

# TOWNSHIP

newsletter

PUBLISHED BY THE LANCASTER TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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## What's Going On Here?

### Board of Supervisors meetings are open to the public and you are welcome to participate.

**H**ave you ever wondered what goes on at a Lancaster Township Board of Supervisors meeting? With the start of a new year, the Board cordially invites and encourages residents to attend their monthly meetings. The Board meets the second Monday of each month at 7:00PM at the Township Office, 1240 Maple Avenue. All meetings are open to the public and all Board decisions are made in public session. Comments and opinions from residents are very welcome. The Board wants to know the thoughts of citizens before making important decisions. There is an exception to public meetings as allowed by state law. The Board may meet in a private and closed executive session to discuss personnel and legal issues.

To handle efficiently the large number of matters coming before it, the Board follows a planned order of business. This agenda is posted on the bulletin board outside the front entrance to the municipal building. It is also published in the *Sunday News Government Calendar*. Additionally, as you enter through the Perry Avenue entrance and sign the guest register, you may pick up a copy of the evening's agenda and the monthly treasurer's report.

There are two places on the agenda for citizen participation. *Section II. Public Comment on Agenda Items* is a time for residents to offer comments on

any items that appear on that evening's agenda. Please keep in mind this is not a time for the Supervisors to respond or for debate to take place. Although the Supervisors will not necessarily respond, they will consider comments as they vote. *Section X. Guest Recognition and Participation* is the time to present concerns and ask questions on any issue. Residents are reminded to keep their comments and questions as brief as possible in order to provide time for everyone who wishes to speak to do so and to keep meetings to a manageable length.

Don't expect immediate resolution to any concern. An issue may be referred for further study—a standard procedure. Stay involved and keep an eye out for any developments or action on your concern at future Board meetings.

Minutes are taken at every Board meeting. After they are approved at the following Board meeting, the minutes are then posted on the outside bulletin board and on our website ([www.twp.lancaster.pa.us](http://www.twp.lancaster.pa.us)).



▲ Your Township Supervisors: Michael F. Pickard, Helen S. Adams, and Anthony J. Allen

LTPC is an advisory board that oversees comprehensive planning for the development of the municipality. The Zoning Hearing Board (ZHB) meets the fourth Tuesday of each month. ZHB is a quasi-judicial body with the power to enforce zoning regulations. The Building Code Board of Appeals (BCBA) also meets monthly on the third Wednesday of the month. As its name states, the BCBA handles appeals of building code decisions made by the code officer with which the property owner disagrees.

Why not become involved? Plan to attend Township meetings on a regular basis. See for yourself how the local Lancaster Township government functions. ■

Although the focus here has been on the Board of Supervisors, remember that there are other important standing Township committees. The Lancaster Township Planning Commission (LTPC) meets the third Tuesday of each month at 7:00PM at the Township building. The



## Legislative Update

### ► Dates to Remember:

January 15 – Martin Luther King, Jr. Day  
 February 19 – President’s Day  
 March 20 – First Day of Spring!

### ► Don’t Forget:

January 13 – Christmas Tree Collection

### Postage Rates Going Up ↑

**Y**es, again. Stock up on those one-cent stamps. Remember, the cost of a first-class stamp will increase to 34 cents on January 7, 2001. Thirty-three-cent stamps are still legal; simply affix a one-cent stamp beside your 33-cent stamp on each piece of first-class mail. The US Postal Service will have an abundant supply for sale. ■



### Lancaster Inter-Municipal Committee Publishes Park Map

**T**he Lancaster Inter-Municipal Committee (LIMC) has published a *Map & Guide to Public Parks in Central Lancaster County*. The directory includes information on 66 municipal parks and four Lancaster County parks which encompass more than 2,300 acres and provide a wide variety of recreational opportunities. Each directory shows a map with park location identified, a table listing the facilities available, any fees, reservation information if applicable, telephone numbers, and web sites. A free copy can be obtained by stopping in the Township office or mailing a self-addressed stamped envelope (55 cents) to LIMC, PO Box 8347, Lancaster, PA 17604-8347. ■

The following ordinance has been passed since the last newsletter:

*Ordinance No. 2000-05:* Establishes maximum speed limits and the posting of no parking signs on certain streets

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

## Running for Office?

**C**onsidering a run for elective office at the county or township level? According to the County Board of Elections, the offices listed below will be on the primary ballot May 15, 2001. Those who intend to seek an elective office must first obtain a petition, secure the designated number of signatures of registered voters of the appropriate political party, and then file the

notarized document with the County Election Office. The first day to circulate nominating petitions is February 13, 2001. The deadline to file a petition to have your name placed on the May ballot is set by the State. This year petitions for nomination must be filed in the County Election Office by 5 PM on March 6, 2001. ■

OFFICE	TERM	SIGNATURES REQUIRED	COMPENSATION
<b>County:</b>			
County Controller	4 years	250	\$55,688/year
Recorder of Deeds	4 years	250	\$55,688/year
Jury Commissioner	4 years	250	\$6,883/year
<b>Lancaster Township:</b>			
Township Supervisor	6 years	10	\$3,250/year
Auditor	6 years	10	\$30/year
Tax Collector	4 years	10	\$1/year
Judge of Elections	4 years	10	\$65/day
Inspector of Elections (Majority & Minority)	4 years	5	\$60/day
<b>School District of Lancaster:</b>			
School Director	4 years	100	None

► **Snowy, icy weather** may alter the trash collection schedule during the winter. Listen to the radio (WLAN-AM, FM97, WARM103) for any changes in schedule. The township trash hauler, York Waste Disposal, determines when or if there will be changes. ■

Volunteers gather at Maple Grove Park for the first workshop at the Little Conestoga Creek. ▼

Establishing a baseline fish count is the first step. ►



## Little Conestoga Riparian Restoration Is Under Way

**O**n November 21, 2000 a scientific educational workshop examined the aquatic life of Little Conestoga Creek at Maple Grove Park. As part of the \$31,000 Chesapeake Bay Small Watershed Grant awarded to Lancaster Township by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the workshop included electroshocking fish to establish a baseline count of total fish numbers and species. Although this process stuns the fish, they are returned to the creek unharmed. Also included was the collection of benthic macroinvertebrates, again to establish baseline counts. Benthic macroinvertebrates are the larvae of flying insects that live on and under rocks in a creek. They are a food source for fish and measuring how plentiful they are is one of the best ways to determine water quality.

The workshop was conducted by representatives from the Lancaster

County Conservation District and the PA Department of Environmental Protection. F & M College students, elementary students, and township residents participated along with representatives of different environmental groups.

Last fall the Township removed a stone wall that had the effect of a dam during floods causing considerable water damage. Restoration of the streambank

will begin in earnest in the spring by preparing the grounds in the streamside buffer zone and planting native trees, shrubs, and grasses. This restoration will help slow stormwater runoff, trap sediment, and filter pollutants before they can contaminate the creek.

Future work calls for a large, wildflower garden with walking path, extension of the greenway to the south, and a pedestrian bridge over the creek. Manor Township, which shares the creek as a municipal boundary in this area, has graciously offered to work cooperatively with Lancaster Township and has committed funds to the bridge project.

For information on upcoming workshops, please call Suzanne Teske at 291-1213 and place your name on the mailing list. ■

► **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. Trees, wreaths, and garlands will be collected but all artificial decorations and tree bags must be removed. ■

► **Large Appliance Pick-up Days** are scheduled for your first trash day in May: Tuesday, May 1 and Wednesday, May 2. Each item must have a \$12 blue tag affixed to it. Pick up a tag in advance at the Township office. ■

► **Morning trash pick-up** begins as early as 5:00AM. It is advisable to place trash and recyclables at curbside the evening before your scheduled pick-up day. Residents may put out three (3) 32-gallon bags or cans weighing 30 pounds or less each. Anything over the limit requires extra service tags. Tags may be purchased at the Township office at \$6.25 for a strip of five tags. If the guidelines are followed but the trash hauler missed your trash, please call the office at 291-1213 as soon as possible after 8:00AM. The trash truck will return to your home only if proper procedures have been followed. ■

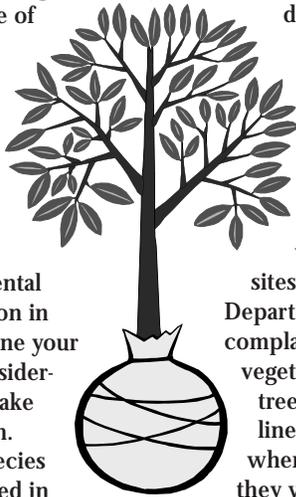


► **Trash & recycling bills** are mailed April 1 and October 1 of each year. Payment from the homeowner should be made within 30 days in order to avoid a late penalty fee. ■

## Planning & Zoning: Selecting a New Tree

The many benefits of trees are numerous: shade, beauty, windbreak or screen, privacy, cleaner air, delineation of boundaries, less noise and glare, and higher property values, to name a few. The key to these benefits, however, is selecting the right tree for the right place, thus assuring a lifetime of satisfaction.

With spring on its way, now is the time to do some research on the proper way to ensure beautiful results. A tree's requirements to thrive, its form or shape, its size at maturity, tolerance to pests and disease, environmental factors, and its role or function in your landscape help determine your choice. Researching and considering these factors will help make that choice an easier decision. Elimination of non-native species from your list is recommended in



order to ensure a longer, healthier tree life.

Consultation with a professional is always a good idea. A consultant can answer questions about proper size and appropriate location. After choosing the type of tree, available space is one of the most important decisions. Careful consideration before planting can prevent excessive need for pruning, the

lifting of sidewalks, clogging drainage pipes or utilities, tangling with wires or eaves, shading gardens, covering chimneys, blocking solar collectors, or encroaching on neighbors' property.

Always consider neighboring properties when choosing trees and sites. The Planning & Zoning Department receives numerous complaints regarding overgrown vegetation or new plants and trees infringing on the property line. Be considerate of neighbors when making a tree selection. If they wish to prune off overhang-

ing limbs and branches, your tree may not be quite as beautiful as anticipated.

Small lots of affordable seedlings are available from the Lancaster County Conservation District. Orders will be taken in February and March for pick-up in April. To receive an order form, call 299-5361, ext. 5.

Remember: "The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago. The next best time is now." (*Roots Nursery*)

The Township Planning & Zoning Department may also be helpful — when there is a question, don't hesitate to call. ■

## Fire Department: Still Needs Your Help



The Lancaster Township Fire Department's Fund Drive 2000 is now over, but we still need your help. The amount raised by contributions didn't even match the previous year. Please think about the many services provided by this all-volunteer department and the numerous risks they take for Township residents. It's not too late to give. Send a tax-deductible donation to Lancaster Township Fire Department, PO Box 210, Bausman, PA 17504-0210. Your gift will be gratefully received. ■

*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 solicits only by mail during the annual fund drive.

## School District of Lancaster Updates

*SDL Board Meetings, 7PM (Scheffey Administration Building):*

January 4 & 16

February 8 & 20

March 8 & 20

*School Calendar:*

January 15, 22, 23 – No School

February 19 – No School

March 19 – No School or Snow Make-up Day

*PSSA Scores:*

Thanks to the combined efforts of parents, teachers, principals, and students, test scores are up in the School District of Lancaster. Results of the PA System of School Assessment (PSSA) show that fewer students scored in the lowest category and more in the top category. Approximately 43% of fifth, eighth, and eleventh graders scored in the bottom quartile, down from 50% in 1999 and 53% in 1998. Although there is still a long way to go with a lot of hard work, the school district is very proud of students' progress. SDL looks forward to more progress and better results this year.

*Parent & Community Involvement:*

The SDL is not only experiencing a rise in test scores, but also a huge increase in parent and community interest and involvement in our schools—a major key to our continued success. For example, in 1998-99 seven parents attended Lafayette Elementary School's Literacy Night—last year 214 parents participated; in one year attendance at King Elementary School's Thanksgiving Dinner increased from 25 to 475 people; and Poetry Night went from 30 guests in 1998-99 to 300 last year. Parent and community involvement demonstrates caring and encourages students to achieve all that they can. TOGETHER WE CAN!! ■

**Public Works: Missing Signs, Free Mulch, Snow Readiness**

Help us out ... If you see a damaged sign or notice there is a missing sign or other road hazard, please let the Public Works Department know.



Because the road crew cannot be everywhere all the time, it relies on residents' reports of potential dangers. Reporting a missing sign could save a life or prevent property damage.

We'll help you ... Residents may pick up from the Township Maintenance Facility free leaf mulch for their gardens.



It's excellent nourishment for your gardens. All the leaves picked up in the fall are placed in the Township's mulching facility where they degrade into fertile mulch for gardens. There is also a supply of free wood chips available. Simply call 293-1733 to make arrangements.

Snow Emergencies ...

Stay tuned on the radio to WLAN-AM, FM97, or WARM103 for any announced emergencies and procedures. If a snow emergency is declared, remember to take your car off the street so snow removal equipment can operate efficiently.



When it snows ...

When plowing, the road crew makes every effort to stay on the road surface, but it can be difficult to determine where the road surface ends and a lawn begins. It is recommended that property lines be marked with posts or small flags at least three feet high. The Township is not responsible for repairing damage in the public right-of-way, which extends five to ten feet beyond the paved surface. Check your mailbox support post to ensure it is in good condition and always shovel



snow away from the mailbox. If a plow hits the mailbox, the Township will repair the damage. We are not, however, able to control the snow coming off the plow blade and will not repair this type of damage.

Snow tips ...

- Wait for the street to be plowed before shoveling driveways.
- Always eliminate high snow piles that can obstruct vision at a driveway entrance.
- Throwing snow on roadways at any time is a violation of Ordinance No. 1987-03; it creates hazardous driving conditions.
- Remove vehicles from streets to allow plows to reach the curb line.
- Trim branches and shrubs; remember snow and ice make branches hang lower than usual resulting in blocked roads and tree damage.
- Fire hydrants and storm drains must be kept clear; please lend a hand by shoveling and clearing debris from both. ■

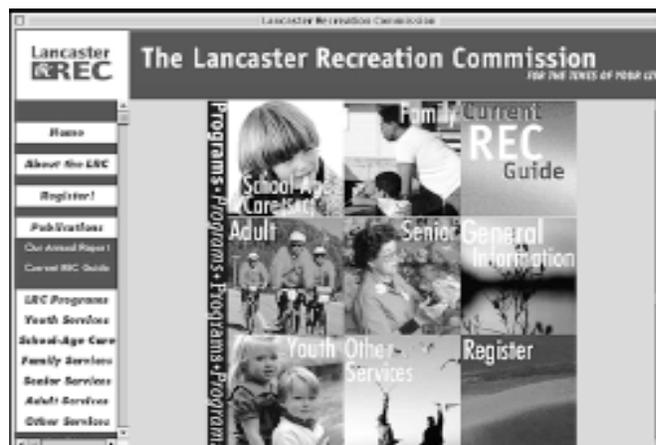
**Baseball Registration!**

The Lancaster baseball & Softball Association will hold registrations on the following dates at the stated locations from 9:30AM to 1:00PM:

- **January 20, 2001**  
Lancaster Recreation Commission  
525 Fairview Avenue
- **January 27, 2001**  
Boys & Girl's Club of Lancaster  
333 Dauphin Street
- **February 3, 2001**  
Maple Grove Community Bldg.  
1420 Columbia Avenue

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. ■

**The Lancaster Recreation Commission Winter**



programs are in full swing. For details, check the LRC website, [www.lancasterrec.org](http://www.lancasterrec.org), or call 392-2115.

**SENIOR  
CITIZENS  
CORNER**

**New Computer Center  
Opens at LRC**

The new Lancaster Recreation Commission (LRC) Computer Center at 525 Fairview Avenue is up and running! Come in and do some word processing, e-mailing, or Internet surfing.

The Center is a spin-off of our extremely popular Happy Hours Computer Classes. Through the classes, the LRC realized that area seniors wanted a modern, friendly, and safe location to access the Internet and ask questions. The Senior Computer Center is the answer! Hours of operation are Monday through Friday 9:00AM to 2:00PM.

The Rodney Park Happy Hours Center, located at the intersection of Rodney and Crystal Streets, also has recently installed computers. The hours of operation are Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 10:00AM to 3:00PM.

The LRC has had an overwhelming response to computer classes and at the present time all classes have been filled. Please call 392-2115 to put your name on the waiting list. There are cancellations occasionally. Everyone is welcome to visit the Senior Computer Center even if you have not had computer classes.



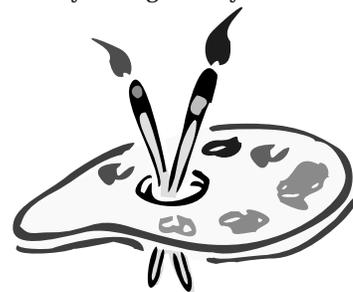
The LRC also is looking for additional computer instructors. If you would like to teach computer use to some very eager students, please call Carol Broderick at 392-2115, ext. 122.

**Dental Care Program**

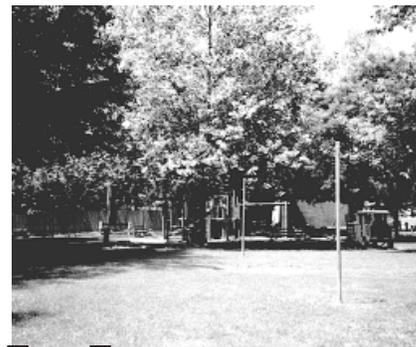
Senior citizens may be eligible for reduced-fee dental care under the Senior Dental Care Program operated by the Pennsylvania Dental Association. This program has helped thousands of senior citizens receive proper dental care since 1984. There are maximum income restrictions and a minimum age requirement of 65. For further information and referral to a local participating dentist, call the toll-free hotline at 1-800-692-7256 or visit their website at [www.padental.org](http://www.padental.org).

**Enjoy the Art Gallery**

Joanne Young Stephan, noted local artist and calligrapher, has several of her works on display and for sale in our municipal offices. Please stop by to admire Joanne's beautiful watercolors and calligraphy. The offices are open 8:00AM to 4:00PM, Monday through Friday.



**Hamilton Park Playground  
Meetings Begin February 15**



Hamilton Park Playground Association meetings are held at the Lancaster Township Office, 1240 Maple Avenue, the third Thursday of each month at 7:00PM except for January. The first meeting of the new year will be February 15, 2001. For information or questions call Susan Hohenadel, 399-4351.

**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](http://www.twp.lancaster.pa.us)

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

Clip & Save

Lancaster City Bureau of Police

Watch Your Speed

by Officer Todd Zima

VASCAR speed-timing devices have been installed in the Lancaster Township police vehicles. Visual Average Speed Computers and Recorders (VASCAR) are used by many police departments to more precisely assist with speed enforcement. All Township officers will be completely trained in its use by mid-January. Using VASCAR, police officers can accurately clock the speed of vehicles while the officer is stationary or when patrolling.

VASCAR has been introduced in response to numerous concerns from Lancaster Township residents about vehicles being driven at excessive speeds. Exceeding speed limits has become an increasing problem in residential areas where drivers are using shortcuts to avoid busy major thoroughfares. VASCAR better enables an officer to target specific problem areas and make neighborhoods safer for residents.

Forewarned is forearmed! If you happen to be a driver who tends to push the limits, beware — change your driving habits! Nothing is important enough to risk injury to oneself or one's neighbor, as well as a hefty speeding fine!

Winter Driving Tips

Safe driving habits must be exercised at all times. The winter months, however, require extra precautions such as a slower speed and heightened alertness when there are road hazards such as less sunlight, snow, ice, and wet roads. Winter driving is demanding. Speed does cause accidents and you are the best means for guarding against preventable accidents.

- When following traffic, use the three-second rule. Pick a location along the roadway you are traveling and as the vehicle in front of you passes that location, count one thousand one, one thousand two, one thousand three. If you reach that same location before the count is finished, you are following too

close. Decrease your speed and drop back a bit. Ice, snow, and wet conditions require a longer braking distance.

- Antilock brakes are installed on today's newer vehicles. Do you know their proper use? Antilock brakes should not be pumped. Apply foot pressure and hold the pressure steady until the vehicle has stopped. You may feel a rapid vibration in the brake pedal. Don't panic; this means the brakes are functioning as designed. Antilock brakes decrease stopping distance, but don't become overconfident, use them properly.
- Winter driving also requires slower speeds on inter-state highways. If you are forced to drive at 40 MPH or less, do turn on the emergency flashers to alert other drivers.
- One extra tip for any time of the year: never leave a child unattended in a vehicle, no matter how quick you think the errand may

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.

be, and always use seat belts, no matter what age the passengers may be. Drive safely! ■



VASCAR is a computer installed in a patrol car. This picture is typical but was obtained on the Web; it is not a Lancaster cruiser.

Sign up Now for Next Citizens Police Academy

The next class of the Citizens Police Academy begins March 7, 2001. This program is designed to foster greater understanding and cooperation between the public and the police. Sixteen hours of instruction and tours are offered free of charge to residents interested in how a modern police agency functions. Call Marisol Good, Crime Prevention Liaison, at 291-4896 to reserve a spot in the upcoming class.

Join the Rubbish Rangers

The Lancaster Township Adopt-A-Highway program is 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. ■

## Lancaster Township Officials

### Supervisors

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

### Planning Commission

Harold H. Bowers, Jr., chair  
 Edwina H. Coder, secretary  
 C. Alan Bruns  
 Barbara E. Galien  
 Kenneth D. Hammel  
 Gordon B. Reed  
 Beverly J. Shank

### Board of Auditors

James Humphreville, chair  
 Harry R. Frey, secretary  
 William H. Adams

### Zoning Hearing Board

John W. Metzger, chair  
 Elizabeth W. Bamford, vice-chair  
 Peggy D. Hall, secretary  
 Daniel R. Knarr, alternate

### Building Code Board of Appeals

Edwin Wallover, III, chair  
 Dale J. Cagwin, vice-chair  
 Thomas H. Schaller  
 Patrick M. Egan  
 M. Melanie LeFever, alternate  
 David C. Evans, alternate

### Public Safety Committee

Robert Newcomer  
 Patrick M. Egan  
 Doris R. James  
 Valerie Calhoun  
 Kenneth Notturmo

### Vacancy Board Chair

Thomas Schaller

### LASA Representative

Alex Henderson III

### SLASA Representative

Karen O. Miller

### LRC Representatives

Roberta Bruns  
 Suzanne B. Teske

### LIMC Greenway Representative

Suzanne B. Teske

### Fire Chiefs

Glenn Usdin (West End)  
 Lancaster Township Fire Department  
 Robert Nolt (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.

## Two Community Get-Togethers Coming Up

Two Community Get-Togethers will be held in 2001—one for the West End of the Township and one in the East End. These informal sessions are for the benefit of residents and Supervisors alike. It provides an opportunity to share new ideas, thoughts, and concerns. All residents are invited to attend either of these neighborhood meetings, but the focus of each meeting will be on that particular neighborhood in which the meeting is held. Dates will be announced later and notification will be as it has been in the past, by postcard. ■

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

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