



Heidelberg Township Newsletter

Heidelberg Township, Lehigh County, PA

Printed November 2010

From the Chairman's Desk . . .

A quick update on anticipated construction projects in the Township.

Hunters Hill Bridge – The contract for the bridge construction was let by PennDOT on September 9th 2010. With the anticipated construction time of 6-8 months extending over the 2010 winter, it is predicted to be finished by August of 2011. The Township wishes to thank all of those involved in the project since its inception.

The intersection of Routes 100 and 309 has a new traffic light which has been functioning since October. The new intersection has a dedicated left turn lane on Route 309 going south onto Route 100 and a dedicated left turn lane on Route 100 going north onto Route 309.

Several bridges in the area will also be renovated/upgraded/replaced. The bridges include the Newside Road Bridge, Werley's Corner Road Bridge and the Route 309 bridge over the Jordan Creek will receive a resurfacing.

The installation of the traffic light at Claussville Road and Route 309 is expected to have construction begin in 2011. The work will also entail some construction to realign the intersection.

Hay Thanks,
David Fink, Chairman of the Board of Supervisors

Township Adopts Codification



In 2007, the township received a grant from Lehigh County to codify its ordinances. The codification is simply an indexing and updating of the Township ordinances that is organized by subject rather than date adopted. This codification greatly increases the ease of finding applicable township laws pertaining to a specific subject. Instead of searching through several large three ring binders containing over a hundred different ordinances we can now use the subject index and go directly to the pertinent subject matter. On April 8, 2010, the Board of adopted the codification.

As part of the codification process, the Board of Supervisors also reviewed all the current ordinances and made changes to them to bring them more into compliance with current law and current practices in local government. Among those changed items:

- An extensive review of the Zoning Ordinance to expand those permitted uses in all zoning districts.
- A change to the open burning laws restricting the size of fires in the different zoning districts for safety purposes.
- Defining a motor vehicle nuisance and requiring their elimination.
- Requiring residents to clear their sidewalks after a snowstorm.
- Updating the street design standards.

Anyone desiring to see the changes to the ordinances may do so at the Township building during normal business hours

In this edition . . .

- Lynn-Heidelberg Historical Society News
- Reformers Are Threatening the Township Way of Life
- Recycling News
- Update from your EAC



*Become a member
of your volunteer
fire company.*

*Only with your support will
the Germansville Goodwill
Fire Co. #1 be able to
continue to serve your
community!*

*Membership applications are
available at the Township
Office.*



News from the Lynn-Heidelberg Historical Society

Have you joined the Lynn-Heidelberg Society?

We need you to join and be an active volunteer. If we ignore our history, we will repeat our mistakes in the future. The youth of our area deserve more. Please join today. Call Secretary Ginny Woodward for details @ 610-298-2231 or E-mail VirginiaWoodward@hotmail.com

Have a story to tell?

The Historical Society is always in need of articles. Here is your chance to be published and show your skills or just tell your neighbors some interesting aspects about our community. Send articles to Bob Nagle or Julie Lubinsky, our newsletter editor or email us at lhhs@lynntownship.org. Please help and continue the tradition!

Help us take the next steps toward preservation in 2010!

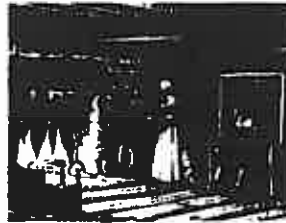
The Historical Society has received several major antiques from the Carl D. Snyder Estate that we would like to display for the public. Even more exciting, we have been given a bank barn to restore into a living museum to hold these treasures. We have been given the task to move it to the Ontelaunee Park Pioneer area. Bank barns are rapidly disappearing from the area, making this endeavor truly special.

And that's why we are asking you to make a special tax-deductible contribution so that we have the resources to accomplish this move and restoration. Your faithful support to the Lynn-Heidelberg Historical Society is making possible the acquisition and care of these priceless remainders of our past. We now have this promising new place to display them, but we need your help to move forward with this legacy.

Please make a tax deductible gift to support this effort.

Your gift, combined with those of other caring people from our community, will go a long way toward the continuation of the preservation of the heritage of this area.

Send your tax deductible donation to:
Lynn-Heidelberg Historical Society
c/o Penny Betz Gardner
P.O.Box 73, 6751 Madison Street
New Tripoli, PA 18066



Thank you for doing all you can right now to help.

Volunteers welcome.

We are in serious need of volunteers to assist in all kinds of activities. If you are interested in helping out and having fun, contact Gary Dotterer at 610-285-2231 or agdot@ptd.net We will sincerely appreciate your involvement.



Enjoy the change of seasons and the holidays it brings!





Recycling Now Mandatory in Heidelberg Township

In keeping up with Pennsylvania law, residences and businesses in the Township are now required to recycle newspapers, high grade office paper, and corrugated paper, glass, aluminum and steel cans, and plastic bottles. Residences and businesses should have a separate container for these items to ensure the recyclable materials are separated from the non-recyclable materials. Your rubbish contractor should pick up the recyclable materials at least once every two weeks, depending upon the contractor. Persons who do not recycle are required to do so and may be punished under the law. For questions call Dan Stonehouse at 610-767-9297 X 14.



Get your children in on the
RECYCLING HABIT.
They'll appreciate you for caring about
them and their world.

PASS IT ON! RECYCLING BENEFITS ALL!

In May of 2008 Berger Sanitation, Inc. placed three 8-cubic yard recycling containers at the Heidelberg Township Municipal Building. Two additional containers were since added due to the exceptional response of residents in the area who are choosing to recycle. The containers are to be used for recycling only. Residents who currently do not have curbside recycling with their trash hauler are encouraged to drop-off their recyclables at the township building and place items in the Berger Sanitation containers. Berger Sanitation, Inc. is helping the township residents recycle more by expanding the list of recycled materials and by implementing single stream recycling, which means there is no need to separate your recycling. See the Recyclable Materials listed in the table. If you have any questions, call Berger Sanitation at 610-837-1790.

	RECYCLABLE MATERIALS	NON-RECYCLABLE MATERIALS
GLASS	Clear and colored glass jars and bottles used to package most food, beverages and household items (rinsed, lids removed and debris-free).	Broken glass, light bulbs, ceramic dishes, Pyrex china, mirrors, windows, cookware, drinking glasses, and flower pots.
PAPER	Newspaper (including glossy inserts), paper bags, mail, junk mail, envelopes, magazines, telephone books, fliers, colored & white paper, office paper, and wrapping paper (no metallic paper).	Waxed milk/juice cartons, facial tissue, napkins, paper plates or cups, heat resistant ovenware, and Styrofoam products.
CANS	Aluminum, tin, and steel including beverage, food, and empty aerosol cans.	Liquid paint, oil, and chemicals.
PLASTIC	Plastics labeled # 1-7, located on the bottom surrounded by three arrows or marked PET, PETE, or HDPE (rinsed and debris-free). Typically includes clear plastic soda bottles, milk, and water jugs, and others containing household foods and supplies.	Lids, plastic bags and wrap, and all other items NOT bearing # 1-7, or marked PET, PETE, or HDPE. Examples include coffee cups, meat trays, lids or caps, and egg cartons.
CARDBOARD	Corrugated cardboard (flattened and bundled). Also chipboard (food boxes, beer and soda cartons, cracker, cake, and cereal boxes without plastic pouches or inserts).	Any cardboard contaminated by food.
METAL	Aluminum foil, foil plates	Coat hangers, cookware/bakeware, drink mix containers, pipes, or wire.

Reformers Are Threatening the Township Way of Life Lawmakers Want to Make Community-Based Local Government Unconstitutional

You live in a township, and you like it, right?

When it snows, the roads are plowed. When spring arrives, the local crews are out fixing up the roads. And if you have a problem, you know that a township supervisor or township employee is just a phone call away.

Well, all of that could dramatically change if a piece of legislation, known as House Bill 2431, starts gaining traction.

The proposal, sponsored by Rep. Thomas Caltagirone of Berks County, calls for a constitutional amendment to establish Pennsylvania's 67 counties as the basic level of government. Our township - the very place you and your family call home - would be abolished along with cities and boroughs. The counties would take over all municipal operations, including roads and bridges, land use and zoning, sanitation, health and safety, and law enforcement.

Where is the proof?

The bill is intended to reduce duplicated services and save tax dollars, Caltagirone said recently. Meanwhile, others are hoping to reform government in Pennsylvania through a constitutional convention.

So far, however, no reformer or reform group has proven that the bigger, centralized government model is more effective or efficient than Pennsylvania's current system, which is made up of nearly 2,500 community-based local governments. Among them are 1,455 townships, which come in all shapes and sizes and represent rural, urban, and suburban residents.

We, as your elected representatives, believe that the commonwealth's founders knew exactly what they were doing when they established this community-based system and that government that is closest to the people - like this township - is the most responsive and cost-effective. Therefore, our township strongly opposes House Bill 2431, as does the Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors, a Harrisburg-based public-policy organization that represents our community and others like it throughout the commonwealth.

"For years, people have been saying that Pennsylvania has too many local governments. So-called reformers refer to townships as 'fiefdoms' and 'relics of the past,' and they complain about duplicated services and the rising cost of government," PSATS Executive Director David M. Sanko says. "But you know what? No one has ever proven that bigger, centralized government is better - or even more cost-effective - government.

"In fact, the opposite is true. Just look around this state, and you'll see the evidence," he adds. "Townships aren't failing, declaring bankruptcy, or imposing widespread tax increases. Instead, it's the bigger governments - places like Pittsburgh, Philadelphia, Harrisburg, and Reading - that are in real financial trouble. Townships have been doing more with less - and doing it successfully - ever since the days of William Penn, and they are still around for a very good reason: They work."

It's not about self-preservation

PSATS President John Haiko also disagrees with critics who say that township supervisors and other local leaders oppose House Bill 2431 and similar measures because we want to preserve our power and jobs.

"This isn't about self-preservation at all," Haiko says. "It's about making a good thing better: townships. There, you'll find committed elected leaders and employees who would much rather put off buying a piece of equipment than raise taxes. These people, who live and work in the communities they represent, are more committed to pinching pennies, increasing their efficiency, and working together to stretch tax dollars than anyone else in government today." *(continued on page 5)*

(Continued from page 4.)

In fact, a recent PSATS survey revealed that 82 percent of the townships that responded are involved in cooperative projects with neighboring municipalities. These efforts are saving tax dollars and enhancing government efficiency.

Townships, however, continue to come under fire. Special-interest groups, zeroing in on the number of local governments in Pennsylvania, contend that the commonwealth would be better served by a centralized system of fewer, bigger, and theoretically more efficient governments.

This, however, goes against the grain of what the public says it wants.

Give the people what they want

According to a Lincoln Institute survey of registered Pennsylvania voters, 80 percent of the respondents said that their local government should not be replaced with a countywide government; 81 percent said that merger decisions should be made locally and should not be required by the state; and 70 percent said that their municipality should not merge with a surrounding municipality.

"Pennsylvania has so many local governments because that's what the taxpayers want," says Lowman Henry, chairman and CEO of the Lincoln Institute.

Wendell Cox, a government consolidation expert who has studied Pennsylvania, says that state lawmakers should listen to their constituents and reject proposals that would force local governments to consolidate with larger, urban areas. Why? No one would benefit, especially taxpayers, Cox says. The only thing that forced consolidation would do, he predicts, is spread the higher costs and inefficiencies of the larger jurisdiction over a larger area.

Cox's conclusion: "When you amalgamate, it's not the best that emerges; it's the worst."

PSATS' David Sanko agrees: "I don't dispute that government is broken - in Harrisburg and Washington - and that's where we really should be focusing our attention. Bigger, centralized government doesn't work. It never has. It didn't in the Soviet Union, and it won't in Pennsylvania."

If you value grassroots governing, please support our township by calling or e-mailing our state representatives and senators and voicing your opposition to House Bill 2431. Lawmakers want - and need - to hear from their voters. Therefore, the more voices we can rally in protest to this legislation, the better our chances are of protecting and preserving Pennsylvania's community-based decision making and government.

** The previous article was downloaded with permission from the Pennsylvania State Association of Township Officials website: www.psats.org by your Board of Supervisors for your information.

Your State Representative and Senator Contact Information

PA State Representative Gary Day
Local Office: Northwest Centre, Suite 302
6299 Route 309
New Tripoli PA 18066
610-760-7082
www.repgaryday.com

PA Senator David Argall
Local Office: 125 S. Walnut Street
Slatington PA 18080
610-760-9805
www.senatorargall.com

What's Happening at Leaser Lake?

It's been a LONG TIME coming, but things are finally starting to happen at Leaser Lake! The lake has been drained in preparation for repairs to the dam. The PA Department of General Services issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) for the dam repair work in May and the Bid Opening was on June 16th. Over 30 people attended a pre-bid meeting at the Lynn Township Municipal Building and many contractors showed interest in bidding on the project. Bid results have yet to be made public, but we have heard that many of the bids are at or below the budgeted cost.

Dam construction has begun in September of 2010 with completion within one year. We are hoping that the lake will be full by Fall of 2012!

Until then, there are lots of other things going on at the Leaser Lake Heritage Foundation!

Fish Habitat

The Leaser Lake Heritage Foundation has been working with the PFBC Habitat Management Section to create a Fish Habitat Improvement Plan for Leaser Lake. The PFBC's current plans call for several "large scale" habitat improvements within the lake bed which will be carried out while the lake is empty. In addition, we are planning numerous other "small scale" projects which can be completed by local groups (ie. Scouts, Sportsmen's Clubs and School Groups) after the dam repairs are complete.

PFBC has committed to providing all of the labor and equipment needed for the "large scale" improvements and we are raising the funds for materials needed for the projects. We are anticipating a cost of \$75,000 for these materials. We are targeting national grant programs, as well as private and corporate donations to fund this expense.

Wildlife Food Plot

We have been working with the PA Turkey Federation to establish a wildlife food plot on the land around Leaser Lake. Fruit trees and crops have been planted in a remote field adjacent to the lake to provide food for various species of wildlife.

Master Site Plan

The Leaser Lake Heritage Foundation is currently raising money to fund a Master Site Plan for Leaser Lake and the surrounding park land. A hiking trail has been proposed around the lake with several "spur trails" connecting to various points of interest around the park. All planning ideas will be coordinated with the County and the County will have the final say on all planning recommendations. This document will be used to guide future improvements at the park and will aid us in future fundraising and grant efforts.

Environmental Education Programs

We have been talking with faculty from Kutztown University about how we can use this Lake Restoration as a giant Science Project! We are hoping to get the students from Northwestern Lehigh School District involved in lake studies including water quality monitoring, fish sampling and other ecological studies. We will also be reaching out to students and community groups to build fish habitat structures, Wood Duck Boxes, Turtle Basking Platforms and other small scale projects at the lake.

NOW is the time to become involved in the restoration of Leaser Lake! The Leaser Lake Heritage Foundation meets on the 4th Thursday of every other month at the Lynn Township Municipal Building at 7:00pm. The final 2010 meeting will be on November 18th. You can learn more about the Foundation on our website at www.leaserlakeheritage.org. Please come out and support this exciting project to restore Leaser Lake for future generations to enjoy.

We are eagerly anticipating the day when this beautiful lake is full again!

George White, Chairman
Leaser Lake Heritage Foundation



Northwestern Recreation Commission News

from Forrest Wessner III, Heidelberg Township Director of Parks and Recreation



As many of you know, the Night in the Country event went very well this past August. It's a great feeling as you walk around during the event and feel the community gathering together for a common goal; supporting your local volunteer services, eating good food, and enjoying the fireworks. The recreation commission's rough estimates on profits for the night were about \$10,0000, of course all of that money will be put back into park maintenance and upgrades.

Thank you NYAA in sharing the cost of the baseball field improvements with the recreation commission. The fields, because of normal wear and tear, had become more like ponds after a rain event and as it dried it became as hard as asphalt. Loads of fill were hauled in by the four townships, Heidelberg, Lowhill, Lynn and Weisenberg, to crown the infields and then covered with several inches of new sand mix. Now the water drains off the infields and they are playable the next day! The commission also just purchased a "rascal" which is an infield maintenance tool that conditions the sand and levels it in one pass.

Plans for next year at the park include using Nestle's \$15,000 donation to upgrade the lower soccer field. The turf has been difficult to maintain because of poor drainage and lack of topsoil. Plans include crowning the field with several inches of topsoil and installing tile drains around the perimeter. We are hoping to start in spring so the field will be playable by fall. The commission also received a \$5000 grant from DCNR to support a field maintenance program. This includes fertilizing, liming, and normal turf care.

The Northwestern Recreation Commission meets at 7:30pm the last Wednesday of each month, except December, at the NWLSD conference room.



Moving Forward With Our Road Crew . . .

By Kevin Huber, Road Superintendent



As old man winter is breathing down our necks once again your township's road crew is ensuring that the trucks, plows and equipment are ready for winter activity.

The township asks again this year that the residents refrain from putting metal stakes, rebar, etc. in the road right-of-way marking your yard boundaries. They are dangerous and may harm our road equipment if they are hit by the plows or tires.

Just a reminder, if you do not want the snow plow emptying off in your clean driveway, clear an area approximately 15 feet in length before your driveway in the direction of travel, this will give the plow an area to empty off in. Please do not throw snow or plow snow into the roadway as this becomes a safety concern.

Also, remember the township is not responsible for any damage done to mailboxes, landscaping, fences or anything located in the road right-of-way. The road right-of-way area (16 1/2 ft. from the center of the road) should be kept clear to pile the snow in.

As a final thought, when approaching a snow plow, please slow down and help to yield the right-of-way. These plows are very large which greatly reduces visibility. When following behind a snow plow, remember that if you can not see the side-view mirrors on the truck, the truck driver can not see your vehicle behind him. Thank you for your consideration, it is greatly appreciated by all of the road crew.

Volunteers Work to Improve Health Of Local Stream

By: Rachel Roland
Heidelberg EAC Member

Heidelberg Township is filled with many lovely streams. but they may not be so beautiful in the future if we don't protect them now. For example, take the small stream located behind the Heidelberg Township Building on Route 309.

As one of the Heidelberg Township's Environmental Advisory Council (EAC) projects, native wildflowers, shrubs, and trees continue to be planted along the stream. The project focuses on restoring a riparian buffer zone on either side of stream. This buffer will help stop bank erosion, filter runoff from the parking lot, and provide shade to lower the stream's water temperature.

The native wildflowers, shrubs, and trees planted were donated by supportive nurseries, purchased with township funds, or purchased with funding provided by the Pennsylvania Growing Greener Grant Program.

Why It Matters

This ongoing volunteer effort is formally called The Riparian Buffer Restoration Project and it's an important part of maintaining healthy waterways. A riparian zone or riparian buffer is the land adjacent to streams, rivers, and lakes that actively interacts with the body of water through physical and chemical processes. Healthy riparian zones filter nutrients and sediments, increase stream bank stability, and provide shade that reduces stream temperatures which, in turn protects aquatic life. When streams and river embankments are mowed or clearcut, runoff and erosion can damage the stream and its aquatic life. A riparian buffer zone also contains a greater number of birds and small animals than cleared stream banks.

Heidelberg Township volunteers are encouraged that the latest batch of plants is flourishing along the stream bank. The project also reached a milestone when a split-rail fence was installed along the stream, which will help mark a "no mow" zone that begins from the water and extends to the fence. Future plans include weeding maintenance and more plantings, as well as the creation of two signs near the buffer area explaining the project. The signs are funded by Air Products and will be created by students at Lehigh Career and Technical Institute.

For more information about the Heidelberg EAC and its upcoming projects, contact heidelberggeac@gmail.com or call 610-298-8073.

A Story of Local History

by the Lynn-Heidelberg Historical Society

Most of the early established residents of Lynn and Heidelberg Township know the history of Frederick Leaser and his part in history in transporting the Liberty Bell from Philadelphia to be stored in a church crawl space in Allentown. Frederick's Homestead is located at the base of the Blue Mountain just North of the village of Wanamakers and just west of the Lake named after him, which is in the beginning stages of being repaired.

The Lynn-Heidelberg Historical Society have been maintaining the Leaser Cemetery in Lynn Township, which is available for visits from the community.

Recently a 7th generation grandson of Frederick Leaser passed away. As Frederick played a great part in forming the foundation of this country Earl "Lee" Leaser contributed on his part in carrying on the same duty in WWII. After piloting a bombing mission over Berlin Lee's B-17 was shot out of the air. After floating in the English Channel for over 24 hours finally a ship came to rescue them, only to hear the voices of German men. Lee always said "I was just glad to get out of that cold water." Being held as a POW in three Stalag camps and enduring a two day Blizzard March 18 miles a day, Lee was liberated a year later in April of 1945 by Patton's Western Task Force. Lee participated in WWII, Korea and Vietnam retiring at the rank of Colonel in the United States Air Force.

The strong sense of duty that Frederick held for the birth of this country continued throughout history with that same patriotism generations later with Earl "Lee" Leaser, a gentle man and true American Hero of The Greatest Generation.

TOWNSHIP MEETINGS

Held at the Township Building at 7:30pm.

EAC.....1st Tuesday, each month
Board of Supervisors.....2nd Thursday, each month
Zoning Hearing Board.....3rd Monday, as needed
Planning Commission.....last Monday, each month*
*if holiday, then held the prior Monday

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Heidelberg Township Office, 6272 Route 309, Suite A, New Tripoli PA 18066
610-767-9297 www.heidelberglehigh.org

For questions regarding meetings (Supervisors, Planning Commission, EAC), to leave messages for the Supervisors or general questions about the township:
Contact: Janice Bortz, Secretary-Treasurer at Ext. 10
Business Office Hours: 8:30am-12noon & 1:00pm-4:00pm (M-F) or by appointment

For questions regarding zoning, permits, building code, enforcement, subdivision and land development or moving permits:
Contact: Dan Stonehouse, Zoning Officer and Township Administrator at Ext. 14
Contact: Kathy Hermany, Part-time Zoning Office Assistant at Ext. 11
Zoning / Administrative Office Hours: 8:00am-4:00pm (M-F) or by appointment

Heidelberg/Lynn Earned Income Tax Office, 6272 Route 309, New Tripoli PA 18066
610-767-6220

For questions regarding earned income tax, local services tax or moving permits contact:
Contact: Carol Betz, EIT Officer
Hours: 8:00am-12noon & 1:00pm-4:00pm (M-F)

Road Maintenance Dept., 6272 Route 309, New Tripoli PA 18066 610-767-1344

For questions regarding road maintenance such as pot holes, snow & ice removal, dust control:
Contact: Kevin Huber, Road Superintendent at Ext. 15
Hours: 6:00am - 2:00pm (M-Thurs)

Sewage Enforcement , PO Box 339, Lehighon PA 18235 800-453-1493

For questions regarding probes, perc tests, septic systems:
Contact: Carl Wolfe Jr., Sewage Enforcement Officer

Tax Collector, 6292 Sunset Road, Germansville PA 18053 610-767-7919

For questions regarding real estate taxes:
Contact: Phyllis Breininger, Tax Collector

DID YOU KNOW . . .



... that Heidelberg Township has a Self-guided School House Tour brochure available at the township office?

... you could purchase reproduced historical postcards at the township office for only \$2.50 for a packet of 5 postcards? There are 4 sets to choose from which feature places from Heidelberg Township's past. They make a great gift!



In an effort to cut township costs, the Board of Supervisors decided not to mass mail this newsletter. It will be available at the Township Office if you wish a hard copy or you may access it on the township website.