

SOUTH HEIDELBERG TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

March 2013

Dear Residents,

As we again begin to stare "Spring" in its face, I thought it might be interesting to share with you some of the costs involved with taking care of our roads when we have a winter storm event. Although we had more snow storms and days with icing conditions this year than we did last year, overall, winter weather events were less than average. The problem with managing the type of events that we have experienced is that often times, a coating or a few inches of snow gets packed down and forms ice or freezing rain continues to build layers of ice which can be more problematic and costly to deal with than one larger accumulation of snow. From December of last year until February of this year, we have used 1,110 tons of salt at a cost of \$69,255 and 565 tons of anti-skid material at a cost of \$6,685. Labor costs for our drivers, fuel and the wear and tear on equipment must be added to these figures to determine the true cost of winter road maintenance. Also, the continuing shift from warmer and then colder weather causes more frequent expansion and contraction of the road surface which leads to the formation of pot holes that we temporarily fill with "cold patch" until the asphalt plants again begin production and a more permanent fix can be made.

A new program begun in the Commonwealth, known as the "Yellow Dot Program," provides interested individuals with a special yellow sticker that is to be placed in the bottom left corner of your vehicle's rear window. This alerts first responders to check the glove compartment for, among other things, your emergency contact information, medical history and a list of medications. It's free to participate and Yellow Dot kits are available by logging online at www.YellowDot.pa.gov, at one of Pennsylvania's 52 Area Agencies on Aging or at a regional EMS/County Health Center. Contact (877)- PA-HEALTH (877-724-3258) to find the nearest center. The kit includes a yellow dot decal, which you should put in your vehicle's rear window. Participants should also complete a personal information form that asks for such things as your name, address and phone number, emergency contact information, medical history, medications and hospital preference. The document, along with your photo, should then be placed in your glove box.

Think Spring!

Sincerely,

Ronald R. Seaman,
Township Manager



Municipal Building Community Room

The Board of Supervisors is pleased to announce that the Community Room located in the new Municipal Building, 555A Mountain Home Road is being made available as rental space for private functions such as meetings, parties, showers and the like. This versatile space is configured into several separate areas which could accommodate concurrent activities. It has a maximum capacity of 75 and includes a small kitchen for limited food service and a dedicated restroom.

Copies of the Rental Policy and Application, Fee Schedule (residents & non-residents) and insurance requirements are available at www.sheidtp.org or by contacting the township office. At this time, applications are being accepted for single use events only.

If you haven't had the opportunity to see the facility yet, please feel free to stop by the office during business hours and a member of the staff will be happy to show you around.

"The Township Supervisors consider this facility a legacy to present and future residents of the area."



Western Berks EMS

*Continuing to make a difference
In the Community...*

Emergencies - 911

Wheelchair or Non-Emergency Transportation - 610-678-1545, EXT. 10

Membership and Billing Questions - 610-678-1545, Ext. 16 Or 19

As you may be aware, as a South Heidelberg Township resident your Western Berks Ambulance membership is paid. But what does that mean for you?

When you use our emergency ambulance service we will bill your insurance company, be it Medicaid, Medicare, another insurance company or your automobile insurance. No matter what amount the insurance company pays toward the services billed, we will accept that amount and we will not balance bill you. You will have no out-of-pocket expense. Hence, the benefit of being a member with us!

Some insurance companies will send payment directly to you, their customer. In that case, you will need to endorse the check and forward it to Western Berks Ambulance in order to credit your account; otherwise, you will be held responsible for the entire amount of service.

If you receive an invoice and are not sure why, please feel free to call our billing office at the above number as we may be trying to reach you to obtain your insurance information.

As always, if you have any questions about membership, billing or any of our services, please feel free to call us. We'd love to hear from you!



Public Safety

With warm weather arriving residents are advised to take the following precautions. Lock all doors and close all downstairs windows when leaving your home or going to bed. Do not leave valuables such as handbags within sight from outside of windows. Be sure to lock all doors to your vehicle whether parked on the street or in your driveway. Also, lock any valuables in your trunk where they are not visible if you need to leave them in your car.

As always, residents are advised to contact the Police Department by calling 610-655-4911 or 911 if they observe any suspicious behavior. We need your help to keep our community safe.



Western Berks Fire Department Company 18

www.westernberksfire.org

From the Fire Commissioner.....

As we enter into another year, I would like to thank the elected officials, residents, and business owners of South Heidelberg Township for their continued support of the Western Berks Fire Department. 2012 was another busy year for the Department with 673 calls for service which comprised over 530 hours of "in-service" time. In addition to the hours spent on calls for service, personnel also participated in a number of training sessions, meetings, exercises, and standbys, all of which add to the total amount of time spent volunteering for the organization.

Although the Western Berks Fire Department was built and continues to be operated by primarily volunteers, 2012 marked a transition to a "combination" fire department with the hiring of four full-time career firefighters who work weekdays when our volunteer turnout is the lowest. The duties of these career firefighters include not only firefighting, but also equipment, apparatus and facility maintenance, pre-planning and inspections, fire prevention, and the development of standard operating guidelines.

For more information on the activities, incidents or events in 2012 and future events in 2013, I would invite everyone to visit our website, <http://www.westernberksfire.org> for additional information. Our 2012 Annual Report is also available on our website in the "Document Library" section.



Alternate Recycling Opportunity for Your Newspapers...

The Henry Noss Farm at 123 Belle Alto Road will shred your old newspapers for use as their animal bedding. Newspapers are accepted at the farm almost every Saturday from 7AM to 4PM. Pile them on the wagon either tied or in bags. No magazines or staples, please!



From the Anniversary Committee...

The South Heidelberg Township 100th Anniversary Committee is finalizing plans for an event-a-month celebration of the Township's centennial year in 2014. The Borough of Wernersville is also celebrating its 100th year of incorporation in 2014 and two joint ventures are being coordinated: a car show in July, and a parade in September.

The South Heidelberg committee has plans for a Fire and Ice kick-off event in January, and several historically centered events such as Native American Day, and the Resorts of South Mountain. Additional events include a Family Fun Day at Galen Hall, a Tour of Local Sites, Ghost Stories with Charlie Adams, Fireworks with a Concert, and a Parade. A 100th Year Anniversary History Book will also be available for purchase in 2014. As all of the above events will incur expenses, please consider making a tax-deductible donation to the Anniversary Committee. Additional event and donation information will be communicated in the next Township newsletter and website. www.sheidtwp.org

DID YOU KNOW?

Signs of Native American habitation in the South Heidelberg area go back as far as 5,000 to 8,000 years and there are several identifiable Native sites in the Township. German, Swiss, English and Welsh immigrants were among the earliest non-Native Americans to settle in what is now South Heidelberg Township. Early records show land survey requests from the Penns date from 1733. Surnames associated with these requests prior to 1750 include the following: Fisher, Hain, Weiser, Wenrich, Fitzmeyer, Spon, Jones, Harnish, Shank, Minegassner, Farmer, Moser, Gaglin, Hesson, Keim, Miller, Reeser, Davis, Shmeel, Zimmerman, Marshall, Weisung, Lush, and Stoffer.

WERNERSVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY

100 North Reber Street

Phone: 610-678-8771 • Fax: 610-678-3025

www.berks.lib.pa.us/wernersvillepl



Read to Reese

2nd Tuesday of each month 6:30 to 7:30 PM

Reese, a Chocolate Labrador Retriever, is a certified Therapy dog and a Reading Education Assistance dog. Children may read to him for 10 minutes. A sign up sheet is available at the circulation desk.



Pollywog Preschool Art Classes

April 2nd and May 7th 10:00 to 11:00 AM

Art projects and stories for children ages 1-5 and their caregivers. All art materials are washable. Pre-registration is required and there is a \$3.00 fee to cover the cost of materials. Call the Library to register.



National Library Week April 14-20

Chick Hatching Project

To celebrate national Library Week the Wernersville Library is having a Chick Hatching project from Quiver Farm. The Farm is bringing an incubator, pre-incubated eggs and all the necessary equipment to take care of the chicks once they have hatched. Please join us on April 16th (time to be determined) when the eggs arrive to watch the incubator being set up and a presentation including a live rooster and hen. The chicks should hatch a few days later and will be here until April 25th. Please call the Library after April 10th for the time of the egg arrival.



Book Sale—Friends of the Wernersville Public Library

Wednesday, May 1, 2013 Noon to 8:00 PM

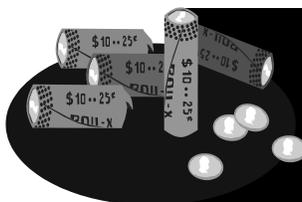
Thursday, May 2, 2013 Noon to 8:00 PM

Saturday, May 4, 2013 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM



Fighting Phillies Summer Reading Kickoff - June 9

Please join us at the Reading Fightin' Phils First Energy Stadium to kick off the Berks County Libraries Summer Reading Program. Tickets for general admission seating will be available at the Library for \$2.00. The Library benefits from the sale of these tickets. There will be games and prizes, so please join us and show support for your Library.



Thanks to everyone who turned in
a jar full of coins.
We raised over \$550.00.
Whoo Ho! Great Job!



Annual Easter Egg Hunt

The event includes:

- A visit by the Easter Bunny
- Easter Egg Hunt w/age groups:
 - o 3 & under
 - o 4-5 years
 - o 6-7 years
 - o 8-9 years
 - o 10-11 years
 - o 12 & up - Soda Run
- Coloring Contest

Date: Saturday, March 23rd 2013 (Rain Date: Sunday, March 24th)

Time: 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM



Where: South Mountain Park
North Galen Hall & Hill Roads, Wernersville

Come join us for South Heidelberg's Annual Easter Egg Hunt!

For questions or more information, call (610) 678-9652

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

There are currently openings on the RECREATION BOARD for interested and enthusiastic residents. This is an advisory board which reports to and serves to assist the Board of Supervisors in providing recreational opportunities for Township residents to enjoy. In addition to attending board meetings, held the first Wednesday of the month, members will plan and execute recreation activities such as the annual Egg Hunt, Summer Playground, Fall Festival and Tree Lighting Ceremony. Please feel free to contact the Township office at 610-678-9652 for more information and/or forward your letter of interest. Serving on this board is a very rewarding experience and we look forward to hearing from you!



COLORING CONTEST ENTRY

CHILD'S NAME: _____

PARENT'S NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

TELEPHONE: _____

DATE OF ENTRY: _____

CHILD'S AGE: _____

Return to: South Heidelberg Township Recreation Board
555A Mountain Home Road, Sinking Spring, PA 19608
Deadline: Wednesday, March 20th, 2013



According to Ordinance No. 158, which addresses animal nuisances, persons owning or keeping animals should be advised as follows: 1) the defecation by animals upon public and private property other than the property of the owner of the animal is prohibited; 2) animal feces shall be removed immediately from any area other than the private property of the owner or keeper of the animal; 3) it is illegal to own or harbor an animal which makes noise incessantly as defined by the Ordinance and to the disturbance of any person any time of the day or night.

DOGS: Pursuant to the Pennsylvania Dog Law, it shall be unlawful for the owner or keeper of any dog to fail to keep at all times such dog either: 1) confined within the premises of the owner; 2) firmly secured by means of a collar and chain or other device so that it cannot stray beyond the premises on which it is secured; or 3) under the reasonable control of some person, or when engaged in lawful hunting, exhibition, or field training.

To report suspected violations, please contact the Police Dept. by calling 610-655-4911.



ORGANIC MATTER DROP OFF

The seasonal change of hours for the Organic Matter Drop Off Site located along Point Road takes effect on March 10th and continues through November 3rd. During this period the Site will be open from 8AM to 8PM, Monday through Saturday. Sunday hours remain 1PM to 5PM.

In a cooperative effort, the Board of Supervisors negotiated agreements with Wernersville Borough and Lower Heidelberg Township effective January 1, 2013, that permit use of the Drop Off Site by residents of those municipalities in addition to South Heidelberg residents. This will increase the ability to secure DEP grant funding and defray the costs of future improvements, equipment purchases and operational expenses.

UPCOMING RECYCLING EVENTS:



Visit www.co.berkspa.us/swa or call 610-478-6362 for details about these and other events. Be sure to review the guidelines for acceptable materials, instructions for disposal and applicable fees.

Household Hazardous Waste

April 20 th - 8AM to 2PM	October 19 th - 8AM to 2PM
Exeter Township Building	First Energy Stadium
4975 DeMoss Road	Rt. 61, Reading
Free to Berks County Residents Only	

(Oil based paints, solvents, stains, etc., automotive fluids, weed killer, pesticides, pool chemicals, lithium and NiCad batteries)

Note: hearing aid batteries contain mercury and as such are designated as household hazardous waste. In addition to the county program, many retailers who sell these batteries will also accept the used ones for disposal.

Community Shredding Event

April 27 th - 8AM to 2PM	October 12 th - 8AM to 2PM
Exeter Township Building	First Energy Stadium
4975 DeMoss Road	Rt. 61, Reading

(10 boxes per vehicle maximum. No need to remove binder covers or staples. Individuals only please. No businesses will be accepted.)

Pharmaceutical Collection

April 27 th - 8AM to 2PM	October 13 th - 8AM to 2PM
Exeter Township Building	First Energy Stadium
4975 DeMoss Road	Rt. 61, Reading

(Unwanted and expired prescription and over the counter medications in their original containers.)

Electronics & Tire Recycling Center

1316 Hilltop Road, Leesport
Open every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday
8:00AM - Noon

Call or visit our website for rate schedule.

(Computer & telephone equipment, TVs, radios, microwaves, Freon containing items.) Some fees apply.



WEED CONTROL

A reminder to residents to keep weeds and grass cut to a height of less than 6 inches, in compliance with Township Ordinance No. 42. You may report suspected violations to the Township office.

South Heidelberg Township

555A Mountain Home Road

Sinking Spring, PA 19968

Phone: 610-678-9652

Fax: 610-678-9411

Office Hours: Mon-Fri. 8 AM-5 PM

PRSRT STD
US POSTAGE PAID
READING, PA
PERMIT NO. 466

Board of Supervisors

Richard E. Hummel, Chairman

Dennis E. Mulally, Vice-Chairman

David A. Schaeffer, Secretary-Treasurer

Township Manager

Ronald R. Seaman

Monthly Meeting Schedule

Board of Supervisors

- General Business 2nd Thursday
- Subdivision Business 4th Thursday
- Planning Commission** 1st Tuesday
- Recreation Board** 1st Wednesday
- Municipal Authority** 1st Thursday
- Zoning Hearing Board** as needed

All meetings held at the Municipal Building & begin at 7PM unless otherwise advertised.



TAX COLLECTION

Sitting Dates at the Municipal Building Community Room:

- April 17 12 PM – 3 PM
- April 18 12 PM – 3 PM
- April 23 12 PM – 3 PM
- April 24 12 PM – 3 PM
- April 25 12 PM – 3 PM
- April 30 1 PM – 4 PM

All payments made by mail should be sent to:
Ann Marie Girard, Tax Collector
P O Box 98, Wernersville, PA 19565



Mark Your Calendar

Summer playground registration will be held on Wednesday, June 5th from 6PM to 8PM in the South Heidelberg Township Building Community Room, 555A Mountain Home Road. Watch for more information coming in our May newsletter and on the our website.



Welcome to beautiful
South Heidelberg Township

Introducing the new
SOUTH HEIDELBERG TOWNSHIP
WEBSITE!

(Type in web browser)

sheidtpw.org

Visit us today!

**KEYS
AVAILABLE**



Keys for the tennis courts at South Mountain Park and Heidelberg Run Recreation Area may be purchased at the Township Office. Fee is \$5.00 for residents and \$10.00 for non-residents.