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Imagine a family who has just moved to a new township. They have no connections. How will they know about the community library, pool, or parks? How will they be able to get involved in their township community?

Community is a vital aspect of life. Community is: 'a group of people living in the same place or having a particular characteristic in common' and 'a feeling of fellowship with others, as a result of sharing common attitudes, interests, and goals' (Oxford English Dictionary). Those living in townships already experience this first form of community. They are a group of people living in the same 36 square miles. The second form of community is not so easy to come by. Fellowship with others takes extra effort. Townships should strive to foster a sense of community in both senses of the word. There are many ways that they could do this, but I will only name a few.

Townships should provide information about public resources in the township, such as parks, libraries, garbage services, and other services. They could post this information on their website or even mail it to residents. Many townships have newsletters in which they could send out reminders about township regulations and changes, requests for volunteers for various community projects and events, and advertisements for township meetings and other events. They could sponsor social events like parades, potlucks, or ice cream socials. This would be helpful to everyone living in the township and would foster a sense of community and teamwork. People would not feel like they have to figure out these things on their own. Instead, they would feel included and cared for.

Townships should also educate students about township government. Township government is a unique and historical form of government and it is important for students to understand it. Townships could offer 'career fairs' for students to learn about the roles of township government. This would encourage students to vote for township officials and even run for election themselves when they become of age. They could encourage students to attend township meetings and learn how they work firsthand. They could even simulate township meetings for students to lead. This would help students appreciate what townships do. They could offer classes for students to learn about the history of their townships. If students were able to take these classes with other students from their townships instead of just from their schools, they would benefit from meeting others who are also interested in township history and government.

Think back to the new family at the beginning, entering a new township that sends them information about public services, gives them opportunities to get involved and volunteer, and offer opportunities to learn about township government. This family will have a much smoother transition to their new life. By taking these extra measures, townships would successfully create a sense of community and help new families as well as those that have lived their longer.