



DON'T MISS.....

Winter 2008

- Bear Creek Discount Tickets Available at Township
- Spring Clean Up Set for May 10, 2008
- Asphalt Zipper Purchased With Surrounding Townships

New Supervisor Elected

Maryann Lantz, a life long resident of Longswamp Township, was recently elected to the Longswamp Township Board of Supervisors. Maryann graduated from Brandywine Heights High School and Kutztown State College and worked at The Lutheran Home for nearly thirty years. She began her employment at the Lutheran Home as a social worker in the health care facility and later worked with the Housing and Urban Development program of Heilman House and Luther Meadows. Ms. Lantz is a member of St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Mertztown.

She "looks forward to serving the community as a supervisor by representing the residents and working with the elected and professional staff to keep Longswamp moving forward while remembering its rural history."

Rental Property Permits and Inspection Required in Longswamp Township

In December 2006, an Ordinance passed by the Board of Supervisors established rental property permits and inspection criteria ensuring that an appropriate level of maintenance and safety is maintained in all rental properties within the Township. These permits will help us to assist tenants with any issues or concerns they may bring to our attention and will also be of help to the Township as we gather information for the upcoming 2010 Census. **Rental permits will be required before any resident of the Township can rent to any other for occupancy.**

Rental Permit Basics

- Permit Applications are available at the Township office or on the website (www.longswamptwp.us)
- Permits will be effective as of January 1 of each year and will be in effect for that calendar year. A new permit will be required for each subsequent year.
- Permits must be maintained upon the premises, and multiple dwelling units must post the permit in a conspicuous place where it can be seen at all times.
- Permits are not transferable in the event of a change in ownership of the premises.

Rental Permit Fees

- \$75.00 per dwelling unit for all units located on a single lot up to two rental units
- \$50.00 per rental unit for all units located on a single lot for three or more rental units
- Permit fees shall be paid each year by January 15
- A yearly inspection shall be conducted within 90 days of receipt of the application
- Permits shall be issued within 15 days of a satisfactory inspection

Mobile Home Parks will not be required to pay rental permits, but are required to submit a list of residents to the Township. In addition, no permit fee will be required of an owner or operator of a Rental Unit who is representing either a government agency or an organization operated exclusively for religious, charitable or educational purposes (non-profit agencies); all other rules and regulations included in the ordinance shall apply.

LONGSWAMP TOWNSHIP PARK

ACTIVITY DATEBOOK 2008



Easter Egg Hunt
March 15, 2008
(Raindate—March 22,
2008)

Spring Dance (6th & 7th Grades)
Friday, May 9, 2007
7:00—9:00 p.m.
\$3.00 per person

Summer Playground Program

June 30—August 8, 2008
Monday-Friday, 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
Longswamp Twp. Residents—\$40.00
(\$25.00 each additional child)
Non-Resident—\$50.00
(\$35.00 each additional child)

*Events are subject to change.
Please contact the Township office for
confirmation at 682-7388 x29*

**FOR EVENT UPDATES CALL:
INFORMATION HOTLINE
610-682-9930**

Mary Beth Hendley
Director of Park & Recreation



HAPPENINGS
In & Around
Longswamp Park

Volunteer Support Needed For Parks and Recreation Activities

Please contact us if you are interested in volunteering — We desperately need volunteers to assist with all our planned activities. Just a few hours, several times a year, will help us to keep our park activities available for your children and grandchildren!



**Dog Licenses can be obtained at
Schappell Hardware,
21 S. Home Ave., Tipton OR
Treasurer's Office, Berks Co. Service Ctr.,
2nd Fl., Reading, PA 19601**

Bear Creek Discount Tickets

Save \$7.00 on Bear Creek ski
and snow boarding
discount tickets lift tickets

Weekend/Holiday - \$45.00
Weekday (M-F all day) - \$33.00
Evening (4:00-10:00 p.m.) - \$22.00

Tickets can be purchased at the Longswamp
Township Municipal Office during normal office
hours (Mon-Fri 9:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.)

Mark Your Calendar!**Spring Clean Up****May 10, 2008**

Collection will include
Household Junk, Tires and Batteries

**PAVILION RENTAL
INFORMATION**

Longswamp Township has two pavilions available for rental from May 1 through September 30. Each pavilion has at least 16 picnic tables, restroom facilities, water, electric outlets, and grills.

The cost to reserve the pavilions is **\$75.00** each. An additional deposit of **\$25.00** is also required for clean-up/key deposit (for use of restrooms and water faucet) that is refundable upon satisfactory inspection and return of keys to the Township office. All reservations for the pavilions must be made in advance, and must be pre-paid. The \$75.00 payment is not refundable.

Your reservation includes use of the pavilions and Park facilities from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.

Reservations can be made at the Township Office, Monday through Friday, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

**Township Participating in
2010 U.S. Census LUCA Program**

The Local Update of Census Addresses Program (LUCA) is a joint effort between the U.S. Census Bureau and local townships and municipalities to identify an accurate population count. States receive their share of over \$300 billion in state and federal funding based in part on factors such as population estimates.

All census materials are confidential under Title 13 of the U.S. Code and all employees working with the materials will sign a confidentiality agreement promising to protect the confidentiality of the addresses.

Field Representatives Needed!

Workers are needed to conduct the Survey of Income and Program Participation beginning in February 2008 in our area. These are permanent part-time federal jobs with a salary rate of \$11.01 to \$15.29 per hour depending on experience and geographic location. To qualify for these positions, you must be a citizen of the United States, be at least 18 years old (if under 18, have a high school diploma or equivalent, pass a 30-minute test, have a land line telephone, a valid driver's license, and have the use of a car.

To register, or to get more information, call the U.S. Census Bureau recruiting section at (888) 722-8995.

Poll Workers Needed

Berks County needs registered voters to work the polls for the April 22nd Primary. Workers will receive a stipend for their service along with payment for attending training.

If you are interested in this opportunity, please contact the Office of Elections Services at 610-478-6490.

Animal Rescue League (ARL) Provides Care to Unwanted and Homeless

ARL provides the following services to Longswamp Township:

- Twenty-four (24) hour emergency service for injured stray domestic animals.
- Twenty-four (24) hour answering service.
- Pickup service for all domestic animals during business hours: Mon/Tues/Thurs/Fri—10:00-5:00, Wednesday—10:00-12:00, and Saturday—10:00-3:00, Sunday—Closed.
- ARL will assist the police in emergencies.
- Shelter and board will be provided to all stray domestic animals—Dogs for a period of five (5) days prior to adoption.
- In dog bite cases, ARL will hold strays for ten (10) days. In cases of owned dogs, ARL will hold for ten (10) days at owner's expense.
- ARL will investigate animal complaints and perform the duties of animal control.



Animal Rescue League of Berks County, Inc., P.O. Box 69, Mohnton, PA 19540610-373-8830 web: www.berksarl.org

WHEN DO I NEED A PERMIT?

BUILDING PERMITS REQUIRED

Storage sheds
 New homes/additions
 Replacing structures destroyed by natural causes (weather; fire; etc.)
 Interior bearing wall relocation/other structural modifications
 Porches
 Interior/exterior stairs and railings
 Adding bedrooms/bathrooms
 Decks/patios

OTHER PERMITS REQUIRED

Pools—in-ground/above ground
 Wells
 Home occupation
 Driveways (constructing new)
 New businesses
 Signs
 Timber harvesting
 Electrical service (replacement/upgrade)
 Rental Units
 Farm buildings (including open-sided sheds)
 Moving and Occupancy (moving from or to existing home in Township)

No Building Permits are required to replace windows or doors, to re-roof, or to install insulation, drywall or fencing 6 feet or less in height.



Notes from the ZONING OFFICER

- If you install a **Jacuzzi/hot tub** which will be supported by anything but a slab on grade, you must apply for a permit from the township building code official, because of the extreme additional weight involved, and the danger of a structural collapse if the proposed support is inadequate.
- Permits are not needed for any proposed changes to your home which are cosmetic in nature: ceiling tiles, aluminum siding, new roofing shingles, new drywall, non-load bearing walls, or window replacement which involves no significant structural framing.
- Permits are not required for routine maintenance on, or replacement of residential pumps, furnaces, water heaters, air conditioners, or heat pumps, etc. *Please note that this work must still be done according to code.*
- **Township burning ordinance requirements:** Burn in a container such as a 55-gallon drum, whenever possible. Never leave a burning or smoldering fire unattended. No burning on Sundays. Whenever possible, have a hose or other water source handy in case your fire gets out of hand. No burning during hours of darkness, and no burning of substances which produce toxic fumes, such as building materials.
- If you change the use of your property (example: starting a day care or other business in your home, changing the use from residential to commercial, etc.) you must first apply for a zoning permit from the township zoning officer; it is his duty to determine if your proposed use is one which is allowed in your zoning district.
- All residents having an on-lot sewage disposal system are required to have the septic tank pumped out by a registered pumper/hauler at least once every three (3) years. Cycle 2 properties (north side of State Street, west of Tipton Borough and south side of State Street, west of Centennial Road and Woodside Avenue will be required to pump prior to the pump expiration deadline of June 30, 2008. A copy of the Sewage Management Ordinance is available at the Township office.

Recycling Drop-Off Program

Recycling Schedule—2006 for Boyertown—Hereford—Topton

January 5, February 2, March 1, March 29, April 26, May 24, June 21, July 19, August 16, September 13, October 11, November 8, December 6

Locations: **Boyertown**—Borough Garage, rear of S. Reading Ave.; **Topton**—W. Barkley and S. Cherry Street; **Hereford**—Township Building, 3131 Seisholtzville Rd.

Electronic Waste Collection—April 18, 2008 @ St. Catherine of Siena Roman Catholic Church (Rt. 562—Exeter Twp.)

Fee Schedule: All Electronic Items—\$1.00 each, except TV's— \$18.00 each, and Batteries— \$0.75 per pound)

Contact the Berks County solid Waste Authority for more information: 610-478-6362 swa@countyofberks.com

Township Roads

This Fall, the Longswamp Crew painted road lines, cut the grass, patched potholes, repaired and added shoulders on Township roads and placed signs along the roads. In November, they were especially busy with tree clean up, servicing the Township vehicles and keeping the roads clear and safe.



Winter is here, and, as always, the 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 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 our plows out on the roads, fulfilling our responsibility to maintain roads and byways, occasional incidents do occur involving mailboxes, planters, fences, shrubs, etc. Please remember that Longswamp Township will not accept responsibility for damage to any objects/items (as detailed above) that are placed within the legally defined right-of-way (16 1/2 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 office to request a complaint form, and we will try to work out a solution acceptable to all parties concerned.



ASPHALT ZIPPER PURCHASED JOINTLY BY LONGSWAMP, HEREFORD & ROCKLAND TOWNSHIPS

Longswamp recently took the lead in procuring an Asphalt Zipper® in a joint purchase with Hereford and Rockland Townships.

The Asphalt Zipper attaches to the bucket of backhoes or loaders and with one run of the Zipper, asphalt is ground into one-inch reusable material. It is faster and more efficient because it recycles asphalt in-place, and is ideal for street repairs and utility trenches. Street departments that previously purchased the Zipper report savings of 70% and more with a 300 to 400% increase in production.

The Township's Public Works department is also working with neighboring townships to purchase a replacement paving machine in spring 2008.

Route 222 Improvement

The Longswamp Township Board of Supervisors recently voiced their support for the efforts of the **222 North Task Force** and their plan for the "Improvement of 222 North from Reading to Interstate I-78".

The Task Force will be working to improve this section of State Route 222 to meet the evolving needs of commerce and successful long-term development in Longswamp Township and Berks County.



REWARD

There is a \$500 Berks County Crime Alert reward for anyone calling in a tip on illegal dumping of trash, tires, etc, which leads to an arrest.

The hotline number is:

1-877-373-9913 or 1-888-NEXT TIP.

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 call your township or municipal office for further information.

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

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LONGSWAMP TOWNSHIP REFERENCE LOG

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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

PLANNING COMMISSION

Richard N. Meier, Chairman
Michael Radcliffe, Vice Chairman
Cathi Kratzer, Secretary
Bruce Godfriaux
Stanley Bauman
David Q. River
Frank Karoly

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING DAYS

2nd & 4th Tuesday of each month @ 7:30 p.m.

PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING DAYS

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

ZONING HEARING BOARD

Karl Fenstermacher
Preston Boyer
Steven Park
Peter Silbermann (Alternate)

ENGINEER

Hanover Engineering Associates
5920 Hamilton Blvd., Suite 108
Allentown, PA 18106-8942
(610) 395-9222

SEWAGE ENFORCEMENT

Hanover Engineering Associates
252 Brodhead Road, Suite 100
Bethlehem, PA 18017-8744
(610) 691-5644

TAX COLLECTOR

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

BUILDING INSPECTOR

American Inspection Agency, Inc.
342 Miller Road
Sinking Spring, PA 19608
(610) 678-4336

ZONING OFFICER

CODE ENFORCEMENT

ASST. SEWAGE ENFORCEMENT

Edmund W. Bender
(610)682-7388 x35

LONGSWAMP TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL BUILDING

1112 STATE STREET, P.O. BOX 37
MERTZTOWN, PA 19539

Barbara Ebert, Secretary/Administrator
Joni McPike, Treasurer/Accounts Manager
Gena Strzelecki, Administrative Assistant
Mary Beth Hendley, Assistant Administrator/Parks & Recreation
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