



DON'T MISS.....

Spring/Summer 2009

- PA's new Home Improvement Consumer Protection Act 132
- Census Workers in Berks County
- Don't forget to check out our website www.longswamptwp.us for great up-to-date information

Longswamp Ledger

Longswamp Township is a township of the Second Class, governed under the Second Class Township Code of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. There is presently a three-member Board of Supervisors who are elected Township residents by qualified voters of the Township. The responsibilities of the Board rely on helping to maintain the care of the roads and bridges within the Township, as well as hearing and responding accordingly to Township resident's concerns. The Township provides and maintains the Township Park consisting of tennis courts, street and ice hockey, playground, basketball court, ball fields, pavilions with restrooms available for rental to township residents, and a supervised summertime playground program as well as numerous community activities through-out the year.

Pennsylvania's New Home Improvement Consumer Protection Act 132
Effective July 1, 2009...

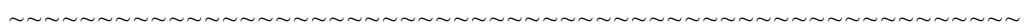
This law affords protections for consumers who hire contractors to perform home improvements on their residential properties and requires written contracts between the contractor and consumer when the total cash price of all work agreed upon exceeds \$500. The law provides criminal penalties for home improvement fraud and civil penalties for violations of the Act. Contractors who perform home improvements within the State of Pennsylvania are required to be registered with the Office of Attorney General by July 1, 2009

Please contact the Township Zoning Officer, Ed Bender if you should require any further details regarding this new law. He is available week-days from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (Thursdays until 4:30 p.m.) at 610/682-7388 ext. 35.

~ CENSUS WORKERS IN BERKS COUNTY ~

It's that time again... U.S. Census Bureau workers will begin working in Berks County soon. It is important to know that Census Workers will always have identification cards from the Census Bureau, however, they are not photo identification. Workers should also have a personal photo i.d. with them. Their vehicles will display "Official Business" signs which are issued by the Census Bureau and each worker should have a shoulder bag with the Census Bureau logo on it as well as a hand-held computer. Please do not hesitate to contact the Crew Leader, Jim Riegel, for the Berks County Area if you should have any questions or concerns. His telephone number is 610/698-2871.

The Longswamp Township Board of Supervisors is looking for a resident to be appointed to Township Board of Auditors. Please submit a Letter of Interest to the Longswamp Township Office if you or someone you know is interested in being appointed to this position.



LONGSWAMP TOWNSHIP PARK



HAPPENINGS In & Around Longswamp Park

Summer 2009 Park & Recreation Calendar of Events



- June 6th** Community Yard Sale
- July 5th** Fireworks at Dark and Performance by the Reading Philharmonic from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
- August 1st** Swampstock from 2:00 to 9:00 p.m.
- August 12th** Reading Philharmonic Performance from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

~ events are subject to change ~

Please contact the Township Office for confirmation and further information at 610/682-7388 extension 29 for Mary Beth Hendley, Director - Parks & Recreation



2009 SUMMER PLAYGROUND PROGRAM

** New For This Year... We Will Be Accepting 12-Year-Old Campers **

June 22nd to August 7th
from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Registration Dates: June 6th and June 13th
from 10:00 a.m. to Noon.

Volunteer Support Needed for 2009 Park & Recreation Events

Please contact Mary Beth Hendley at 610/683-7388 ext. 29 if you are interested in volunteering for any upcoming Park & Recreation events. The dedicated support of volunteers who assist with all of our planned events and activities is sincerely appreciated!

Please note the Township Staff has collected a large number of lost and found items over the past several months. Please contact the Township Office at 610/682-7388 if you feel you are missing something from your last visit

LONGSWAMP PARK PAVILION RENTALS

Summer is almost here!! If you're planning a family reunion, party, or picnic with friends, Longswamp Park is a great place to spend the day! Stop by the Township Office between 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Monday thru Friday to check on the availability of dates. The Longswamp Park Pavilions are available for rental during the months of May, June, July, August, and September. Many week-end dates have already been reserved, but there are still some dates available. The Park Pavilions contain restrooms, grills, water faucets, and electrical outlets. Hosting your next function at the Longswamp Park also means that you'll have access to the ball fields (*unless previously booked for league play*), tennis courts, playground areas, and walking path. There is also plenty of parking available for your group.

The charge for renting a pavilion is \$100, which includes a \$75 rental fee and a \$25 refundable clean-up fee/key deposit (for restroom and water keys) which is subject to a cleaning inspection prior the deposit being refunded.

COMMUNITY HAPPENINGS

The Brandywine Community Library is sponsoring **free** Foreign Film Nights. All shows begin at 7:00 p.m. in the multi-purpose room of the Henry Health Center on the campus of the Lutheran Home in Topton. Please do not hesitate to contact the Library directly at 610/682-7115 if you should have any questions.

The film feature for June will be shown on June 19th :

“In Love We Trust”, directed by Wang Xiaoshuai, filmed in China, (*Mandarin with English subtitles*)... 115 minutes

Synopsis: A divorced couple learns that the only way to save their little daughter Hebe, who suffers from a blood disease, is to have another child. Now both re-married, Mei Zhu and Xiao Lu are forced to test their love and commitment to one another by putting their current relationships in danger. A story of parenthood, love, married life, betrayal, trust and giving, which touches upon changes in contemporary society and family life, as well as the moral and ethical dilemmas brought on by modernity.

The film feature for July will be shown on July 17:

“Eldorado”, directed by Bouli Lanners, filmed in Belgium, (*French with English subtitles*)... 80 minutes

Synopsis: Yvan and Elie are two loners. They wander aimlessly through their lives. Yvan is a quick-tempered 40-year-old dealer in vintage cars. Elie is a young burglar and ex-junkie. One day Yvan catches young Elie trying to burgle him. Instead of beating him up, he becomes strangely attached to him and agrees to drive him home to his parents in his old Chevrolet. Yvan and Elie are both nostalgic about lost relationships, which is what leads them to undertake a bizarre journey through a region that is as spectacular as it is crazy. Both are trying to find the pieces of a puzzle that they want to put back together, but it might be too late.

The Topton Arts Alliance and Brandywine Heights Area School District

presents the production of



Show Dates & Times: **Friday, June 12 – 7:30 p.m.**
Saturday, June 13 – 7:30 p.m.
Sunday, June 14 – 2:00 p.m.

All showings are in the Brandywine Heights **High School Auditorium.**

Ticket Prices: **\$10 for Adults**
\$8 for Students

No ticket refunds available.

Tickets on Sale starting May 4th.

For more ticket information call Laurie Bailey 610-682-3839.

SAFEGUARDING YOUR SEPTIC SYSTEM

The Longswamp Township area generally has a high water table, as its name would suggest. This can have repercussions in more than one area, and can have an impact on your septic system.

Some township residents have yards which flood during heavy rain. If your septic tank is in the flooded area, it could result in a very costly replacement of your existing absorption field. Most septic tanks have a manhole entrance on top, and some have concrete risers to extend the manhole up to grade. Ground water entering your septic tank can result from:

1. Cracks in your septic tank which admit groundwater under hydraulic pressure.
2. An improper or deteriorated seal where the riser rests on the tank top.
3. Surface stormwater which rises high enough to infiltrate under the concrete riser lid into the septic tank.

What are the results of this unwanted infiltration? Well, your absorption field was sized for a specified amount of flow per day. Overloading it can result in the formation of a “biomat”, which clogs the pores and reduces permeability. The effluent may travel to the edges of your absorption field and leak out the sides. If you have a pump tank, constant stormwater flow may result in frequent replacements of burned out pumps.

To avoid these headaches, you can take the following measures:

1. Raise the height of your riser so that the top of the riser is higher than the highest stormwater flood level.
2. Have your pumper check on:
 - A) the seal between your riser and your septic tank
 - B) the seal between your manhole lid and your septic tank, or riser, and
 - C) the integrity of your septic tank walls (cracks or holes).



Your septic tank contains microbes and bacteria which are helpful in breaking down the solids into effluent which can be filtered by your absorption field (drain field). Putting certain substances into your system will kill those microbes and bacteria, and can decrease the life and efficiency of your septic system. You should avoid putting the following substances down the your drains: permanent solutions, oils and grease, pesticides, harsh drain cleaners, disposable products, paper towels, septic tank additives and cleaners, bones, eggshells, or coffee grounds.

The Township Office has copies of a CD entitled, “Down the Drain: Septic System Sense”, which is a review of procedures for the proper maintenance of your on-lot septic system. This CD is available to any resident who would like to borrow it.

PLEASE NOTE...

Any time you feel the Zoning Officer has misinterpreted or misapplied the provisions of the Township Zoning Ordinance, you have the right to appeal his findings to the Longswamp Township Zoning Hearing Board.

LONGSWAMP TOWNSHIP SEWAGE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

~ Reminder to Pump On-Lot Systems for Residents in Cycle 3 ~

Cycle 3: deadline date for pumping your on-lot septic system is **June 30, 2009**

(South side of State St. & Mountain Rd., East of Centennial Rd. & Woodside Ave.)

Cycles repeat 1, 2, & 3

Cycle 1: July 1, 2009 - June 30, 2010

(North side of State St. & Mountain Rd., East of Topton Borough

Cycle 2: July 1, 2010 - June 30, 2011

(North side of State St., West of Topton Borough & South Side of State St., West of Centennial Rd. & Woodside Ave.)

Cycle 3: July 1, 2011 - June 30, 2012

(South side of State St. and Mountain Rd., East of Centennial Rd. and Woodside Ave.)

Township Roads

We would like to remind you that the Township right-of-way is 33 feet, that would be 16 1/2 feet from the center line to the shoulder of the road. This is valuable information when it comes to:

- Installing fences along the road.
- Planting trees on the edge of the road.
- Keeping drainage ditches and swales open.
- Parking cars along the road.
- Installing mailboxes (***note:*** the mail carrier should be able to get off the road safely).

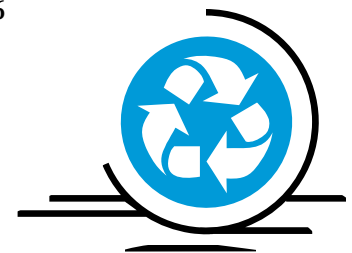
The Township Road Crew will be paving Mine Street (from Haas Road to Old Topton Road), South Barbara Drive (from Mountain Road to the cul-de-sac), Sallyann Furnace Road (from Woodside Avenue to the Township line) this Summer. The Township Road Crew will also be performing base repairs on North Park Avenue from State Street to Old Topton Road this Summer as well. A few things to watch out for are:

- The road being closed to install drain pipes.
- Trees being trimmed back.
- Grinding or reclamation of the road.
- Cutting shoulders with the grader.
- Installing new shoulders.

Have you ever noticed that trash begets trash? Those inclined to dump their trash on someone else's property are attracted by a spot which already has some trash. This is true for tire dumping as well. Longswamp has had a renewal of illegal tire dumping lately. Since it is impossible for Police or Township Officials to be everywhere at once, we've always counted on help from our alert residents to spot and report illegal tire dumpers. If you spot one of these people, try to get the license number without endangering yourself in any way. It is also important for garage owners to make sure they're releasing their used tires only to legitimate contractors who will dispose of them in a legal manner. Only by working together, can we keep our beautiful township clean.

Recycling containers are available at the Topton Borough Park located on West Barkley and South Cherry Street from Wednesday through Sunday through the remainder of 2009...

- Wed., June 17 to Sun., June 21**
- Wed., July 15 to Sun., July 19**
- Wed., Aug. 12 to Sun., Aug. 16**
- Wed., Sept. 9 to Sun., Sept. 13**
- Wed., Oct. 7 to Sun., Oct. 11**
- Wed., Nov. 4 to Sun, Nov. 8**
- Wed., Dec. 2 to Sun., Dec. 6**
- Wed., Dec. 30 to Sun., Jan. 3**



Please remember it is never appropriate to leave recyclables outside the drop-off container. If the containers are full, please take your recyclables home and contact the Berks County Solid Waste Authority at 610/478-6362 for an alternative location.

In order to promote safety for motorists as well as children coming and going to school, please be aware of the reduced school zone speed limits at the Longswamp Elementary School...

The reduced speed limit of 15 mph should be observed week-days from 8:45 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. to 3:50 p.m.

Know of a Crime?

Contact Crime Alert Berks County toll-free number to report it. Your name is not used to help cuff'em. Rewards up to \$5,000.

Call 1-877-373-9913

Longswamp Township
1112 State Street
P.O. Box 37
Mertztown, PA 19539
Phone: 610/682-7388
Fax: 610/682-9067
Email: longtwsp@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
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
5920 Hamilton Blvd., Suite 108
Allentown, PA 18106-8942
610/395-9222

SEWAGE ENFORCEMENT

Hanover Engineering Associates
252 Brodhead Road, Suite 100
Bethlehem, PA 18017-8944
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
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