

BEAR AWARENESS: RECENT SIGHTINGS AND INFORMATION ON BEARS

Dear Friends and Neighbors:

In view of recent bear activity in the Trail Wood and Countrywood areas of town, the Police Department wanted to give you information on these sightings and what to do if you spot a bear in your neighborhood.

Mid-April, a large black bear was observed on Forest Way, Poplar, Evergreen and Manger, knocking over trash cans, pulling down bird feeders and roaming nearby homes looking for food. Bear activity has also been reported on Ridgedale Avenue. Most reported instances of bear activity are between 8:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m.

Public Safety Director George Coppola is working with Police Chief Mark Roddy to address this problem. In the event you observe a bear nearby, please avoid encountering it and immediately call the Hanover Township Police Department at (973) 428-2512.

Please take a moment to review the following tips on bear management provided by New Jersey Animal Control:

Black bears are omnivorous and will eat a wide variety of food, including fruit, nuts, trash, meat scraps, and more.

To reduce bear-related encounters, Animal Control advises the following:

- Secure your trash in bear-resistant garbage containers or with tight fitting lids to reduce odors.
- Clean any food scraps from grills, porches, and decks, and keep meat out of compost piles.
- Pets should not be fed outdoors unless absolutely necessary.
- Immediately remove all uneaten food and bowls used by pets fed outdoors (NO food after dark).
- Never hang bird feeders in easy to reach locations (feeders should be at least 10 feet in the air).
- Wash garbage with disinfectant to remove odors.
- Secure beehives, livestock, and fruit crops with an electric fence.

Residents should report bear damage, nuisance behavior, or aggressive bears to the DEP hotline at (877) WARN-DEP ((877) 927-6337) or their local police department.

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