



Hereford Township

NEWSLETTER

The Hills of Hereford

Winter issue—2010

Calendar

Township Office Closed

Friday & Monday, April 2 & 5
 Monday, May 31
 Monday, July 5
 Monday, September 6
 Thursday, November 11
 Thursday, November 25
 Friday, November 26
 Friday, December 24

Board of Supervisors

Meets the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of every month at 7:30pm

Environmental Advisory Council

Meets the 3rd Thursday of every month at 7:30pm

Planning Commission

Meets the last Wednesday of every month at 7:00pm

Hereford/Washington Township Joint Planning Commission

April 12 July 12 October 4

All Meetings will be held at Washington Municipal Building at 7:30pm

Recreation Committee

March 1 April 5
 May 3 June 7
 August 2 October 4
 November 1 December 6
 All Meetings will be held at 7:00pm

Recycling

Will start the following Wednesdays through Sundays from 7:00am-7:00pm

February 24 March 24
 April 21 May 19
 June 16 July 14
 August 11 September 8
 October 6 November 3
 December 1 & 29

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

The following information is being provided for your use throughout the year to assist you in communicating with us. It is our goal to work closely with the residents of Hereford Township in continuously striving to provide a superior environment for ourselves and our children. We ask for your support by attending Township meetings and letting us know what your concerns and opinions are regarding local matters.

John G. Membrino, Chairman/Roadmaster
 Karla T. Dexter, Vice-Chairwoman/Assistant Treasurer
 Jeffrey A. Sell, Supervisor

NEWS FROM THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

WELCOME

The Board welcomes Jeff Sell who was elected to the board and we look forward to his input and advice on upcoming issues facing Hereford Township. Please see more information on Jeff Sell contained in this newsletter. Also elected were Paul Farrington as Auditor, and Sharon Hilgar as Tax Collector.

SERVICE RECOGNITION

The Board recently recognized the following for their service to Hereford Township: Keith Masemore – 12 years on the Board of Supervisors
 Charles Wayes - 30 years on the Planning Commission
 Tom Mitchell & Kathy Poole-Price – Members of the Planning Commission
 Jeff Patton – Member of the Recreation Committee
 James Ruth – Charter member of the Environmental Advisory Committee

BUDGET

The Township Supervisors adopted the 2010 budget without a tax increase. This marks the 15th year that the millage rate has remained at .08, or 80.00 for every \$100,000 of assessed value. We continue to see flat revenues and increased expenses and will be discussing methods of increasing our revenue streams at upcoming board meetings.

RECYCLING

There has been an increase in the amount of trash being dumped off at the Township Building and we have installed surveillance cameras to monitor the Township property.

Please don't be tempted to dispose of any trash on Township property, and remember that we can only accept recycling items during the monthly recycling period.

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TIRE CLEANUP AT SUPERFUND SITE

The Board is pleased to report that the tire cleanup at the Crossley Farm Superfund Site has been completed. Thousands of pounds of tires have been removed from the site and taken to end users for recycling. The Board wishes to commend the Tuttle family for their diligence and stewardship in cleaning up this environmental hazard.

CURATIVE AMENDMENT

After conducting 5 hearings on the application of Radnor Development Co. LP, the Board voted unanimously on December 15, 2009 to deny the Curative Amendment challenge. We have been notified that our denial has been appealed to the Berks County Court of Common Pleas and the Board has authorized our Solicitor and special counsel to defend the Township in this matter. The proposal was for 15-5 story buildings to be constructed consisting of a 1,650+ unit Continuing Care Retirement Community. The 99 acre tract is owned by K&K Clayton Enterprises and is located at Route 100 and Kutztown Rd.

Written by: John Membrino, Chairman

CROSSLEY FARM EPA SUPERFUND SITE

The EPA has slated this spring as their projected time line to begin work on the remediation of the Crossley Farm Superfund Site. The plan consists of drilling a series of extraction wells along Dale Road and pumping this water to an enclosed facility located on property annexed from the Crossley Farm on Dairy Lane. The contaminated water will be run through an aeration process exposing the volatiles to air which breaks down the contaminants and renders them harmless. The cleaned water will then be pumped to infiltration ponds on the East side of Dairy Lane where it will slowly be released back into the aquifer and into a tributary of the West Branch of the Perkiomen. This proposed schedule is contingent upon settlement with effected landowners. During this project Dale Road will be closed between Dairy Lane and Mensch Mill Road. Dairy Lane will be the alternate route to Huffs Church.

Written by: Karla Dexter, Vice-Chairwomen

From the Desk of Supervisor Jeffrey A. Sell



I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself; I am Jeff Sell the newest member of the Board of Supervisors. Thank you for giving me the privilege to represent you, the residents of Hereford Township. I grew up in Hereford and presently reside in the Village of Chapel along with my wife Maryjean and our three children. I am hoping to see more people become interested in what is happening in our township, after all it is our home. I look forward to serving you for the next six years and the opportunity to meet you at some of our meetings. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns. You can obtain my contact information from the Township website or by calling the Township office. Thank you again.

Written by: Jeff Sell

House Number Signs

Help emergency services better protect and save your family. It is critical for all owners of any residence, apartment building, or business in the Township to display the house number in such a fashion that it is clearly visible from the street, day or night. The house number shall be made up of numbers, which are not less than three (3) inches in height, contrasting in color with the background on which they are affixed, and as near to the front entrance as possible and practicable.

House Number Signs are available through the Hereford Fire Company. The signs are a high density green on both sides 6" X 12" pre-drilled with 4" white reflective numbers. If you wish to purchase these signs through the fire company you can visit www.herefordtownship.org and fill out the necessary form.

A Message from the Tax Collector

Real Estate Tax time is upon us once again. Here are some reminders that will make the paying process go smoother for you. **If you will need a receipt, enclose both copies of your bill along with a stamped self-addressed envelope with your payment (if you intend to file for the Property Tax Rebate you need to provide a copy of your receipted tax bills).** If your taxes are paid by a mortgage company please make a copy of the bill for yourself before mailing it to them. Any questions or problems with the millage rates should be directed to the individual taxing authority (Hereford Township; 610-845-2929 or the Upper Perkiomen School District; 215-541-2446). If you have sold your property and are no longer responsible for the taxes, please call and notify Sharon Hilgar 610-845-3615 or send the bill back along with the new owners' name. Also, notify me of any address changes or death of spouse so we can update our files.

Tax Relief is high priority for all of us; currently there are 2 programs that you should be aware of. **The Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program** – tax help for seniors and disabled – with lower incomes – for more details of the program contact PA Department of Revenue online or by phone. You might also ask your income tax preparer if you qualify. **The Homestead Act** is a program funded by state gambling revenues to reduce school taxes for homeowners. You must be approved by filing an application with Berks County by March 1st. Those taxpayers who were enrolled last year saw a \$192 reduction to their school taxes. The amount of savings will change depending on the number enrolled and the amount of gaming revenues available each year. If you would like an application for the Homestead Act please call the Upper Perkiomen School District at 215-541-2461. You may also contact Berks County Homestead Office with any questions you may have at 610-478-6262 Ext. 5263. Applications are also available at the Hereford Township Office. In these challenging economic times it is up to the individual taxpayer to see that they reap the benefits from these programs.

If you receive per capita bills for kids who no longer live with you please call and let me know as soon as you get the bill. Per Capita exoneration forms (for those people meeting the under \$10,000 Income) are available at the Township office—**deadline for filing these is 11/15/2010**. It is best to pay these bills in a timely manner so you don't forget them—if they are unpaid on 12/31/2010 they go to the collection agency and immediately the amount you owe is more than double the original amount.

The following are phone numbers that may be of use to you. Berks County Assessment Office 610-478-6262 (for all assessment questions). Berks County Tax Claim Bureau 610-478-6625 (questions regarding delinquent tax amounts for prior years). **Please remember to adhere to payment deadlines – DO NOT SEND PAYMENTS TO ME AFTER THE DATES PRINTED ON THE BILLS – I cannot process the payment after year end.** All payments for delinquent real estate taxes and per capita taxes go to the individual collection agencies (refer to notices you receive from them).

Remember these dates: March 1 mailing of County/Township Real Estate Bills and July 1 mailing of Upper Perkiomen School Tax and Per Capita Tax Bills. It is your responsibility to contact me if you have not received your bills within a week of these dates. It is also up to you to let me know if you have moved. **Don't wait – non receipt of bill is not an excuse for relief from penalties.**

Written by: Sharon Hilgar, Tax Collector

Website Information

We have been working hard on the website. If you haven't checked it out now is a good time. If you have any suggestions we would love to hear from you.

IMPORTANT: Check out the website for the 2010 permits and fee schedule.

Great news.....all of our forms are now writeable. Please remember that all forms must be signed. If filling out a permit don't forget to sign and date it and if a fee is needed it must be sent in with the permit or the permit will not be filed until the fee is received by the office.

Thank you

All Roads Lead to Hereford

SNOW AND ICE REMOVAL

We are in the middle of the snow and ice season and we would like to remind our residents of a few ways they can assist the Road Crew in clearing the roads. Please don't push snow onto or across public roads. This snow packs and bonds to the road and acts like a speed bump and when it melts it could cause ice to form.

Please understand that in Hereford Township there are 30 miles of Township roads and 22 miles of State roads that need to be cleared. For an average storm, it can take up to 3 or 4 hours for the 3 or 4 pieces of equipment employed to get all of these roads cleared. Please be patient.

STEIN ROAD

The re-construction of Stein Rd. has been completed. The work was completed by the Hereford Road Crew along with our co-op partners Longswamp and Rockland Townships. The bituminous paving material was provided by Judd Builders, an affiliate of the DePaul Group, whose "Brookshire" development is located off Stein Rd.

DAIRY LANE

This spring the Road Crew will begin the re-construction of Dairy Lane. This will involve new catch basins and drainage pipes, tree trimming, grinding and reclamation of the road surface, shoulder improvements, and new paving. The paving portion will be in conjunction with the work being proposed by the Environmental Protection Agency for the Crossley Farm Superfund Site Cleanup.

FETTERMAN ROAD BRIDGE

After a PennDot mandated bridge inspection, the Fetterman Rd. Bridge was ordered to be closed immediately. Due to the excessive cost to repair the bridge, the Board is considering removing the bridge and installing a cul-de-sac on the north side of Fetterman Rd.. This work will most likely be undertaken in 2011.

SEPTIC SYSTEM MAINTENANCE CAN HELP AVOID PROBLEMS

Your septic system is an asset, both to you and your community. An effective preventative maintenance program can save you thousands of dollars in repair or replacement costs. Homeowners can help prevent malfunctions and ensure the long-term use of their systems by adhering to the following recommendations:

- Conserve water and reduce water flow into the septic tank
- Have the septic tank pumped at least every 3 years, depending on the tank and household size
- Avoid putting chemicals into the septic system
- Inspect the septic tank, pipes and drainage field annually
- Maintain accurate records of septic system (design, installation, location, inspections, pumpings, malfunctions, repairs)
- Prevent runoff from downspouts, sump pumps and paved surfaces from getting into the septic system
- Keep heavy vehicles, equipment and livestock away from the septic system
- Do not plant trees and shrubs over or close to the septic system

VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS NEEDED

If you are looking to make an impact on your community, consider joining the Seisholtzville or Hereford Fire Companies. Volunteers are needed 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. There is a critical shortage, especially during daytime weekday business hours when most members are employed outside of the coverage area. Participation from local businesses would help to alleviate this problem, especially if employing a trained firefighter from another jurisdiction.

Environmental Advisory Council

The EAC would like to thank Jim Ruth for his service on the Council. We would also like to welcome Roger Yepsen to the Council.

The EAC plans on holding several education seminars for the residents of Hereford Township in 2010. The first seminar will be held at the township building during the EAC meeting on March 18, 2010. For more information for the speakers please see their website <http://www.renubuilding.com>. They focus on energy audits, energy improvements, green remodeling, solar installations and financing/incentives.

Also see the Township website under the Environmental Advisory Council tab for more information.

Hereford Township Heritage Society - Web Site Development

The Hereford Township Heritage Society has contracted with a local company to develop a web site for the organization. This source of information will be available no later than February 28, 2010. All of those individuals and organizations that purchased a copy of "Early Times in Hereford Township" will receive notification via e-mail of the web site address for the organization. The web site will be a primary source of information regarding the organization with regard to activities and interests. It is important for anyone who purchased a book to provide their updated e-mail addresses so that our mailing list is up-to-date. Contact us at HTHS@verizon.net

The initial layout of the web site will contain detailed information regarding "Early Times in Hereford Township" including a gallery of photographs from the book. An order form is available for download with specific instructions for mail order or direct pickup at the Hereford Township Municipal Building.

Also featured is the Kriebel Farmstead that was constructed and donated by Edmund Kuhns of East Greenville. This scale model was built on an 8 foot square platform, made from over 16,000 wooden matchsticks, and was featured in an Open House in October 2008 and is on permanent display. It can be viewed by appointment.

Additional information will be available that describes how to make donations of items specifically related to Hereford Township, such as old photographs, and other forms of memorabilia. Donations are tax deductible. The Hereford Township Heritage Society is a 501c3 organization.

Two additional activities on the list for development are 1) Genealogy Inquiries related to families who were residents of Hereford Township, and 2) Restoration of the Federolf/Bittenbender Cemetery. Keep watching our web site for continuing additions.

Any inquiries can be sent to HTHS@verizon.net

Planning Commission

Five subdivision plans are currently active. These include the 82 lot Appold/Clemmer and the 3 lot Brown subdivisions which need planning module approval and NPDES permitting; the Saracino 3 lot subdivision which needs wetland delineation from DEP; the 17 lot Solt subdivision which is riding the economic downturn; the Mack Schuler Rd subdivision which is being reworked from an 11 lot cul-de-sac to a 3 lot estate subdivision; and the 3 lot Memo subdivision which is in the process of designing its storm water management plan. A sixth subdivision, Forgedale Properties, is under scrutiny for township boundary delineation.

The P.C. continues to refine the newly passed zoning ordinance revisiting definitions, fence height, fence permitting, vehicular signage, timber harvesting and the amount of fowl along with ratios of small animals to large allowed on a two acre lot. A wind power ordinance is in its final stage and the P.C. is waiting to hear the outcome of the DEP regulatory hearings on outdoor wood burning furnaces. The Planning Commission meets the last Wednesday of every month @ 7:00 and welcomes input from the community.

Written by: Karla Dexter, Planning Commission Secretary

Recreation Committee

The Hereford Recreation Committee is continuing its efforts to help keep our community parks a pleasant place for residents and visitors to enjoy the outdoors. As part of this effort, the committee will be sponsoring a second annual park perk-up day this spring. After volunteers did a great job at the Hereford Twp Community Park last April, this year's event will focus on the cleanup of Treichler's Mill Park. Watch for upcoming details. We encourage everyone to pitch in, help out and have some fun meeting your neighbors!

The recreation committee always welcomes new members. Feel free to join us for meetings the first Monday of the month at 7:00PM.

Hereford Parks Survey

The Hereford Recreation Committee is seeking input on the use of our parks in order to ensure our limited funds are used to make the parks most useful to our residents. Please fill out this very brief questionnaire and return it to the township office by March 1. Your completed form can be dropped off or folded and mailed.

Your help with this survey is very much appreciated.

Have you used any of the township parks in the last 2 years? yes____ no____

If yes: How often? Less than 5 times ____ more than 5 times____

Which park(s)? Tollgate (in Palm) ____ Treichler's Mill (next to Hereford Estates) ____
Hereford Twp Park (behind Twp bldg) ____

Please circle the facilities you used at the park(s):

Tollgate	Treichler's Mill	Hereford Twp Park	
picnic table/benches	picnic table/benches	pavilion	baseball field
stream for fishing	playground	playground	walking path
other	basketball court	basketball court	tennis court
	blue topped area	volleyball court	other
	other		

If you have **not** used any of our parks, please briefly tell us why not. _____

Have you used community park(s) in surrounding townships in the last 2 years? (Do not include purposes of organized sports.) yes ____ no ____

If yes: How often? Less than 5 times ____ more than 5 times____

Given the township's limited budget, the recreation committee needs to prioritize maintenance and development projects. To assist with this effort, please list the 3 facilities you would **most** like to see maintained or improved. Feel free to select from the facility list above or add your own ideas.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Thank you for your input.

Please return this survey to Hereford Township, P.O. Box 225, Hereford, Pa 18056. If you would like to save a stamp you can fill out the survey online and email it to the office. *We look forward to hearing from you.*

Please visit our parks often!

**HEREFORD TOWNSHIP
2010
GUIDE TO RECYCLING**

MATERIALS	WHAT IS BEING COLLECTED	WHAT IS NOT BEING COLLECTED	PREPARATION STEPS
GLASS	Clear, green and brown bottles & jars (ex: soda bottles, beer bottles/food containers)	Windows and plate glass, light bulbs, crystal, Pyrex and ceramics	Remove caps and place in regular garbage. Rinse/wash food/beverage containers. Labels may remain. Do not break glass.
ALUMINUM CANS	Aluminum food and beverage cans only	Foil, TV dinner trays, frozen entrée pans, aluminum lawn furniture, pie tins	Rinse cans, they may be flattened or left intact. Labels can be left on.
BI-METAL CANS	Any food containers such as vegetables, fruit, soup and juice.	Aerosol, oil cans, paint cans, pans, and scrap metals.	Rinse cans they may be flattened or left intact. Labels can be left on.
PLASTICS #1 PET OR PETE #2 HDPE	Soft drink bottles, milk, water, juice, laundry, dish detergents, bleaches, and fabric softeners.	Motor oil, antifreeze, cottage cheese, margarine, yogurt, plastic cups and toys.	Lids or caps should be removed and placed in regular garbage. Containers should be rinsed and cleaned.
NEWSPAPER	Newspapers, comics, merchandiser, glossy advertising inserts.	Wet newspapers, cereal boxes,	Stack in brown paper bags, or tie with string or twine.
MAGAZINES CATALOGS PHONE BOOKS	Magazines, catalogs, and phone books		Bundle securely with string or twine.

Please put the magazines, phone books and catalogs in with the newspapers. The rest of the recyclables may be mixed together in the containers.

THE RECYCLING CONTAINERS WILL BE AVAILABLE ON THE FOLLOWING DATES FROM WEDNESDAY THROUGH SUNDAY. THE DATES LISTED BELOW ARE THE FIRST DAY THAT THE CONTAINERS ARE AVAILABLE.

REMEMBER: IF IT IS NOT PROPERLY PREPARED, IT IS STILL TRASH

Recycling Dates— January 2010 – December 2010

January 27	February 24	March 24	April 21
May 19	June 16	July 14	August 11
September 8	October 6	November 3	
December 1 & 29			

Board of Supervisors

John Membrino ~ Chairman/Roadmaster
Email: jgmembrino@ptd.net

Karla Dexter ~ Vice-Chairwomen/
 Assistant Treasurer
Email: karladexter@comcast.net

Jeffrey A. Sell ~ Supervisor
Email: jeffreyasell2010@comcast.net

Work Crew

Chris Day ~ Road Superintendent
Email: cday@herefordtownship.org

Ralph Shaner ~ Work Crew Member
 Craig Leiser ~ Work Crew Member

Township Office Staff:

Pat White ~ Secretary/Treasurer
 Assistant Right-To-Know Officer

Email: pwhite@herefordtownship.org

Maryjean Sell ~ Assistant Secretary/
 Right-to-Know Officer

Email: msell@herefordtownship.org

Mailing Address:
 P.O. Box 225
 Hereford, Pa 18056

Shipping Address:
 3131 Seisholtzville Road
 Macungie, Pa 18062

Phone: 610-845-2929
 Fax: 610-845-0616

Don't forget to check out our website
www.herefordtownship.org for great up to
date information



Hereford Township
 P.O. Box 225
 Hereford, Pa 18056

PRESORTED STANDARD

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