

TOWNSHIP

newsletter

PUBLISHED BY THE LANCASTER TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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Not to Worry

Township Will Be Y2K Compliant

by Michael F. Pickard, Chair, Y2K Task Force

Since early 1998 Lancaster Township has been aggressively addressing the Y2K issue. Y2K is the nickname given to the computer issues involved with the upcoming change from 1999 to 2000. It is imperative to ensure all that computers read the year 2000 properly in order to continue delivery of goods and services without interruption.

Residents will be pleased to know that after a thorough review of operations and equipment, Lancaster Township's municipal buildings and computer systems will be Y2K compliant no later than June 1999.

This review was performed by the Y2K Task Force and staff. The Task Force, appointed by the Board of Supervisors at its January 11, 1999 meeting, consists of Michael F. Pickard, Lancaster Township Emergency Management Coordinator; Thomas Schaller, Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator; Glenn Usdin, Lancaster Township Fire Department Chief; Ron Comfort, Lancaster Township Fire Department Deputy Chief; Keith

Rankin, Lancaster Township Fire Department Assistant Chief; Robert Sloyer, Lafayette Fire Company Chief; Paul Frymyer, Lafayette Fire Company Chief's Aide; J. Donald Shaeffer, Lancaster Bureau of Police.

Eight Steps to Compliance

The Y2K Task Force submitted their preliminary report to the Board of Supervisors on March 8. The report details an eight-step process that the Y2K Task Force will follow in order to address Y2K-related issues. These eight steps include working with the various utility companies to keep track of the compliance efforts. Such utilities include sewer, water, electric, gas, and telephone. The Task Force will also be adding a section to the Township's web site that gives periodic updates on various issues surrounding Y2K and a "What can you do to be prepared?" checklist for residents and businesses to follow.



The Y2K Task Force has been very impressed with the progress made by many of the utilities and feels confident that few or no disruptions in services should occur. Residents are urged to use caution and not store excessive amounts of fuel such as gasoline and kerosene. If you have questions or concerns about Y2K preparations, please contact me at 291-1213 or e-mail me at: mpickard@twp.lancaster.pa.us.



Legislative Update

The following ordinances have been passed since the last newsletter:

Ordinance No. 9 of 1998:

Amends Lancaster Township Subdivision & Land Ordinance No. 1 of 1992 to comply with the Little Conestoga Creek Watershed Storm Water Management Plan.

Ordinance No. 1 of 1999:

Adopts the new Zoning Ordinance with the exception of the zoning map.

All Ordinances are available to the public in the Township office at 1240 Maple Avenue. ■

Office Closings

The Lancaster Township office will be closed:

April 2, 1999:

Good Friday

May 31, 1999:

Memorial Day

DATES TO REMEMBER:

April 4, 1999:

Daylight Saving Time Begins

May 18, 1999:

Primary Elections –

Remember to Vote!

FYI

Did you know Lancaster Township is served by three sewer authorities?

The Lancaster Municipal Authority serves portions of the East End, School Lane Hills, and the area surrounding the Maple Grove Pumping Station on Meadowcreek Lane. Suburban Lancaster Sewer Authority (SLSA) also serves portions of the East End, as well as the area from Sterling Place to New Danville Pike. The Lancaster Area Sewer Authority (LASA) serves the majority of the western portion of the Township. ■

Lancaster Inter-Municipal Committee Working on Cooperative Projects

Elect local officials and key staff members of the 12 municipalities in the LIMC meet monthly to discuss local government issues of concern and to take action on LIMC projects. Meeting sites rotate monthly among the member municipalities with the annual meeting held each April. This year's annual meeting speaker is Robert C. Wonderling, Chief Operating Officer of Team Pennsylvania and former Deputy Secretary for Administration of PennDOT.

Major LIMC projects include a Conestoga Greenways plan, a Traffic Congestion Management Study, and revision of the sample sign regulations which are used to provide uniform sign controls in a majority of LIMC municipalities. Two upcoming workshops being offered in April and May are on subdivision review and zoning. Anyone with questions may call 397-7313 or write to LIMC, PO Box 8347, Lancaster, PA 17604-8347. ■

Welcome New Staff



Michael Williams joined the Township Highway Department on January 4 as a member of the Road Crew. He also serves as vehicle/fleet coordinator. Mike's been married 20 years to wife Lori and has a 14-year-old son, Jason. When not fishing or enjoying his son's football games, he can be found working at his own part-time lawn maintenance business. ■

Remember to Check the New Lancaster Township Web Site

The Lancaster Township Board of Supervisors is proud to announce that the Township Web site has been awarded second place in the 31st Annual PSATS Citizens Report Contest in the Miscellaneous Communications Media/Home Pages category. Log on to www.twp.lancaster.pa.us for the latest Township information. ■

Stop the Green Invasion!

We're being invaded and the culprits are not armies, but aggressive, non-native plant species that are silently taking over vast expanses of natural areas. They're wreaking havoc on local ecosystems.

Spring is here and people can't wait to start work on their flower beds and gardens. Someone may plant a non-native species in a controlled setting only to find it is very prolific and spreads quickly beyond the original plant site, causing irreparable damage to natural resources. The ecological balance of plants, animals, soil, and water is disrupted or destroyed. As native plants are displaced, animal populations that rely on these plants for food, shelter, and nesting sites also decline.

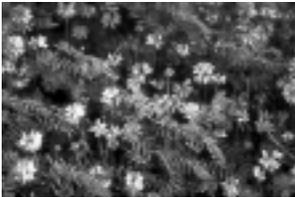
Some invasive plants are *loosestrife*, a beautiful invader with lance-shaped leaves and pink to purple flower spikes 4 to 10 feet high. Try blazing star, cardinal flower, or false dragonhead instead. Avoid *Chinese* and *Japanese wisterias*. Alternatives are American wisteria or trumpet creeper. Other plants to avoid are *Russian olive*, *Norway maple*, *autumn olive*, *white maple*, *empress tree*, *bush honeysuckles*, *privet*, *English ivy*, *kudzu*, *crown vetch*, *common reed*, *giant reed*, *periwinkle*, and *garlic mustard*. These plants interfere with natural plant succession and nutrient cycling, and they tax water reserves. Alternative native shrubs include spicebush, witch hazel, pawpaw, flowering dogwood, and arrowwood.

So when planning your next landscape project, go native! Help stop this green invasion! Contact your local extension office or local native plant society for information. There is also lots of information on the Web, the source of the illustrations you see here. ■

(Based on an article from The Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay's November 1998 Bay Journal. The writer was Kathryn Reshetiloff, US Fish and Wildlife Service.)



Periwinkle



Crown Vetch



Common Reed



Kudzu



Garlic Mustard

Large Appliance Pick-up

The next large appliance pick-up is Tuesday, May 4, and Wednesday, May 5. You must purchase a \$12.00 blue tag for each appliance you wish collected, and a \$1.25 purple tag for each tire. It is very important that you call the office with the item(s) being discarded. The Township provides the hauler with a list of items to be picked up.

Biodegradable Bags: Lancaster Township will begin selling biodegradable bags on April 1, 1999. They are to be used only for leaves, grass clippings, and sod. These bags will take the place of green extra service tags. You may continue to use green tags if you still have some and they will continue to be sold at the Township office. The new bags are the 33 gallon size and 100% biodegradable. A combination of temperature and moisture inside a composting facility causes the bags to biodegrade. Composting is a natural way of returning organic waste such as leaves, grass, and sod into reusable agricultural material.

Batteries: Household batteries are to be placed in an orange battery bag (available free at office) and placed at curbside next to your trash. Please do not put it in your recycling bin or mix it with regular trash. The hauler will dispose of it properly so as not to contaminate landfill.

Cardboard: This is disposed of the same as trash. Please break it down and bundle. If small enough, put it in your trash bags/cans. It should not be mixed with newspapers and magazines.

Recycling Bins: Did you know the more you recycle, the less the Township pays for trash removal? Help keep the costs down. If your recycling bin is broken, bring it to the office where it will be replaced for free. Lost or stolen bins will be replaced at a cost to you of \$5. Label your bin with your address in indelible ink. If you have more recyclables than will fit in the bin, place them in paper bags only.

Hazardous Household Waste: It is no longer necessary to make an appointment to dispose of hazardous household waste such as paint. It can be taken to the Lancaster County Solid Waste Management Authority, 1299 Harrisburg Pike, on the following days:

**Monday/Tuesday-
12:30PM-3:30PM**

**Wednesday, Thursday, Friday-
8:30AM-12:00 Noon**

**2nd & 4th Saturday of Month-
7:30AM-10:30AM**

LCSWMA can be reached at 397-9968 for more information.

Complaints: If you notice the trash hauler doing something wrong, please report it to our office as soon as possible. It would also be helpful if you report the truck number. Call Kelly Hurt, 291-1213. The sooner you report a problem, the sooner it can be corrected. ■



Earth Day is April 22! Celebrate by making the extra effort to recycle everything possible. Your great-grandchildren will thank you!

Planning & Zoning: How Does Zoning Affect Me?

This article is the first in a series pertaining to the functions and procedures of boards and commissions as well as the part played by office staff. The Lancaster Township Planning & Zoning Department deals with the different aspects of zoning, building, subdivisions/development, and resident concerns. It is also the liaison with the Zoning Hearing Board, Planning Commission, and Building Code Board of Appeals.

What is zoning?

Zoning is a method of regulating the use of land and structures. Uses are governed by a zoning ordinance designed to protect the public health, safety, and welfare of residents and act as a guide for growth. The zoning ordinance is composed of two parts, the text and the zoning map. All Township land is divided into districts (i.e., Residential R-1, Commercial C-1, etc.) and there are regulations (i.e., minimum yard setbacks, permitted uses, etc.) which apply to the Township as a whole, as well as specifically to individual districts. The Lancaster Township Strategic Comprehensive Plan outlines goals and objectives of the Township and is a blueprint for future development. Zoning is a method of implementing these goals. Planning involves taking inventory of development alternatives, analyzing collected data, projecting future growth and development, and establishing future policies.

The Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code (MPC), Act 247 of 1968, grants local governments the power to zone and adopt zoning ordinances. The MPC establishes the rules a municipality must follow. The Lancaster Township Planning Commission began holding public workshops in 1997 to discuss revisions necessary for proper planning as charged by the Strategic Comprehensive Plan 1997-2001. The proposed revisions were submitted to the Lancaster Township Board of Supervisors and the Lancaster County Planning Commission for their review. Public hearings were held January 12 and February 8, 1999 to solicit resident comments. On February 8, 1999 the Board of Supervisors adopted the revised zoning ordinance text only. Some of the major changes in this user-friendly document include: open space development, infill development, large scale retail developments, historic preservation, greenways and riparian forest buffer zones. Action on the proposed revised zoning map was delayed and referred to the Planning Commission for further review.

The next article in this series will delve into zoning permits and Zoning Hearing Board procedures. Remember, before starting plans for renovations, alterations or additions, check with the Township office and find out what zoning regulations may apply. It could prevent making a costly mistake.

Zoning Hearing Board Updates:

- Wall Associates, 1051 Columbia Avenue—requesting a variance on parking requirements

- Regal Cinemas, Manor Shopping Center—requesting variances for signs and lighting (lighting for tower not granted)

Planning Commission Updates:

- 1226 E. Orange Street—request to combine two parcels of land creating one lot

(See pages 7 and 8 for more on Planning and Zoning.) ■

Fire Department: Best Fundraising Year Yet!

The Lancaster Township Fire Department concluded its highest yielding fundraiser ever.

Fund Drive '98 closed with total donations of \$92,350. This represents 1,953 contributors. Were you one of those who cared enough to open your wallet? The LTFD is completely volunteer and relies heavily on the generosity of others.



They don't just put out fires; they assist at accident scenes, answer calls for possible gas or carbon monoxide leaks, barricade roads during flooding, and assist in all types of inclement weather. These dedicated folks are there for you. Even if you missed the last fund drive, you can still send a contribution, and, remember, Fund Drive '99 is coming up.

Lafayette Fire Company (serving East End)

Congratulations to Robert Sloyer the newly elected Chief of the Lafayette Fire Company. Bob helps to ensure continuing, high-quality protection for residents of the East End. ■

Solicitation Note

From time to time the Board of Supervisors issues permits for canvassing and solicitation in order to keep track of these kinds of activities in the Township. However, the issuance of a permit is in no way an endorsement or recommendation of the product or service. Lancaster Township does not sponsor these activities, nor should residents feel obligated to participate.

School District of Lancaster Calendar

SDL School Board Meetings, 7PM: April 8 & 20
May 6 & 18
June 3 & 15

School Calendar: Apr. 2-5: Schools Closed
May 31: Schools Closed
June 3: Last Day of School
McCaskey Graduation

Martin Elementary Seeking Volunteer: Elizabeth Martin Elementary School, 1990 Wabank Road, is seeking someone from Lancaster Township to represent the community on its Site Council. Site Council meetings occur monthly and are usually held at Martin Media Center. The community representative should have an interest in public education and no formal connections with Martin School or the School District of Lancaster. Please call David M. Rentschler, Principal, 291-6193, or Rev. John Anderson, the current Community Representative, at 392-1056. ■

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Public Works: Sweeping, Pruning, Paving

Street sweeping resumes April 13. Read and take heed of the signs on your street. There will be a two-week grace period during which warnings will be issued for parking violations. After April 26, the police will be issuing parking tickets to violators, just as they do during leaf pick-up in the fall. Those streets with no signs will be inspected regularly and swept on an as-needed-basis. In some instances there may be a need to temporarily post paper signs.

Tree pruning is the responsibility of the property



owner. All trees bordering your property and the street must be kept trimmed to a minimum overhang of 10 feet off the surface of the roadway. Take a walk around the perimeter of your property and check for traffic obstructions. Don't forget the alleys! Trees and shrubs should be kept trimmed back there to allow safe passage to off-street parking and garages. Intersections are an important area to inspect. Keep all

growth low enough for a driver to see around the corner. Your help in assuring the safety of all is greatly appreciated.

1999 Street Paving List:

Turnbridge Drive
Grafton Circle
Stockbridge Circle
Rice Road
Millrace Drive
Water Valley Road
Green Springs Circle
Gordon Road
Homestead Lane
Hoover Road
Additional roads may be resurfaced as the need arises. ■

See how they work ... Lancaster Township keeps up with street resurfacing.

LANCASTER BUREAU OF POLICE

Citizens Police Academy

Did you ever wonder what goes on behind those doors at 39 East Chestnut Street? Now's your chance to get a better understanding of how the Lancaster Bureau of Police functions. The Citizens Police Academy is open to Lancaster Township residents free of charge. It is partially funded by a \$7,860 grant from the State Commission on Crime and Delinquency. This program is designed to educate residents about operations and promote mutual understanding between police and residents. Classes are intended to help residents obtain the best possible police service by giving them a sense of how the department operates.

Topics to be covered include all police divisions: investigative and administrative, community policing, chaplaincy program, specialized units such as drug enforcement, K-9, mounted police and bicycle patrols. Every class will tour the police station to view the facilities and learn how equipment is

used to solve crimes.

The next class will begin May 4 and meet Tuesdays and Thursdays (May 4, 6, 11, 13, 18, 21, 25, & 27), 7:00-9:00PM, at the Lancaster Recreation Commission, 525 Fairview Avenue. Call Debra Beighley, police training section, at 291-4899. Classes are limited to the first 24 residents to sign up. ■

Reminder: If you need police assistance be sure to call 664-1180, the Lancaster County Wide Communications. All police dispatching is done by this agency. In the case of an emergency please call 911.

Police Response to Homes: Is Your House Number Visible?

by Officer Jeffrey A. Haas

Your burglar alarm has awakened you and you're scared while waiting for police to arrive. As you watch out a window, the cruiser passes right by your house. Now you're not only scared but angry too. "What's wrong with the police?" Frequently what's wrong is there's no street number visible to the investigating police and they can't locate the address to which they've been dispatched. This leads to the loss of precious time, allowing the perpetrator to cause personal or property damage and affording more time for escape. Please be sure your house is marked clearly enough to be seen from the street at night. Township Property Maintenance Code requires each number be **at least 3** inches high, but in this case bigger is better. A house number is more easily read in reflective material and when it is unobstructed by shrubs or trees. Both parties benefit because when you need us to be there, we can get there more quickly. ■

Volunteer Honored



Charles F. Bitler is shown being presented with a Certificate of Recognition by the Board of Supervisors for his 30 years of loyalty and dedication to Lancaster Township. Charlie served the Township in several capacities: as Zoning Officer, Code Enforcement Officer, Emergency Management Coordinator, and most recently as a Planning Commission member.

Hamilton Park Playground Association Announces Fun Events Upcoming in '99

Bring family and friends to join in fun at these upcoming activities at the park:

- April 3 – Easter Egg Hunt, 1PM
- May 8 – Garage Sale, 7AM-Noon
- June 11 – Festival, 5PM
- August 8 – Corn Roast, 5PM
- October 30 – Halloween Parade, 1PM
- December 17 – Christmas Caroling, 7PM

Hamilton Park Playground Association meetings are open to all friends of Hamilton Park. Meetings are held at the Lancaster Township Office, 1240 Maple Avenue, the third Thursday of each month at 7:00PM. For information or questions call Deb Frailey at 392-2794. ■

Hamilton Park has scheduled six special events for the rest of the year.



New Zoning Ordinances Being Reviewed

On February 8, 1999, the Lancaster Township Board of Supervisors adopted a new Zoning Ordinance. The Planning Commission members, Rettew Associates, and Township staff held public meetings over a two-year period in conjunction with regular Planning Commission meetings. The Township is proud to present this user-friendly document for your review at the office or on the web site (www.twp.lancaster.pa.us). The new Zoning Ordinance may be purchased for \$30.

The proposed new Zoning Map revisions were not adopted. It was returned to the Planning Commission in response to resident requests. On March 17, 1999, the Commission recommended the Board of Supervisors keep the area designated as #4 on the map (Luik and Scheib tracts) as R-S zoning and further, that the Zoning Ordinance be amended to allow only open space development in all R-S Zoning districts.

The Planning Commission will hold public workshop meetings this year to review Subdivision and Land Development Ordinances. These meetings will most likely be held in conjunction with the regular monthly Planning Commission meetings, which are held the third Tuesday of each month. ■



Insurance Companies Required to Secure Damaged Structures

The Board of Supervisors will act on Ordinance No. 1999-02 at its April 12 meeting. This ordinance will be extremely beneficial to all residents of the Township. Act 98 of 1992 and Act 93 of 1994, which amends it, provide procedures for the payment of certain fire loss claims. If a property is fire damaged, the insurance company will be required to withhold a certain amount of insurance payment for fire losses which exceed \$7,500. For each \$15,000 of damage or fraction thereof, \$2,000 will be held in a separate fund as security until such time as repairs to the structure are completed. If the owner does not make the necessary repairs, these funds may be used by the Township to remove, repair, or secure structures, and pay any engineering, legal, or administrative costs incurred by the Township in connection with such work. The benefit? Neighbors won't have damaged structures affecting the aesthetics of their neighborhood. There also won't be the worry of children entering the damaged property and injuring themselves. ■

LANCASTER TOWNSHIP DIRECTORY

Lancaster Township Office

1240 Maple Ave.

Lancaster, PA 17603 717-291-1213

Hours: Mon.-Fri., 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Fax: 717-291-6818

Maintenance Facility

1357 Meadowcreek Lane 293-1733

- Helen S. Adams Supervisor
- Anthony J. Allen Supervisor
- Michael F. Pickard Supervisor
- William L. Adams Township Manager
- J. Robert Eckenrode Superintendent of Public Works
- Kelly Hurt Administrative Coordinator
- Lori Jacoby Director of Planning & Zoning
- Jack McCoy Office Administrator
- Debbi Robichaud Planning & Zoning Assistant
- Suzanne B. Teske Administrative Secretary
- Betsy Way Receptionist
- Web Site www.twp.lancaster.pa.us

District Magistrates:

Sandra L. High-Kulp, 117-A South West End Ave. 299-7898

Richard W. Musser, 301 N. Queen St. 299-7966

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 299-4843

Tax Collections:

Township/County 299-8222

Occupational (800) 360-8989

School 291-6134

Sewage Enforcement Officer: Dale L. High 768-3119

State Dog Warden: Bill Birmingham 445-9155

Emergency Management Coordinator: Michael F. Pickard . 293-4717

Lancaster Recreation Commission 392-2115

