



DON'T MISS.....

- Playground Program Completes Another Successful Year
- Farmington Road Name Change
- Schlossburg Street/Fairchild Street Truck Restrictions Requested
- Agricultural Security Area Program Open to New Participants

Summer/Fall 2007

Longswamp Ledger

Environmental Advisory Council Adopts Bylaws and Begins Meeting

The Longswamp Township Environmental Advisory Council was formed in September 2006 to study environmental issues within the Township and to make recommendations on courses of action to protect the health, safety and welfare of the residents to the Board of Supervisors. The EAC meets monthly on the third (3rd) Monday of each month.

The following residents volunteered to participate on the Council as voting members and have been appointed to 1-3 years terms :

- Mary Ann Lantz (Chair) - 3 year term
- Mike Sacks (Vice Chair) - 3-year term
- Diana Erney (Secretary) - 2-year term
- Judy Sechler - 2-year terms
- Dale Fandl - 1-year term

In addition, the Board of Supervisors and Planning Commission appointed ex-officio members to the Council:

- Steve Wyka (BOS)
- Cathi Kratzer (Planning Commission)

Ms. Jeanne Barrett Ortiz, Director of the EAC Network for the Pennsylvania Environmental Council was present at the first meeting of the EAC. She reviewed a list projects and subject matters that would fall within the purview of the Environmental Advisory Council. Some of the areas discussed as possible projects were:

- environmental education
- watershed reviews
- open space protection
- wild life protection
- green life and trail development
- deer management
- recycling

Other ideas included:

- community support agriculture (bringing the entire Township in line with local agricultural businesses and trying to encourage education and support)
- wind energy investment
- alternative fuels
- low impact development
- greenway building design

A topic of concern brought forward by the EAC and supported by the BOS is the possible establishment of riparian buffers as a method of protecting stream beds within the Township. To gather more information on this topic, the EAC invited Mr. Ryan Zerbe of the Berks County Conservation District to attend a meeting on May 21st.

As the EAC continues their discussions on riparian buffers, they will make their best effort to balance the needs of the agricultural community with the rights of land owners.



All Township residents are invited to attend meetings of the Environmental Advisory Council. at 7:00 p.m. on the 3rd Monday of each month in the Longswamp Township Municipal Building Lower Level Meeting Room.

PARK AND RECREATION CALENDAR OF EVENTS



September 3, 2007 6:30-8:30 P.M.

**Maggie Spike Show
(family entertainment)**

**September 14, 2007
Back to School Dance
(6th & 7th Grades)**

**October 13, 2007
Topton Halloween Parade
(Look for the
Summer Playground Float!)**

**December 7, 2007
Tree Lighting/Open House
w/H.S. Band & Choraliars @ 7:00 P.M.**

Please contact us if you are interested
in volunteering at any of our events!



Mary Beth Hendley
Director of Park & Recreation

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

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

Pa Dutch School To Begin in September

Classes in Pennsylvania Dutch will be held in the lower level meeting room of the Longswamp Township Municipal Building on Thursdays from 7:00-8:30 p.m. from September 6 to December 13, 2007 (No class November 22, 2007). A registration fee of \$10.00 per participant is charged, and the cost of the text is \$12.00.

If you would like to register or need further information, please contact LeRoy Brown at 610-682-1619.



Playground Program Completes Another Successful Year

Over 100 children registered for the summer playground program which was conducted by Mrs. Lisa Hunter and Mr. Leif Westgate.

Highlights of the program this year included:

- A demonstration of liquid nitrogen by Air Products in which a banana was frozen hard enough to pound a nail into wood. They also made cookies & cream ice cream for all the children present
- A visit from the Franklin Institute Traveling Science Show taught the children about weather and created clouds right here in the municipal building
- Favorite sports played by the children were tennis, baseball, wall-ball, speed ball and dodge ball
- Crafters enjoyed making nature prints, foil art, beading and painting
- The children, under the guidance of Mrs. Deeter, designed and are building a float for the Topton Halloween Parade.

It was a great summer with a great bunch of kids!



Fire on Farmington Road Prompts Name Change

David Seaman spoke to the Board of Supervisors about the loss of his home on Farmington Road to fire on February 4, 2007. He noted that the call to 911 was made by a cell phone and unfortunately transferred to a Lehigh Valley tower. After waiting 15 minutes for a response, he was notified that the emergency personnel were dispatched to a location in Lehigh County. Mr. Seaman asked the Board's assistance in resolving the situation wherein there are 2 Farmington Roads less than 4000 feet apart.

After discussions with the surrounding townships involved, it has been determined that the best solution to the problem would be to change the name of Farmington Road, Berks County, to Old Topton Road, which begins in Topton and ends at Haas Street. This change, if adopted, will probably take effect sometime this fall.

The Board of Supervisors will consider adoption of this change at their regular meeting of September 11, 2007. All residents are invited to attend this meeting to give input.

Kennedy Avenue/Mertztown Road Intersection Reviewed for Sight Distance Adjustment

At the request of the Board of Supervisors, Hanover Engineering has reviewed the sight distances at the intersection of Mertztown Road and Kennedy Avenue and found them to be marginally adequate at the posted speed limit of 35 mph. However, the review also determined that most traffic along Mertztown Road is traveling at a speed of approximately 45 mph. We are therefore recommending a greater sight distance allowance and will work with PennDOT to enact that change and to request placement of 3-way Stop Signs at this intersection.



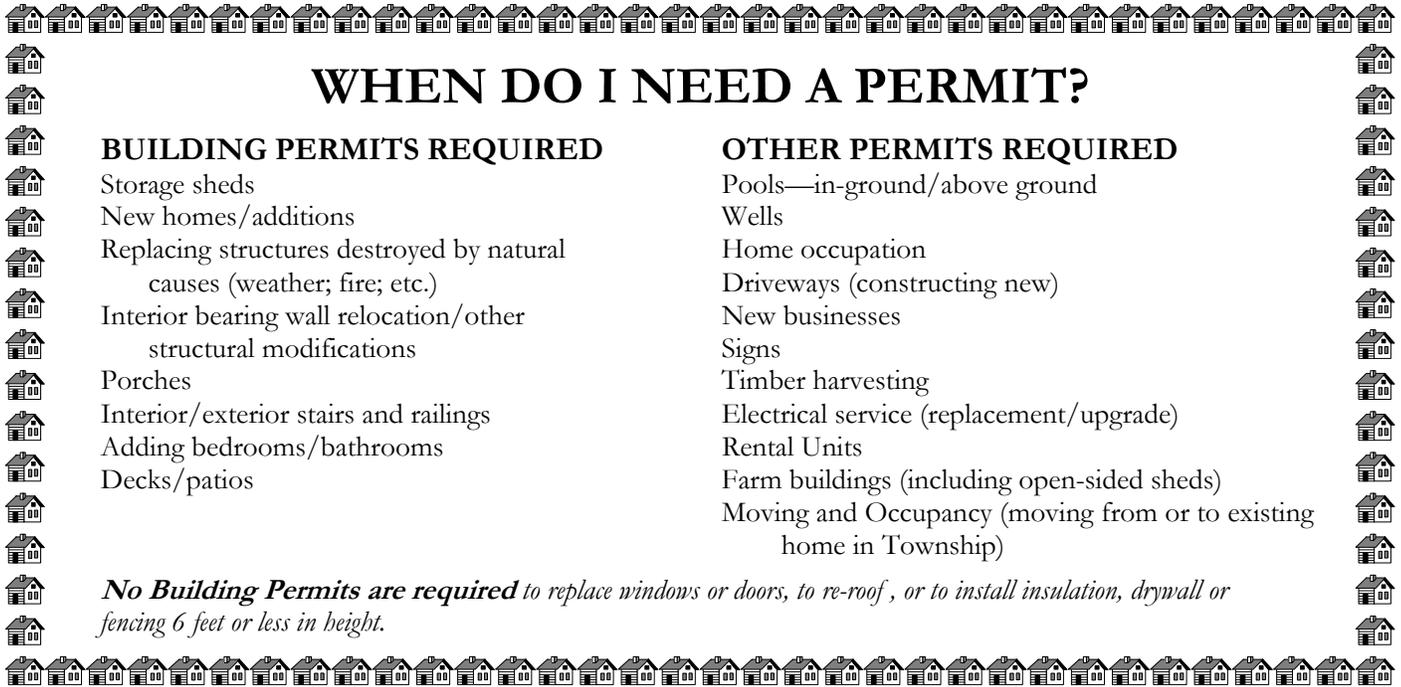
Schlossburg Street/Fairchild Street Truck Restriction and Speed

A resident of the Township living along Schlossburg Street approached the Board of Supervisors to express concerns about the speed and frequency of through truck traffic along Schlossburg Street and the resulting safety issues.

A traffic study, conducted by Hanover Engineering, contained the following information:

- The majority of truck traffic already uses existing State roads. On average, approximately 29 trucks utilize Schlossburg Street per day.
- An engineering evaluation of the horizontal and vertical alignment on Schlossburg Street indicates that the movement of heavy truck traffic may constitute a safety hazard, especially in areas of significant horizontal curvature.
- In the easterly direction of the Schlossburg St./State St. intersection, sight distances are limited for all vehicles attempting to turn left or right from Schlossburg Street.
- Pavement and shoulders have inadequate structural capacity and may be seriously damaged unless a restriction is imposed.
- Schlossburg Street has inadequate turning radii, horizontal width and creates concerns for vehicles with low ground clearance at one or more locations.
- Truck traffic can utilize Smith Street as a safer alternative route.
- Maximum speed limit of 35 mph is recommended with 25 mph advisory speed limits on areas of the roadway which have the greatest curvature.

Posting a truck restriction on Schlossburg Street would most likely result in higher truck traffic on Fairchild Street. The BOS therefore authorized an additional traffic study for Fairchild Street in conjunction with Lower Macungie Township. A truck restriction will also be considered for Fairchild Street, which exhibits roadway geometrics and conditions similar to Schlossburg Street and would not be a suitable alternate route for truck traffic.



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

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.

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)

Notes from the ZONING OFFICER

People often ask, “What is the smallest size lot I can build a home on?” It’s really a misconception many people have, that there is such a minimum lot size. Although the zoning in much of our township would require a minimum lot size of 4 acres if land were to be subdivided today, there are many smaller existing lots which are adequate in size for a new home. The main determinant in the case of these lots would be whether or not the setbacks can be met. For most, but not all, of the Township, those setbacks are: front — 50 feet; size yard — 30 feet; and rear yard — 30 feet. Of course there are other factors which affect the suitability of a property for a residence, such as wetlands, floodplains and easements. If you have any questions on this subject, the zoning officer will be glad to fill you in.

“Can I keep a horse on my property?” How ‘bout a goat?” The answer to that question lies in Section 606 of the Longswamp Township Zoning Ordinance. To be specific, it reads,



“Minimum lot size shall be four (4) acres. On lots of four acres, two large grazing animals may be kept. For each large grazing animal beyond the two permitted on

Your zoning office interprets a large grazing animal as a horse or pony, cattle, buffalo, deer, camels, llamas, and alpacas. Animals not classified as large grazing animals are goats, sheep, pigs, and similar animals.

Little Known Facts

1. If you have a shed or garage which is too close to a property line to meet today’s zoning requirements, that shed may be torn down and replaced by a similar new structure in the same place, but no closer to the property line.
2. 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.
3. 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 (610-691-5644), 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.



Agricultural Security Area Program Open to New Participants

The Agricultural Security Area program began in 1981 as a tool for strengthening and protecting agriculture in Pennsylvania. Farm landowners, working together, initiate the process of establishing such Areas in which agriculture is the primary activity. Participating farmers are entitled to special consideration from local and state government agencies, and other “nuisance” challenges, thus encouraging the continuing use of the land for productive agricultural purposes.

Agricultural security areas are intended to promote more permanent and viable farming operations over the long term by strengthening the farming community's sense of security in land use and the right to farm. Agricultural security areas are created by local municipalities in cooperation with individual landowners who agree to collectively place at least 250 acres in an agricultural security area.

During the month of August, the Agriculture Security District will be open to Longswamp Township residents who wish to participate or withdraw from the program. Please contact the Township office for additional information, or check the Agricultural Security Area website at www.agriculture.state.pa.us.

Tax Collector—Lorraine Meck

2007 Sitting Hours at the Longswamp Township Building

Saturday, August 18 & 25 — 8 a.m.-10 a.m.
 Tuesday, August 21 & 28 — 6:00 p.m.-7:30 p.m.
 Thursday, August 23 & 30 — 6:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.
 Thursday, October 25—6:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.
 (No hours in September)
 Other times by appointment—610-641-9119

Little Known Fact:

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



Recycling Drop-Off Programs—2007



Recycling Schedule Boyertown—Hereford—Topton

August 18	November 10
September 15	December 8
October 13	

Recycling Locations

Boyertown—Borough Garage, rear of S. Reading Ave.
 Topton—West Barkley and South Cherry Street
 Hereford—Township Building, 3131 Seisholtzville Rd.

Acceptable materials include: clear glass, green glass, brown glass, aluminum cans, bi-metal cans, newsprint, cardboard, plastics (PET #1 & HDPE #2), magazines, catalogs, phone books, junk mail, and mixed office paper. **NO** plastic toys, storage boxes, five gallon buckets, or any plastics other than detergent or food containers. **No** scrap metals, vinyl siding or construction waste or paint.

Household Hazardous Waste Collection Program—October 13, 2007—8:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.
 First Energy Stadium (Rt. 61, Reading)

Berks County Tire Recycling—November 10, 2007, 8:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.
 Beagle Club Road (Rt. 724 to Poplar Neck Rd., right onto Beagle Club Rd.)

Berks County Electronic Recycling—October 27, 2007—8:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.
 First Energy Stadium (Rt. 61, Reading)

Program sponsored by Berks County Solid Waste Authority (610)478-6362, www.co.berks.pa.us/swa

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

PRSR T STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT #17

LONGSWAMP TOWNSHIP REFERENCE LOG

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Donald C. Siegfried, Chairman
Bruce E. Hall, Vice-Chairman
Steven C. Wyka, 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
Perter 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
Tel: 610-682-7388 Fax: 610-682-9067 www.longswamptwp.us

