

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Residents,

Welcome to the fall/winter edition of our Township newsletter. Please take some time to review the important information and updates provided from our various departments.

The last few months have certainly been trying ones, especially to those of you who suffered flooding in various degrees. The Township Board and staff would like to thank you for your cooperation during this time period. It was both impressive and heartwarming to see how our residents "dug-in" to address their flood damage and also offered their assistance to friends and neighbors.

In addition to the change in season, you will find changes to our staff. New staff members include Harry Krot,

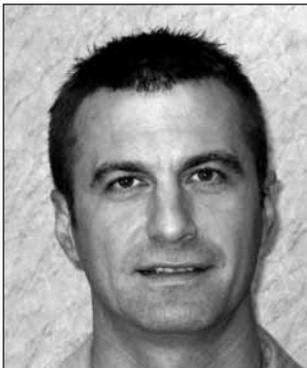
Township Manager; Brenda Wick, Planning & Zoning Director; and Tammy Blymire, Accountant. Please welcome them on board!

As always, the Board and staff encourage you to contact us with any comments or questions.

— Frank Linn, Sr.,
President



MEET OUR NEW STAFF MEMBERS



Harry Krot

HARRY KROT, TOWNSHIP MANAGER

The Board of Commissioners has selected Harry Krot as the Township's new Manager. Harry began work with the Township on October 3rd and will replace long time manager Ron Paul when he retires next year. Harry comes to the Township from the PA Department of Community and Economic Development where he served as a Local Government Policy Manager. As a Local Government Policy Manager, he managed six regional offices, grants and loan programs, and provided technical assistance to municipalities in a variety of local government issue areas. He also has hands on local government management experience, having previously served as manager in Upper Allen Township, Cumberland County. Harry received his undergraduate degree in public administration from West Chester University and his master's degree in public administration from Shippensburg University.

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BRENDA WICK PLANNING & ZONING DIRECTOR

The Board of Commissioners would like to introduce our new Planning & Zoning Director, Brenda Wick, who joined the Township staff on September 27th. Brenda comes to us with over 16 years of experience in Land Development and Municipal Engineering. She will use her previous experience of working with the Township and build upon it as the Director of Planning and Zoning.

TAMMY BLYMIRE ACCOUNTANT

The Board of Commissioners would like to introduce our new Township Accountant, Tammy Blymire, who joined the Township staff on June 6th. Tammy comes to us with over 14 years of experience in Accounting and Auditing, both in the private and public sector. She will apply her previous experiences in auditing municipalities to assist her in successfully performing her job as Township Accountant.



Brenda Wick

PLANNING AND ZONING DEPARTMENT



President Linn attended the ground breaking for the Lawrence Street Partners Student Housing Project, to be named "Nittany Village" on Tuesday, October 4. The project includes 66 dwelling units to provide housing for up to 264 students. The project also includes the relocation of Lawrence Street and is located on the north side of West Main Street.

FINANCE DEPARTMENT

By now most of you will have received your 2011 Act 511 tax bill. These taxes are often referred to as the per capita and occupation taxes. Please note that these taxes are not related to any payroll related tax or to a tax that you may have escrowed with your mortgage company.

Most of the bills have a full or face value of \$35.00. Of this sum, \$10.00 is for the per capita and \$25.00 is for the occupation tax. Everyone who is between the ages of 18 and 72 should receive one of these bills. If you do not expect to earn \$5,000.00 during the calendar year 2011, you may apply for exoneration from the occupation portion only of the bill. You will still be responsible for the per capita portion. Likewise, if you are less than 18 or over 72, please check the appropriate box on your tax bill and send it back to Berkheimer.

This is the first year that Berkheimer has both printed our bills and collected our bills. Initially there were some

issues with some of the exempt individuals receiving bills, but these issues are clearing up. Please do not ignore your bill thinking that you do not owe it. Checking the reason why you think that you should be exonerated may save you a lot of trouble in the future. Any bill that is ignored runs the risk of being turned over to the delinquent tax collector.

2011 has proven to be a record year for people applying to HACC. One of the many perks of attending a local community college is the greatly reduced tuition. These costs are kept low because of the support given by the local school district. In order for a Township resident to take advantage of the discounted tuition, he/she must produce a paid Act 511 bill.

Please call the Township Building if you have any questions.

LEAF COLLECTION SCHEDULED



Following is the schedule for leaf collection for Lower Swatara Township residents. Collection will run from October 24 through December 9. Holidays or periods when leaves fall rapidly may cause temporary disruption in the schedule. Leaves should be placed curbside. Please do not rake leaves into the street. **If you have a storm drain adjacent to your property, please try to keep it cleared.** Limbs, branches, grass clippings, flower, or mulched leaves will NOT be picked up.

Mondays & Tuesdays	Shopes Gardens area, Greenwood Hills, Woodridge
Wednesdays	Bryn Gweled, Green Plains, Jednota Flats, Rosedale Areas, Twelve Oaks
Thursdays & Fridays	Longview Acres & Old Reliance Farms

SEASONAL REMINDERS



- Please be alert for the announcement of a “snow emergency”. When a snow emergency is called, Township ordinance requires that all citizens remove their vehicles from the Township streets. Generally, the ordinance will be enforced only when winter storms drop in excess of 3 inches of snow. The public will be notified via radio and TV broadcasts when conditions necessitating the implementing of the ordinance are present. To be safe: park in your driveway when snowfalls are forecasted.
- Property owners are responsible to maintain the sidewalk, public sidewalk, and curb immediately in front of their property. All snow, ice, slush or any combination thereof shall be removed twenty-four (24) hours after it has ceased to fall. Salt or calcium should not be used to remove ice and snow from the sidewalk, as doing so

may result in damage to the surface. Instead, we recommend you use sand, fine gravel, or clean cat litter for the public’s safety.

- Keep in mind that it is **ILLEGAL** to shovel or blow snow onto the Township streets. Violators will be cited!

The Lower Swatara Township Police and Public Works Departments would like to remind Township residents that placing yard waste, including grass clippings, in the street is a violation of Township Ordinance §10-401 Duty to Maintain Clean Right-of-Way. Placing yard waste on a public street can lead to blockage of the storm sewer drains. We are asking for your assistance in keeping the storm sewer drains open. Violators may face prosecution and upon conviction may be fined up to \$1,000.00 per violation.

OLMSTED REC BOARD OFFERS STRENGTHENING FAMILIES PROGRAM

Do you want to help your children succeed in the future? Keep them from serious behavior problems like drug and alcohol use? Maintain a positive relationship with them during the challenging teen years? Then the **Strengthening Families Program** is perfect for you! In just seven two hour sessions, you will learn how to show love while setting limits, assist your children to develop skills to handle peer pressure, and strengthen inter-family relationships through the use of practical advice and positive family time.

The **Strengthening Families Program** builds on family strengths, encourages appreciation for one another,

improves relationships between parents and children, and decreases the likelihood of family conflict and risky behavior. At each of the seven week sessions you will enjoy a delicious dinner, learn valuable information and techniques, win prizes, and have fun as a family! Our next **Strengthening Families Program** runs on Tuesdays from October 25th to December 6th. Sessions will be held at the Reid Elementary School. Dinner is served at 5:30; the actual sessions begin at 6:00. To sign up for this session or get more information about the program, call the Olmsted Recreation Board at 948-3318 or email Anne Einhorn at aeinhorn@raiderweb.org.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

THIS WON'T BE OUR LAST FLOOD

Mother Nature was in a really bad mood this year. Blizzards in the Midwest and Northeast. Tornadoes in the Midwest and Southeast. Floods along the Mississippi River. Wild fires in the Southwest. Drought in Texas. Hurricane Irene damaging the East Coast and New England. Even an earthquake in Virginia.

Before just the third quarter was over, our area had already set a new record for annual rainfall – over five feet of rain. (The previous record was 59.27 inches for all twelve months in 1972; the year of Tropical Storm Agnes.) Recently, storms, then Hurricane Irene, and then Tropical Storm Lee came in rapid succession. Chances are, if you had a basement, it had water in it. And our neighbors in the Jednota Flats and along the Swatara Creek were devastated from flooding.

It is no surprise that a risk assessment of Dauphin County and Lower Swatara Township reveals the most common and most probable disaster to strike our area is, and will remain, flooding. While we cannot control the weather, we can certainly prepare for our most common weather events which can improve our odds against damage to our homes and property, or at least make our recovery easier.

You can make your home more flood resistant by doing a few things where possible.

- Raise your electrical service, breaker box, switches, receptacles and other components above your home's projected flood elevation.
- Relocate your furnace, water heater, washer/dryer, and other appliances from the basement to a higher floor, or at least elevate them on blocks.
- When heavy rains or flooding is forecast, move important documents, photographs, and valuables to a safe place.
- When flooding is likely, move your furniture to a higher level and park your cars, boats, and campers on high ground.
- Make sure your sump pump is 100% and install a battery powered backup in case the electricity fails. Be

sure all drains and pipes are unobstructed.

- Anchor fuel tanks, sheds, and any other items that could float and possibly block drainage pathways or pipes.

Some of these actions require significant cash to do; some will cost nothing. But all will make your ability to withstand or recover from a flood easier.

If you live in a high risk area, your home is more than twice as likely to be damaged by flooding than by fire, but standard homeowners insurance doesn't cover flooding. To cover this gap in protection, the federal government created the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). Building and/or contents coverage is available to all property owners and renters whether they live in the middle of a flood plain or on top of a hill. As can be expected, the closer you approach and get into a flood plain, the more your premiums will be. The insurance can be a significant expense, and the deductible steep, but when you suffer major losses from flooding, it's all worth it. Some people choose not to have NFIP coverage with the belief that FEMA will provide money. This is a dangerous practice for several reasons. If the flooding damaging your home occurs without a presidential disaster declaration, there will be no FEMA money. If FEMA money is provided, it may only be a small fraction of what you need for temporary housing, cleanup or demolition of your damaged home, and restoring or rebuilding your home, or it may be in the form of a loan. And if you accept FEMA money from one disaster, do not expect to get anything after the next disaster.

For more information on the NFIP, estimated premium cost, your home's level of risk, and agents providing insurance in your area, please go to:

**<http://www.floodsmart.gov/floodsmart/>
or call toll free 1-888-379-9531**



**The Township is in the process of compiling an email database
in order for us to email residents timely information (such as this newsletter)**

Please email us at info@lowerswatara.org

if you'd like to be included in these future mailings.

LOWER SWATARA POLICE DEPARTMENT



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR DEPARTMENT OFFICERS!

Sergeant Scott Young and Officer Jeffrey Webb will both be receiving the Heroism Award for their actions on 9/7/11 at 1400hrs. On this date and time Sgt. Young and Off. Webb rescued a woman who was trapped inside her car that was almost completely submerged in flood waters. They pulled the victim to safety through her driver's door window, risking their own safety in the process. Both officers entered the waters in full uniform up to their chest to rescue the victim, who was in serious danger.

Also Officers Mark Sallada and Jamie Ecker will both be recognized as Officers of the Month for September 2011 for their above and beyond actions and leadership displayed during the flood emergency and chaos in Lower Swatara Township. Both officers played a great role in keeping Township citizens safe, calm, and informed during this emergency situation.

The Lower Swatara Township Police would like to remind residents that parking, storing, or letting stand any bus, camper, house coach, house trailer, trailer-house, motor home, recreational trailer, truck camper, wrecker, special mobile equipment, or similar vehicles on any public highway is prohibited by Township Ordinance §15-404 Parking of Nonpersonal Use Vehicles on any Public Highway. Violators may be fined up to \$25 plus court costs per violation.



LOWER SWATARA VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

The Lower Swatara Fire Department has been busy all year running emergency calls throughout the Township and the surrounding area; the department was on track for a record year of responses totaling over 600 calls. September was a month no one will forget, not only in Lower Swatara Township, but all surrounding areas. Tropical Storm Lee hit the area hard with over 15 inches of rain which caused all the local rivers, streams and low lying areas to flood. The Lower Swatara Fire Department started its run on Wednesday morning and was not completed until late Sunday night, with 24 hour staffing for the entire stretch. The crews worked countless hours doing everything from evacuations to rescuing stranded victims from homes and cars. The Lisa Lake area was hit especially hard with flooding. Emergency crews from all over the area came to assist company 59 with rescuing over 68 victims and evacuating countless more, including a number of pets.

The crews also responded to numerous calls regarding water in basements, gas leaks, emergency medical calls, and structure collapses in the Township area. Company 59's water rescue unit was activated in neighboring areas including Hummelstown, Middletown, and Highspire. The department's heavy rescue was also busy with structure collapses in Derry Township and Middletown Borough. The Lower Swatara Fire Department answered over 169 calls in the month of September — a record for the company in a

single month — with most of them coming from the first two days of flood-related calls.

While the crews at FDLS worked hard, we were not the only department; every company in Dauphin County was out answering numerous calls for assistance. With the flood now over, the department is still working hard answering calls, but not without the support of the community.



~ FUNDRAISER ~

The company also has participated in a calendar event hosted by Service 1st Restoration that will help raise money for the American Red Cross as well as our own department. If you are interested please call the station or email us for a calendar. The calendars are \$15.00 dollars; half of the proceeds will be donated to the American Red Cross with the other half going to the fire department.

To keep up-to-date with the Lower Swatara Fire Department, from calls to events, please check out our website at LowerSwataraFire.com.

RECYCLING GUIDELINES

Acceptable Items to Recycle



METAL:

- Aluminum beverage cans
- Steel food and beverage cans & aerosol cans

GLASS:

- Clear, brown, & green glass food and beverage containers

PLASTICS:

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

PAPER, PAPERBOARD, & CARDBOARD:

- All sizes of cardboard boxes
- Pizza boxes
- Food boxes (i.e. cereal & Jello boxes)
- *EMPTY* paper towel & toilet paper rolls
- Paperboard packaging (i.e. tissue boxes)
- Office paper (any color)
- Shredded paper (in clear plastic bags please)
- Newspapers & inserts
- Magazines, catalogs & brochures
- Envelopes & junk mail
- Paper bags
- Phone books & other soft cover books

How to Prepare Recyclables

Metal Cans, Glass, & Plastics

- Remove caps/lids
- Rinse thoroughly
- It is okay to leave on labels and neck rings

Paper, Paperboard & Cardboard

- Remove all packaging (Styrofoam, peanuts, plastic, bubble wrap, plastic liners, etc.)
- Flatten ALL boxes/cardboard

- Bundle all cardboard that does not fit into the recycling bin
- Cover loose paper with heavier containers to prevent it from blowing away
- Check weather forecast: If the forecast calls for high winds or rain, keep your recyclables inside until the following week if possible. Wet paper products cannot be reused!

PLEASE DO NOT PUT THESE ITEMS OUT FOR RECYCLING:

- Needles (this is a VERY serious health hazard!)
- Plastic tubs, cups, and trays, Tupperware or disposable plastic containers
- Broken glass, windows, mirrors, ceramics, light bulbs
- Aluminum foil, scrap metal
- Plastic table wear (knives, forks, spoons, etc.)
- All solvent, oil and chemical containers
- Food soiled material, paperboard juice and milk containers, soaked and/or wet papers or cardboard, plastic food wrappers, used paper towels or tissues



EPA 841-F-03-003

Protecting Water Quality from **URBAN RUNOFF**

Clean Water Is Everybody's Business

In urban and suburban areas, much of the land surface is covered by buildings and pavement, which do not allow rain and snowmelt to soak into the ground. Instead, most developed areas rely on storm drains to carry large amounts of runoff from roofs and paved areas to nearby waterways. The stormwater runoff carries pollutants such as oil, dirt, chemicals, and lawn fertilizers directly to streams and rivers, where they seriously harm water quality. To protect surface water quality and groundwater resources, development should be designed and built to minimize increases in runoff.

How Urbanized Areas Affect Water Quality Increased Runoff

The porous and varied terrain of natural landscapes like forests, wetlands, and grasslands traps rainwater and snowmelt and allows them to filter slowly into the ground. In contrast, impervious (nonporous) surfaces like roads, parking lots, and rooftops prevent rain and snowmelt from infiltrating, or soaking, into the ground. Most of the rainfall

The most recent National Water Quality Inventory reports that runoff from urbanized areas is the leading source of water quality impairments to surveyed estuaries and the third-largest source of impairments to surveyed lakes.

Did you know that because of impervious surfaces like pavement and rooftops, a typical city block generates more than 5 times more runoff than a woodland area of the same size?

and snowmelt remains above the surface, where it runs off rapidly in unnaturally large amounts.

Storm sewer systems concentrate runoff into smooth, straight conduits. This runoff gathers speed and erosional power as it travels underground. When this runoff leaves the storm drains and empties into a stream, its excessive volume and power blast out streambanks, damaging streamside vegetation and wiping out aquatic habitat. These increased storm flows carry sediment loads from construction sites and other denuded surfaces and eroded streambanks. They often carry higher water temperatures from streets, roof tops, and parking lots, which are harmful to the health and reproduction of aquatic life.

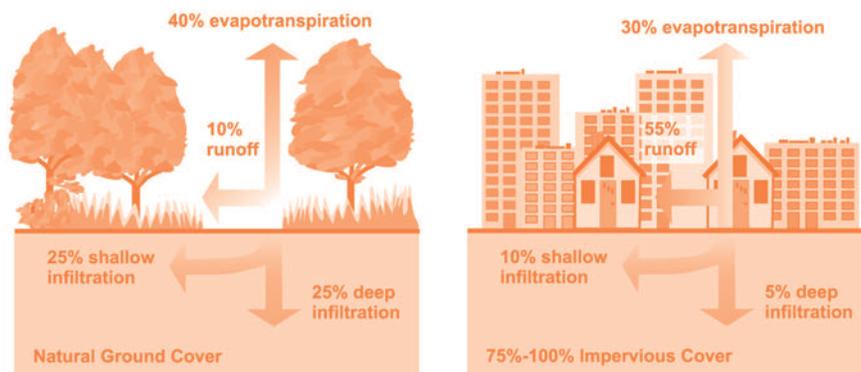
The loss of infiltration from urbanization may also cause profound groundwater changes. Although urbanization leads to great increases in flooding during and immediately after wet weather, in many instances it results in lower stream flows during dry weather. Many native fish and other aquatic life cannot survive when these conditions prevail.

Increased Pollutant Loads

Urbanization increases the variety and amount of pollutants carried into streams, rivers, and lakes. The pollutants include:

- Sediment
- Oil, grease, and toxic chemicals from motor vehicles
- Pesticides and nutrients from lawns and gardens
- Viruses, bacteria, and nutrients from pet waste and failing septic systems
- Road salts
- Heavy metals from roof shingles, motor vehicles, and other sources
- Thermal pollution from dark impervious surfaces such as streets and rooftops

These pollutants can harm fish and wildlife populations, kill native vegetation, foul drinking water supplies, and make recreational areas unsafe and unpleasant.



Relationship between impervious cover and surface runoff. Impervious cover in a watershed results in increased surface runoff. As little as 10 percent impervious cover in a watershed can result in stream degradation.

Lower Swatara Township

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

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



Representative John Payne's 2012 Senior Health Fair is scheduled to take place at the Hummelstown Chemical Fire Company, located at 249 E. Main Street, Hummelstown, on Friday, April 27, 2012 from 9 am until noon. Senior citizens of the 106th legislative district, their families and caregivers, are invited to attend this annual event which provides information on state programs and resources available in the local community.

REPRESENTATIVE PAYNE SCHEDULES HIS 2012 SENIOR HEALTH FAIR

