

Lower Swatara Township

Spring/Summer 2013

LST UPDATE

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear Residents,

Welcome to the Spring/Summer edition of our Township newsletter, "LST Update." We hope you take some time to browse through the information provided by our various departments and agencies.

I would ask that you carefully review page 10 of the newsletter, as it recaps the recycling requirements in the Township. With "single

stream recycling," it is easier than ever for our residents to recycle. All recyclables go into one container and do not need to be separated. We do ask that you use good judgment and not place your recyclables out on windy or rainy days. Page 11 provides details of the curbside pick-up of yard waste. This collection is performed by Penn Waste, the residential hauler, and is scheduled every other week during your regular trash/recycling collection during the months of April through November.

If you have computer access, another informational tool is our website, lowerswatara.org. Directories, minutes, agendas, upcoming events, etc., are posted on the website. In addition, our staff is always ready to assist you with any questions or concerns you may have. They are available Monday thru Friday, from 8:00 A.M. through 4:00 P.M.

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.

Speaking of staff, I am extremely proud of ours here at the Township. You may have heard on the news about a recent recovery by the Lower Swatara Township Police Department of handguns that were stolen from parked, unlocked vehicles. I would like to take this opportunity to express my pride in the work of our Police Department. The American Legion also paid appreciation to both the Police Department and the Fire Department during its annual banquet. At that time, Robert Appleby (top photo, center) was honored as "Police Officer of the Year" and Jason Brown (bottom photo, left) was honored as "Firefighter of the Year." We congratulate both of these gentlemen on receiving these awards and for their dedication to Lower Swatara Township.

Wishing you all a safe and enjoyable summer.

— Frank Linn, Sr., President



GENERAL INFORMATION



LOWER SWATARA TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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

LOWER SWATARA TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

1499 SPRING GARDEN DRIVE | MIDDLETOWN, PA 17057

Administrative Office

(717) 939-9377 (PHONE) | (717) 939-5682 (FAX)

Website: lowerswatara.org

Police Department

Emergency: 911

Non-Emergency (717) 558-6900

Board Meeting Schedule

(All meetings begin at 7:00 P.M. unless otherwise advertised)

Dates Listed in Parenthesis are Workshop Meetings

May (1), 15; June (5), 19; July (3), 17; Aug. (7), 21;

Sept. (4), 18; Oct. (2), 16; Nov. (6), 20; Dec. (4), 18.

Planning Commission Meeting Schedule

(All meetings begin at 7:00 P.M. unless otherwise advertised)

May 23; June 27; July 25; Aug. 22; Sept. 26; Oct. 24; Nov. 21; Dec. 19.

RECREATION

Commissioners Jeff Haste Mike Preis George P. Hartwick, III
present

FAMILY OUTDOOR MOVIE NIGHT

Saturday, June 22

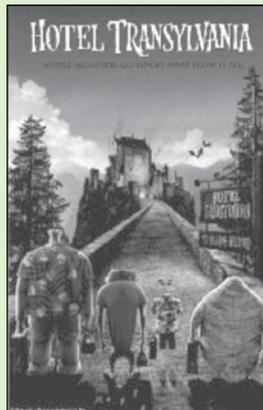
Shope Park • Lower Swatara township

FREE ADMISSION

Movie begins at 8:30 p.m.

Bring blankets, chairs, snacks and enjoy!

Children's activities will be provided starting at 7:30 p.m. by
Dauphin County Drug and Alcohol Services



Sponsored by:

Lower Swatara Lions Club

Lower Swatara Townships

Dauphin County Parks & Recreation

717-599-5188

www.dauphincounty.org/parks-recreation

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



The Public Works Department purchased a ball field groomer that has made spring preparation of the fields faster and requires less manpower. The groomer helps provide a safer playing surface for the children and saves money on field materials.



Swale and drainage improvements at Woodridge Park.

RECREATION BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE

(All meetings begin at 6:00 P.M.)
September 4; November 6

MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY

NEW SEWER BILLING SOFTWARE

In the upcoming months you will notice a new look to your sewer bills. The Municipal Authority is in the process of acquiring a new sewer billing software system. Along with a new look will come some new features for our residents such as:

- Online Customer Account Access, allowing customers to view, print, and pay bills online.
- Electronic Bill will email customers, notifying them that their bills are available online.
- Credit Card Payments (convenience fees will be paid by customer).
- Automatic deduction from your checking or savings account.

SEWER REPLACEMENT PROJECT

The Municipal Authority of Lower Swatara Township has hired a contractor to replace approximately 1,750 feet of existing sanitary sewer main piping between Blacklatch Lane and Powderhorn Road. Manholes and portions of the sanitary sewer piping have been sinking along this stretch, resulting in grease buildup in manholes creating blockages that require frequent cleaning. It has also created bellies in the pipeline which prevent maintenance activities. The project is estimated to start in early to mid summer and continue through summer and into early fall. Sewer service is not expected to be interrupted during construction.

We ask for your cooperation and understanding during this work period. You may contact Lower Swatara Township Municipal Authority with any questions or concerns.

DIGGING?

Call PA One Call System at "811" Before You Dig!

LOWER SWATARA TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY

1499 Spring Garden Drive | Middletown, PA 17057
(717) 939-7633



Municipal Authority Meeting Schedule

(All meetings begin at 7:00 P.M. unless otherwise advertised)

**May 20, June 24, July 22, August 26, September 23,
October 28, November 25, December 16**



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.

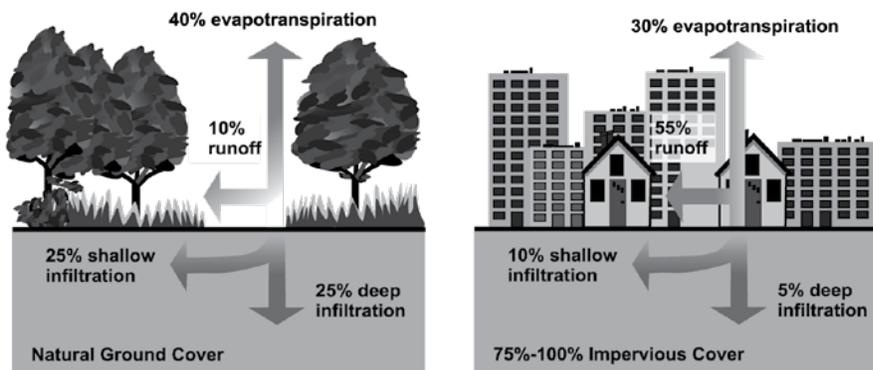
The loss of infiltration from urbanization may also cause profound groundwater changes. Although urbanization leads to great increases in flooding during and immediately after wet weather, in many instances it results in lower stream flows during dry weather. Many native fish and other aquatic life cannot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

FIRE DEPARTMENT

LOWER SWATARA FIRE DEPARTMENT
1350 Fulling Mill Road | Middletown, PA 17057
717-986-9059
Website: lowerswatarafire.com

From the Desk of the Fire Chief
Fire Chief Christopher DeHart
chief591@lowerswatarafire.com

As the Fire Chief of the Lower Swatara Fire Department, I would like to introduce you to your department. The men and women who make up the department are working hard to become a dynamic force in the community we serve. We stand ready not only to respond to your emergencies, but also to help prevent your tragedies.



By letting you know who and where we are and the type of services we provide, it is our hope that you will support our efforts by recognizing hazards and taking the proper preventive measures to ensure your safety. Of course, if an emergency occurs, I promise that dialing 9-1-1 will bring the best help available.

As you continue to depend and rely on our services, we remain committed to providing the highest quality of fire protection and prevention services available.

The Lower Swatara Fire Department is ready to respond 365 days a year for your emergency. Comprised of over 40 active volunteers, we are prepared to respond 24-hours-a-day when you call for help. The department has a large cache of equipment to handle or stabilize

most emergencies. Your department is equipped with two fire engines, one heavy rescue, one tanker, two water rescue boats, one utility support vehicle and three chief command vehicles.

We respond on average to over 600 emergencies per year. Building fires, fire alarms and vehicle accidents make up a majority of our incidents. If you ever have an emergency **Dial 9-1-1**.

Training

The members of the Lower Swatara Fire Department train on a weekly basis to handle whatever emergency may arise. These members dedicate themselves to protect our community. They spend countless hours in classrooms preparing themselves for the next call!

Volunteers

The Lower Swatara Volunteer Fire Department is in need of good volunteers. You need no experience, just the will to learn. We need assistance in the following areas: Response to Emergencies/Fire Police
 Fund Raising
 Fire Department Auxiliary
 Administrative Duties

If you feel you can help serve your community and our department please feel free to request an application from your membership committee. Can you fill the boot? We look forward to hearing from you!

UPCOMING FUNDRAISERS

Sunday Breakfasts 4th Sunday

April thru Sept. (7:00 A.M. to 11:00 A.M.)

Sunday Dinners 3rd Sunday

Jan thru Oct. (11:00 A.M. until sold out)

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (EMA)

SITUATIONAL AWARENESS

The term situational awareness has been used in the military community for quite a while, and the term is now in everyday use by the police, fire-rescue, and EMS. Simply put, situational awareness means being aware of what is going on around you. It sounds so simple, yet we often fail to pay attention to things that can harm us until we're harmed.

Did you ever walk along a street or through a parking lot more focused on your cell phone conversation or text than on the guy walking behind you? Ever drive up to standing water or a back up caused by an accident when that information would have been available from a traffic report? Ever drive along, lost in your music, a phone call, a text, a burger, or adjusting your makeup instead of keeping track of the cars around you? Ever get caught in a rain storm without a rain coat, lose items in your basement from flooding, or pull branches off your damaged car because you didn't know about the big storm that was coming? Ever think that a backpack or package is in a place you wouldn't expect it to be and not report it? If something doesn't sound right, doesn't smell right, or doesn't "feel" right, listen to that inner voice and posture yourself to meet, or better yet, avoid the threat.

There are a number of tools available to give you information.

South Central Alert – This is a free notification service available through the South-Central Pennsylvania Task Force. You can sign up to receive alerts about any significant condition or situation that could adversely affect you. Register on-line at www.sctfpa.org. There, you can select the type of alerts you'd like to receive, enter one or more locations (e.g., work or home), and select the ways you'd like to be alerted, such as text, e-mail, or cell phone, and the priority for each. If you are unable to register on-line, you can complete a form available through the Dauphin County Emergency Management Agency.



Alert PA – This is also a free notification service and is provided by the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency. Sign up at alert.pa.gov to receive emergency, weather, health, and other information. Like South Central Alert, you can request notification on e-mail, cell phone, pager, or smart phone.

Weather Alert Radio – These radios are designed to remain silent until the National Weather Service or emergency management agency activates a series of tones. Then your radio will broadcast the warning, such as severe thunderstorm, tornado, flash flood, winter storm, etc. Weather Alert Radios are available on-line or at Radio Shack, Best Buy, and other such stores and range in price from \$25.00 to \$90.00.

Remember, you get what you pay for.

Television and Radio – Certain television and radio channels are members of the Emergency Alert System, broadcasting emergency alerts. Some of our local stations are:

- WHP 580 AM Radio
- WRVW 97.3 FM Radio
- WHP TV 21
- WKBO 1230 AM Radio
- WNNK 104.1 FM Radio
- WHTM TV 27

Cell Phone Apps – There are a number of apps for cell phones, computers, i-Pads and the like from news agencies, school districts, and government agencies.

There are a number of agencies at the local, county, state, and federal level – police, fire, EMS, EMA, Homeland Security, the military – whose primary function is to protect you. But they can't be everywhere, all the time, for everyone. No one has more control over your safety and the safety of your family, and no one has a bigger stake than you. Situational awareness will add to your margin of safety.

FINANCE OFFICE

By the first of July, most of you will have received your 2013 Act 511 tax bill from Berkheimer Tax Administrators. 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 have earned \$5,000.00 during the calendar year 2013, you may apply for exoneration from the occupation portion only of the bill. Interest, pensions, and social security are not considered as earned income for this purpose. You will still be responsible for the per capita portion. You request exoneration by merely checking the "low income" box on the invoice. 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 third year that Berkheimer has both printed our bills and collected our bills. 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.

2013 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.

Also, we want to remind you that all Dauphin County municipalities and school districts now use Keystone Collections for both the Earned Income Tax and the Local Services Tax. The goal is to streamline the collections for greater efficiency. The Dauphin County Treasurer is still acting as tax collector for the County/Township real estate taxes. The school district real estate taxes are still being collected by Fulton Bank.

Please call the township building if you have any questions.

PURCHASE A DOG LICENSE ON-LINE THROUGH PADOGLICENSE.COM

The Dauphin County Commissioners approved the selection of PADogLicense.com to process all online dog licenses for the County Treasurer's office. Residents are able to purchase dog license through this secure site using their credit or debit card or checking account. Dog owners who register their dogs through the online site will be able to print a paper license immediately. The numbered metal tag will be mailed to the dog owner a few days following the online purchase.



Dog owners are encouraged to visit PADogLicense.com to purchase their annual licenses, which run with the calendar year and must be renewed annually. Lifetime licenses are also available, but must be purchased directly from the Treasurer's Office. Instructions are available on the County's website, www.DauphinCounty.org.

Questions may be directed to Janis Creason, Dauphin County Treasurer, at (717) 780-6550 or treasurer@dauphinc.org.

BUILDING CODES DEPARTMENT

Meet Our New Staff Members

DONALD FURE BUILDING CODE OFFICIAL

Meet Donald Fure, Building Code Official. Don joined the Township staff on October 22, 2012, replacing long time Commercial Inspector / Building Code Official Glenn Snavelly, who has retired. Don comes to us with experience doing plan reviews and building inspections as well as working in the construction industry.



He has been working with local municipal governments doing inspection work under the Uniform Construction Code since it became effective as State law in 2004. Prior to that, he enforced building codes adopted by municipal ordinances and the International Property Maintenance Code. His experience being a contractor, combined with his knowledge of the applicable Codes, will allow him to build and maintain good working relationships with the residents and businesses in our Township.

ANGELA YEALY ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Angela Yealy is our new Administrative Assistant for the Codes and Planning and Zoning Department. Angela joined the Township staff on June 25, 2012, replacing long time secretary Darlene Stoudt, who has retired. Angela comes to us as a former Commonwealth employee with over 8 years of clerical and other related work experience and will apply her previous experience as a Clerk Typist to successfully perform her job.

MAY IS NATIONAL BUILDING SAFETY MONTH!

Each week in May highlights a theme for safety. Week 1 is Fire and Safety Awareness, Week 2 is Disaster and Safety Mitigation, Week 3 is Backyard and Pool Safety and Week 4 is Energy and Green Building. Information may be found at www.buildingsafetymonth.org.

Any resident or commercial establishment is welcome to contact one of the Township's inspectors with any safety or code questions anytime Monday thru Friday, 8:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. Requested safety inspections may be done, time permitting.



Reminder for Commercial Establishments

Please remember if changing the key to the entry doors of your building, you must contact the Lower Swatara Fire Company at 717-986-9059 to have the keys changed in the Knox box. If you are unsure if the keys in the Knox box are the same as the entry doors, please schedule an appointment with the fire department to have the keys checked. A properly keyed Knox box allows for rapid entry to the building in case of an emergency and prevents unnecessary damage to the building.



Recycle Today To Save Tomorrow!



Here's how you can help:

1. Place your recycling bin out for collection on your scheduled pick up day.
2. When placing paper products in recycling bins with other recyclables, be sure paper is covered by heavier material so it doesn't blow away!
3. Bundle any large loose pieces of cardboard that will not fit in your recycling bin.
4. Check out the guidelines below to learn how to recycle successfully.

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:

NEEDLES (Do NOT place used needles with recycling! This is a serious health hazard for everyone.)

Plastic tubs, cups, & trays

Broken glass

Windows, mirrors, ceramics

Drinking glasses

Aluminum foil

Scrap metal

Tupperware or disposable plastic containers

Plastic tableware, (knives, forks, spoons, etc)

Plastic grocery bags

Light bulbs

All solvent, oil & chemical containers

Paper, Paperboard & Cardboard

Recycle These Items:

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
Junk mail & envelopes
Paper bags
Phone books & other soft cover books

Prepare:

1. Remove all packaging (styrofoam, peanuts, plastic, bubble wrap, plastic liners, etc.)

2. Flatten ALL boxes.
3. Bundle cardboard that does not fit into the recycling bin.
4. Cover loose paper with heavier containers to prevent it from blowing away.
5. Check weather forecast: If the forecast calls for high winds or rain, keep your recycling inside until the following week if possible.

UNACCEPTABLE:

Plastic bags
Food soiled material
Paperboard Juice Containers
Soaked and/or wet papers or cardboard
Plastic food wrappers
Used paper towels or tissues



PO Box 3066
York, PA 17402

RECYCLING: YARD WASTE COLLECTION



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.

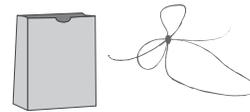


Questions?

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 may be 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!

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 provides curbside collection of these materials every other week during your regular trash/recycling collection. The dates for the remainder of the year are as follows:

May 13 or 14; May 28 or 29; June 10 or 11; June 24 or 25; July 8 or 9; July 22 or 23; August 5 or 6; August 19 or 20; September 3 or 4; September 16 or 17; September 30 or October 1; October 14 or 15; October 28 or 29; November 11 or 12; November 25 or 26.

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

PRSRT STD
US POSTAGE
PAID
HARRISBURG PA
PERMIT NO. 592

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 homeowner/business for this violation. The Township is requesting all property owners to dispose of their grass clippings in an approved manner after cutting grass. Grass clippings can be disposed in your regular trash collection. They may not be put in your woody waste bags. Your cooperation will be greatly appreciated.