



DON'T MISS.....

Fall/Winter 2008

- Longswamp Township Environmental Advisory Council Survey
- Important Notice Regarding Appropriate Building Identification
- Don't forget to check out our website [www.longswamp.us](http://www.longswamp.us) for great up-to-date information

# Longswamp Ledger

*Happy Holidays from the Entire Staff of Longswamp Township*



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**Pennsylvania's New Right-to-Know Law Effective January 1, 2009...**

This Act will provide access to public information, for a designated Open Records Officer in each Commonwealth agency, local agency, judicial agency and legislative agency, for procedure, for appeal of agency determination, for judicial review and for the Office of Open Records; imposing penalties; providing for reporting by State-related institutions; requiring the posting of certain State contract information on the Internet; and making related repeals.

*(Act 3 of 2008, as signed by Gov. Edward G. Rendell on February 14, 2008)*

The Longswamp Township Open Records Officer is Gena Strzelecki who is available Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at 610/682-7388 ext. 21.

~ **ADDRESS NUMBER ON BUILDINGS** ~

It is very important that every building in our township be marked with the appropriate street address number. When emergency responders are trying to find your home, minutes, or even seconds can make the difference between life and death.

Section 304.3 of the 2006 International Property Maintenance Code, which has been adopted by Longswamp Township, makes it mandatory that you identify your building with numbers and letters at least four inches high, with stroke widths of 1/2-inch minimum. These dimensions are only minimums. You are encouraged to use larger numbers when appropriate. The numbers must be a color which contrasts with the background color, and whenever possible, must be placed in a position plainly legible and visible from the street or road fronting the property.

Mounting your address number on your mailbox in addition to your building will provide even more clarity for emergency vehicles, although this is not mandatory (and there are no minimum sizes or colors). More information is always better than less, especially when it comes to saving lives.

**We are asking everyone to make the appropriate identifications to your buildings by the end of this year, 2008.** Please be aware starting next year, if your building is not properly identified, you may be subject to penalties as outlined in Township Ordinance 2006-29.

The Longswamp Township Board of Supervisors are looking for two resident volunteers to be appointed to the Board of Representatives for the Brandywine Community Library. Please contact the Longswamp Township Office in writing if you or someone you know is interested in appointment for these positions.

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# LONGSWAMP TOWNSHIP PARK

## 2009 Park & Recreation Calendar of Events



Times to be Announced Closer to Date of Event

<b>January</b>	
<b>February</b>	Puzzle Tournament *
<b>March 28th</b>	Easter Egg Hunt
<b>April 4th</b>	Easter Egg Hunt <i>(rain date)</i>
<b>May</b>	Spring Dance Library Book Sale *
<b>June 22nd</b>	Summer Playground Starts
<b>July 5th</b>	Fireworks/Swampstock
<b>August 12th</b>	Reading Philharmonic
<b>September</b>	Fall Dance *
<b>October 17th</b>	Halloween in the Park
<b>October 24th</b>	Halloween in the Park <i>(rain date)</i>
<b>November 21st</b>	Scout Pizza Party
<b>December 4th</b>	Open House and Tree Lighting

~ 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

\* Date to Be Announced \*



## *HAPPENINGS In & Around Longswamp Park*

### Volunteers Needed for 2009 Park & Recreation Events

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact us, as we sincerely appreciate the dedicated support of volunteers who assist with all of our planned events and activities. Just a few hours, several times a year, will help us to keep our park activities available to your children and grandchildren!

Thank You to the Longswamp Lions Club for  
their generous contribution of the  
new BBQ fire pit at Pavilion Number 2  
as well as their assistance toward the  
installation of the new playground equipment.

### Bear Creek Winter Discount Ticket Program

Save \$7.00 OR MORE on Bear Creek Ski and  
Snow Boarding Lift Tickets

**Weekend/Holiday\* - \$49.00**

*\*except 12/25/08, 1/1/09, 1/19/09 & 2/16/09*

**Weekday (M - F Daytime) - \$35.00**

**Evening (4:00 - 10:00 p.m.) - \$25.00**

Tickets are available from November 30, 2008  
thru March 30, 2009 and can be purchased at the  
Longswamp Township Municipal Office  
during normal office hours which are  
Monday thru Fri 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
~ payment method via cash or check ~





Dear Township Resident:

The Environmental Advisory Council (EAC) was formed in 2007 to identify environmental issues of concern within the township. We're taking a survey to gauge community interest for some of the programs that have been proposed. We invite you to participate by completing the survey below or on-line [www.co.berks.pa.us/longswamp](http://www.co.berks.pa.us/longswamp). Thank you!

**\*\*\* Two lucky households will win a Green Living gift tote filled with energy saving and environmentally-friendly household products! (\$75-\$100 value)\*\*\***

1. Does your household currently recycle? Yes/No
2. Would you take your yard waste (grass, leaves, small brush) to a local recycling center? Yes/No
3. How far would you be willing to travel to recycle yard waste?
  - 0 - 2 miles
  - 2 - 5 miles
  - Up to 10 miles
4. Would you be interested in using mulch or compost from a yard waste facility in your landscaping? Yes/No
5. How much would you be willing to pay for a pick-up-size truck-load of compost/mulch?
  - \$0
  - \$10
  - \$10 - \$25
  - \$25 - \$50
6. Would you like to recycle your Christmas tree at the township building this year? Yes/No
7. The EAC is planning to hold a community cleanup next April. Is there a site within the township that you'd like us to focus our efforts upon? If so, where?
8. Are there any other issues you'd like to see the EAC focus upon? If so, please explain.

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

Please send your completed survey to:  
EAC Survey c/o Longswamp Township  
P.O. Box 37, 1112 State Street  
Mertztown, PA 19539

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PLEASE PROVIDE COMPLETE CONTACT INFO IF YOU'D LIKE TO BE ENTERED IN THE GREEN LIVING GIFT DRAWING!

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_  
E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

## Zoning & Codes Enforcement Highlights

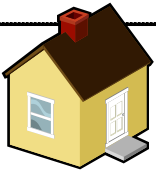
**Jacuzzis and Hot Tubs:** If you install a *Jacuzzi* or *hot tub*, you must apply for a permit from the Township Building Code Official. Under Pennsylvania's new Uniform Construction Code, a *Jacuzzi* or *hot tub* is considered to be a residential accessory structure, just as a swimming pool. In accordance with the permit, an inspection will be made of the security, electrical connections, structural support and proposed location.

**Permits Needed or Not Needed:** Permits are not needed for any proposed changes to your home which are cosmetic in nature. They are also not required for routine maintenance on, or replacement of residential pumps, furnaces, water heaters, air conditions, or heat pumps, etc. **PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS TYPE OF WORK STILL MUST BE DONE ACCORDING TO CODE.**

**Burning Ordinance Requirements:** Burn in a container such as a 55-gallon drum, whenever possible. Never leave a burning or smoldering fire unattended and always have a hose or other water source available just to be safe. There is no burning permitted on Sundays or holidays nor during hours of darkness. Lastly, never burn any substances which produce toxic fumes, such as building materials.

**Change of Use:** If there is a change in the use of your property such as starting a business in your home, thus changing the use from residential to commercial... you must first apply for a zoning permit from the Township Zoning Officer as it is his duty to determine if your proposed use is one allowed within your zoning district.

**Mobile Home Construction:** Mobile home owners should be aware that their homes are not designed to be added onto or structurally altered. No application for such a project will be approved unless they include building plans signed and sealed by a Structural Engineer.



### IMPORTANT REMINDERS from the ZONING OFFICE...

**Deck Construction:** There is design information available at the Township Building for residents who are planning new deck projects.

Longswamp Township has a new **Rental Ordinance** in place, and all property owners who rent out homes, parts of homes, apartments or rooms must register their rental units at the township building.

You will also be required to schedule a **mandatory inspection** to ensure that your rental unit(s) meet the appropriate codes.

**Mandatory Addresses on Buildings:** Effective January, 2009, Section 304.3 of the 2006 International Property Maintenance Code, which has been adopted by Longswamp Township, will be enforced. This makes it **MANDATORY** that you identify the address of your building with numbers and letters that are at least four inches high, in a color which contrasts that of the building's background, and are placed within a location that is plainly visible from the road. This simple measure will save lives when emergency responders are looking for your address.

#### **Little Known Facts...**

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.

If while pumping your septic tank, your hauler discovers that you need new inlet or outlet baffles, you are authorized to do the repairs or replacement on the spot. However, you must call the Township Sewage Enforcement Officer immediately so that you can fill out a septic permit application and he can do his inspection of the work before the septic tank is full once more.

### DID YOU KNOW?

The highest point in Longswamp Township is 1200 ft. above sea level which is near Bear Creek.

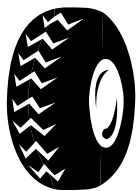
The lowest point is 450 ft. above sea level—near Valley Road.

## Township Roads



*As the snow flies*, the Township Road Crew will be doing their best to keep our Township roads clear and safe. To assist them in scheduling winter maintenance routes for inclement weather, 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 our best to assist you.

It is also important to remember to clear the full approach and exit to your mailbox. This is not only a factor for proper mail delivery, but it is helpful to the township road crew in plowing the roadway in front of your mailbox. Please bear in mind that Longswamp Township will not accept responsibility for damage to any objects such as mailboxes, planters, fences, plants, shrubs, etc. that are placed within the legally defined right-of-way of its roads. Persons placing any such objects within the right-of-way (16.5 feet from the center of the road) do so at their own risk and must accept responsibility. It is also important to remember when shoveling your driveway, that you refrain from shoveling the snow directly into the roadway. The Township is obligated under the Laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to maintain its roads and byways entrusted to it, which is their primary responsibility.



### Winter Driving Safety Tips...

**Always** be sure your vehicle's headlights are on in any type of precipitation when using your windshield wipers.

**Always** obey the posted speed limit signs in construction areas and be sure to turn on your headlights.

**Always** be prepared in the event of a winter-related vehicle emergency by having a full tank of gas as well as an emergency preparedness kit in your vehicle.

**Snow Stoppers** is a Volunteer Snow Removal Program for people 60 years and older, or those with a disability that prevents them from shoveling snow. There is no charge for this service. It is a Diakon Volunteer Home Care Program funded by the Berks County Offices of Aging. **Please note that pre-registration is required.** Due to Program constraints, they are unable to register new consumers during a major snow event and some areas of the county have a wait list, so apply as soon as possible by submitting an application at their website [www.diakon.org/snowstoppers](http://www.diakon.org/snowstoppers) or by calling 1-800-366-0929.

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

**Respect the rights of all to use our roads.**



### **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: [longtwp@ptd.net](mailto:longtwp@ptd.net)  
[www.longswamptwp.us](http://www.longswamptwp.us)

PRSR 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  
Michael Radcliffe, 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 7:30 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  
**Tel: 610/682-7388 Fax: 610/682-9067 [www.longswamptwp.us](http://www.longswamptwp.us)**

