanon Borough. It was a big year for Lebanon.

The building at 96 Main had just been acquired by the Borough. The office and meeting room was a one-room rental in the back half of the small white building on Sutton Place. The front half was a barber shop.



Lebanon now had its own Borough Hall that would provide more space than we would ever need. The Bicentennial Committee helped spruce up the building. Mr. Daub, who owned a nursery on the west end of town, donated and planted a beautiful copper beech on the east side of the front lawn. This variety is highly prized for its beauty and longevity. The committee also planted a red oak tree in the park. Red oak is New Jersey's state tree.

Around 1995 the school board faced several issues regarding the adequacy of the 1910-built K-6 school. The decision was made to build a new school on park property. What to do with the old school? After 20 years, 96 Main didn't seem so spacious anymore. The town acquired the old school and 96 Main was then used for the police. The police needed better access and parking, so a new driveway was needed.

Unfortunately, the copper beech was right in the middle of where the driveway would go. The beautiful tree was now eleven inches in diameter and over

20 feet tall. The council agreed to pay \$700 for it to be moved using a hydraulic tree spade. After five summers of frequent waterings, the tree eventually adjusted and now thrives on the lawn of our "new" Borough Hall.

The Bi-Centennial red oak suffered a similar fate. After the new school was built, the park was given a makeover to better accommodate the school children. The softball back stop was moved from the northeast corner to the southeast corner. After 20+ years of growth, the oak was now in center right field and had to go. A kind backhoe operator agreed to move it. It was a rough job, the tree was ripped out of the ground and moved on to the hill off the left field line. It was not the best way to do it but it did save the tree.

These pictures show how the trees look today. Pretty nice!

Joe Hauck

Shade Tree Committee



RICHARD (DICK) SAMMIS: A LEBANON GEM

Did you answer the sign quiz in the last Lantern? The sign in the last issue (right) hung on the side of the Main St. building that is currently owned by a chiropractor.

Dick Sammis had an antique store with a repair shop in the back of the building. Dick and his wife **Alice** lived upstairs. He also owned the small white building on Sutton Place and the two story building behind it was where he kept his wood. Back in the day, what we know now as

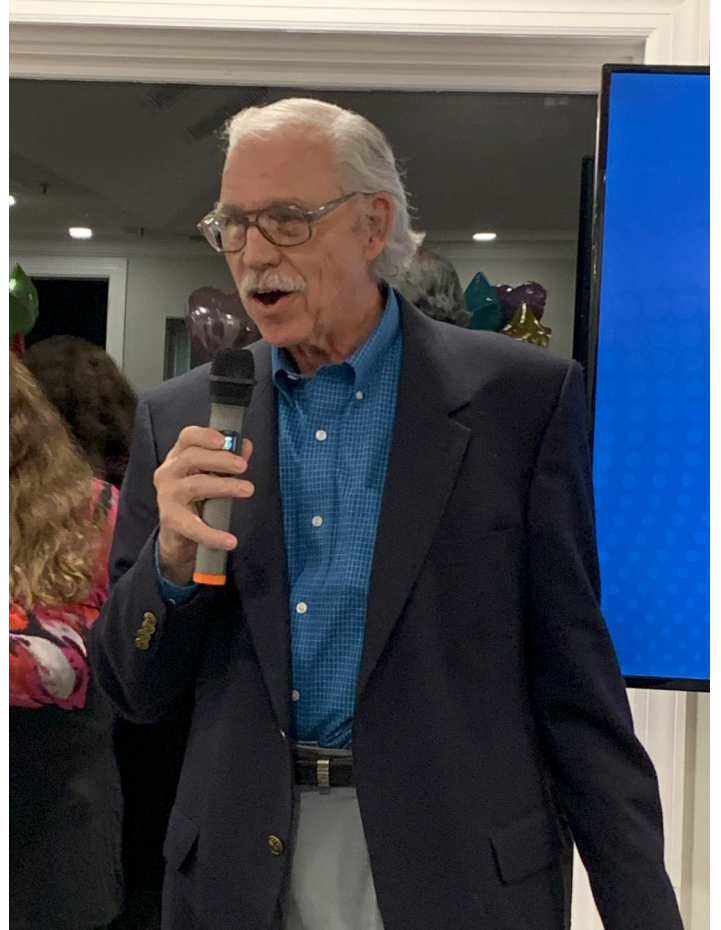


the Oasis Mall was Heller's Auction Gallery. Many fine pieces of early furniture passed through that building. More than a few needed extensive repairs. Dick was an outstanding restorer. His skill at veneer repairs was unmatched and his stash provided aged wood of the proper color and species when parts were missing or damaged.

Alice was typically with him as he worked providing a second opinion on whether the results were right and what piece to work on next. Dick even produced his own furniture polish, which is still in demand today but no longer available. The ingredients were and still are a trade secret.

Dick was also active in the borough. In 1955, the Borough Council appointed him as one of a committee of three to acquire land for the park. Once that was accomplished, he was appointed to a six-member committee for the playground. Dick was also Lebanon's first tax assessor, serving in that role for more than 20 years beginning in the 1960s.

CELEBRATING LEBANON'S VOLUNTEERS



VOLUNTEER DINNER PHOTOS



With decorations around our houses to beautify this festive and glorified time of year, we sometimes lose sight of the importance of decoration safety. We sometimes use decorations that are old and in poor condition, not fireproof, not for outside use and/or plug them into overloaded electrical circuits.

Here are some reminders that will make for an enjoyable and joyous time of year for your friends, family and community.

- Electrical circuits must have protection and the ability to handle connected loads.
- Assure that as you string the circuits for more lights, the conductor at the first string can carry the load as you build that string longer.
- When stringing sets where connecting plugs are subject to rain or surface water, use small plastic bags to prevent faults from contamination.
- Electrical cords for outside use are a must. Zip cords and those for inside use are fire starters when used in outside applications.
- Cord or string light repairs are illegal unless you are a qualified electrician.

On behalf of the Office of Emergency Management may you all experience a safe and joyous time of year. You deserve it!

Lex Saharic

OEM Coordinator



Lebanon Borough Municipal Building

Attn: Communications Committee
6 High Street
Lebanon, New Jersey 08833

PRSR STD
ECRWSS
US POSTAGE
PAID
EDDM RETAIL

LEBANON BOROUGH
BUSINESS AND RESIDENT

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

Important Phone Numbers

Emergency - 911
State Police - 908-730-6100

Lebanon Borough Volunteer Fire Dept - 908-236-2792
Lebanon Borough Municipal Building - 908-236-2425

Lebanon Borough Governing Body

Mayor Jim Pittinger
mayor@lebanonboro.com

Council President
Richard Burton
rburton@lebanonboro.com

Council Members
Sam Berger
sberger@lebanonboro.com

Mary Logan
mlogan@lebanonboro.com

Jim Lance
jlance@lebanonboro.com

Greg Crawford
gcrawford@lebanonboro.com

Robert Kirchofer
rkirchofer@lebanonboro.com

Municipal Contacts

Karen Romano
Borough Administrator/Clerk
clerk@lebanonboro.com
908-236-2425

Lisa Saharic
Deputy Clerk
deputy@lebanonboro.com
908-236-2425

Rebecca Newman
Tax Collector
tax@lebanonboro.com
908-236-0620

Jeff Ward
Tax Assessor
assessor@lebanonboro.com
908-625-8971

Anita Weingart
LBSA Secretary
LBSA@lebanonboro.com
908-236-2704

Joe Hauck
Zoning Officer
catskilljoe@yahoo.com
908-236-2425

Get Lebanon Alerts

Sign up for alerts and updates on our website www.lebanonboro.com.

Want to get the Lantern via email?
Got something to say?

Drop us a line at lantern@lebanonboro.com
The deadline for the next Lantern is Friday, Feb.
23, 2024.