



DON'T MISS.....

Fall/Winter 2009

- Longswamp Township Park & Recreation Commission Survey
- Important Notice Regarding Appealed 2008 Per Capita Tax Refund
- Don't forget to check out the Township's website www.longswamp.us for great up-to-date information

PLEASE NOTE: Effective January 1, 2010...

the Township's mailing address will ***NO LONGER*** include the post office box number.

The mailing address will simply be 1112 State Street, Mertztown, PA 19539.

Stepping Down... Life in the Shoes of A Long-Time Township Official

Donald Siegfried has been part of the public sector for many years even prior to his 20-year span serving on various Boards within Longswamp Township. Don and his family have been involved in civic organizations with service on the Mayor's Committee for Emergency Services in Allentown and soon-after sought opportunities within Longswamp Township. Don wanted to continue working in the public sector while protecting and preparing the township for the potential of future development. Don looks back on his memories of experiences he had during the many events in the past several years with fondness. Don's roles within the Township have included Chairman of the Zoning Hearing Board for two years, Vice-Chairman of the Board of Supervisors for nine years, and then acceptance of his elected appointment to Office as the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors in the year 2000.

Don recalls decisions regarding the future direction of the Township as being the most challenging and sometimes unpopular among the public, but those decisions were necessary in order to continue with compliance of the Laws of Pennsylvania. Don also feels he did not go-it-alone as he referred to the appreciation he has for the Township Staff through the years, as well as the dedication of the Township's Planning Commission, all of whom share the same vision.

Don plans to stay active with the Township. He has already accepted a seat as a member of the Planning Commission and also intends to be available for consultation in order to continue the positive direction the Township is headed toward.

Don shares wisdom he has to his future predecessors by encouraging them to simply be aware of the obligations and commitments they will need to make as well as the potential implications to which they may be exposed.

Don is extremely fond of the many opportunities he's experienced during the years he's been involved in local government as he feels it has afforded him the chance to broaden his horizons, make many new friends and make a difference through his many contacts in the community. He views his relationship with Longswamp Township as very rewarding.

So whether you know Don as colleague, a friend, a neighbor, or as the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors, we thank him for his many years of dedicated service in the public eye.



~ LONGSWAMP TOWNSHIP PARK ~

~ Discount Winter Ski Tickets ~

Big Boulder/Jack Frost

Adult Mid-Week	\$34	(save \$8)
Adult Week-End	\$40	(save \$8)
Youth (age 7-18) Mid-Week	\$30	(save \$2)
Youth (age 7-18) Week-End	\$32	(save \$6)
Nite Mid-Week (3 p.m. to close)	\$24	(save \$4)
Nite Week-End (3 p.m. to close)	\$26	(save \$4)

Blue Mountain

Week-Day	\$35	(save \$10)
Week-End/Holiday	\$44	(save \$10)
Week-Day Nite	\$27	(save \$5)
Week-End Nite	\$27	(save \$7)
Week-Day Tubing	\$19	(save \$4)
Week-End Tubing	\$26	(save \$4)



Shawnee Mountain

Mid-Week Lift	\$32	(save \$11)
Week-End Lift	\$38	(save \$12)

Bear Creek Ski Lodge

Week-End/Holiday	\$50	(save \$8)
Week-Day (mid-week)	\$35	(save \$10)
Evening (4 p.m. to 10 p.m.)	\$25	(save \$8)

Tickets are available from November 30, 2009 thru March 31, 2010 and can be purchased at the Longswamp Township Office during normal office hours Monday thru Fri 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
*** PAYMENT METHOD VIA CASH OR CHECK * *PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE ***
 Other Ski Resorts May Be Added... Please contact the Township Office for updates.

Happenings In & Around Longswamp Park



Park & Recreation Committee Members WANTED
 Anyone interested in serving the community as a member of the Park & Recreation Committee, please contact MaryBeth Hendley at the Township Office at 610/682-7388 ext. 29. Come join the fun!

Please note that any flyers or solicitations of any sort that you wish to hang on Township property at the park or kiosk need to be submitted to the Township Staff during normal business hours for their approval based on the

2009 Year-End Park & Recreation Event

The Annual Open House & Tree Lighting Event with Santa will be held on Friday, December 4th at the Township Building starting at 7:00 p.m.

Also look out for dates to be announced for the following events coming up early 2010...
FEBRUARY, 2010... Puzzle Tournament*
MARCH, 2010... Game Night*

Please contact the Township Office at 610/682-7388 ext. 29 for more details and updates on dates to be announced

PLEASE NOTE NEW PAVILION RENTAL

RESERVATION DATE... Pavilion Rentals will be accepted at the Township Office beginning

February 1, 2010.

Do You Know...?

Longswamp Township's office building was first owned by the VFW? There was once a golf course in Longswamp Township? There was a rug factory in Longswamp Township? That the landscape of Longswamp is dotted with one-room schoolhouses?

If you know about these places or have other stories about Longswamp Township, we'd like to hear from you! We'd love to see any photos or memorabilia you may have. You can choose to share or donate them. Here's some other subjects that may jog your memory:

- | | | | | |
|----------------|------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|---------------|
| Railroads | Berry's Store | Doe Mountain/Bear Creek | Hunsicker's Grove | Lutheran Home |
| Electricity | Farming | Mining | Games/Activities | Villages |
| Ice Deliveries | Bread Deliveries | Cars | Schooling | Industry |

We'd like to gather together all interested citizens to start a volunteer Historical Organization to share and preserve Longswamp's history and it's great stories! Please contact the Township Office Staff at 610/682-7388 if you're interested in being part of this new organization or if you're interested in sharing a story of an event you've witnessed through your years residing in the Township. We may even feature your memories in an upcoming edition of the Township's newsletter. **DISCLAIMER...** The Township cannot guarantee your story will be featured and we also reserve the right to reject any submittal as deemed necessary based on content and story size.



Dear Township Resident:

The Pak & Recreation Commission is taking a survey to determine if we are meeting the needs of the community and also to attract more volunteers to our programs. We invite you to participate by completing the survey below and return it to: Longswamp Township Park & Recreation Director, MaryBeth Hendley, 1112 State Street, P. O. Box 37, Mertztown, PA 19539. Thank You!!

What is your favorite park event?

- PUZZLE TOURNAMENT
- COMMUNITY YARD SALES
- EASTER EGG HUNT
- FIREWORKS
- 6th & 7th GRADE DANCES
- CONCERTS (READING PHILHARM.)
- SWAMPSTOCK
- HALLOWEEN IN THE PARK
- CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING & OPEN HOUSE
- SUMMER PLAYGROUND PROGRAM

Would you like to see more events at the park? YES NO

What other events would you like to attend at the park? _____

Would you consider volunteering for any event? YES NO

If you answered "yes", which events interest you? _____

If you answered "no", might we ask "why not?" _____

Would you like to see anything added to the park? (i.e., fountains, adult fitness equipment, gazebo with butterfly garden) YES NO If you answered "yes", please specify _____

Thank you for taking the time to offer your feedback! We invite you to come to one of our Park & Recreation Meetings which are held the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 7:00 pm at the Township Meeting Room.

We are looking for someone to teach Tennis and Street Hockey. Please contact the Township at 610/682-7399 ext. 29 if you are interested and willing to take on one of these activities.

We are also interested in hosting a bus trip to Longwood Gardens. If we can get enough interested residents, we'll contact Bieber Bus to host a trip either in the Spring or Winter of 2010. Please contact the Township at 610/682-7399 ext. 29 to be first on the list. Once we have a full bus... we'll book the trip!

Zoning & Codes Enforcement Highlights

Homeowners should know that your septic tank should always be pumped out through the manhole on the top of your septic tank and not through a four-inch cleanout/observation port on your tank. A septic pumper has to agitate the contents of your tank and break loose the solids from all corners. If that isn't done, you're not getting your money's worth, because it's impossible to do that through a small, constricted opening. If your septic tank manhole is buried, this may mean installing a riser at your manhole, so that your manhole lid is at grade and accessible to your pumper. Note that a permit from the Township is required for installation of a riser, so that a Township representative can inspect the installation.

Homeowners should also know that, under the terms of the Township's Sewage Management Ordinance, you can sometimes save money on pumping your septic tank by having the solids in your tank measured. If the depth of the solids is one-third or less of the total contents, you are absolved from pumping for another three years. This measuring is done with a tool called a "Sludge Judge", which is a tall, clear plastic tube. There are three local pumpers which have this tool... Laumann's, Christman's, and Early American Pumpers... and there may be other pumpers who have it as well. The homeowner simply pays the pumper to conduct the test and a Township representative to witness the testing. Those who have opted for this procedure have saved approximately one-half of the cost of pumping so far. ***One Word of Caution:*** Most of the systems tested so far have passed, but pass or fail, you'll have to pay the costs of the test. If you're interested in this option, call your pumper to schedule a test.



IMPORTANT REMINDER from the ZONING OFFICE...

Most Longswampians have a full year in which to pump their septic system. Experience has shown us that those who wait until the end of that year 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 your cycle year to pump in order to avoid any unforeseen problems. ***PLEASE NOTE CYCLE 1 IS NOW IN EFFECT FROM JULY 1, 2009 UNTIL JUNE 30, 2010.***

WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT RADON

What Is Radon?

Radon is a tasteless, odorless, colorless, naturally-occurring radioactive gas which results from the natural decomposition of radioactive substances in the soil. Radon enters your home through hollow block walls, cracks in the foundation floor and walls, and openings around floor drains, pipes, and sump holes.

Are We At Risk?

The EPA recommends that radon mitigation measures be taken wherever radon gas in the home exceeds 4 picocuries per liter. Most of Pennsylvania (including Longswamp Township) lies in the zone of highest danger from radon. An estimated 40% of Pennsylvanian homes have radon levels exceeding the danger level.

What Can You Do?

There many simple radon mitigation features which can be built into a new home. They make it possible to divert the radon from beneath your home and discharge the gas above your roof, bypassing the residents of your home. These measures are not mandatory under Pennsylvania's Uniform Construction Code at this time, but they can be incorporated into a new home at minimal expense.

How Can I Know If I Have Radon?

You can determine the level of radon in your home through an easy and inexpensive test. You can purchase the testing device yourself at a home center or hardware store, or from a Pennsylvania certified laboratory; or, you can hire a state certified tester to perform the test for you. Pennsylvania Law requires anyone except the owner or occupant of the building who is performing radon testing to be certified with the state's Department of Environmental Protection. To verify certification, call 1-800-23-RADON, or go on-line at www.state.pa.us. The keyword is "DEP Radon" and "Radon Services Directory".. In addition, information about radon is available to residents at the Longswamp Township Municipal Building located at 1112 State Street, Mertztown.

DID YOU KNOW?

The system of assigning odd street numbers to one side, and even numbers to the other side of a street was invented by Napoleon Buonaparte.

Township Roads



As preparations are made for the inevitable **SNOW**, the Township Road Crew would like to remind you that it is against the law to push snow onto or across public roads. Doing so causes an extremely hazardous situation since the snow packs and then bonds to the road and acts like a speed bump. When the snow melts, it creates ice and also blocks drainage ditches. It's also important to remember to keep trash cans and recycling bins off the roadway during snow plowing operations. We know that nobody likes to see the snow plow trucks come down the road after you've finished shoveling your driveway, but if you shovel in the direction that the plow truck comes, it will give the truck a chance to empty out before passing your driveway. You'll find little or no snow at all plowed back into your driveway. We also ask for your patience when you're behind a snow plow truck... for your safety, it is important ***never*** to tailgate a plow truck.



MAIL CALL...

Please do not leave your mailbox at risk of being damaged during snow removal efforts. Common causes of mailbox damage are: open doors, unstable posts, and over-sized mailboxes that are improperly placed. A properly installed and maintained mailbox will withstand the snow removal operations that occur during Winter. Check it often during the Winter to avoid any problems and be advised that the Township will not reimburse you for any damage.

SNOW EMERGENCY ROUTES

If a State of Emergency is declared, it is **EXTREMELY IMPORTANT** that vehicles are removed from Snow Emergency Routes. Anyone found in violation of the Snow Emergency declaration may be subject to fines as well as risk their vehicle being towed. Snow Emergencies will be announced via the local news media. Snow information is typically announced on the WFMZ Channel 69 News.

Residents who have a handicap or illness which affects their mobility, as well as any individuals involved in the medical profession or other type of emergency services, are asked to contact the Township Road Master, Scott Miller, in writing about your specific needs. If you should have an emergency and need immediate attention during a snow storm, please call the Township Maintenance Building at 610/682-2317 and they will do their best to assist you.

ATTENTION: Longswamp Township Residents Needing Emergency Services for Fire, Police, or Medical Emergencies

When using a cellular telephone to request emergency services, please be sure to tell the emergency services operator that the site of the emergency is located in Longswamp Township, Berks County. There are many areas of Longswamp Township (and other neighboring townships) where your cellular calls may be "picked up" by cellular towers in adjoining municipalities or townships and inadvertently relayed to the wrong 911 Reporting Center. It is extremely important for you to give your full address location, including your township or municipality, to avoid any confusion for emergency response personnel and allow for the quickest response time. If you have any questions regarding this issue, please call the Township Office for further information.

Please show courtesy to all our neighbors and friends...



Respect the rights of all to use our roads.

**** 2008 “APPEALED TOWNSHIP” PER CAPITA TAX UPDATE ****

To date, \$12,857.80 in tax monies have been collected and submitted to the Township for the 2008 Per Capita Tax. The Longswamp Township Board of Supervisors has finalized the process for those who paid this tax and wish to claim a refund, or who may want to donate their paid 2008 Per Capita Tax monies to the Township to off-set some expenses.

VERY IMPORTANT!! On the following page, please find a form that is **REQUIRED** to be completed in full. Please indicate your preference from the following three options listed below: *(only check one option per form)*

Option #1 - Refund Request (additional information required - see form)

*Option #2 - Donate to a Park and Recreation Event/Park Electric Sign

*Option #3 - Donate to the Township General Fund

* Those who select one of these options will have their names listed in our next Township newsletter as a “Thank You” for their contribution *

FORM SUBMISSION DEADLINE ...

In order to properly process the requests, ***this form (only 1 per request) must be completed in full and submitted to the Township Office no later than December 31, 2009.*** Please feel free to mail the form to the Township Office with a postmark date of no later than the December 31st deadline. The mailing address is: 1112 State Street, P.O. Box 37, Mertztown, PA 19539, or you may stop in the Township Office during normal business hours which are Monday to Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Please do not hesitate to contact the Township Treasurer, Joni McPike at 610/682-7388 ext. 22 if you should have any questions or need any further clarification. Incomplete forms received will be considered null and void and the tax monies will revert to the Township General Fund.

This information and form is also available on the Township’s website at www.longswamptwp.us

**FORMS RECEIVED AND/OR POSTMARKED AFTER DECEMBER 31,
2009 WILL NOT BE HONORED. ALL REMAINING TAX FUNDS
UNCLAIMED WILL REVERT TO THE TOWNSHIP GENERAL FUND.**

**LONGSWAMP TOWNSHIP
2008 PER CAPITA TAX REFUND/DONATION FORM**

***** REQUIRED INFORMATION *****

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY!

FIRST NAME:	LAST NAME:
ADDRESS ON BILL:	
CITY	ST ZIP
CONTACT PH #:	

ONLY CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING OPTIONS AND COMPLETE REQUIRED INFORMATION AS NEEDED.																												
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VERY IMPORTANT!
ONLY ONE (1) REQUEST PER FORM
<p>THIS FORM <u>MUST</u> BE COMPLETED IN FULL OR WILL BE CONSIDERED NULL AND VOID AND THE TAX FUNDS WILL REVERT TO THE GENERAL FUND</p> <hr style="border: 1px solid black;"/> <p>*** FORM SUBMISSION DEADLINE!!!! ***</p> <hr style="border: 1px solid black;"/> <p>THIS FORM MUST BE COMPLETED IN FULL AND RECEIVED BY THE TOWNSHIP OFFICE <u>NO LATER THAN DECEMBER 31, 2009.</u></p> <p>MAIL or DROP OFF THIS FORM TO: LONGSWAMP TOWNSHIP ATTN: JONI McPIKE, TWP TREASURER / FINANCIAL MGR 1112 STATE STREET / P.O. BOX 37 MERTZTOWN, PA 19539</p> <p>FORMS POST MARKED AFTER THIS DEADLINE DATE WILL NOT BE HONORED. ALL REMAINING TAX FUNDS UNCLAIMED WILL REVERT TO THE GENERAL FUND.</p>

*** ALL DONATION REQUESTED FORMS RECEIVED WILL HAVE THE NAMES LISTED IN THE NEXT TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER AS A "THANK YOU" FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS ***

Longswamp Township
1112 State Street
P.O. Box 37
Mertztown, PA 19539
Phone: 610/682-7388
Fax: 610/682-9067
Email: longtwp@ptd.net
www.longswamptwp.us

PRSR T STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT #17

LONGSWAMP TOWNSHIP REFERENCE LOG

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Donald C. Siegfried, Chairman
Steven C. Wyka, Supervisor
Maryann Lantz, Supervisor

PLANNING COMMISSION

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

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING DAYS

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

PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING DAYS

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

ZONING HEARING BOARD

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

ENGINEER

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

SEWAGE ENFORCEMENT

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

TAX COLLECTOR

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

BUILDING INSPECTOR

Lehigh Valley Inspection Service, Inc.
P.O. Box 423
Orefield, PA 18069
610/395-3827

ZONING OFFICER

CODE ENFORCEMENT
ASST. SEWAGE ENFORCEMENT
Edmund W. Bender
610/682-7388 ext. 35

LONGSWAMP TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL BUILDING
1112 STATE STREET, P.O. BOX 37
MERTZTOWN, PA 19539

Jennifer Wassell-Bonser, Secretary/Administrator
Joni McPike, Treasurer/Financial Manager
Gena Strzelecki, Administrative Assistant/Open Records Officer
Mary Beth Hendley, Assistant Administrator/Director - Parks & Recreation
Tel: 610/682-7388 Fax: 610/682-9067 www.longswamptwp.us

