

TOWNSHIP

newsletter

PUBLISHED BY THE LANCASTER TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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Little Conestoga Creek to Receive an Environmental Facelift

Waterway through Township will benefit from a riparian restoration grant.

Lancaster Township has been awarded a Chesapeake Bay Small Watershed Grant by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The Chesapeake Bay Program has a goal of restoring 2,010 miles of riparian forest buffer in the Chesapeake Bay watershed by the year 2010. This grant enables the Township to re-establish 1,500 feet of riparian (streambank) buffer along the Little Conestoga Creek within Maple Grove Park. Included is revegetation with native plants, grasses, and trees along with placing riprap (stone) along some of the stream bottom. A wall that was a part of the old Maple Grove swimming pool will also be removed, thus preventing the dam-like effect that caused so much damage during the June flooding.

The riparian buffer zone is important for the prevention of pollution. It is this buffer zone that traps sediment and pollutants and filters them out before they enter the stream. Cleansing the water in this natural way helps restore the health of the Little Conestoga Creek, and also the Conestoga River, Susquehanna River, and Chesapeake Bay.

All rivers and streams leading to the Bay are adding to the pollution of the greatest natural estuary in the United States. The Chesapeake Bay is one of the most treasured natural assets we have in this country. Both its health and



that of all animal and plant life in and around the Bay are greatly affected by pollutants and sedimentation. For cleanup of the Chesapeake to occur there must be a concerted effort on the part of everyone. The solution can start in your own back yard.

There's tremendous excitement over this project for many reasons. The first of its kind in our area, it will bring together many volunteers from several schools and agencies. The hope is that this project will encourage others to begin their own similar projects in other areas of the county.

Education is a major component of the grant. School children, their teachers, and other volunteers will become a

part of the workforce in creating a much more effective riparian buffer zone. With help from Rettew Associates, Inc., volunteers will learn various environmental and conservation-oriented techniques, how to create healthier waters for aquatic and plant life, how plants and trees perform the functions of cleaning and filtering, what kinds of plantings are more adapted for these purposes, and why native plants are more appropriate for use in different geographic areas. A great deal of valuable information can be applied in your own yards and gardens.

Call Suzanne Teske at 291-1213 for further information about this groundbreaking project. ■



Legislative Update

The following ordinance has been passed since the last newsletter:

Ordinance No. 2000-04: Recognizes the authority of fire companies serving Lancaster Township to seek reimbursement for services

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

OFFICE CLOSINGS

The Lancaster Township office will be closed:

- **November 23-24** – Thanksgiving
- **December 25-26** – Christmas
- **January 1, 2001** – New Year's Day

DATES TO REMEMBER:

- **October 31** – Halloween Trick-or-Treat Night
- **November 7** – Election Day
Don't shirk your civic duty, go to the polls and VOTE



- **December 5-6** – Large Appliance Pick Up
- **January 13** – Christmas Tree Collection

Meet the New Staff

Marti Heim is our new Planning & Zoning Assistant. Marti began her employment with Lancaster Township on August 28, 2000 and is excited to be a part of the staff. A new Township resident, Marti lives in Gable Park with her husband, Bill, and son Eric, a high school senior; son Jason, a sophomore at Kutztown University; and stepdaughters Carolyn and Kimberly, who are a grad-school student and high school senior respectively. Rounding things out are Maggie and Hunter, two beloved beagles. When Marti gets the time to relax, she enjoys reading, dining out, and traveling. She loves her new home and takes pleasure in getting to know the area and residents. ■



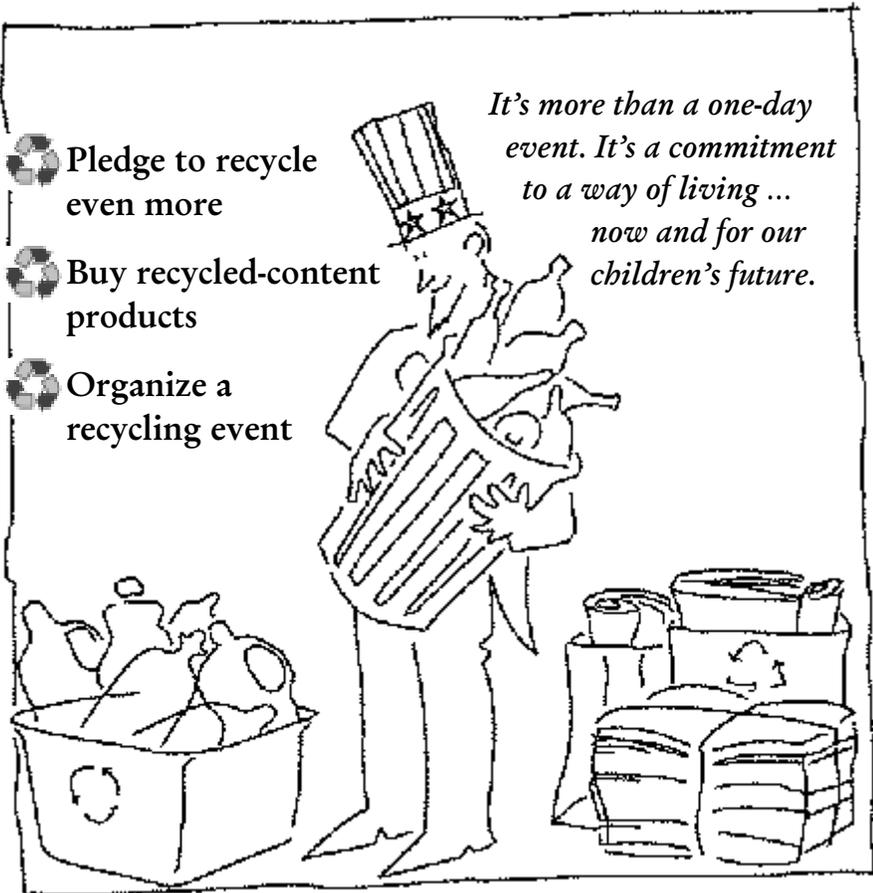
▲ Marti Heim, Planning & Zoning Assistant

A Whole Lot of Fun in Just One Day

Glimpses of Lancaster Township's Community Day, September 16, 2000



America Recycles Day
November 15, 2000



- Pledge to recycle even more
- Buy recycled-content products
- Organize a recycling event

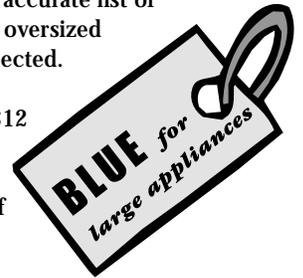
It's more than a one-day event. It's a commitment to a way of living ... now and for our children's future.

Large Appliance Pick-Up Days

... are scheduled for your first trash day in December: Tuesday, December 5 and Wednesday, December 6. Each item must have a blue tag affixed to it. Blue tags may be purchased at the Township office for \$12. The Township must have your address and the item(s) to be picked up in order to provide the trash hauler an accurate list of appliances and oversized items to be collected.

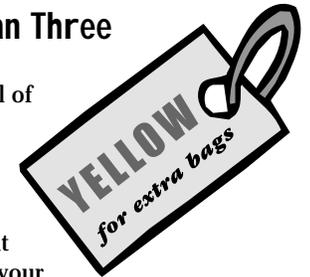
Remember:

- Purchase a \$12 blue tag(s)
- Inform Township of address and item(s)
- Put item out the night before your regular pick up (December 5 or 6)



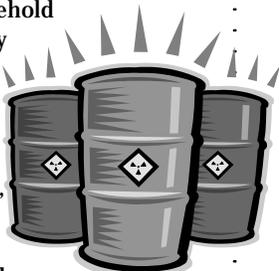
If More Than Three

With the arrival of the holidays in November and December comes extra trash! If you put out more than your allotted three 32-gallon bags or cans, the extras must have an affixed yellow tag. Be prepared ahead of time by purchasing yellow tags at \$6.25 for a strip of five.



Keep Hazardous Waste Out of the Trash

There has been a recent increase in the amount of household hazardous waste being put out with household trash. It is illegal to put hazardous waste with regular trash because of toxic properties that are dangerous to the environment and people. Hazardous waste items include paint, paint-related products, household cleaners, pesticides, auto batteries, and gasoline. These items must be disposed of properly. All household hazardous waste may be taken, free of charge, to Lancaster County Solid Waste Management Authority (LCSWMA), 1299 Harrisburg Pike. Please call them at 397-9968 if you need information and a more complete list. ■



There will be no schedule changes for trash trucks during the holidays; they will pick up on your regularly scheduled day.

Christmas tree collection

... will be held Saturday, January 13, 2001. Put your tree at curbside the night before and, please, lay it down on the ground. If it is standing upright, the haulers may think it is a living tree and not collect it. All artificial decorations and tree bags must be removed.



Planning & Zoning: Important New Ordinances

Smoke Detectors Save Lives

The Board of Supervisors recently adopted Ordinance No. 2000-03, which is a change to our current smoke detector ordinance. It requires a third-party electrical inspection of all hard-wired smoke detectors installed in residential properties. Adopted on June 12, 2000, the ordinance requires hard-wired smoke detectors with a battery backup system installed in accordance with the Lancaster Township Building Code in all new dwellings. This applies when a new owner takes possession and also includes dwellings under construction or approved for construction, and in existing dwellings when additions or interior renovations are done that are in excess of \$5,000.

Smoke detectors are especially important in the cold weather and



heating season. Accidents with fireplaces, space heaters, and furnaces can occur while you're sleeping. Check all batteries to be certain they are in good working order. Protect yourself, your loved ones, and your home. Feel free to call the Township office at 291-1213 if you have questions.

Important Note:

A new owner, or any other occupant, must send acknowledgment of installation and inspection of a hard-wired battery backup system to the Township before taking possession of the property.

In the case of a fire/burglar system, the owner/occupant must file with the Township evidence of an existing monitoring contract before occupancy.

Doggone It! Be a Responsible Pet Owner

From the number of complaints received by the Planning & Zoning Department, it has become clear that many Township residents do not

understand that they are responsible for keeping dogs under their control. Ordinance No. 1992-02 regulates dogs running at large and prohibits dogs or other animals from defecating on public or private property.

No owner is permitted to allow any dog to be upon public or private property unless the dog is accompanied by, and under the immediate control of, the owner. Owners are not permitted to allow their pet to defecate upon any property unless the pet owner immediately cleans up and removes the defecation and disposes of it in a sanitary manner.

A dog owner must keep the dog(s) penned in a dwelling or other enclosure or securely tied in such a manner that the dog cannot enter onto public or private property without the property owner's consent.

Every police officer is authorized to enforce this ordinance by seizing the dog or other animal whose owner is in violation and may dispose of the dog or animal in accordance with law. The Township Zoning Officer is also empowered to help enforce the provisions of this ordinance. Upon conviction by a District Magistrate, any owner may be sentenced to pay a fine from \$25 to \$600 plus the costs of prosecution. In default of payment, an owner may be imprisoned in Lancaster County Prison for up to ten days.

Please be kind to your neighbors by taking responsibility for your pets. ■

School District of Lancaster Updates

SDL Board Meetings, 7PM:

- October 5 & 17
- November 9 & 21
- December 7 & 19

School Calendar:

- October 30-31 – No School
- November 22-24 – No School
- December 25-January 1 – No School

Great things are happening in the School District of Lancaster in the 2000-01 school year. The momentum and initial results are creating much excitement. They prove we're headed in the right direction thanks to the support of parents, staff, school board, and caring community.

The district's first year of full-day kindergarten was a huge success! Test results show that 80% of the 1999-2000 full-day kindergarten students entered first grade this year at either the proficient or advanced reading level. Increases were seen at all elementary schools with the most significant jump at Price Elementary. In just one year, students went from 9% to 91% at the advanced reading level.

The SDL music program ranks 13th

in the nation, according to the American Music Conference list of the top 100 communities for music education. The quality of SDL's music program reflects the talent, creativity, and dedication of both teachers and students. You are invited to concerts to hear for yourself some of the nation's best school music programs.

Elementary schools are implementing a new math curriculum, *Everyday Math*. As its title suggests, this program focuses on how math relates to everyday lives. *Everyday Math* uses real-world problems to engage students in math learning and to help all students achieve at higher levels.

This year begins a new partnership program with Stevens College of Technology. Approximately 18 McCaskey seniors are participating in a program that allows them to complete simultaneously their final year of high school and their first year of college.

Without the support of our community these successful programs would not be possible. The School District thanks you, and our students thank you. TOGETHER WE CAN!!

Public Works Department: Leaf Time

Leaf collection begins Monday, October 9 and ends Friday, December 8. Although everything possible is done to maintain a weekly schedule, wet and rainy weather may force a bi-weekly pick-up schedule. Your understanding and patience will be appreciated. Remember, you may take residential leaves to the Township's composting facility year-round. Call 293-1733 for an appointment to drop off leaves.

Continued next column

Leaf Collection Schedule:

- Monday – All streets between Columbia and Marietta Avenue
 - Tuesday – Hamilton Park area follows Tuesday morning posted street cleaning schedule, as do Davis Drive, Spencer Avenue, S. President Avenue, 400 and 500 blocks of Atkins Avenue. East End follows Tuesday afternoon street cleaning schedule. This includes City Mill Road, Conestoga Woods, and Conestoga Boulevard.
 - Wednesday – Hamilton Park area follows Wednesday morning posted street cleaning schedule, as does Schoolhouse Road. East End will follow Wednesday afternoon posted street cleaning schedule.
 - Thursday – All streets on north side of Marietta Avenue to Newton Road
 - Friday – West side of Abbeyville Road, Bausman area, Hoover Road, Honeysuckle Lane, Bentley Lane area
- Please place leaves on the street, next to the curb as close as possible before the scheduled pick-up date.

What is a Right-of-Way?

You're going to dig where?!? If you've asked this question of the Township recently then read on. The Township would like all residents to understand the purpose of a right-of-way and where most of them are located.

Every street or road in the Township has a right-of-way (ROW) on both sides. This area is reserved for placement of signs, installation of utilities, insuring a clear sight distance, or other necessary activities. An average ROW is 3 to 10 feet from the curb into your property and is maintained by the property owner. The strip of land should be kept free of trees, hedges, or other plantings. If you've been thinking of doing some landscaping in the ROW, contact the Township Zoning Office or Highway Department *before* making a costly mistake.

When a resident has not properly maintained the ROW, the Township notifies the resident of the need for trimming or clearing. The resident then has the option of performing this work themselves or letting the Township or utility company take care of it. The utility company may not be a particularly good choice, as its primary concern is not landscaping or tree trimming. In some cases the Township will have growth removed at the resident's expense. So please, be aware of the condition of your right-of-way and keep it in good order. ■

Fire Department Launches Fund Drive 2000

The Lancaster Township Fire Department (LTFD) has begun its annual Fund Drive 2000. Solicitations will be sent by mail to all residents in the west end of the Township. Please don't toss this request for donations into the trash. The LTFD is a totally volunteer organization. Although the Township does give the Fire Department some financial support, it is not nearly enough to meet all expenses. The dedicated men and women who volunteer their time and risk their lives need your dollars to continue with upkeep, training, and new equipment purchases. It's possible you could be the next person in need of their assistance. LTFD won't forget you, so don't forget *it!*

Reminder: If you want your donations to go to Lancaster Township Fire Department, do not contribute to phone solicitors who say they are with "your fire company." None of that money goes to LTFD. The LTFD only solicits by mail during the annual fund drive. ■

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. The issuance of a permit, however, is not an endorsement or recommendation of the product or service. Lancaster Township does not sponsor these activities nor should residents feel obligated to participate. ■

!!BOO!!



Don't be scared; it's just the neighborhood children trick-or-treating. Halloween will be celebrated on Tuesday, October 31 with trick-or-treating from 6:00-8:00PM. To keep your children safe, remember to follow these guidelines:

- No one over the age of 12 years may wear a mask in public.
- Accompany young children and carry a flashlight.
- Stay in your neighborhood and visit only homes of people you know.
- Dress children in light-colored costumes; adding reflectors is recommended.
- Check all candy before allowing children to eat it.
- Drivers, be extra alert! Parents and trick-or-treaters, watch for traffic!
- HAVE FUN!

Rubbish Rangers Looking for You

The Lancaster Township Adopt-A-Highway program is still looking for groups to take on highway cleaning projects. Your organization can join the Rubbish Rangers by calling Rob Eckenrode at 293-1733 or 291-1213. Show your civic pride in Lancaster Township by signing up today. ■



**SENIOR
CITIZENS
CORNER**

An Invitation to Share Your Time: RSVP

Are you contemplating retirement, but not sure what to do with your time? Or have you been retired for several years and been meaning to get more involved in the community? Volunteering is the secret of youth! Studies show that Americans who volunteer are healthier, feel greater purpose in their lives, and have higher self-esteem.

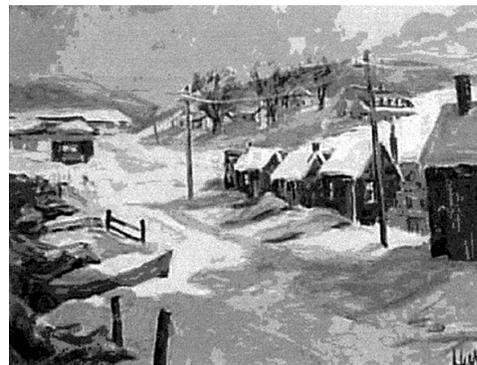
RSVP, Retired & Senior Volunteer Program, is part of the American Red Cross and the area's largest bi-county volunteer organization designed specifically for older adults. RSVP offers people 55 and older the chance to get involved in their community through volunteer service projects. Training? Yes! Transportation? Yes! Insurance Coverage? Yes! Social Opportunities? Yes! Service Opportunities? Yes! Minimal Time Commitment? Yes!

Whether it's a few hours a month or a few hours a day, RSVP volunteers serve their neighbors and make a valuable difference. Your time is yours, and in RSVP you are in control of how often you volunteer. The benefits are

endless—a chance to help others is a chance to help yourself! Call the American Red Cross at 299-5561 to begin what might be the experience of a lifetime. Remember, volunteering with RSVP is the secret of youth! ■

Enjoy the Art Gallery

If you've been in the Lancaster Township offices more than a couple of times in the past year, you may have noticed the fine rotating collections of art on display in the lobby and board room. The Township is fortunate to be the recipient of various artists' generosity. Currently, a selection of oil paintings and watercolors by well-known Litz area artist Paul C. Herr are on display and available for purchase. Mr. Herr has won numerous prizes and awards. His work is collected by both private and corporate patrons. Please stop by and enjoy our gallery. ■



▲ One of Paul C. Herr's paintings

Cold Winter? Warm Winter?

Baer's *Agricultural Almanac & Gardener's Guide* has announced its weather forecast in the 2001 edition of the Lancaster-based publication. "This August's coolness presages what winter will bring," says Gerald S. Lestz, Baer's editor-publisher. Snow may fall as early as November 4-7 in the East, Lestz adds. Cold temperatures and frequent snowfalls will continue through late March.

Meanwhile, *The Farmers' Almanac*, published in Lewiston, Maine, is calling for a mild winter. "The winter of 2000-01 should get off to a late start and turn out to be milder than average, even less severe than this last one," says forecaster Caleb Weatherbee.

One of these predictions is wrong but, by March, who will remember which? ■

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Lancaster Township

Municipal Office

Phone: 717-291-1213 Fax: 717-291-6818

Maintenance Facility: 717-293-1733

Monday-Friday: 8AM-4PM

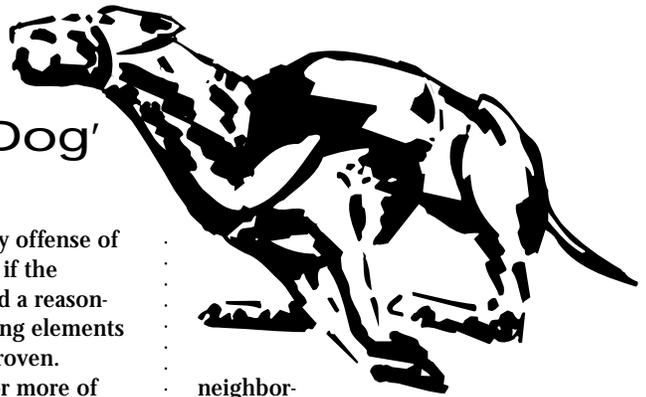
Helen S. Adams Elected Supervisor
 Anthony J. Allen Elected Supervisor
 Michael F. Pickard Elected Supervisor
 William L. Adams Township Manager
 J. Robert Eckenrode Superintendent of Public Works
 Stacy Honer Administrative Coordinator
 Lynn M. Stauffer Director of Planning & Zoning
 Lori K. Jacoby Office Administrator
 Marti Heim Planning & Zoning Assistant
 Suzanne B. Teske Administrative Assistant
 Deb Jones Receptionist
 Web Site www.twp.lancaster.pa.us

Did you know RRTA bus routes and schedules are available in the Township office?

Clip & Save

Pennsylvania Dog Law Addresses the 'Dangerous Dog'

by Lt. Richard K. Fogie



The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania enacted Act 1996, Number 151 to regulate dogs. This law is quite extensive and covers many topics, such as dogs-at-large, specific offenses, damage to property, injury to dogs, dangerous dogs, sterilization procedures, and liability issues. This article focuses on dangerous dogs.

A dangerous dog may not be outside a proper enclosure unless it is muzzled and restrained by chain or leash, and under the physical restraint of a responsible person. The muzzle used should not cause injury to the dog or interfere with its vision or breathing. However, the muzzle must prevent the animal from biting any person or animal, as well as prevent the animal from destroying property. If the owner of a dangerous dog is a minor, the parent or guardian of the minor is liable for injuries or property damage caused by an unprovoked attack.

Off to the Pound

A dangerous dog shall be immediately impounded if:

1. The dog is not validly registered.
2. The owner does not secure and maintain proper insurance.
3. The dog is not maintained in a proper enclosure.
4. The dog is found outside of a proper enclosure and not under physical restraint by a responsible person.

A person who has been attacked by a dog can file a complaint before a district magistrate, as can a police officer, charging the owner with keeping a dangerous dog. The owner or keeper of a dog

shall be guilty of a summary offense of harboring a dangerous dog if the district justice finds, beyond a reasonable doubt, that the following elements of the offense have been proven.

1. The dog has done one or more of the following:
 - Inflicted severe injury on a human being without provocation on public or private property
 - Killed or inflicted severe injury on a domestic animal without provocation while off the owner's property
 - Attacked a human being without provocation
 - Been used in the commission of a crime
2. The dog has either or both of the following:
 - A history of attacking human beings and/or domestic animals without provocation.
 - A propensity to attack human beings and/or domestic animals without provocation.

A propensity to attack may be proven by a single incident of conduct. The breed of a dog does not necessarily make it a dangerous dog. What is of concern are the legal requirements a district magistrate must apply. If you feel a dangerous dog lives in your

neighborhood, please consult with one of the Township Police Officers. Don't wait until someone is injured or property is damaged. Even if the above legal requirements are not met, an ounce of proactive prevention may do much to prevent injury to a child or oneself. ■

Citizens Police Academy Beginning New Session

The next class of the Citizens Police Academy begins November 7. This program is designed to foster greater understanding and cooperation between the public and your police. Sixteen hours of instruction and tours are offered free of charge to residents interested in how a modern police agency functions. Call Officer John Wertz at 291-4896 to reserve a spot in the upcoming class. ■

New Police Cruisers are State-of-the-Art

Lancaster Township has received two new, fully equipped cruisers. Officers J.D. Shaeffer and Jerry Hess are pleased to patrol with the latest equipment on board. In addition to standard-issue equipment including the Automated External Defibrillator (AED), new

sirens and digital display radios have been installed for maximum efficiency. Both are easily identified as they are clearly marked "Lancaster Township Unit." ■



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.

Lancaster Township Officials

Supervisors

Anthony J. Allen, chair
Michael F. Pickard, vice-chair
Hel en S. Adams, treasurer

Planning Commission

Harold H. Bowers, Jr., chair
Paul W. Kaseman, vice-chair
Edwina H. Coder, secretary
Barbara E. Gal len
Kenneth D. Hammel
C. Alan Bruns
Beverly J. Shank

Board of Auditors

James Humphrevel le, chair
Harry R. Frey, secretary
William H. Adams

Zoning Hearing Board

John W. Metzger, chair
Elizabeth W. Bamford, vice-chair
Peggy D. Hal l, secretary
Daniel R. Knarr, al ternate

Building Code Board of Appeal s

Edwin Wal l over, III, chair
Dal e J. Cagwin, vice-chair
Thomas H. Schal l er
Patrick M. Egan
M. Mel anie LeFever, al ternate
David C. Evans, al ternate

Public Safety Committee

Robert Newcomer, chair
Patrick M. Egan
Doris R. James
Val erie Cal houn
Kenneth Notturmo

Vacancy Board Chair

Thomas Schal l er

LASA Representative

Alex Henderson III

SLASA Representative

Karen O. Mil l er

LRC Representatives

Roberta Bruns
Suzanne B. Teske

LIMC Greenway Representative

Suzanne B. Teske

Fire Chiefs

Gl enn Usdin (West End)
Lancaster Township Fire Department
Robert Nol t (East End)
LaFayette Fire Company

Emergency Management Coordinator

Michael F. Pickard

LANCASTER TOWNSHIP CALENDAR

Board of Supervisors:
2nd Monday, 7:00 p.m.

Planning Commission:
3rd Tuesday, 7:00 p.m.

Building Code Board of Appeals:
3rd Wednesday, 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.

LRC Planning New Year's Eve Celebration

Bring the family and join with neighbors and friends to usher in the new year 2001. The 8th Annual *Countdown Lancaster New Year's Eve Celebration* will be better than ever! Enjoy alcohol-free, family entertainment at over 30 indoor downtown sites, climaxing with a fabulous fireworks display at Lancaster Square. The Red Rose will rise at midnight signaling the beginning of the New Year. To be a part of this year's celebration and enjoy all the events, buy an affordable Countdown Lancaster button (\$8 before the event or \$10 on December 31).

Fall programs are in full swing at the LRC. For details, check our website, www.lancasterrec.org, or call 392-2115. ■

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