

Lower Swatara Township

Spring/Summer 2012

LST UPDATE



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Residents,

Although we were blessed with a mild winter, we are all still very anxious to get outside and enjoy the sunshine and warm weather that this season brings. This edition of "LST Update" will provide you with some seasonal information as well as updates from the various departments. I would ask that you read, and retain, the information on the mandatory curbside recycling program. The residential recycling hauler, Penn Waste Disposal, accepts a wide array of items for recycling and the process is easy — everything goes into one container (with the exception of yard waste)! As always, the Township Board and staff are here to serve you. Please don't hesitate to contact us with any questions or comments. — Frank Linn, Sr., President



Front row, left to right: Commissioner Jon Wilt, Commissioner Thomas Mehaffie III, President Frank Linn, Sr., and Vice President William L. Leonard, Jr. Back row, left to right: Commissioner Michael Davies, Township Manager Harry Krot, and State Representative John Payne.

Lower Swatara Township Board of Commissioners was recently presented with the Governor's Award for Local Government Excellence in the category of Building Community Partnerships for its leadership role in the Meade Avenue Project.

FAMILY OUTDOOR MOVIE NIGHT

Shope Gardens Park
Saturday, June 23

Lower Swatara Township
FREE ADMISSION

Movie begins at 8:30 p.m.

Bring blankets, chairs, snacks and enjoy!



Sponsored by:

Lower Swatara Lions Club
Lower Swatara Township
Dauphin County Parks & Recreation

717-599-5188

www.dauphincounty.org/parks-recreation

Commissioners:

Jeff Haste Mike Pries George P. Hartwick, III

The Lower Swatara Lions Club
will be providing free hot dogs, popcorn,
and soda to those attending.
Hope to see you there!

OLMSTED RECREATION BOARD



Middletown Community Pool

MEMBERSHIPS:

RESIDENT — Family: \$225.00 for two adults and two children, \$15.00 for each additional member.

Single: \$150.00

NON-RESIDENT — Family: \$275.00 for two adults and two children, \$20.00 for each additional member.

Single: \$200.00

Memberships can be purchased at the Olmsted Recreation Office located at the lower level of the Main Street Gym, 55 West Water Street Middletown, PA 17057. Daily admission rates also available. Resident rate applies to those living within the Middletown Area School District. Please contact Olmsted Recreation (717) 948-3318 for more information. Pool opens Saturday May 26, 2012.



The Dive-In at the Middletown Community Pool serves Hershey's hand-dipped ice cream, milkshakes, and more. Open to the public via a walk-up window; no admission to the pool required!



Olmsted Recreation is pleased to announce our full day Summer Playground program. The 2012 Summer Playground season will begin on Monday June 11th. The program will be open Monday– Friday from 8:00 am–4:00 pm at the Robert Reid Elementary School. Open to Middletown Area School District students who have completed kindergarten through the fifth grade. For registration information please contact Olmsted Recreation (717) 948-3318. Pre-registration is required.

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, and 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 sessions you will enjoy a family dinner, learn valuable information and techniques, win prizes, and have fun as a family!



Drug Free & Violence Free

To sign up for our next available session, or for more information about the program, call Communities That Care at (717) 948-3318.

LOWER SWATARA FIRE DEPARTMENT

Lower Swatara Fire Department
1350 Fulling Mill Road,
Middletown, PA 17057
(717) 986-9059 (Station)
(717) 986-9559 (FAX)

The Fire Department will begin its annual Breakfast Buffet starting April 22; it will run through September. Hours are 7:00 A.M. until 11:00 A.M. The breakfasts will be held the fourth Sunday of the month at the Fire Department. The Fire Department will be teaming up with the American Red Cross of Harrisburg and running a bloodmobile during the Breakfast Buffet. Please stop out and Support your Local Fire Department and The American Red Cross. Visit our Website for more information: www.lowerswatarafire.com

The American Legion Post 594 in Middletown recently honored Lower Swatara Fire Department members Justin Lenker, Justin Chenault, Trevor Eiswerth, Ryan Klass, Jim Murphy, Kenny Martinez and Jonathan Lutiuk as Firefighters of the Year. These seven members were in the station when Tropical Storm Lee hit the area on Wednesday morning, and they continued to respond to calls until late Sunday night. The Department would like to thank the American Legion for honoring our members.

The Department has taken delivery of a 2012 Ferrara fire engine. The engine, which will carry the designation Engine 59-1, will replace the old Engine 59-1 a 1978 Mack, which will be retired due to escalating repair costs to keep it up to standards and to better serve the community.



The Lower Swatara Fire Department has teamed up with Scotts Lawn Service this year. Scotts will donate \$10.00 to the Fire Department if any new customer signs up for lawn service with Scotts and mentions the Lower Swatara Fire Department.

LOWER SWATARA EMS

Even Smart People Do Dumb Things . . .

Television has lots of programs celebrating otherwise smart people doing stupid things. Shows like America's Funniest Home Videos, World's Worst Drivers, World's Dumbest Criminals, Dumbest Stuff on Wheels, and of course YouTube entertain us with folks wrecking their cars, their homes, their employment, and their bodies. It's great stuff to watch, funny even, but that's because the people in the films are stuck with the consequences, and not us. But even smart people do dumb things. See if you're guilty of any of the following examples.

HOME – Do you ever use a ladder too short to safely get you where you need to reach? Ever leave your doors unlocked when you're away? Leave stuff on the stairs? Are your firearms safe from children? Is your sidewalk in good repair? So what are the chances someone will sue you?

FIRE – Are all of your smoke detectors operable with fresh batteries? Do you leave cooking unattended? Do you ever clean your chimney? Do you have an escape plan and meeting place for your family? Do you burn outside when it's dry or windy? Incidentally, you need a burn permit every time you burn.

DRIVING – Do you tailgate, drive aggressively, speed, or drive on snow, ice and rain like the road is dry? While you drive, do you eat, talk on the cell phone, text, put on makeup, or do anything else that distracts you from your primary mission – driving? Most people fail to realize that the few seconds they might save doing these things could never compensate for the extra time it will take for a police officer to write out a citation; for you to exchange licenses and information with the driver of another car you've scraped or crunched; sitting in a hospital emergency room waiting to be treated or waiting for results for yourself, or someone you've hurt; arranging for another vehicle while yours is being repaired. And paying - in more than your time - for all of these things.

WEATHER – Do you tune out weather forecasts for thunderstorms, flash flooding, snow, high winds, or ice? Do you have a weather alert radio? Are you ever unprepared for whatever Mother Nature throws at us? The British have a saying – There is no bad weather, only improperly prepared people.

FLOODING – Do you ever think the water won't get high enough to be a problem? Do you fail to move your car, boat, camper when flooding is forecast? Are your important papers in an elevated or safe place? Have you ever driven around a barricade? Check out the YouTube video of what happens that you can't see under the water to a road http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p_uqPR4lr5o. Watch it to the end, you'll be impressed.

Reading this will get you thinking about safety again. Do what's necessary to keep you, your family, and those around you protected from harm. Sure, some people will blow off this friendly advice. And we can watch them on television and YouTube.

MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY

The September 2011 flood waters rose so much that the Jamesway Plaza Pumping Station was flooded with 5-6 feet of flood waters causing damage to all of the electrical and pumping equipment inside the building. A pump was rented to try to avoid this from happening but the water rose too quickly for the pumps to keep up. The pumping station was back on-line in early December due to very many hours of clean-up and repair by the Authority staff and a few contractors, with final completion being commenced in early March of 2012.



The first photo below shows the pumping station the day after the flood, and the second photo shows it after the upgrades were completed.

FINANCE DEPARTMENT

ACT 511 TAX BILL

In the near future most of the township residents who are between the ages of 18 and 72 will have received their annual Act 511 Tax bills. Sometimes these are referred to as the Per Capita and Occupation Taxes. Others call them nuisance taxes. It is important that you contact the Township if you did not receive a bill.

With today's economy, many more students are attempting to save funds by enrolling at HACC to begin their post secondary education. The local school districts all help to support HACC. Because of the support from the sponsoring district, each student can attend at a greatly reduced cost per credit. Thus it is required to show proof of payment of the Act 511 Tax. If you do not have a paid tax receipt, you may be expected to pay full tuition.

If you do not earn more than \$5,000.00 in the calendar year, you may apply to be exonerated from the Occupation Tax. You will still be required to pay the Per Capita Tax. Please do not confuse these taxes with the Earned Income Tax (EIT) or the Local Services Tax (LST) which are payroll related deductions. On rare occasions, an individual may receive a duplicate bill. Please do not ignore the second bill but bring it to the tax preparer's attention. Otherwise, the duplicate bill may be turned into the delinquent tax collector. The face amount of the two taxes is \$35.00. Failure to pay will lead to increased costs and fees to the delinquent tax collector.

Please feel free to call us with any questions.

DON'T RUSH TO FLUSH!

Toilets are only meant for one activity; when the wrong thing is flushed, results can include costly backups on your own property or problems at your local wastewater treatment plant. Don't rush to flush any items like: baby wipes and diapers, rags and towels, cotton swabs, syringes, candy and other food wrappers, clothing labels, cleaning sponges, toys, plastic items of any description, aquarium gravel or kitty litter, rubber items such as latex gloves, cigarette butts, sanitary napkins, hair, underwear, disposable toilet brushes.



TURF RUNNER 300 DONATED TO THE TOWNSHIP

Commissioner Tom Mehaffie recently purchased a used Turf Runner 300 and donated this piece of equipment to the Township Public Works Department. This sprayer, which was purchased for \$2,500, uses liquid fertilizer rather than granules. Since this type of fertilizer is less costly, it will save the Township tax dollars. In addition, it will allow the Public Works Department to address all the fields.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

NO GRASS CLIPPINGS IN THE STREET!

The Police Department receives complaints every spring/summer season regarding grass clippings in the street.

Placing grass clippings in the street is a violation of

Township ordinance, since it will result in clogged sewer drains. The Police Department upon receiving a complaint or observing this violation, can cite the home owner/business for this violation. The

Township is requesting all property owners to dispose of their grass clippings in a timely manner after cutting grass. Your cooperation will be greatly appreciated.



CURFEW

Citizens are reminded that no minor child under the age of 18 years shall be upon any of the public streets, highways, alleys, parks or other public places of Lower Swatara Township after the hour of 11:00 P.M, provided, however, that the following exceptions do not apply:

1. Such minor child is accompanied by his or her parent, guardian, or other person having legal care or custody of the child, or by a person of good repute over the age of 21 years.
2. Such minor child, under the direction of his or her parent, guardian or other person having legal care or custody of the child, is in the performance of an errand or duty.
3. Such minor child has bona fide employment which makes it necessary for him or her to be upon public streets, highways, alleys, parks or other public places after the hour of 11:00 P.M.

The Township provides fines and penalties for curfew violations, so parental responsibility is encouraged.



CODES OFFICE

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 grill on 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 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 lighting 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.

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

RECYCLING: YARD WASTE COLLECTION

Residents should keep in mind that in accordance with Pennsylvania’s recycling mandates, the disposal of any type of yard and/or woody waste at a landfill is prohibited. Penn Waste, the residential trash/recycling hauler, provides curbside collection of these materials every other week during your regular trash/recycling collection dates from April through November as follows:

April 30 or May 1; May 14 or 15; May 29 or 30; June 11 or 12; June 25 or 26; July 9 or 10; July 23 or 24; August 6 or 7; August 20 or 21; September 4 or 5; September 17 or 18; October 1 or 2; October 15 or 16; October 29 or 30; November 12 or 13; November 26 or 27.



Yard Waste Collection Guidelines

Yard Waste is...

Material such as tree trimmings, shrubbery and any other organic landscape vegetation not listed in the exceptions below.

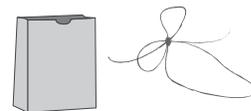


Questions?

Contact Penn Waste — 1-866-575-8720
www.pennwaste.com

How to Prepare Yard Waste

1. Place yard waste in biodegradable brown paper bags or bundle it with biodegradable twine in easy-to-handle bundles
 - Bundles may be no longer than four feet in length.
 - Bundles may not weigh more than 30 pounds each.
 - Branches may not exceed six inches in diameter.
2. Once prepared, yard waste must be placed at the curb on the scheduled pick up day before 5:00 A.M.
3. 10 bags or bundles of yard waste maybe placed at the curb.



Use a paper bag or bundle with twine!

DO NOT place these items out for yard waste collection:



Grass Clippings



Fruits & Vegetables



Tree Stumps



Dirt & Stones

Please prepare your yard waste properly.

Yard Waste in plastic bags WILL NOT be collected!

Lower Swatara Township

1499 SPRING GARDEN DRIVE
MIDDLETOWN, PA 17057

Phone: 939-9377 • Fax: 939-5682

WE'RE ON THE WEB!
VISIT US AT LOWERSWATARA.ORG

PRSR STD
US POSTAGE
PAID
HARRISBURG PA
PERMIT NO. 592



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.

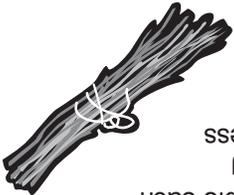
Seated, left to right: Frank Linn, Sr., President & William L. Leonard, Jr., Vice President. Standing, left to right: Michael J. Davies, Secretary, Thomas L. Mehaftie III, Jon G. Witt.



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

MIDDLETOWN WOODY WASTE RECYCLING FACILITY

Attention Lower Swatara Township residents: You may purchase a permit for use of Middletown Borough's woody waste recycling facility. Permit and Access Card can be obtained at the Middletown Borough Building (60 W. Emaus S., Middletown) Monday thru Friday, 8:00 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. Cost is \$40.00/year, renewable each January. Operation hours of the recycling center are on a 24/7 basis with your access card.



Woody waste consists of the following: leaves, twigs, branches, brush, bushes, shrubbery, undergrowth, vines, kindling, driftwood, wood chips, or an organic material. Please note: the center does NOT accept grass clippings. Mulch is also available. If residents want help loading mulch during business hours, they may contact the Middletown Borough Public Works Director at 948-3054 to schedule a time.