

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

We're all in this together. Lower Swatara Township is currently facing the daunting task of establishing a balanced budget for the upcoming year. We understand the need to provide residents the services to which they have all become accustomed. To that end, just as our own households must live within our means, the Township must also live within its means. Rest assured that every budget item will be scrutinized to determine where cutbacks or eliminations can be made.

Better days are ahead. Lower Swatara Township is fortunate in that several new businesses have decided that our central location is a good place to operate. Housing starts have dropped over the last five years, but remained steady from last year thru this year. Slow, but steady growth will keep the Township viable while allowing all of us to adjust to any changes that continue to occur around us. Some of these changes may be mandated, and therefore, out of the control of local government, while others will hopefully occur for the betterment of the

community. In either case, your Commissioners continue to work diligently to assure that this Township remains a safe, clean and happy place to reside. It is my hope that you are proud of your Township, for it is pride that will put us a step ahead of the rest.

Our employees are willing to address any concerns that you may have. Feel free to contact the Township office if at any time you have questions with any services we provide. With the holidays just around the corner, we wish you peace and much happiness.

Frank Linn, Sr., President



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.

Projects under construction:

- Penn State University — Harrisburg new freshmen housing project for 101 students.
- Stoneridge Commerce Park, Lot #6, located at 1421 Stoneridge Drive, occupied by Standard Process of PA, Inc.
- Convert former PA Lottery Building located at 2850 Turnpike Industrial Road to the Data Center of the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission.

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.



FROM THE CODE ENFORCEMENT DEPARTMENT

HOME HEATING SAFETY

Fall is here. Soon it will be Thanksgiving, then Christmas and those long winter nights. Yes, the winter heating season is just a couple of weeks away. Winter brings a change in season and a time to think about home-heating safety.

Facts & Figures

- Nearly half (44%) of all home heating fires occur in December, January and February.
- Heating equipment fires account for 16% of all reported home fires throughout the U.S. each year.
- U.S. fire departments responded to 62,200 home structure fires that involved heating equipment.
- Space heaters, chimneys, and chimney connectors, were involved in one-third of the home heating fires.
- The leading factor contributing to home heating fires (27%) and deaths (53%) is heating equipment too close to things that can burn, such as upholstered furniture, clothing, mattress, or bedding.
- Chimneys and chimney connectors accounted for the largest share (36%) of home heating fire incidents. Failure to clean accounted for two-thirds (64%) of the confined chimney and chimney connector fires.

Priority Safety Tips

- Keep anything that can burn at least three feet (3') from heating equipment (furnace, coal/wood/pellet stove, or portable heater).
- Do not use your oven to heat your home.
- Portable space heaters should be turned off every time you leave the room and before going to bed.
- Supervise children when space heaters are being used.
- Never use or store flammable or combustible liquids in or near rooms with heaters.
- Make sure your fireplace has a sturdy screen to prevent sparks from flying into the room.
- Allow fireplace and woodstove ashes to cool before disposing in a metal container.
- Have your heating equipment, fireplace, coal/wood/pellet stove and chimneys inspected and cleaned every fall just before the heating season.

- Install smoke alarms in every bedroom, outside each sleeping area, and on every level of your home. Test smoke alarms monthly.
- Install and maintain carbon monoxide alarms to avoid the risk of carbon monoxide poisoning.

Electric Portable Space Heaters

- Plug power cords only into outlets with sufficient capacity and never into an extension cord.
- Inspect for cracked, frayed, or broken plugs or loose connections. Replace before using.



Fuel Burning Space Heaters

- Always use the proper fuel specified by the manufacturer and never use gasoline in a heater designed for kerosene. Store fuel in properly labeled containers.
- Refuel in a well-ventilated area, preferably outside, when the heater has cooled.
- Provide adequate ventilation. You may want to open the window a little for fresh air.

Wood-burning Stoves and Fireplaces

- Use only newspaper and kindling wood to start a fire. Never use flammable liquids, such as lighter fluid, kerosene or gasoline to start a fire.
- Burn only dry, well-seasoned wood that has been split, stacked, and allowed to dry for 12 months.
- Use artificial logs according to manufacturer's recommendations.

By taking a few simple precautions, most heating-related fires can be prevented. Best wishes for a warm and safe winter season!

FINANCE DEPARTMENT

Tax Information

By now most of the township residents who are between the ages of 18 and 72 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 tax collector 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 collector'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 the township building or the tax collector with any questions.

LOWER SWATARA EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

The H1N1 Virus gave us a brief preview earlier in the year. But when summer arrived, windows were opened and homes aired out. Schools went into summer vacation and our kids weren't sharing germs on a large scale. The incidence of influenza decreased. But autumn starts the yearly influenza cycle. In addition to the "normal" flu that occurs every year, H1N1 never left us and will reemerge as a major player. Normally, flu affects thousands of people and many die each year, usually the elderly, the very young, and those with other medical conditions. H1N1 is significant because it affects a wider cross section of the population and the effects can be deadly to even strong, healthy individuals.

How to prevent getting H1N1 is not a secret. Federal and state health experts have provided the information in multiple ways. Some are repeated here.

- Cough or sneeze into a tissue and discard it. If you're caught off guard, cough or sneeze into your sleeve. Using your hands will cause your germs to transfer to surfaces you touch, contaminating the people who touch those surfaces after you.
- Don't touch your mouth, nose, or eyes without first washing your hands. These areas allow easy access for germs into your body.
- Clean shared telephones, doorknobs, countertops, and other shared surfaces frequently with a disinfectant. Everyone is not so conscientious about preventing the spread of germs.

- Get a flu shot and get an H1N1 shot when available. It's not a guarantee, but will certainly improve your odds.
- Wash your hands. Wash your hands. Wash your hands. Everything you touch is likely to contain germs. Washing your hands frequently will prevent you from inadvertently introducing a disease into your body when you absent-mindedly rub your eyes, itch your nose, or eat with your hands.
- If you're sick – stay home. It's not fair to share your sickness with your co-workers, schoolmates, and others.

None of this guidance is new and we all know the correct thing to do. But, be honest – do you really practice these measures? Every time? We won't eliminate influenza, but by focusing on doing things right, we can certainly reduce its spread. Let's start today. In worst case scenarios, the influenza could become pandemic in proportions affecting thousands, shutting down schools, businesses, industry, and government. Emergency planning has been initiated and is continuing. But no matter what the government does, you can make the biggest difference in your continued health.



LOWER SWATARA VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

The Lower Swatara Fire Department is a progressive fire department actively embracing new techniques and technology to better serve our community. The fire department is excited to announce the return of Engine 59 that uses a compressed air foam system known as (C.A.F.S.). With this system, foam is introduced with a small amount of water. It extinguishes the fire more efficiently, quickly and with less water, thus reducing damage to a home or property. The C.A.F.S. system used by the department was the first in the area.

The Lower Swatara Fire Department is proud to announce a new live-in program that currently has five members from around Pennsylvania. The live-in members are attending local colleges such as Penn State Harrisburg and Harrisburg Area Community College. These members provide valuable around-the-clock assistance which allows response to emergency fire calls, community events, and fire safety programs.

This year the fire department has responded to over 300 emergency calls and continues to provide first class service to the community. The station conducts many training classes throughout the year and participates with other departments in the area. The Lower Swatara Fire Department has benefited from Assistance to Firefighter grants and received training in Engine Company Opera-

tions, Large Area Search and Rescue, and Firefighter Survival. The classes were provided by instructors from big cities including New York, Jersey City, New Jersey, Washington, D.C. and here in Pennsylvania. The training sessions have helped refine skills in fire attack, search and rescue, and firefighter survival. The department conducts in-house fire training on Mondays throughout the year. The Fire Department would like to thank all those who made the Open House a great success this year.

SANTA IS COMING TO THE FIREHOUSE ON SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5, AT 9 A.M.

The Fire Department Auxiliary would like to invite you to Breakfast with Santa on Saturday, December 5, 2009, from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m.

Come on out and enjoy the morning with the fire department members and Santa Claus.



LEAF COLLECTION SCHEDULED

This schedule will be followed each week, from October 26 through December 11, 2009. Holidays and periods when leaves fall rapidly may cause temporary disruption in the schedule. Please remember that NO limbs, branches, grass clippings, flowers or **mulched** leaves will be picked up as these items may cause damage to Township equipment. Leaves should be placed on the curb, rather than in the street.

Mondays & Tuesdays

Shopes Gardens area, Greenwood Hills, Woodridge

Wednesdays

Bryn Gweled, Greenplains, Rosedale areas, Twelve Oaks, Jednota Flats

Thursdays & Fridays

Longview Acres & Old Reliance Farms

All other outlying areas will be scheduled as needed.





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.

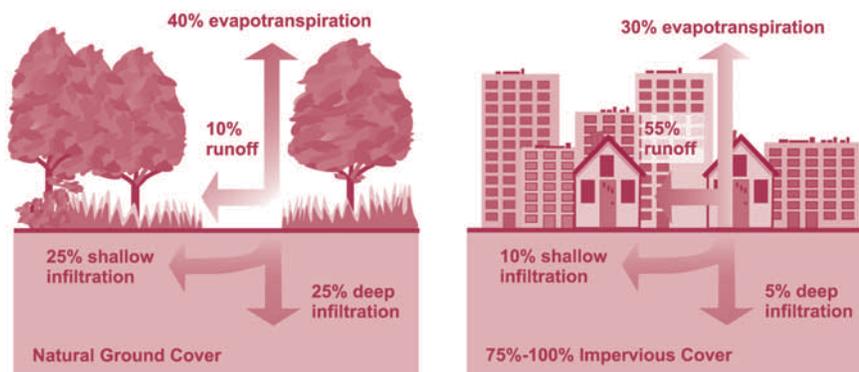
The loss of infiltration from urbanization may also cause profound groundwater changes. Although urbanization leads to great increases in flooding during and immediately after wet weather, in many instances it results in lower stream flows during dry weather. Many native fish and other aquatic life cannot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

Seated: President Frank D. Linn, Sr. (left) and Vice President William L. Leonard, Jr.
Standing, left to right: Commissioner Robert L. Loych, Commissioner Lauren LeVan-Williams, and Commissioner Thomas R. Clark.

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YARD WASTE RECYCLING

Penn Waste collects yard waste material from Lower Swatara Township residents. **Yard waste will be collected every other week, the same day as your regular trash/recycling collection.** This program continues through November. Collection will begin promptly at 5:00 A.M., so please have your materials at the curb prior to this. Residents are allowed to place up to ten (10) bags per collection. Yard Waste materials will be defined as tree trimmings, shrubbery, and any other organic landscape vegetation. Materials should be packaged as follows: Place items in your biodegradable brown kraft bags (available at Lowe's, Home Depot, etc.) or tie in easily handled bundles.

- Bundles should be no longer than three feet in length.
- Bundles should not weigh more than 30 lbs. each.
- Branches should not exceed 8 inches in diameter.
- The following items should NOT be placed out for Yard Waste Collection:
- **Grass clippings, dirt or stones, fruits and/or vegetables, any material in a plastic bag.**



WE RECYCLE . . .

- Glass food & beverage bottles and jars (lids and caps should be removed and placed in your garbage container)
- Aluminum, steel and bi-metal food and beverage cans (lids and caps should be removed and placed in your garbage container)
- Aerosol cans (lids and caps should be removed and placed in your garbage container)
- Plastic bottles with "necks" (#1 thru #7): water & soda bottles, detergent bottles, etc. (lids and caps should be removed and placed in your garbage container)
- Paper (newspaper, inserts, magazines, phone books, catalogs, junk mail, office paper, paperboard such as cereal and shoe boxes). Mixed paper should be placed in a paper bag or tied in bundles and placed inside or on top of recycling bins.
- Cardboard (flatten/pull boxes apart, cut cardboard to 15" x 15" or less to fit in truck). Multiple pieces of corrugated cardboard must be tied and placed next to the recycling bin.