

*Here is a list of frequently asked questions and answers about the archery portion of Mt. Lebanon's annual deer management program*

## **Deer Management Archery Program**

### **An Overview**

***Mt. Lebanon Commission has authorized an archery hunt by Suburban Wildlife Management Solutions, LLC (SWMS) as part of an ongoing deer management effort. The program will run September 21, 2019, through January 25, 2020, with a holiday break from November 29 to December 25. Landowners interested in donating their private property for the 2019-2020 hunt should contact the contractor directly at [wildlifemanagementsolutions@gmail.com](mailto:wildlifemanagementsolutions@gmail.com) or contact Assistant Manager Ian McMeans, [imcmeans@mtlebanon.org](mailto:imcmeans@mtlebanon.org) or 412-343-3620***

**How does the archery program work?** Experienced archers hunt deer on private and specified public properties. The program involves legal archery hunting following all Pennsylvania Game Commission rules and requires no special permit. All hunters are required to harvest three antlerless deer before removing a deer with antlers. Suburban Wildlife Management Solutions will provide municipal officials with a report, including a count of deer taken, at the conclusion of the program.

**What are the hours for hunting?** Hunting may take place from 30 minutes before sunrise until 30 minutes following sunset. Hunters may work in designated public parks Monday through Friday and on approved private property Monday through Saturday. There will be no hunting on Sundays.

**Are there programs like this elsewhere in the area?** Many areas in the state have legal archery programs, including Allegheny County, Upper St. Clair, Bethel Park, Peters Township, South Park and Fox Chapel.

**How experienced is Suburban Wildlife Management?** These hunters have worked in other municipalities in the region, including conducting the archery program in Peters Township for the past 15 years. SWMS managed Mt. Lebanon's hunt last year and some of their hunters provided the previous contractor, White Buffalo, Inc. with help in designing the archery program. All hunters are certified in bow hunter education, including safety and ethics. They have passed a proficiency test with a bow

or crossbow, attended an orientation and passed a criminal history check paid for at their own expense. The team leader has been a bow hunter education and safety instructor in this area for many years. The archers know Mt. Lebanon well, as they live in this area.

**What safety measures are taken?** Responsible hunting by responsible hunters is the best way to ensure safety. The Suburban Wildlife Management Solutions archers have been rigorously interviewed and selected, and they previously have participated in safe archery hunts in Mt. Lebanon and surrounding communities. They sign a pledge to hold the public interest above their own. All hunters in Mt. Lebanon's program will carry identification. Shots will be limited to 15 yards or closer to the deer and will either come from above the deer and into the ground, such as from a tree stand, or be shot into an earthen backstop, such as a hill behind the deer.

**How are private properties selected?** Interested private property owners volunteer to donate their properties for the program. Suburban Wildlife Management Solutions contacts each applicant and the applicant's neighbors to secure any additional permissions needed. Properties are rated based on Suburban Wildlife Management Solution's discretion, with more weight given to heavily vegetated areas or woods. Many properties that have been used in the past will be utilized, but more properties are welcome. (To volunteer, see contact information at the top of the page.)

**What public areas are used for the archery hunt?** The conservation area at Connor Road and Terrace Drive, wooded portions of the public golf course, Twin Hills Park, McNeilly Park, the public works facility and Robb Hollow Park.

**Will the parks be closed?** Public areas and parks will remain open.

**Will safe walking routes to school be affected?** None of the areas is within a recommended safe walking route.

**How will the public know about the program?** Public hunting areas are posted for the duration of the hunt. Updates appear in *Mt. Lebanon Magazine*, at [www.mtlebanon.org](http://www.mtlebanon.org) and at [www.lebomag.com](http://www.lebomag.com). LeboALERTS are sent as appropriate. School officials are notified.

**What happens to the harvested deer?** Hunters must donate every

third deer to Hunters Sharing the Harvest. Hunters likely will donate more than one in three deer there; however, many hunters have already established relationships with other donation outlets.

**How much will the archery hunt cost?** \$8,000

**Will private properties used for hunting be identified?** Mt.

Lebanon does not maintain a list of the properties. Property owners contact Suburban Wildlife Management Solutions directly and donate their properties based on a condition of confidentiality. The Pennsylvania Game Commission regulates all hunting in the state and permits hunting on private property, provided both homeowner and hunters follow Game Commission rules related to permits, safety zones, hours, etc. Game Commission laws supersede local ordinances. Owners are not required to notify the municipality that hunting is taking place on their properties.

**How can I ask a question or express a concern?** If you have a question/comment, contact Assistant Municipal Manager Ian McMeans, 412-343-3620, [imcmeans@mtlebanon.org](mailto:imcmeans@mtlebanon.org). To report an immediate safety issue, call 9-1-1.

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UPDATED BY THE MT. LEBANON PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE, 7/24/19