

Spring/Summer 2010



Lower Swatara Township

**UPDATE**

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Dear Residents,

Welcome to the spring/summer edition of the Lower Swatara Township newsletter. We sincerely hope that you take some time to look over the information provided. Many of the articles in this edition deal with safety issues, and we hope that you pay special attention to them. The information inside could very well impact the safety and well being of you and your family.

The Board would also like to take this opportunity to welcome our newest member, Thomas L. Mehaffie III. We look forward to working with Commissioner Mehaffie and the new ideas he will bring to our Board and Township.

As always, the Board of Commissioners and staff remind you that we are here to answer your questions and



address your concerns. Please feel free to contact the Township Office at 939-9377 from Monday thru Friday, 8:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. In addition, the Township maintains a website — [www.lowerawatara.org](http://www.lowerawatara.org) — where you can find general information as well as an email directory of Township staff. General questions can be sent to [info@lowerawatara.org](mailto:info@lowerawatara.org). The Board also reminds you that our meetings are always open to the public, and we encourage you to attend these to exchange information with the Commissioners.

Wishing you a wonderful spring and summer season,

Frank Linn, Sr.  
President  
Board of Commissioners

## **FUTURE MEETING DATES**

All meetings will begin at 7:00 P.M. and will be held at the Municipal Building, 1499 Spring Garden Drive, Middletown, PA. The non-legislative meetings of the Board of Commissioners are listed in parenthesis. No formal business is transacted at these meetings. Non-legislative meetings of the Municipal Authority are scheduled as needed.

### **BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS:**

May (5), 19; June (2), 16; July (7), 21; Aug. (4), 18; Sept. (1), 15; Oct. (6), 20; Nov. (3), 17; Dec. (1), 15.

### **MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY:**

May 24; June 28; July 26; Aug. 23; Sept. 27; Oct. 25; Nov. 22; Dec. 20.

### **PLANNING COMMISSION:**

May 27; June 24; July 22; Aug. 26; Sept. 23; Oct. 28; Nov. 18; Dec. 16.

### **RECREATION BOARD:**

May 5; Sept. 1; Nov. 3

## BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



Seated, left to right: President Frank Linn, Sr., and Vice President William L. Leonard, Jr. Standing, left to right: Commissioner Robert L. Loych, Commissioner Thomas R. Clark, Commissioner Thomas L. Mehaffie III

### PROJECT UPDATES:



#### Projects awaiting final approval from the Board of Commissioners:

- Residential Retirement Community, Phase I (26 multi-family dwellings & 1 commercial lot) located at NE corner of Fulling Mill Road & Nissley Drive.
- Bryn Gweled East (26 single family building lots) located on the east side of Lumber Street, adjacent to the south of PA 283.
- Old Reliance Farms, Section 18B (9 single family building lots) located on the south side of Longview Drive opposite Strites Road.

### PROJECTS UNDER CONSTRUCTION:

- Penn State University — Harrisburg new freshmen housing project for 101 students.
- Convert former PA Lottery Building located at 2850 Turnpike Industrial Road to the Data Center of the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission.
- Eagle Heights (6 duplexes — 12 units) located on the north side of West High Street between Wood Street and Lawrence Street.
- Schiavoni subdivision and land development (2 townhouses and 1 duplex — 18 units) located on the south side of Market Street Extended opposite Mountain View Drive (formerly the site of the Tinian Manor Swim Club).

### FUTURE PROJECTS:

- Meade Avenue (formerly University Drive/5th Street) project is on target to begin construction in 2010. Said road will intersect with West Harrisburg Pike on the east side of the Linden Centre.
- Linden Centre, Phase II, consisting of the following proposed building pads/uses: bank, hotel, convenience store, two restaurants, two retail sites, multi-retail building consisting of possibly six smaller and four larger spaces
- Residential Retirement Community, Phase IIA, IIB & III (52 multi-family dwellings and 3 commercial lots), located at the NE corner of Fulling Mill Road & Nissley Drive.
- Colony of Old Reliance is a traditional neighborhood development consisting of mixed residential uses along with some commercial uses. Proposed project is located on Longview Drive immediately adjacent to the east of Old Reliance Farms. Preliminary Plan approval has been granted.

## LOWER SWATARA VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT



The weather has finally changed and the bright sunshine is now upon us. The warmer weather is bringing out the flowers, bicycles, lawn mowers and laughter. The fire department will begin its annual fundraising motorcycle breakfasts starting in May and

running through September. The breakfast will be held the 4th Sunday of the month at the fire department; stop by and help support your local department. The fire department will be teaming up with the "Feel Your Boobies Foundation" in Middletown to promote awareness and prevention of breast cancer. The department will be hosting a motorcycle ride during the August breakfast along with selling t-shirts. Look for more information on the department's website: [www.LowerSwataraFire.com](http://www.LowerSwataraFire.com).

The Lower Swatara Fire Department is 100% volunteer. Our members spend countless number of hours training, in house and at local training facilities. The fire department this year was informed that it will be receiving an Assistance to Firefighters Grant for \$65,885. The grant will be used to purchase new equipment and to send firefighters to a specialized training class in industrial firefighting.

The Fire Department held its annual banquet in March and honored several members with their 10 year service awards; Josh Campbell, Barry Burrows and Tom Etzle. Justin Lenker was named Firefighter of the year. Henry Pickel was awarded the chief award, Mike Mckillip and the Lower Swatara Auxiliary was named member of the year. A special award was presented to Tony Ricardi for his 52 years of service as a fire instructor for Bucks Community College.

The American Legion Post 594 in Middletown honored Lower Swatara Fire Department member Justin Lenker as Firefighter of the Year. This is a prestigious award and the fire department thanks the American Legion for honoring our member.

## EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (EMA)

### National Flood Insurance Program

With spring rains, summer thunderstorms, autumn tropical storms, and winter snow melt, the flooding season never ends. If you live in or adjacent to, or even near a flood hazard area, you should have flood insurance.

Normal homeowners' insurance and business multi-peril policies will not cover losses caused by flooding. The National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) fills this gap in coverage. You can buy flood insurance even if you own a property in a flood hazard area or if your property has been previously flooded. It is available for homeowners, renters, condo owners, and business owners. Dwelling policies cover your building property up to \$250,000 and a separate personal property (contents) policy is available for up to \$100,000 coverage. A deductible, selected by the property owner, will affect the premium you pay.

If you have flood insurance and suffer flood losses, your yearly premium will pay for covered costs, minus your deductible. When the claim is filed, there is no additional cost to the homeowner. Property owners who believe disaster assistance can take the place of flood insurance need to know that a disaster home loan would only be available if there is a federal disaster declaration. Even then, paying back a \$50,000 disaster home loan will cost an average of \$240 a month for an average repayment period of 30 years!

NFIP insured properties that suffer four or more separate flood claim payments exceeding \$5,000 or when two cumulative payments exceed the value of the property, the severe repetitive loss property becomes eligible for FEMA mitigation grants to purchase the property, elevate the structure, or relocate the structure out of the flood hazard area. Without the insurance and the repetitive losses, the availability of mitigation grants is all but non-existent.

For more information on the National Flood Insurance Program, contact your insurance agent or find information on the internet at:

<http://www.floodsmart.gov/floodsmart/>

Information is also available at the Lower Swatara Township Municipal Building. Ask for the Emergency Management Coordinator.

## POLICE DEPARTMENT

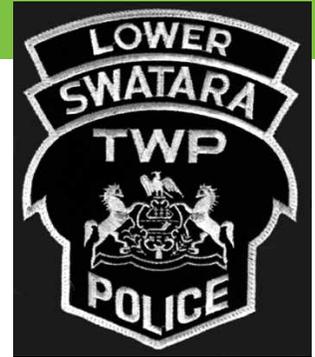
In 2010, the Lower Swatara Township community and its Police Department experienced numerous thefts from autos in various neighborhoods in the township. The first series of thefts began in the Shopes Gardens neighborhood on 1/11/10 and continued through 1/19/10. Residents were having their unlocked vehicles entered at night and items stolen from inside, including GPS systems, iPods, cell phones, laptop computers, purses, wallets, cash, coins and other items of value. The Lower Swatara Police Department's Criminal Investigations Unit set up details with patrol officers and conducted details in the neighborhood through all hours of the night and early morning.

Officers were in tactical uniforms and plain clothes using marked police cars as well as normal vehicles to try to catch the thieves. There were many suspects developed from researching known suspects who lived in close proximity to the locations of the thefts. There were also latent fingerprints lifted from several of the vehicles that were entered by the suspects. Those fingerprints are currently at the State Police Lab being analyzed and checked for comparison.

More recently, during the month of March 2010, the Lower Swatara community and its Police Department experienced identical crimes again, this time occurring in Old Reliance, Twelve Oaks, and the Longview Acres neighborhoods. The method of operation was exactly the same as the thefts that occurred a few months earlier in the Shopes Gardens neighborhood. The same types of items were being stolen and all of the vehicles entered were vehicles that were left unlocked with valuables inside of them. There were latent fingerprints lifted from some vehicles in these cases as well and they have been sent to the lab for comparison and analysis. The Police Dept. ran an article in the paper requesting information and asking parents to check their kids' belongings to see if they had things in their possession they couldn't explain. The Police Dept. offered a reward for assistance leading to an arrest also, and reminded citizens to lock their vehicles at night.

These thefts without question are occurring in the dark early morning hours of the night when most residents are sound asleep in their homes. All of the vehicles that have been entered were unlocked, allowing the thieves to operate very quietly and go unnoticed. There has never been a forced entry or damage to any of the vehicles

entered and it is important for residents to realize the importance of locking and securing their vehicles and homes at night. Most thieves and criminals are opportunists and if given an opportunity to steal something from you they will take it.



Let's take the opportunity away from the criminals and not make it easy for them to victimize us. Your police department is active and available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Please call and report any concerns that you may have.

**LSTPD Emergency – 911**

**NON-Emergency (weekends) – 717-558-6900**

### TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT AND ACTIVITY

**from 1/1/10 to 3/31/10 that took place on  
N. Union St., Fulling Mill Rd. and Oberlin Rd.**

**133** traffic stops were conducted on N. Union St. with **73** traffic citations being issued.

\* \* \*

**63** traffic stops were conducted on Fulling Mill Rd. with **20** traffic citations being issued.

\* \* \*

**89** traffic stops were conducted on Oberlin Rd. with **36** traffic citations being issued.

\* \* \*

There were **7** DUI arrests made on these 3 roadways combined during this 3 month period and the Lower Swatara Police Department investigated **5** motor vehicle crashes on these roadways.

\* \* \*

There were **6** police related investigations at businesses and residences located on these roads.

*Remember — drive safely  
and always buckle up!!!!*

## BUILDING CODES DEPARTMENT

### OUTDOOR GRILLING SAFETY TIPS

*Summer's great when you're grillin'! A warm, sunny evening with good friends and family makes for a great party. But first let's review grill safety.*



#### FACTS & FIGURES

- 76 percent of American households own a grill. 600 accidental fires and explosions occur every year due to improper usage, resulting in countless injuries and \$4.9 million in estimated damage.
- Gas grills have a higher risk than charcoal grills; leaks and breaks are the leading cause, accounting for two-fifths (41%) of the gas grill structure and outdoor fires.
- Gas-fuelled grills caused an estimated 2,800 home structure fires and 4,400 home outdoor fires in 2005.
- Charcoal grills have a higher risk than gas grills of death due to unvented carbon monoxide; most of these deaths do not involve fire.
- Charcoal-fueled or other solid-fueled grills caused an estimated 600 home structure fires and 500 home outdoor fires in 2005.
- Placing combustibles too close to heat is the leading cause for charcoal grill home fires.
- Over one-third (35%) of all gas grill and charcoal grill home structure fires begin on an exterior balcony or unenclosed porch.

#### GENERAL OUTDOOR GRILLING SAFETY TIPS

- Never use a grill indoors. Position the grill well away from siding, deck railings, and out from under eaves and overhanging branches.
- Do not use the grill in a garage, breezeway, balcony, carport, and porch or under a surface that can catch fire.

- Never leave the grill unattended, especially when small children and pets are present.
- Always place the grill on a firm, stable, flat surface so it won't tip over. Use long-handled utensils for safe handling of food and coals.

#### GAS GRILL SAFETY TIPS

- Always start your grill with the lid up.
- Never allow children to light a gas grill.
- Use only commercial leak detector a mix of 50% liquid soap and 50% water to detect a gas leak.
- Repair all leaks before using a gas grill.
- Check hoses regularly for cracks and bends.
- Make sure your grill has "spider guards" – spiders or earwigs can build nests in the valves and potentially cause an explosion risk to you and you family.
- Ask your gas supplier to check for dents or leaks when refilling propane tanks.
- Never keep a filled propane tank in a hot car or trunk. Heat will cause the gas pressure to increase which may open the relief valve and allow gas to escape.

#### CHARCOAL GRILL SAFETY TIPS

- Never attempt to restart the flame by adding additional lighter fluid to an already lit grill.
- Keep a spray bottle of water nearby to handle flare-ups while grilling.
- Wait until the coals have completely cooled (may take a few hours) before disposing of them. Remember, coals get hot – up to 1000 degrees F.
- Never use gasoline or kerosene to light a charcoal fire. Both can cause an explosion.
- Since charcoal produces carbon monoxide fumes, do not store the grill indoors until the charcoal is completely extinguished.

*Fire in the grill, under hot dogs, burgers, chicken or steak, is a welcome sight at a family cookout. But fire anywhere else can make your summer kick-off grilling memorable for all the wrong reasons. Have a safe and happy grilling season by being safe when you grill and cook.*

\*\*\*(excerpts from NFPA publications)



## Penn Waste is going green, literally!

Look for a whole new fleet of green Penn Waste recycling trucks on Monday, June 2nd.

*What does this mean for Penn Waste customers?*

1. Paper products may be put in recycling bins with containers. Just be sure paper is covered by heavier material so it doesn't blow away!
2. Penn Waste will accept any size of cardboard if it is flattened.
3. Check out the list below to learn how to recycle successfully.

*Paper, Paperboard & Cardboard*



### Recycle These Items:

Cardboard boxes  
 Pizza boxes  
 Food boxes (i.e. cereal & jello boxes)  
 Paper towel & toilet paper rolls  
 Paperboard packaging (i.e. tissue boxes)  
 Office paper (any color)  
 Shredded paper  
 Newspaper & inserts  
 Magazines & catalogs  
 Junk mail & envelopes  
 Paper bags  
 Phone books

### Prepare:

1. Remove all packaging (styrofoam, peanuts, plastic, bubble wrap, plastic liners, etc.).
2. Flatten ALL boxes.
3. Cover loose paper with heavier containers to prevent it from blowing away.

### UNACCEPTABLE:

Plastic bags  
 Food soiled material

*Containers*

### Recycle These Items:

#### Plastics

#1 - #7 containers & bottles with necks smaller than their bases

#### Glass

Clear, brown, & green glass food and beverage containers

#### Metal Cans

Aluminum beverage cans  
 Steel food and beverage cans  
 Aerosol cans

### Prepare

1. Remove caps/lids.
2. Rinse thoroughly.
3. It is okay to leave on labels & neck rings.

### UNACCEPTABLE:

Plastic tubs, cups, trays, & bags  
 Broken glass  
 Windows, mirrors, ceramics, & light bulbs  
 Drinking glasses  
 Aluminum foil  
 Scrap metal



P.O. Box 3066, York, PA 17402 (717) 767 - 4456  
 P.O. Box 3066, York, PA 17402 (717) 767 - 4456

[www.pennwaste.com](http://www.pennwaste.com)

# 2010 LOWER SWATARA TOWNSHIP COLLECTION CALENDAR

JANUARY 2010						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	▲	▲	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24/31	25	26	27	28	29	30

FEBRUARY 2010						
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28						

MARCH 2010						
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28	29	30	31			

APRIL 2010						
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18	☼	☼	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

MAY 2010						
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16	☼	☼	19	20	21	22
23/30	24/31	25	26	27	28	29

JUNE 2010						
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13	☼	☼	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	☼	☼	30			

JULY 2010						
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18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	☼	☼	28	29	30	31

AUGUST 2010						
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15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	☼	☼	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

SEPTEMBER 2010						
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19	☼	☼	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

OCTOBER 2010						
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10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	☼	☼	20	21	22	23
24/31	25	26	27	28	29	30

NOVEMBER 2010						
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7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	☼	☼	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	☼	☼				

DECEMBER 2010						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

Collection days that fall on or after the holidays noted in **GREEN** will be delayed one day.

**Exception:** There is no change in service prior to or after a holiday that falls on a Saturday or Sunday.

Yard waste is collected every other week from April through November. Collection dates are shown with this symbol -- ☼

Christmas tree collection dates are shown with this symbol -- ▲

## BASIC GUIDELINES FOR LOWER SWATARA TOWNSHIP RESIDENTS

- Trash, recycling, ONE bulk item and yard waste on speci?ed collection days must be curbside by 5:00 A.M. on your collection day.
- No more than Four (4) 32-gallon trash bags/cans will be collected each week.
- One bulk item per week will be collected if three (3) or less trash bags/cans are put out.
- Bags and refuse cans must not exceed 32 gallons or 50 pounds.
- If bags exceed the limit, extra trash bags may be purchased at Lower Swatara Township for \$3.50 each.
- No Construction debris will be collected.
- Call Penn Waste at 1-866-575-8720 to schedule collection of Freon appliances.



**Penn Waste, Inc.**

**P.O. Box 3066  
York, PA 17402**

**1-866-575-8720  
www.pennwaste.com**



# Lower Swatara Township

1499 SPRING GARDEN DRIVE  
MIDDLETOWN, PA 17057

Phone: 939-9377 • Fax: 939-5682

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WE'RE ON THE WEB!  
VISIT US AT [LOWERSWATARA.ORG](http://LOWERSWATARA.ORG)

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PRSR STD  
US POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
HARRISBURG PA  
PERMIT NO. 592

## DUMPSTER PROGRAM

Dumpsters for large, bulky items are available to Township residents the first Saturday of each month, from 8:00 A.M. till Noon. The dumpsters are located at the Public Works shed at 820 Oberlin Road, next to the old Lower Swatara Volunteer Fire Department building. Please note that on holiday weekends, the dumpster schedule will be moved to the second Saturday of the month.

Items not acceptable for disposal in the dumpsters include tires, paint cans, oil drums, used oil, and car batteries. Permits for the dumpster are available at the Township Administrative Office, and may be purchased during normal operating hours (8:00 A.M. – 4:00 P.M.). In addition, permits can be purchased directly at the dumpster during its operating hours. Fees are \$10.00 per car trunk load, and \$35.00 per truck load (a pick-up truck is the largest truck permitted). In addition, tires may be disposed of for a charge of \$3.00 per tire.

## Township's Meals-on-Wheels Program Always Looking for Volunteers

Lower Swatara Township's Meals-on-Wheels Program is always looking for volunteers to deliver meals to our residents who depend on the program for a hot meal. Delivering takes less than one hour, and volunteers may be scheduled as often or as seldom as their schedules permit. Interested in helping out your neighbors? Please contact Darlene Stoudt at the Township Building (939-9377) or email her at [dstoudt@lowerswatara.org](mailto:dstoudt@lowerswatara.org) for more details.