

TOWNSHIP

newsletter

PUBLISHED BY THE LANCASTER TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Common Complaints	2
Township Directory	2
Recycling News	3
Department Reports	4-5
Bicycle Safety	5
Route 30 Relief	7
Forum Meeting	8

MAPLE GROVE CONSTRUCTION IS WELL UNDER WAY

Community Building Nearing Completion



The new Community Building at Maple Grove is almost a reality! Designed by Hammel Associates Architects, renovation of the structure is under contract to Clayton E. Gerlach, Inc. The structure will house a 2,035-square-foot meeting room, a storage room with bins for regular users, kitchen facilities, bathrooms accessible from inside and outside, and a deck from which parents can watch their children.

Upon completion of the building Lancaster Township will hold an Open House. Watch for the date and time to be announced in the local media.

Lancaster Township acquired the former Maple Grove pool site in June 1993. The property includes eight acres, which are being converted to a passive public park. ■

PROPERTY REASSESSMENT: NOW THE WORD IS OUT

By now, all property owners in Lancaster County should have received two important mailings in the Lancaster County reassessment process. The first was a data mailer giving property owners an opportunity to correct the data on which the new assessments are being based. The second was a "1996 Notice of Change

in Assessment," which for the first time told property owners what their new assessed value will be.

The 1996 Notice of Change in Assessment provided an assessed value based on 100% of the 1995 property value. It also provided the old County tax and an *estimated* new County tax.

Continued on page 6

▲
CLOCKWISE FROM TOP:
GERLACH WORKERS ROUND OFF
PORTICO ROOF; COMMUNITY
BUILDING UNDER CONSTRUCTION;
WIDE DECK FRONTS WEST SIDE
OF BUILDING.

Are Your Neighbors Complaining About You??

It's the great outdoor season again. The windows are open, flowers are in bloom, green is everywhere, and life is great. The chores are done, the grill is fired up, it's time for a refreshing beverage and some R & R, but you can't get any because that dog next door won't stop barking. Your blood pressure is rising. You can't call the neighbors; they're not home. Brutus has been tied up all day in the sun with no shade, no water, no attention. Brutus' instincts are in full gear. Most dog complaints are the result of neglect by the dog owner. So don't direct your

anger toward the barking dog. He's innocent.

Barking dogs and other noise disturbances are a common complaint once the windows open up and activities move outdoors. Noise violations are regulated by the Township Noise Ordinance. As a rule of thumb, noise disturbances are not permitted across a property line from 10 p.m. to 7 a.m. Monday through Saturday and all day Sunday.

Green Grass and High Tides

Before leaving for the beach, did you cut your grass or make plans for it to be maintained while you're watching the waves roll in? Typical grass/weeds violations usually have something to do with folks going on vacation, failing to maintain vacant lots and rental proper-

ties, and moving while a home is still for sale. These violations are examples of the "out of sight, out of mind" variety. What is a violation? Grass or weeds over six inches.

Storing Boats and Campers

Boats and campers for those weekend excursions are not permitted to be stored in your front yard, along the side of the house, or, for courtesy's sake, not in front of a neighbor's home. The only place they are permitted to be stored on your property is in the rear yard with the required setback from your property line.

And, of course, unlicensed or unregistered vehicles are not permitted to be stored on *any* residential property except in a garage.

Trash Troubles

Neglecting to place out trash on a regular and timely basis (the night before pickup), placing out bags without proper tags, and animals tearing apart trash bags are the most often registered violations. No matter how many bags you put out for collection, a green tag is required to be placed on bags containing grass, leaves, or sod. Although bags are acceptable for curbside pickup, it is a requirement that trash be stored during the week in durable, water-tight, rust-resistant containers having a close-fitting lid.

Violations this time of year generate a variety of complaint activity. Please remember that the Township does not handle anonymous complaints. The Township's policy is to have a signed, written complaint, or come into the Township office and fill out a complaint form. ■

Township Building Is New Polling Place

The Lancaster Township building was used as a polling place for the first time May 16, 1995, for the Primary election. The meeting room was easily converted from a place where Supervisors, Planning Commission, and Zoning Hearing Board meetings are held to a place where citizens vote. Citizens residing in the Fifth District will vote at the Township building from now on.

One other polling place changed locations with this last election. The Seventh District is now voting at the First Assembly of God Church, at 1025 Columbia Avenue.

LANCASTER TOWNSHIP DIRECTORY

Lancaster Township Office

1240 Maple Ave.

Lancaster, PA 17603 291-1213

Hours: Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Maintenance Facility

1357 Meadowcreek Lane 293-1733

District Justices:

Sandra L. Kulp

117-A South West End Ave. 299-7898

Richard W. Musser

301 N. Queen St. 299-7966

Lancaster City Police 291-4911
(non-emergency)

State Police 299-7650

Fire or Police Emergency Calls 911

Lancaster City Water 291-4829

Lancaster City Sewer Dept. 291-4837

Lancaster Recreation Commission
..... 392-2115

Suburban Lancaster Sewer Authority
..... 291-4805

Lancaster Area Sewer Authority (LASA)
..... 299-4843

Tax Collectors:

Township/County 299-8222

Occupational 215-588-0965

School 291-6134

Sewage Enforcement Officer

Dale L. High 768-3119

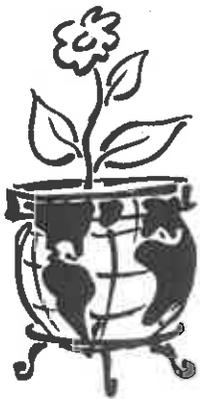
Office Will Be Closed ...

THE LANCASTER TOWNSHIP OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED TUESDAY, JULY 4, 1995, FOR INDEPENDENCE DAY, AND MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 1995, FOR LABOR DAY. ■

AMAZING TRIVIA

Astound your friends (and yourself) with these interesting, not-so-trivial recycling facts. You'll think twice before you throw something away!

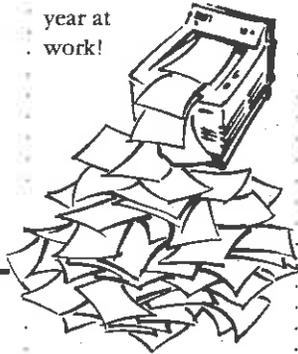
The lazy days of summer are here, but don't get lazy about recycling!



The energy saved by recycling one glass bottle will operate a television set for three hours!



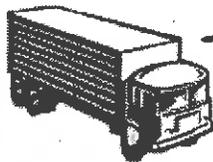
Each individual throws away approximately 250 pounds of trash each year at work!



The energy saved from one recycled aluminum can will operate a 75-watt light bulb for 24 hours!



The United States generates enough trash each year to fill a convoy of trucks that would stretch halfway to the moon, or encircle the equator almost six times!



We throw away enough aluminum every day to manufacture 30 jet aircraft!



The energy saved each year by steel recycling is equal to the electrical power needed for 18 million homes—that's enough energy to supply Los Angeles residents for eight years!



York Waste Is New Hauler

HAVE YOU NOTICED THE YORK WASTE TRUCKS COLLECTING YOUR TRASH AND RECYCLABLES LATELY AND WONDERED WHY? YORK WASTE RECENTLY PURCHASED COUNTY WASTE. THAT MEANS THAT YORK WASTE IS NOW LANCASTER TOWNSHIP'S CONTRACT HAULER. ALTHOUGH THE TRUCKS AND PERSONNEL HAVE CHANGED, THE LANCASTER TOWNSHIP CONTRACT REMAINS THE SAME. YOUR TRASH AND RECYCLABLES WILL STILL BE COLLECTED ON YOUR REGULARLY SCHEDULED DAY. ■

SUMMER'S HERE AT LANCASTER COMMUNITY PARK

At Lancaster Community Park, baseball, softball, and soccer seasons are in full swing. The fields are in use every day. The fourth baseball field was completed in time for opening day.

Girl Scout Debbie Bleacher and her helpers built a gazebo, in fulfillment of Debbie's Gold Award project requirement. This is a nice addition to the park.

Other projects for this year are the brick wall and the walking trail. The major project for 1996 is construction

of a concession stand with restrooms and storage space.

Contributions are needed. Send to Lancaster Park Commission, P. O. Box 295, Bausman, PA 17504. For further information call Barry Gentzler at 392-8276 (home) or 569-4040 (work). Please enjoy your park. ■

FOURTH, FIFTH, AND SIXTH GRADERS FROM LAFAYETTE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL LUNCH IN THE NEW GAZEBO.



DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Fire Department: Stay Safe During Thunderstorm Season

Now that the cool months are over, summer/fall thunderstorm and tornado season is upon us in Lancaster County. Residents can take a number of precautions to make the season a little safer.

Members of the Lancaster Township Fire Department go on standby in our two fire stations whenever a thunderstorm or tornado warning is issued for our area. Because of the high number of calls we receive during an actual severe thunderstorm or tornado, we ask that you call 911 only if an actual emergency exists. This would include any fire in a structure or vehicle, any situation in which persons are trapped or endangered (such as flooding, under fallen trees, etc.), and any situation where emergency responders are needed. We ask that you do not call 911 for trees down across roadways, for wires arcing or sparking in trees or transformer problems, or for flooding in basements where the water level does not endanger you or cause an immediate threat of fire or injury. In the event of a power outage, please call

PP&L directly, as the Fire Department does not receive any special priority from them when they assign crews to make repairs.

Here are some tips to keep your household prepared for storm season:

⚡ Keep a supply of flashlights, extra batteries, and a battery-operated radio or TV at hand. Battery-operated units will give you light and information on the extent of the storm, and when it is over.

⚡ Never use candles or other flame-type lanterns during a storm to provide light or heat. Numerous fires have been started by candles being knocked over by wind currents. Please use extreme caution with any auxiliary heat source, especially during storm conditions.

⚡ In the event of a power outage, turn off as many appliances as possible before the power comes back on. Remember, any appliances that were turned on when the outage occurred will be energized when the power comes back, so be especially careful of the cooking units in the kitchen.

⚡ When a storm warning is posted, do not use telephones or televisions, as these items are very susceptible to lightning strikes and may carry the electrical energy right into your home.

⚡ If you notice the warning sounds of a tornado (loud freight-train-like noise, high winds), immediately take cover and seek the lowest level of your home, stay away from windows and doors, and wait for the storm to pass.

⚡ Keep all persons, especially children, away from all bodies of water during and after storms. Rapidly rising waters can turn a small stream or even a roadside drainage ditch into a dangerous and deadly rapid water situation in a matter of seconds! ■

Highway Superintendent: Going for a Clean Sweep

With the street sweeper operating again, the following reminders will help achieve as clean a sweep as possible.

- Do not sweep debris into piles. When sweeping your curb or sidewalk, allowing the debris to spread out over a larger area will make for a more efficient collection of the debris.
- Do not place grass, leaves, or branches in the street. The disposal of these items is the residents' responsibility. Placing these items in the roadway is in violation of a Township ordinance.
- Obey the "No Parking" signs on days the sweeper is in your area and save yourself the expense of a violation.

On another note, please take a look at the shrubbery and trees around your property. During the growing season, greenery may obscure signs or hang over the roadway in a manner which obstructs vision or may strike vehicles. Growth should be trimmed several feet from signs and ten feet above the roadway. If a precarious situation exists, Lancaster Township may have necessary trimming done and charge you for it.

We have good leaf compost available at the maintenance facility for residents to use in their gardens or landscaping. Please make arrangements for pickup by calling the maintenance facility at 293-1733 between 7:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. This mulch is in limited supply, and there is quite a demand for it, so

School District of Lancaster Updates

► ISO 9000

The School District of Lancaster continues to move forward with its ISO 9000 quality assurance initiative. Based upon feedback received from the Steering Committee in February 1995, a Project Plan is currently being developed. The ISO 9000 implementation workshop is scheduled for August 8 and 9, 1995. The District is seeking a second year Goals 2000 grant to support the quality initiative.

► Central Campus Expansion Project

The School District's Central Campus Expansion Project has been in progress for one year. Phase I, the construction of new athletic fields, is complete. Phase II, the construction of McCaskey East High School, was started in March 1995 and is scheduled for completion in June 1996. Phase III, the renovation of J.P. McCaskey High School, is scheduled to start in June 1996 with completion by July 1997.

► Site-based Reform

Under the Site-Based Reform efforts, two subcommittees were formed, a Parameters subcommittee and a Calling Card Committee. Parameters were developed and presented to the Board of Directors. The Calling Card Committee developed two major workshops: 1) Shared Decision Making/Team Building and 2) Site Council Function/Composition and Issues. With Panasonic Foundation support, these workshops involved 135 people in training. A third committee has been formed to establish communication links with the community as a whole.

► Budget

Dr. Robert Shekletski, Superintendent, presented the 1995-96 school budget of \$80,461,018 to the District Board of Directors in April. Taxpayers will not suffer any school tax increase as the budget calls for 0 millage increase for the 1995-96 school year. ■

get yours while you can.

Lancaster Township is planning to resurface Clark Street, Grandview Avenue, and Roselle Avenue. If you have work to be done on these roads or have any questions, please call the Township office as soon as possible.

Thank you for helping to keep Lancaster Township a desirable place to live. Let's all hope our weather this summer is as mild as last winter's. ■

Lancaster Rec Commission Planning a Full Summer

The Lancaster Recreation Commission (LRC) has planned 14 free sports camps for children ages 8 to 14 this summer. New this year is a Track, Field, and Cross Country Camp. Some of Lancaster County's best coaches will instruct the children, emphasizing skill development, sportsmanship, and self-confidence building. Children who reside in Lancaster Township can join any sports camp, including baseball, softball, football, cheerleading, volleyball, basketball, golf, wrestling, soccer, field hockey, and street hockey.

Kids ages 6 to 15 can find great fun at LRC's summer playgrounds. Arts, crafts, crazy games, and theme weeks provide entertainment at various parks throughout Lancaster from June 14 to August 4, Monday through Friday, 10:30

a.m. to 4 p.m. Most of the playgrounds also have a wading pool or street shower where kids, 12 and under, can cool off during hot summer afternoons.

Children enrolled in kindergarten through sixth grade in the School District of Lancaster can beat summertime boredom by going to LRC's summer camp. Field trips, swimming, rollerskating, crafts, and more will be enjoyed at this all-day camp at Hamilton School. Nutritious breakfasts, lunches, and snacks are provided daily.

Movie fun for the entire family is also back Wednesday evenings this summer. Buchanan Park is the site for the Summer Family Film Series, sponsored by Suburban Cable of Lancaster. Each week a different film will be shown at dusk. Admission is free.

LRC also offers programs for adults. Sports leagues such as volleyball, basketball, street hockey, and softball are a great way to stay in shape and improve your health. Fitness classes are held for those who wish to tone and shape for the swimsuit season.

For those over the age of 55, the Happy Hours Club keeps active through the summer bowling league, bridge club, and other events. This year's bus trips include the New Jersey Aquarium and Franklin Institute, Foxwood's Casino in Atlantic City, and "Fiddler on the Roof" at the Big Apple Playhouse in Kennett Square. ■

Task Force Releases Findings on Police Service

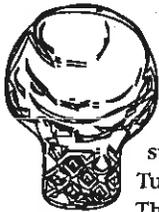
The Lancaster Township Public Safety Task Force presented its final report at the April 24, 1995, meeting of the Lancaster Township Board of Supervisors. The following is an excerpt:

"The Lancaster Township Public Safety Task Force was established by the Lancaster Township Board of Supervisors in September of 1993 to review the current situation and evaluate the needs of the Township as to public safety issues and to provide recommendations to the Board of Supervisors. The composition of the Task Force was geographically balanced between the eastern portion of the Township and the western portion of the Township.

"The Task Force reviewed the existing contract with the City of Lancaster and evaluated payments by Lancaster Township to Lancaster City for services over the past five years. A survey was conducted of residents' attitudes concerning current police services, and the Task Force evaluated various alternatives for providing police services, including continuing the subcontracting for police services (either with Lancaster City or with another municipality), establishing a township police force, and establishing a regional police force with surrounding communities. The pros and cons of each of the alternatives was evaluated, before a conclusion was realized."

The Task Force recommended that the Supervisors enter into discussions with neighboring municipalities with a goal of establishing a regional police force. A full copy of the Public Safety Task Force Report is available in the Township office for those residents who wish to come in and read it. During the next year the Supervisors will be actively working on implementing the Task Force recommendations. ■

Come and Eat Ice Cream for the Library



The Library System of Lancaster County and Turkey Hill Dairy will once again sponsor a popular summertime tradition, The Turkey Hill Ice Cream Festival. This year's "Old Fashioned" festival is scheduled for Sunday, July 16, from 1 to 5 p.m. at Lancaster Square. Turkey Hill Dairy will underwrite all festival expenses and donate ticket proceeds to the Library System to help automate the public libraries of Lancaster County and purchase children's books for all 17 locations.

Tickets are \$5 for adults and youth ages 12 and over, \$3 for youth ages 4-11. Children age 3 and under are free when accompanied by an adult ticket holder. Tickets are available now at all library locations. Purchase tickets

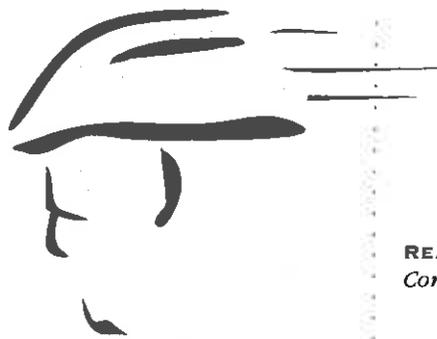
before the festival and get a \$1 discount. Parking in the Prince Street Garage will be free on the day of the festival.

Approximately 10,000 people are expected to attend the festivities. In addition to the all-you-can-eat ice cream, frozen yogurt, iced teas, and fruit drinks, the event will include continuous entertainment and family-oriented activities such as Steve Courtney, Pete McTee, an ice cream stack-up contest, and much more.

A "Classic Tales" quilt will be raffled at the Ice Cream Festival. The quilt is currently on display on the second floor of the Lancaster County Library. Tickets for the raffle are \$1 each or six for \$5 and are available at all 17 library locations. Or purchase a raffle ticket at the festival.

For more information, call 394-2651. ■

BE SAFE ON YOUR BICYCLE



Good biking takes practice, just like any sport or activity you want to be good at. When you take your bike on the road, you are not just a rider but a driver, because you too have a vehicle. And as a biker, you face some special problems that can make biking as hard as driving a car. You have to keep your balance, worry about being seen, and watch for grates and potholes.

It is very important that you know the laws and rules of biking and stick to them:

- **Pick a bike that fits** and one that you can control in traffic.
- **Learn how to do simple maintenance** to keep your bike running smoothly.
- **Choose the right helmet and wear it.** It is now a law for anyone 12 years old and younger to wear a helmet. Professional riders must wear helmets, so be like the pros and wear one yourself. A helmet provides head protection, and its bright color makes it easier for other drivers to see you. Inside your helmet, tape information about yourself that a doctor might need, just in case of an accident. Be sure that your helmet fits properly. If it has a Snell or ANSI label, you will be getting adequate protection.
- **Be seen!** Wear bright clothing and

try not to ride at night. If you must, make sure you have the proper reflectors and a light on your bike.

- **Obey traffic control signals** and pedestrian crossing lights. You must also obey all traffic signs, such as STOP, YIELD, and ONE WAY.
- **Always ride on the right side of the road**, in the same direction as the rest of the traffic.
- **Use hand signals** so that other drivers know what you are doing. Always signal a turn with your left arm. Your left arm pointed straight out to the left means you plan to turn left. Your left arm raised up means you are turning right. Your left arm lowered means you are stopping.
- **Don't ride double.** Kids like to ride two on a bike, but it's very dangerous—and illegal.

The best way to deal with all hazards is to become aware of them by looking far ahead and keeping your eyes in motion. During the warmer weather there are more people driving their bikes. Police officers see so many accidents that could have been avoided if a little more caution had been taken. Please drive safely and have a great summer.

If you have any questions, feel free to call Officer Kathy Speitel, Lancaster Bureau of Police, 291-4920. ■

REASSESSMENT

Continued from Page 1

The old tax was based on the old assessed value and tax rate of 12.0 mills; the estimated new tax was based on the new assessed value and an estimated new tax rate of 2.1 mills. The difference between those two figures provides an estimate of how the tax will change. Please note that the 2.1 mills is an *estimate* of the new tax rate, based on what tax rate it will take to generate the same County tax revenue as collected in 1995; the actual tax rate has not been determined.

How to Appeal

Anyone wishing to question the new assessed value may do one of two things:

- Request an informal review by calling 390-2300 within 10 days of the mailing date of the notice. If the informal review with staff results in a change, a new notice will be mailed, and the property owner may agree to that or appeal within 40 days.
- File a formal appeal to the Board of Assessment Appeals within 30 days of the mailing date of the notice.

These are the only opportunities to appeal the assessed value before it goes into effect on January 1, 1996. (In subsequent years, anyone can appeal an assessed value by September 1 in order for it to be considered for the following year.)

Property owners who might be eligible are also receiving mailings regarding Act 319 ("Clean and Green") assessment for agricultural land. To be eligible, the property must be used for agriculture or forest reserve; it must also be more than 10 acres or, if less than 10 acres, provide income of at least \$2,000 per year.

Anyone who has questions about the reassessment or appeals process should call 390-2300, Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. ■

IT IS VERY IMPORTANT THAT YOU KNOW THE LAWS AND RULES

OF BIKING AND STICK TO THEM.

ROUTE 30 RELIEF IS ON THE WAY (AT LAST!)

Get Involved in Neighborhood Crime Watch

Lancaster Township is well known for its involved citizens and for being such a great place to live. Here's your opportunity to become involved with a group that will show you ways to protect your family and your neighborhood, as well as preserve the way of life of our community.

Future meetings, open to all Lancaster Township residents, will be held Wednesday, September 13, Wednesday, October 18, and Wednesday, November 15, 1995. All meetings begin at 7:00 p.m. in the meeting room at the Township Building, 1240 Maple Avenue. The September meeting will feature guest speaker District Justice Sandra Kulp with a presentation on graffiti.

Be proactive rather than reactive in our stance on crime. Learn how to prevent crime, instead of wondering what to do when becoming a victim. For further information contact Marianne Callaway at 392-2763. ■



The congested section of Route 30 north of Lancaster carries as many as 80,000 vehicles per day. Construction to improve that section of highway will begin in 1996. Work will be completed in two phases.

Phase I includes the section of Route 30 between its interchanges with Route 283 on the west and Route 222 on the east. That section will be widened to six, 12-foot-wide lanes. There also will be wider shoulders, better concrete dividers, and greatly improved interchanges. The interchanges will remain at the same locations, but they will have longer deceleration and acceleration lanes and larger turning radii. Service roads will be added, parallel to the main highway.

Phase II includes two other sections of Route 30, extending from Route 283 west to Rohrerstown Road and from Route 222 east to the Old Philadelphia Pike. Those sections will remain at four lanes but will have improved interchanges and pavement.

When and How

Design will be completed in early 1996, and bid openings will be in mid-1996. Preliminary construction on Phase I will begin in the fall of 1996; heavy construction will begin in early 1997, and the section will be completed in the fall of 1998.

Construction on Phase II will begin in the fall of 1998 and be completed in the fall of 2000. Total construction costs will be approximately \$140 million; half will be for Phase I and half for Phase II.

An advisory committee is working closely with PADOT and its consultants to plan for traffic flow during the construction project. Municipalities represented on the committee include Lancaster Township, East Hempfield Township, East Lampeter Township, Lancaster City, and Manheim Township.

Four lanes of traffic will flow throughout the construction project; however, lanes may be narrower and there may be no shoulders. The advisory committee is therefore looking at off-site improvements to encourage some Route 30 traffic to use alternate routes. The committee expects to designate two alternate routes parallel to Route 30, one to the north and one to the south. Those routes will receive improvements such as better turning lanes and better signalization so they can better handle the additional traffic.

Updates on the project will be issued as work progresses. In the meantime, please call the Lancaster Township office at 291-1213 for the name of an advisory committee member or PADOT representative to contact with questions. ■

THIS SECTION OF
ROUTE 30 WILL SOON
UNDERGO MAJOR
IMPROVEMENTS.

