

TOWNSHIP

newsletter

PUBLISHED BY THE LANCASTER TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Summer Reminders	2
Greenways on the Conestoga	2
Recycling News	3
Department Reports	4-5
Hard-Wired Smoke Detectors	5
Summer in the Parks	5
New Officials	6
Forum Meeting	6
Township Calendar	6

Glad You're Here, Mike!

On May 1, Lancaster Township was happy to welcome our Building Official, Michael D. Redifer. Mike was raised in Staunton, Virginia, where most of his family still lives. He is certified as a Building Official by CABO and is a Master Code Official through BOCA. Prior to coming to Lancaster Township, Mike was a Building Official for Gloucester County, Virginia, and had served on the Board of Directors of the Virginia Building and Code Officials Association. He was also past President of the Virginia Plumbing and Mechanical Inspectors Association.

Mike's wife, Sonja, and two of his children, McKenna, 9, and Jordan, 6, joined him in June. ■



MIKE REDIFER JOINS LANCASTER TOWNSHIP AS OUR FIRST-EVER BUILDING OFFICIAL.

STRATEGIC COMPREHENSIVE PLAN MOVES AHEAD

Residents Spoke and the Township Listened

During the last several months, an Advisory Committee and the Planning Commission have been busily working on Lancaster Township's Strategic Comprehensive Plan. A number of key steps and accomplishments are the result of this continuing work.

What Residents Think

Residents who attended the Community "Get-Togethers" and returned the evaluation survey had the following to say about the information-gathering sessions:

- 89% believed that their thoughts, ideas, and concerns were sincerely welcomed.
- 76% said their expectations were significantly exceeded.
- 84% indicated attending a session was either a good or great use of their time.
- 78% believe that the Township will consider and incorporate residents' input when developing the plan.
- 98% would be interested in attending future Get-Togethers.

Taking Action

As a result of resident input at the Community Get-Togethers, Township Supervisors immediately decided to conduct periodic meetings throughout

the Township in the five Community Focus Areas. Rather than hold two formal public meetings a month at the Township building, the Supervisors are going out into the communities to hear residents' concerns and ideas firsthand.

The Township will continue to conduct one formal public hearing each month at the Township building and is in the process of organizing those sessions which will be held in the communities.

The next series of Get-Togethers will be conducted later this year. Watch for more information on locations and times so you can plan to attend one or more of the sessions.

Providing Summary

Everyone who participated in any of the six Community Get-Togethers will be receiving a summary of residents' comments at each meeting. Included will be highlights of each Get-Together, including key issues and concerns. The summary will also indicate what recommended goals have been developed to address residents' concerns.

All Township residents will have an opportunity to comment on the final Strategic Comprehensive Plan at a public hearing scheduled for this summer. Date and details to follow. ■

Summertime Reminders

- Grass and weeds are not to be over 6" in height.
- With warm weather here, windows are open and barking dogs can be quite a nuisance. Dogs are not to be left outside and allowed to bark for extended periods of time. If a dog is kept outside, be sure to provide plenty of food and water for it and take it inside if barking persists. Also, dogs are not permitted to run loose; they are to be secured on a leash or tied whenever outside.
- Under no circumstances is burning permitted in Lancaster Township.

LANCASTER TOWNSHIP DIRECTORY

Lancaster Township Office 1240 Maple Ave. Lancaster, PA 17603	291-1213
Hours: Mon.-Fri., 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 Township Police	291-4911
(non-emergency)	
State Police	299-7650
Fire or Police Emergency Calls	911
Lancaster City Water	291-4829
Lancaster Municipal Authority (formerly Lancaster City Sewer Dept.)	291-4837
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
State Dog Warden Gene Grove	898-1355
Emergency Management Coordinator Mark W. Anderson	393-8519
Lancaster Recreation Commission	392-2115

GREENWAYS AND THE CONESTOGA RIVER CORRIDOR MANAGEMENT STUDY

Would you like to canoe down the Conestoga River, with the water cleaner than today, with sound environmental practices apparent along its banks, and with places to stop for resting and picnicking? Would you like to walk along the Little Conestoga Creek, with stops to enjoy educational displays, historic sites, and recreational facilities? If so, you'll be interested in the Lancaster Inter-Municipal Committee's (LIMC) Conestoga River Corridor Management Study—and the Committee is interested in *your* ideas as well.

Greenways are categorized into three types:

- **Linear parks and trails greenways** are active-use areas for walking, jogging, horseback riding, and bicycling. They may link larger parks, historic sites, or activity centers. They may follow natural features, such as streams or ridge lines, or man-made features, such as roads or abandoned railroad beds.
- **Scenic preservation greenways** are used to protect valuable scenic landscapes. They may provide scenic views from a public road or focus on natural or historic landscapes, and often involve no public access.
- **Resource conservation greenways** protect areas containing rare, endangered, or ecologically sensitive resources. They protect habitats that could otherwise be fragmented or disturbed by people and often involve no public access.

The Conestoga Study is being funded in part by grants from the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and the Chesapeake Bay Commission. The County of Lancaster is making a substantial contribution in the form of information from its geographic information system. Each LIMC municipality, including Lancaster Township, is providing support through a portion of its annual contribution to the LIMC. Extensive volunteer support is also critical.

A public meeting in February gave residents an opportunity to comment about their perceptions of the Con-

stoga and what needs to be done to improve and protect it. More public meetings will be held after each stage of the Study development process.

The consultants on the project, Land Ethics of Annapolis, Maryland, and Derck & Edson Associates of Lititz, are meeting with representatives of various community interest groups, such as historians, sportsmen, environmentalists and conservationists, business people, and recreation providers, to explain the project and get ideas.

You can help by sharing your ideas on:

- Locations of environmental areas along the waterways which should be protected.
- Environmental problems which need to be corrected.
- Historic sites which could be focal points for scenic preservation greenways.
- Locations where people access the river for boating or fishing.
- Organizations that might like to pursue a greenway project as a community activity.
- Historic activities or environmental issues to feature in educational exhibits along the greenways.
- People who might consider including a section of a greenway on their property.
- People the LIMC should talk to for more information.
- Resources the LIMC should research.

Send your ideas or requests for more information to the Lancaster Inter-Municipal Committee, P.O. Box 8347, Lancaster, PA 17604-8347, or contact the Executive Director, John R. Ahlfeld, at 397-7313 or 397-7931 (fax). Also, a full, in-depth synopsis of this project is available at the Lancaster Township office. ■

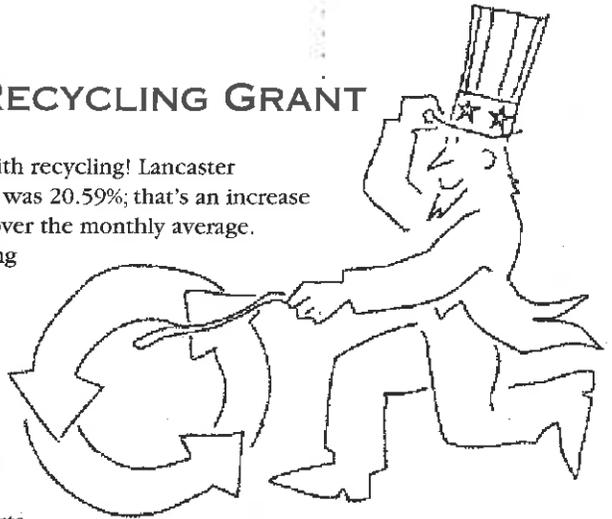
Office Closings

THE LANCASTER TOWNSHIP OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED FOR THE FOLLOWING HOLIDAYS:
JULY 4, 1996 - INDEPENDENCE DAY
SEPTEMBER 2, 1996 - LABOR DAY

TOWNSHIP RECEIVES RECYCLING GRANT

What a great job everyone is doing with recycling! Lancaster Township's recycling rate for March was 20.59%; that's an increase of almost 2% over February and 4% over the monthly average. That's positive proof that residents are becoming more "recycle-wise."

Pennsylvania Act 101 of 1988 requires municipalities with 5,000 or more residents to provide curbside recycling. As an incentive for this program, the state offers to reimburse townships that have a disposal/recycling program by way of a Performance Grant, which amounts to \$5 for every ton of recyclables that is collected and marketed. For your superb efforts in 1994, the state reimbursed Lancaster Township \$52,896. Keep up the good work! ■



Remember ...

- KEEPING RECYCLING UP▲
- KEEPS TRASH DOWN▼
- WHICH KEEPS REVENUE UP▲
- AND HOMEOWNERS' COSTS DOWN▼

Free Leaf Compost for Your Garden

Lancaster Township's leaf compost is now available at no charge to Township residents. This compost is a rich source of nutrients for the soil and promotes plant growth. To make arrangements to pick up some compost, call the maintenance facility at 293-1733 between 7:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m.

GRASSCYCLING—
GOOD FOR YOUR LAWN

Did you know ... approximately 1,000 square feet of lawn in Pennsylvania can produce 200 to 500 pounds of grass clippings during the growing season? An alternative to bagging those clippings is "grasscycling."

Clippings left on the lawn break down in seven to 14 days and act as a natural fertilizer, helping to keep your lawn green and healthy. It also saves you money—no need to buy green tags!

Clippings can also be used as a mulch around vegetables or flowers. Just remember to keep the clippings at least two inches away from your plants to avoid "burning" the new growth.

If you compost, you can use grass clippings in your compost pile to add extra nutrients. To avoid odors, no more than one-third of your composting should be made up of grass clippings. ■

Grasscycling Tips

- ▶ MOW OFTEN AND CUT LESS THAN ONE-THIRD OF THE GRASS GROWTH WHEN MOWING.
- ▶ MOW WHEN CONDITIONS ARE DRY, AND USE A SHARP MOWER BLADE.
- ▶ DON'T LET LARGE CLUMPS OF GRASS CLIPPINGS ACCUMULATE ON THE LAWN.
- ▶ AVOID OVERUSE OF HARSH CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS.
- ▶ WATER YOUR LAWN LESS FREQUENTLY BUT FOR LONGER PERIODS OF TIME.
- ▶ MULCHING MOWERS THAT GRIND GRASS CLIPPINGS MAY BE USED, **BUT ARE NOT NECESSARY.**



**Highway Superintendent:
Important Reminders**

With the street sweeper in full swing, the following reminders will help us achieve as clean a sweep as possible.

- Please don't sweep debris into piles. When sweeping your curb or sidewalk, simply allowing the debris to spread out over a larger area makes for more efficient pick-up.
- Do not place grass, leaves, or branches in the street. Include these items in the regular trash collection.
- Please obey the "No Parking" signs on days on which the sweeper is in your area. Save yourself the expense of a violation and have a cleaner street!

Give Us a Sign

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 may obstruct vision or strike vehicles. Growth should be trimmed several feet from signs and ten feet above the roadway. Please keep your shrubbery trimmed to assist with the street-cleaning operation and to avoid



▲
**THE DO'S AND DON'TS OF SIGNS:
CAN YOU FIND THE STOP SIGN IN
THE TOP PHOTO? BOTTOM PHOTO
SHOWS UNOBSTRUCTED SIGN.
GET THE PICTURE?**

accidents caused by poor visibility.

The Highway Department personnel take great pride in the appearance of

their equipment. While it isn't always possible to keep it spotless, every effort is made to clean equipment as soon as possible after completing a "dirty" job. However, if you notice any equipment which needs attention or any undesirable practices involving equipment, please feel free to mention it to a member of the crew or call the office.

We are going to be taking a more aggressive road resurfacing approach. More roads will be resurfaced this year than have been in the recent past. Please keep in mind that minor inconveniences will result in significantly improved travel in the future. If you have any suggestions to lessen the inconvenience in your neighborhood, let us know. The major area targeted for overlay is in the eastern part of the Township, south of King Street. ■

LRC: Summer Fun, Fall Sign-Ups

Whatever your age or interests, the LRC has something for you!

For kids: Every day from 10:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. through August 9, kids age 6 to 15 are welcome to take part in supervised activities at 11 playgrounds in Lancaster. Kids under 10 can also enjoy wading pools and street showers in the afternoons. Come skate at the Castle Roller Rink Tuesdays, 1 to 3 p.m., through August 22. Admission is free with a pass from the LRC and skate rentals are just \$1. Saturday, August 10, visit Planet Small World at Lancaster Fest '96. The LRC will be at Lancaster Square with games, contests, and face-painting for kids of all ages.

Fall Soccer sign-ups end July 15. Fall Basketball registration begins at the end of September. It's also time to register for the '96-'97 season of dance classes.

For adults: Summer sports are all well under way and sign-ups have begun for fall leagues—Volleyball, Street Hockey, Basketball, and Co-ed Softball. Stay in shape with Figurifics aerobics classes, held at the Maple Grove Community Center. Pick up a copy of the latest *Recreation Guide* at the LRC, 525 Fairview Ave., for information on upcoming adult classes.

For seniors: The Happy Hours Club for adults over 55 always welcomes new members. Whether it's lunch brunches, birthday luncheons, or holiday parties, there's always something going on. Plus, one-day bus trips

School District of Lancaster Updates

► **Central Campus Expansion Project**

The construction of McCaskey East High School is nearing completion. The administrative staff will be able to occupy the building during July. Students and teachers may be entering the building for special activities such as band and athletics during the early part of August. The renovation of J.P. McCaskey High School started in June 1996 and is scheduled for completion in July 1997.

► **Site-Based Reform**

Site-based management and site councils are being used for decision making at all school sites. Site councils are made up of teachers, administrators, parents, and community members.

The district is currently working on a communication plan, school-wide indicators, and indicators of schools on the move. Site-based reform continues to be an emerging strategy and a working part of the district-wide strategic plan.

► **Strategic Plan**

The strategic plan for filing with the Pennsylvania Department of Education in September is being updated. Final adoption of the plan by the Board of School Directors will be considered in August. A new priority strategy, which will be included in the updated plan, addresses the improvement of communication both internally and externally.

► **Dates of Note**

- August 28 First day of school for Kindergarten through 7th grade and 10th grade students
- August 29 All students report
- August 29 Tentative McCaskey East Dedication for students
- November 10 McCaskey East Dedication for the community

are scheduled to Delaware Park Race Track (July 24), The Oak Ridge Boys concert (Aug. 10), "Annie Warbucks" at the Three Little Bakers theater (Aug. 20), Atlantic City (Sept. 27), and the Apple Harvest Festival (Oct. 5). A five-day excursion exploring Ohio is coming up September 10-14.

For everyone: The free Summer Family Film Series continues through August 7 every Wednesday at dusk at Buchanan Park. A special Flick & Float showing of Disney's "The Apple Dumpling Gang" is planned for July 12 at Conestoga Pines Pool. On July 17, grab your tackle box and head to Long's Park for the intergenerational fishing derby. Upcoming bus trips for all ages include Ocean City, NJ (July 24), NASCAR at Dover Downs (Sept. 25), and the Pennsylvania Grand Canyon (Oct. 12). For details on these and other LRC programs and events, call the LRC at 392-2115. ■

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TO THINK ABOUT ...

Courage is the most important of all the virtues. Because if you haven't courage, you may not have the opportunity to use any of the others.

—Maya Angelou

Lancaster Community Park

The 1st Annual Craft Show, sponsored by the Lancaster Community Park, is scheduled for Saturday, September 21, 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., with a rain date of Sunday, September 22. This will be a juried show, which means the crafts will be carefully selected. Exhibitors and volunteers are needed! Call Barry Gentzler at 569-4040 or 392-8276.

Remember a friend or loved one by having a tree or shrub planted in their name. Call Mark Anderson at 393-8519 for more information.

Volunteers are needed for fundraising projects. Call Barry Gentzler if you are interested in helping out.

The Lancaster Community Park is supported solely from contributions from the community. These funds are needed to help offset the cost of capital improvements and yearly expenses. You can send your contributions to: Lancaster Park Commission, P.O. Box 295, Bausman, PA 17504. Please support your park! ■

FAQs

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ON HARD-WIRED SMOKE DETECTOR REQUIREMENTS

(Ordinance Nos. 07-95 and 02-96)

Q. I'm selling my home in Lancaster Township and building a new home within the township. What's this I hear about smoke detectors?

A. For existing dwellings, one hard-wired smoke detector with battery backup must be *installed in the main sleeping area*. This would be a centralized area in the hallway where the bedrooms are located.

For new residential construction, smoke detectors are required to be installed in *each* bedroom, outside of each sleeping area but in the immediate vicinity of the bedrooms, and on each additional floor, including basements and cellars. All smoke detectors must be interconnected.

If any alteration, repair, or addition that requires a building permit occurs, or when a bedroom is created where one did not previously exist, the entire building must be provided with smoke detectors as required for new dwellings. The only difference is that the detectors need not be interconnected unless the project also includes removal of ceiling and/or wall coverings which would allow the installation of interconnected wiring without additional demolition.

Q. What exactly does "hard-wired" mean?

A. A hard-wired smoke detector is wired into the home's electrical circuit and not plugged into an outlet or wired into a switch plate. It must also have a battery backup included in the unit, so that if electricity is interrupted for some reason, the system will still work.

Q. Can the electrician who installs the detector also inspect the work for the certification?

A. No. Someone from a *Certified Electrical Inspection Agency* must inspect the detector to make sure that everything has been installed and working properly.

Q. How much is all of this going to cost?

A. The average cost is estimated at \$125 per detector. An additional fee is required from the Inspection Agency. This cost can vary from one agency to another.

Q. What is a certification form and where can I get one?

A. Certification forms are available at the Township office. The inspector will sign this form after the inspection to confirm that the detector has been installed per the ordinance and is working properly. The Township office will receive the original and a copy should be taken along to settlement.

Q. When does the detector need to be installed—before or after settlement?

A. It is the owner's responsibility to have the smoke detector installed prior to settlement. The Township office must receive the certification form by settlement time or a fine/penalty may be levied against the owner/seller.

Q. I don't plan on selling my home now, but can I still install the detectors?

A. Absolutely. You may install them anytime for the benefit of your own safety. ■

Hamilton Park Plans Corn Roast

Mark your calendar! The Hamilton Park Corn Roast & Band Concert will be held on August 10. Once again the Dixieland Express will provide music. The highlight of the event will be corn made the old-fashioned way—steamed over an open fire. Come on out—you'll love it!

LANCASTER TOWNSHIP
1240 MAPLE AVENUE
LANCASTER PA 17603
 (717) 291-1213
 FAX (717) 291-6818

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 MICHAEL F. PICKARD

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BARBARA B. YOUNG

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VACANCY BOARD CHAIR

THOMAS SCHALLER

LANCASTER RECREATION COMMISSION

MARK ANDERSON



WELCOME ABOARD!

Introducing the newest members of our boards and commissions:

Edwina H. Coder Lancaster Township Planning Commission
 Harry R. Frey Board of Auditors
 Benjamin Bamford Lancaster Township Park & Recreation Commission
 Wayne Angelo Lancaster Township Park & Recreation Commission

Next Public Forum is September 7

Lancaster Township will hold its next Public Forum on Saturday, September 7, 1996 from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. The Forum will be hosted by Supervisor Helen Adams and will be held in the Board Room at the Lancaster Township office, 1240 Maple Avenue. Residents are encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity to discuss their concerns with Helen on a one-to-one basis. ■

LANCASTER TOWNSHIP CALENDAR

	Board of Supervisors: 2nd & 4th Mondays, 7:00 p.m.			Park & Recreation Commission: 2nd Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.		
		Planning Commission: 3rd Tuesday, 7:00 p.m.				
				Zoning Hearing Board: 4th Tuesday, 7:00 p.m.		
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT

All meetings are held at the Township Office, 1240 Maple Avenue.