

TOWNSHIP

newsletter

PUBLISHED BY THE LANCASTER TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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HISTORIC MAPLE GROVE TO SERVE COMMUNITY ONCE AGAIN

Use Recommendations Under Consideration



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MAPLE GROVE, EARLY SPRING 1994: THE OLD MILL IS PROTECTED AND READY FOR UPCOMING IMPROVEMENTS TO THE ENTIRE SCENIC PROPERTY.

Following lengthy negotiations with the owner and controlling lending institutions, the Lancaster Township Board of Supervisors took title to the former Maple Grove pool site in June 1993. Although the acquisition process was tedious, the distressed nature of the property allowed the Township to obtain control of more than eight acres of property which had become an increasing public nuisance at minimal public expense.

As the acquisition date drew near, the Supervisors requested the Lancaster

Township Parks and Recreation Commission to recommend ways in which the property could again serve the community. After studying the characteristics of the property, existing recreational facilities, and planning considerations, the Commission suggested the following to the Board:

- Immediately upon acquisition, clear the site of hazards to the community and secure the structures on the site against further vandalism and criminal activity.
- Engage a Registered Architect to investigate and make recommendations for future uses of the existing buildings on the site.

In the fall of 1993, Flyway Excavating of Lancaster was contracted to clear the site of the remains of the swimming pool and to grade and seed the excavated areas of the site. Lancaster Township employees secured the existing buildings from further abuse and engaged Hammel Associates of Lancaster to make recommendations for the building.

In January, the architects presented their recommendations to the Parks and Recreation Commission. The architectural report brought to light the rich history of the Maple Grove site and the

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Answers to the Most-Asked Questions

- ... Street cleaning begins April 12th.
- ... Street cleaning continues if it is raining; however, street cleaning will stop if it is really pouring!
- ... Three trash trucks come around on your pick-up day: one for recyclables, one for trash, and one for grass and leaves.
- ... Green tags are *strictly* for grass and leaves. Other yard waste (trimmings, weeds, etc.) can go in with normal trash. If you've already reached your two-container limit, this other yard waste needs to be tagged with a yellow tag.
- ... *Never* put out newspapers to be recycled if it's raining or snowing—or if it's threatening to rain or snow. Lancaster Township's newspapers are shredded for animal bedding, and wet newspapers can't be shredded!
- ... Lancaster Township residents who are senior citizens are eligible for a senior citizen's discount of \$10 per year on their refuse/recycling bill. Simply present an Office of Aging card to receive the discount.
- ... The Lancaster County Treasurer's Office collects Township and County taxes. The number to call is 299-8222.
- ... The School District of Lancaster collects school taxes. The number to call is 291-6134. ■

MAPLE GROVE

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depth of its contribution and significance to the community.

The history of the site begins with Johannes Steiner's 1767 construction of a stone mill at the point where the Lancaster-Columbia Turnpike crossed the Little Conestoga Creek at the western portal to Lancaster, the oldest inland city in the nation. Today, according to the Lancaster County Historic Preservation Trust, the Mill is one of the oldest surviving stone mills in Lancaster County.

The Maple Grove site served the recreational and entertainment needs of the Lancaster community in an era well before mass-media entertainment. Aaron Summy began the "West End Park" in the 1890s and planted the maple trees for which the property later became known. It is believed that a few of the original trees survive on the site today.

Around 1912, Ralph W. Coho Sr. began Maple Grove Park with the construction of what was at the time the largest swimming pool in the world. Ballroom dancing, big bands, boxing, roller coasters, and, of course, swimming provided entertainment, excitement, and social interaction for generations of community residents.

Today, the Lancaster Township Supervisors are committed to reestablishing Maple Grove as a community



▲
**BEHIND THE STREAM,
FORMER SITE OF THE
SWIMMING POOL IS NOW
A MEADOW.**

asset and to end its dark period as an eyesore and hazard to the community. The Parks and Recreation Commission has recommended utilization of the open, stream, and wooded areas as passive open space.

Over the next several months, the Commission, which meets the second Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m., will be developing further recommendations regarding the utilization of the land and buildings at Maple Grove. Suggestions which are consistent with the general character of the park are welcomed. The Commission hopes to have some basic improvements in place by late summer of this year so that the public may begin utilizing the property. ■

BECOME A REAL PART OF LANCASTER COMMUNITY PARK

Two interesting fundraising projects now in progress will benefit the new Lancaster Community Park located on Millersville Pike.

The Buy a Brick project will allow interested people to purchase bricks to be used as part of a pathway or courtyard in the new park. Each brick can be embossed with a message of up to 30 characters long. Bricks may be purchased for \$35 each to honor children, parents, spouses, teams, classes, or special events, or in memory of loved ones. If you would like to purchase one or more bricks or have any further questions, call Beverly Frederick at 393-9905.

The second project is the Tree

Memorial program, designed to beautify the new park. Your gift of one or more trees includes the tree of your choice, the name of the person or organization being honored on a bronze plaque, a certificate of appreciation, and a map showing the location of the tree. The additional revenue generated from this program will be used to build walking paths around and through the park. Order forms can be picked up in the Township office. Questions can be directed to Mark Anderson at 393-8519.

The Lancaster Community Park Grand Opening is scheduled for Saturday, April 30, 1994 at 11:00 a.m. Plan to be there! ■



WHY DON'T WE RECYCLE PLASTICS?

Many Lancaster Township residents ask why plastics are not included in the recycling program. Currently, economic and environmental benefits in waste reduction are not gained by recycling plastics.

Plastics are a high-volume, low-weight item. This high-volume, low-weight ratio makes the economics of plastics recycling unattractive.

Environmentally, many times more nonrenewable resources (energy) are consumed than saved by collecting plastics. Because plastics are lightweight and bulky, they take up a lot of room in the trucks, which means the trucks must spend more time on the road. This in turn creates more air pollution from the curbside collection vehicles.

Lancaster Township currently sends all plastics with the trash to the Lancaster County Resource Recovery Facility, where they are burned and converted into electricity. In addition, the air emissions during the burning are controlled by state-of-the-art technology to meet air quality standards. In fact, the emissions from the Resource Recovery Facility are far less harmful to the environment than the pollutants coming from motorized vehicles. Ash remaining from the burning process is safely deposited in the Frey Farm Landfill.

As the plastics industry grows and more sophisticated handling systems are developed, more opportunities will be available for cost-effective plastics recycling.

For further information, please contact the Lancaster County Solid Waste Management Authority at 717-397-9968. ■

Seniors: Bins to Buckets

Senior citizens may trade in their recycling bins for recycling buckets. These are smaller containers with handles.

Only senior citizens who receive the senior citizen discount on their refuse/recycling billing are eligible for these buckets.

Simply bring the old recycling bin into the Township office and trade it for a new bucket. ■

Keystone State Recycling Facts

⊕ PENNSYLVANIA HAS 719 CURBSIDE RECYCLING COMMUNITIES—415 THAT ARE REQUIRED BY ACT 101 TO RECYCLE AND 304 THAT ARE RECYCLING VOLUNTARILY.

⊕ 228 TOWNSHIPS HAVE CURBSIDE RECYCLING PROGRAMS.

⊕ 61% OF 1,100 MUNICIPALITIES THAT RESPONDED TO A DER SURVEY BUY PRODUCTS WITH RECYCLED CONTENT AND SPENT MORE THAN \$2.1 MILLION IN 1992.

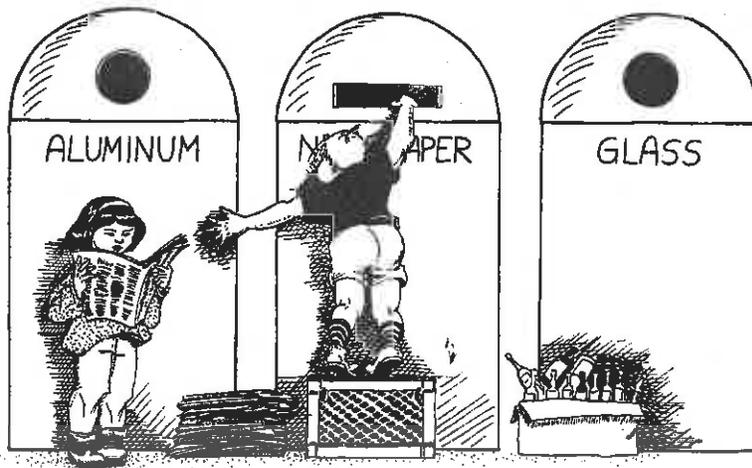
⊕ MORE THAN \$1.7 MILLION IN LOW-INTEREST LOANS AND GRANTS WERE AWARDED TO THE PRIVATE SECTOR IN FISCAL YEAR 1992-93 TO DEVELOP MARKETS FOR RECYCLED MATERIALS.

⊕ SINCE THE PASSAGE OF ACT 101 IN 1988, WHICH REQUIRES MUNICIPALITIES WITH A POPULATION OF MORE THAN 5,000 TO HAVE A RECYCLING PROGRAM, MORE THAN \$94.5 MILLION HAS BEEN AWARDED TO COUNTY AND MUNICIPAL RECYCLING, PLANNING, AND WASTE REDUCTION PROGRAMS.

⊕ DER OPERATES THE PENNSYLVANIA RECYCLING HOTLINE (1-800-342-4646) AS A CLEARINGHOUSE FOR INFORMATION ON HOW AND WHERE TO RECYCLE, HOW TO BUY RECYCLED PRODUCTS, AND WHERE TO GET FURTHER INFORMATION ON RECYCLING PROGRAMS AND MARKETS.

Notes from Your Trash Hauler

- ✓ Please keep your trash cans and recycling container clean.
- ✓ Please put your cans in a prominent spot, not hidden behind bushes, etc. so the hauler can find them!
- ✓ Don't put trash cans out by the mailbox.
- ✓ Please keep dogs tied!
- ✓ Remember, Lancaster Township does not recycle plastics. Do not put plastic items in your recycling bin.



Backyard Composting: Here's How

Backyard composting is beneficial to townships and residents because it can reduce municipal yard waste collection and disposal costs. It can also reduce the expense of buying fertilizers for gardens, landscaping, and potted plants.

Simply follow these nine steps:

1. Select a suitable site.

Choose a convenient, out-of-the-way spot in your yard that is relatively shady most of the day and shielded from the wind. Avoid getting too close to trees where roots may eventually penetrate the pile.

2. Enclose the site.

Containing your compost will keep your yard neater and will lead to more efficient composting. Keep in mind that you may want to have an access door when it is time to turn the material and later to remove the finished compost.

3. Prepare the site.

To ensure a properly ventilated, well-drained pile and quick composting, line the bottom of the site with branches, cornstalks, straw, or wooden slats.

4. Collect your compostables.

Leaves, grass, shrub cuttings, wood ashes, hay, straw, eggshells, coffee grounds, and vegetable and fruit scraps are just a few of the organic materials you can dispose of in your compost pile. Do not include meat scraps or dairy products in the pile.

5. Shred or grind the material.

Sifting, shredding, or grinding the materials will speed the decomposition process and enable you to use your compost sooner.

6. Form your compost pile.

Begin your compost pile with a six-inch layer of the collected organic material. Apply adequate moisture (until it is as damp as a just-squeezed sponge). Then add a one- to two-inch layer of garden soil, manure, or nitrogen fertilizer to the pile.

7. Add to your pile.

Repeat Step 6 several times. Make a small circular depression in the center of the pile to catch rain water.

8. Turn the compost.

If the finished compost is to be used in a month or so, turn the pile every few days with a pitchfork or shovel. Otherwise, turn the pile at least every month to ensure all the materials in the pile are fully decomposed. The finished compost will have an earthy aroma, dark color, and crumbly texture.

9. Use your finished product.

Finished compost can be used all around your yard as a soil additive in your garden, as mulch around vegetables, shrubs, and trees, and on your lawn.

Additional information can be obtained at the Township Office.

Adapted from the *Pennsylvania Township News*, October 1992. Background art adapted from *Basic Gardening* (Sunset Books)

Seniors Invited to Happy Hours

Lancaster Township residents who are 55 or older are eligible to join the Happy Hours Club. The group meets Wednesdays at the Hamilton Park United Church of Christ, 1210 Maple Avenue.

Sponsored by the Lancaster Recreation Commission, the Happy Hours organization is the oldest senior citizens' group in the county, having been in existence for over 40 years!

A typical Wednesday goes as follows:

10:00 a.m. - doors open

10:00-12:00 - socializing

12:00-1:00 - light lunch

1:00-3:00 p.m. - program

Members of the Happy Hours Club (dues are less than \$10/year) are welcome to attend Happy Hours Clubs at any of the other locations in Lancaster as well. Activities at all of these Centers include: sing-alongs, parties, luncheons, slide shows, movies, games, crafts, breakfasts, speakers, auctions, picnics, refreshments, etc. Various interesting classes and bus trips are also offered.

The Happy Hours Club meeting at Hamilton Park U.C.C. is especially proud of its community involvement. It has donated 24 geraniums and six azaleas to the garden surrounding the "Welcome to Lancaster" sign at Highland and Greenwood Avenues (coming into Lancaster from Willow Street). Members also maintain this garden by weeding and watering it.

Please consider this your invitation to stop in any Wednesday between 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. at the Hamilton Park U.C.C. See what involved senior citizens are doing in Lancaster Township. Or, call the Lancaster Recreation Commission at 392-1261 for more information. ■

Information for this article was supplied by Mary Lou Klopp, Director of the Happy Hours Club at Hamilton Park U.C.C.

Highway Superintendent

What is micro-surfacing? It's a new word in roadway maintenance. Most streets in Lancaster Township are structurally sound, except for cracking and other small imperfections. Micro-surfacing is a cost-effective way of adding years to the life of the street without losing the "curb reveal" from which so many of our streets are suffering. With micro-surfacing, the street is ready to use in as little as two hours, minimizing the inconvenience of closed streets. This new technology for Lancaster Township is an alternative to repeated overlaying of the streets.

The following streets are scheduled for micro-surfacing this summer:

- Atkins Avenue - between Davis Drive and Hamilton Park Drive
- Hamilton Park Drive - entire length
- Grandview Avenue - entire length
- Roselle Avenue - entire length
- Rosedale Avenue - from Grandview Avenue to Spring House Road
- First Street - entire length
- South School Lane - from Hamilton Park Drive to Spring Grove Avenue
- Wilson Avenue - entire length

Street sweeping will resume April 12, 1994 and continue until October 5, 1994 on signed Township streets. All other streets in the Township will be inspected regularly by our Road Foreman and cleaned when necessary.

Residents are asked to please keep street trees trimmed. The street-cleaning program is not effective if the sweeper operator must turn away from the curb because of tree branches. Ask the sweeper operator—he'll be happy to tell you what needs to be trimmed.

Leaf compost is available for all residents. Why not take some byproduct of what you place in the street during leaf pick-up season! It's great for the garden and can be used as mulch under bushes. Call 293-1733 or stop in at the Maintenance Facility. There's no limit on the amount of compost you may take, and best of all, it's free! ■

District Magistrates Reminder

Residents of Lancaster Township's East End are reminded that their area is included in Magisterial District 02-2-04, with Richard W. Musser as District Justice. His magisterial district office is

located at 301 North Queen Street, across from Lebzelter's, at the corner of Walnut and Queen Streets.

District Justice Musser extends an invitation to "... anyone wishing to stop in to see their new magisterial district office..." to visit and/or call with questions.

The new District Justice for residents of Lancaster Township's West End is Sandra L. Kulp. Her magisterial district office is located at 117-A South West End Avenue. District Justice Kulp also encourages residents to call or visit. ■

of existing construction practices in Lancaster Township, examine the alternatives; consider the sources of funding/administration, and recommend changes to current legislation. The Task Force is reviewing the current procedures used by Lancaster Township and similar municipalities, the available code regulations (BOCA, CABO, etc.), the County and State objectives, and enforcement options. It will report its findings and recommendations to the Board of Supervisors. Residents with questions or comments may contact

Welcome, New Officials

LANCASTER TOWNSHIP IS PROUD TO WELCOME SEVERAL NEW OFFICIALS TO SERVE ITS RESIDENTS. THEY INCLUDE: HELEN S. ADAMS, TREASURER OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS; WILLIAM HALL, CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF AUDITORS; SUSAN WALLOVER, MEMBER OF THE LANCASTER TOWNSHIP PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION; CATHERINE SLAUGH, MEMBER OF THE LANCASTER TOWNSHIP PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION; KENNETH HAMMEL, MEMBER OF THE LANCASTER TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION; SHARON LOPEZ, MEMBER OF THE LANCASTER TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION; MOLLY HENDERSON, SECRETARY OF THE LANCASTER TOWNSHIP ZONING HEARING BOARD; DONALD MCCLURE, JR., ALTERNATE MEMBER OF THE LANCASTER TOWNSHIP ZONING HEARING BOARD; AND THOMAS SCHALLER, VACANCY BOARD CHAIRMAN.

Fire Department Thanks You

The Lancaster Township Fire Department thanks all residents who took the time to dig out their local fire hydrants during this past snowy winter! Residents who never thought of digging out the fire hydrants are encouraged to do so from now on. This small effort could result in saving lives!

Just another reminder from your Fire Department: **WORKING SMOKE DETECTORS DO SAVE LIVES!** ■

Codes Task Force at Work

The Lancaster Township Codes Task Force has been meeting since July of 1993. This committee consists of Kenneth Hammel, chair, a local architect and BOCA certified; Helen Adams, a Lancaster Township Supervisor; Alexander Henderson, III, a local attorney; John Groft, Sr., retired UGI Safety Engineer; Glenn Usdin, Lancaster Township Fire Department Chief; Charles Bidler, Jr., member of the Lancaster Township Planning Commission; and Pete Slaugh, Jr., a local builder.

The general purpose of the Codes Task Force is to review the regulation

any member of the Task Force or call the Township office at 291-1213. ■

Safety Survey Results Coming

How efficient and effective are Lancaster Township's public safety efforts? The survey forms sent to each household to answer that question brought an overwhelmingly high return response. Results are being tabulated and analyzed now and will be published in the next issue of our newsletter.

The postage-paid questionnaire asked residents about their awareness of police protection in Lancaster Township, about direct contact they have had with the police department, and their ratings of the effectiveness of police service. In addition, there was an opportunity to provide other comments regarding public safety.

The Public Safety Task Force was formed to evaluate the efficiency and effectiveness of the various methods of providing optimum protection to the residents of Lancaster Township. Members are: Douglas W. Banzhof, Valerie A. Calhoun, Patrick M. Egan, Wilsie H. Graybill, Robert E. Newcomer, Alexander Stoycos, and Ken Notturmo, chair. ■

