



DON'T MISS.....

- An Introduction to Our Newly-Elected Township Supervisor
- Featured Community Events & Important Dates
- Check the Township's Website Frequently ([www.longswamptwp.us](http://www.longswamptwp.us)) for Great Up-To-Date Information

Fall/Winter 2013

*~ a municipal community newsletter for enjoyment by residents and businesses of Longswamp Township ~*

# Longswamp Ledger

Meet your newly elected Township Supervisor, **RANDY L. SICHER**...

Randy has been a resident of Mertztown for over 20 years and is employed by the Fleetwood Area School District, holding the Lead Position of Utilities and Grounds. He has been an extremely involved member of the community and is a familiar face to many. Randy enjoys spending his free time as part of the Brandywine Youth Baseball and Soccer Club coaching staff. Randy has been involved with Longswamp Township emergency services since 1991 and has held many various positions during his numerous years volunteering with the Topton Volunteer Fire Company. In addition, Randy has also served as the Chairman of the Longswamp Township Public Safety Committee for the past several years.

Randy plans to work hard in his new role as Township Supervisor to protect the community farmland and woodland. He also plans to continue to support the efforts set forth to deter large-scale resident development within the Township in order to help preserve Longswamp's charm.

Randy Sicher would like to thank everyone who supported him through his campaign and to those who cast a vote for him as the newly elected Longswamp Township Supervisor.



Longswamp Township received an early Christmas gift for the Holidays this year...

On November 21, 2013, the Township Municipal Office was notified by the Office of Senator Bob Mensch that Longswamp Township would be awarded grant monies totaling \$75,308.00 for soccer fields. The Township had applied to the Greenways, Trails & Recreation Grant Program earlier this Summer and was ultimately approved to receive the grant monies based upon the application submitted.

**Happy Holidays from the Entire Staff of Longswamp Township**



# ~ LONGSWAMP TOWNSHIP PARK ~



Thank you to everyone who participated in the first ever Great Pumpkin Hunt that was held at the Township Park on the evening of Saturday, October 19th.

It was a fun-filled seasonal event that we look forward to hosting again next year!



## UPCOMING ANNUAL WINTER EVENTS

Friday, December 6, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. ~ Annual Township Open House and Tree Lighting Ceremony

Friday, January 17, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. ~ Puzzle Tournament

Friday, February 21, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. ~ Puzzle Tournament

Friday, March 14, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. ~ Puzzle Tournament

### **KEEP OUR COMMUNITY CLEAN**

All of us who have dogs know how important they are to our lives. For their safety, it is always a good idea to keep them on a leash when taking them out for those much loved walks through-out our neighborhoods or while visiting the Township Park.

...and don't forget to pick up after them, your neighbors and fellow Park patrons will thank you!



**Lost and Found**... if you feel you may have lost an item in the Township Park or anywhere on the Township premises, please contact the Township Municipal Office during normal business hours.

### **Township Park Pavilion Rental Information**

Spring will be here before you know it and picnic plans will be in full swing.

Longswamp Township has two pavilions available for rent from May 1st through September 30th each year. Both pavilions offer at least 16 picnic tables with bbq grills, as well as restroom facilities, water, and electricity, in addition to the use of the beautiful Park facilities from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.

The cost to reserve a pavilion is \$100.00 each... \$25.00 of which is a refundable cleaning/key deposit. All pre-paid reservations must be made in advance and will be accepted at the Township Municipal Office starting Monday, February 3, 2014.

You may have taken notice to a few new things at the Longswamp Township Park... the Township Staff has been busy making some minor upgrades to some of the Park equipment though-out this past year. We hope everyone enjoys the new swings at the lower playground, as well as the new sandbox diggers. A water mister has also been installed at the lower Pavilion to keep you and your guests cool during your next pavilion rental. Hockey enthusiasts are also getting a lot of use out of the new hockey nets at the rink. Pickle Ball has also been introduced at the Township Park with equipment available at the Township Office for your convenience. We hope everyone enjoys these upgrades and we look forward to more programs and improvements in the future.



### Beautiful Longswamp Township 2014 Calendar Photo Contest

The Longswamp Township Historical Society has published a 2014 calendar which exclusively showcases the unique history, heritage and beauty of Longswamp Township. Over 60 entries were submitted to the first-ever photo contest capturing the beauty of a “Longswamp Township moment.” Local photographers selected 13 photos from among the entries submitted as seen through the eyes of community members to feature in the Calendar.

Proceeds from calendar sales will help the Historical Society to continue their work of preserving and sharing the historical past and culture of Longswamp Township. Please contact the Historical Society at LongswampHistory@gmail.com or 484/504-9149 if you wish to purchase a calendar.

Thank you to everyone who participated in the contest as well as the efforts set forth by all those involved with the production of this beautiful calendar.

You are invited to a Book Launch Party featuring “The Village of Shamrock”.

The Historical Society will be unveiling their second publication on St. Patrick’s Day.

Come out to the Longswamp Township Municipal Building Meeting Room on Monday, March 17, 2014 from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. and join the Historical Society members in the celebration.

Complimentary St. Patty’s Day refreshments and books will be available for sale. We hope to see you!

As 2014 approaches, the Brandywine Community Library will be celebrating 25 years! There are many exciting events planned at the Library as part of the celebration. We hope you will share in the various ongoing programs that are held through-out the year. Watch for informational flyers which will be posted through-out the community or please visit the website at [www.berks.lib.pa.us/sbr](http://www.berks.lib.pa.us/sbr) and click on events. Some ongoing events include:

Read to a Therapy Dog: Third Saturday of each month from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., all year long. Children can sign up to read to a registered therapy dog for 15 minutes. This is a fun way for beginning or hesitant reader to practice their reading skills.

Family Story Time: Wednesday evenings from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. with Miss Marie. A story time for families and children of all ages.

Two Pre-School Story Times: Tuesdays at 10:15 a.m. with Storyrider Miss Pat and Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m. with Children’s Librarian, Miss Charlotte.

Baby Lapsit: Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m. for babies from birth to 18 months old. Each child needs an to be accompanied by an actively participating adult.

Toddler Time: Wednesdays at 11:30 a.m. from firm-a-foot when walking to 36 months with Miss Charlotte.

*All story times are free and do not require any sign-ups in advance.*

The Library Wine and Chocolate event will be held on Saturday, February 22, 2014... so be sure to mark your calendars!

The Annual 5K Race will be held the Saturday during Topton Days... details will follow closer to the event.

Lastly, the Library Board of Trustee Meetings are held in the Library on the 4th Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. The meetings are open to the general public. Please note there are no meetings held in the months of July or December and if the November meeting date falls on the Thanksgiving Holiday, the meeting will be held the Thursday prior to the Holiday. The Brandywine Community Library is a public library located in the Main Clock Tower Building on the campus of the Topton Lutheran Home.

**WE HOPE TO SEE YOU AT THE LIBRARY SOON!**

## Township Roads



*Winter is here*, and, as always, the Township Road Crew will be doing their best to keep our roads clear and safe. To assist us in scheduling winter maintenance routes for inclement weather, residents who have a handicap or illness affecting their mobility, firefighters, or individuals involved in the medical profession or other emergency services are asked to contact the Township Roadmaster, Scott Miller, in writing about your special needs. If you have an emergency and need immediate attention during a storm, please call the Township Maintenance Building at 610-682-2317 and we will do our best to assist you.

As we send the plows out on the roads, fulfilling our responsibility to maintain roads and byways, occasional incidents may occur involving mailboxes, planters, fences, shrubs, etc. Please remember that Longswamp Township does not accept responsibility for damage to any objects/items (as detailed above) that are placed within the legally defined right-of-way (16 ½ feet from center) of its roads. Persons placing such objects within the right-of-way do so at their own risk, and must accept responsibility. We will try our best to avoid your mailbox, fence, and/or shrubs, but if you have a complaint about our services, please contact the Township Municipal Office to request a Complaint Form, and we will try to work out a solution acceptable to all parties concerned.

### **HELPFUL HINTS FOR WINTER DRIVING...**

As the weather turns cold, are you prepared to face the hazards of winter driving? Prepare your car for winter weather and brush up on your winter driving skills. Winter driving can be intimidating and hazardous, and is something to be prepared for. It is important to understand how to respond to various winter hazards.

Some key tips for winter driving include:

**If you can see your breath, it's time to switch.** When the temperature approaches the freezing mark, switch your all-season or high-performance tires to winter tires. With unique polymers and tread patterns elements, winter tires are optimized for more grip and the control you need in winter weather conditions.

**Periodically check traction, or available grip, when driving in challenging conditions.** Road conditions can change drastically in a short period of time/distance during the winter. Apply the brakes with moderate pressure to determine the available grip and modify your driving, if needed, to respond to ever-changing wintery road conditions.

**Maximize available grip by separating driving maneuvers when negotiating a curve.** Brake to an appropriate speed while traveling in a straight line prior to a curve. This allows you to use all of the available grip for negotiating the curve. Accelerate gradually when you are able to straighten the steering wheel at the exit of the turn.

**Avoid cruise control in wet, icy or snowy conditions.** Maintain control of acceleration and deceleration at all times.

**Forgo driving if the weather looks too treacherous.** Safety comes first.

Some other helpful winter tricks for your vehicle for an easier winter...

**Keep your headlights clear** with car wax! Just wipe ordinary car wax on your headlights. It contains special water repellents that will prevent that messy mixture from accumulating on your headlights and lasts about six weeks.

**Squeak-proof your wipers** with rubbing alcohol! Just wipe the wipers with a cloth that has been saturated with rubbing alcohol or ammonia. This one trick can make badly streaking and squeaking wipers change to near perfect silence and clarity.

**Ice-proof your windows** with vinegar! Frost on it's way? Just fill a spray bottle with three-parts vinegar to one part water and spritz it on all of your windows at night. Vinegar contains acetic acid which raises the melting point of water and prevents water from freezing. Your windows will be clear of the icy mess in the morning.

**Prevent car doors from freezing shut** with cooking spray! Just spritz cooking oil on the rubber seals around car doors and rub it in with a paper towel. The cooking spray prevents water from melting into the rubber.

**Fog-proof your windshield** with shaving cream! Just spray some shaving cream on the inside of your windshield and wipe it off with paper towel. Shaving cream has many of the same ingredients that are found in commercial defoggers.

**De-ice your locks in seconds** with hand sanitizer! Just put some hand sanitizer gel on the key and lock and problem solved!

**PUBLIC SEWER CONNECTION SURCHARGE**

The public sewer connection surcharge pays the Township's pollution insurance premium required if a leak in a pipe causes contamination of the surrounding area.

The public sewer connection surcharge for residents of Longswamp Township who are connected to the Borough of Topton sewer lines is billed at \$20 per quarter (or \$80 per year).

If you should prefer to pay the entire surcharge in January, 2014, you will have the opportunity to pay \$75 for the entire year (saving you \$5 plus subsequent postage for mailing your payment to the Township Office.) The savings offer is only valid in the first quarter.

Residents of Longswamp Township have a full year to pump their on-lot septic system. Experience has shown us that property owners who wait until the end of their designated cycle to pump, often run into unexpected difficulties. As a result, they end up violating the cycle's deadline. We encourage residents not to wait until the end of the cycle year to pump in order to avoid any unforeseen problems.

**PLEASE NOTE CYCLE 2 FOR PUMPING  
ON-LOT SEPTIC IS NOW IN EFFECT FROM  
JULY 1, 2013 UNTIL JUNE 30, 2014**

**LONGSWAMP TOWNSHIP SEWAGE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM**

**~ Reminder to Pump On-Lot Septic Systems for Residents in Cycle 2 ~**

Property Owners who have an individual sewage disposal system are required to have the system tank cleaned out by a registered pumper/hauler at least once every three years.

**CYCLE 1: July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016**

(North side of State Street & Mountain Road, East of Topton Borough)

**CYCLE 2: July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014**

**(North side of State Street, West of Topton Borough & South side of State Street, West of Centennial Road & Woodside Avenue)**

**CYCLE 3: July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015**

(South side of State Street & Mountain Road, East of Centennial Road and Woodside Avenue)

**Repeat Cycles 1 ~ 2 ~3**

**BERKS COUNTY SOLID WASTE AUTHORITY 2014 SPECIAL WASTE COLLECTIONS**

**8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.**

**SPRING, 2014 EVENTS - NEW LOCATION**

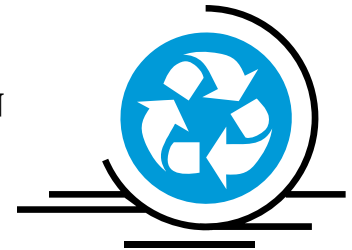
**Governor Mifflin Intermediate School**

600 Governor Drive

Shillington, PA

Household Hazardous Waste Collection ... **April 19, 2014**

Paper Shredding & Pharmaceutical Waste ... **April 26, 2014**

**FALL, 2014 EVENTS**

**FirstEnergy Stadium**

Route 61, Reading, PA

Paper Shredding & Pharmaceutical Waste ... **October 11, 2014**

Household Hazardous Waste ... **October 18, 2014**

**Electronic & Tire Recycling Center**

1316 Hilltop Road, Leesport, PA (in Bern Township)

Tuesday, Thursday & Saturday (year-round) 8:00 a.m. to NOON

**For more information:** 610/478-6362 or [www.co.berks.pa.us/dept/swa](http://www.co.berks.pa.us/dept/swa)

Longswamp Township  
1112 State Street  
Mertztown, PA 19539



Phone: 610/682-7388  
Fax: 610/682-9067  
Email: [longtwp@ptd.net](mailto:longtwp@ptd.net)  
[www.longswamptwp.us](http://www.longswamptwp.us)

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### LONGSWAMP TOWNSHIP REFERENCE LOG

#### **BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

Maryann Lantz, term ends 2013  
Steven C. Wyka  
Michael A. Sacks  
Randy Sicher, term commences 2014

#### **PLANNING COMMISSION**

Richard N. Meier, Chairman  
Donald C. Siegfried, Vice Chairman  
David Q. River, Secretary  
Cathi Kratzer  
Frank Karoly

#### **ZONING HEARING BOARD**

Preston Boyer, Chairman  
Karl L. Fenstermacher  
Steven Parks  
Peter Silbermann (Alternate)

#### **TAX COLLECTOR**

Lorraine A. Meck  
9540 Longswamp Road  
Mertztown, PA 19539  
610/641-9119

#### **ENGINEER & SEWAGE ENFORCEMENT**

Hanover Engineering Associates  
252 Brodhead Road, Suite 100  
Bethlehem, PA 18017-8944  
610/691-5644

#### **ZONING OFFICER/CODE ENFORCEMENT BUILDING INSPECTOR.**

#### **ASSISTANT SEWAGE ENFORCEMENT**

LTL Consultants, Ltd.  
One Town Centre Drive, P.O. Box 241  
Oley, PA 19547-0241  
610/987-9290 or 610/682-7388 ext. 35  
John "Butch" Yoder

#### **BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETINGS**

2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m.

#### **PLANNING COMMISSION MEETINGS**

1st Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m.

### **LONGSWAMP TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL BUILDING**

**1112 STATE STREET, MERTZTOWN, PA 19539-9101**

**Township Office Hours: Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.**

Steven C. Wyka, Township Operations Administrator/Park & Recreation Director  
Jennifer A. Wassell-Bonser, Secretary/Administrator  
David G. Fatzinger, Treasurer  
Scott Miller, Roadmaster

**Tel: 610/682-7388 Fax: 610/682-9067 [www.longswamptwp.us](http://www.longswamptwp.us)**