Lancaster Township Newsletter

Lancaster Township Community Center

Did you know that both township and non-township residents can rent the Lancaster Township Community Center for any number of special events, such as reunions, graduations, bridal & baby showers, or any other number of functions. The winter of 2018 brought about many unique changes to the Community Center. The building was renovated, ensuring that it remained period specific, the stage was rebuilt, original chalkboard refinished, walls redone, and the restroom facilities which were previously an add-on were completely renovated. Additional information on renting the Lancaster Township Community Center, including a calendar of availability can be found at http://lancaster-township.com/bauder-park/.

Lancaster Township Police Department

Unwanted & unused prescription drugs are a danger in anyone’s home. Neighboring communities Jackson Township and Cranberry Township both offer drug take back boxes. These are located adjacent to their Police Department offices and are available during normal business hours. NO NEEDLES OR OTHER SHARPS ARE ACCEPTED IN THESE BOXES. Allow this to serve as a reminder to consider going through old or unused prescriptions, take the opportunity to dispose properly of them safely and securely.

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has declared a Disaster Emergency as a result of the opioid epidemic sweeping the nation. Doing so reduces the barriers and red tape to seeking assistance and help in these trying times that so many families are subjected to. Lancaster Township is no exception, in 2017 there were 24 drug related arrests, 4 drug overdoses, including a fatality and multiple instances where first responders needed to use the opioid blocking inhalant, Naloxone (NARCAN). This statewide & national crisis knows no income, age, race, or any other barrier. Please utilize the services that exist to remove unused prescription drugs from your home. If you or a loved one is suffering and in need of help, dial 1-800-662-HELP (4357) or visit Pennsylvania Get Help Now at https://apps.ddap.pa.gov/gethelpnow/

With construction projects occurring on Route 19 and many local roads through the Township, the Police will be enforcing motor vehicle and traffic violations 24 hours a day. Exercise caution in work zones, PAY ATTENTION to the traffic control devices, and plan accordingly.

Township Ordinance #73 requires each address in the Township to have a 4” x 1/2” street number sign on your postbox or adjacent to your property. The Harmony Fire District can assist you in getting a reflective marker with your house number. The signs are red with white reflective numbering are available for purchase from the Harmony Fire District. Please contact the Harmony Fire District at 724-452-4046 or visit them at 543 South Main Street in Harmony.

If you or a loved one is in a situation requiring a Police Officer or there is an emergency, please DIAL 911 immediately. Butler County Emergency Services will dispatch the necessary resources. When in doubt, simply DIAL 911. Please remember that safety is everyone’s responsibility. Be Aware—Speak Up. DIAL 911. IF YOU SEE SOMETHING, SAY SOMETHING.

Even in a non-emergency event, dialing 911 will allow Butler County Emergency Services to work to connect you with the on-duty police officer. For the safety and security of all Lancaster Township Police Officers, the staff at the Township Municipal Building are not permitted to request an officer to return to their station. Alternatively, to schedule an appointment with the Lancaster Township Police Department, please dial 724-452-7213, extension 3 or extension 4.

Manager’s Message

No spectrum of government has a more direct and lasting impact on one day to day life than what occurs at your very own local government. While we hear many great reports of services that are provided and interactions with Township employees, we reflect on those successes. As we all strive daily to provide the best possible services to Township residents, customers, and other stakeholders, it becomes apparent that this is no small task and quite simply is a collective undertaking. This task is shared by many dedicated & passionate people tasked with having to provide details, data, and other information that while often is positive, exciting, and excellent, can also be unpleasant or even worse, unpopular. One of the most polarizing subjects facing any local government can be managing growth. The landscape and existing infrastructure the way that it is, growth will continue to dominate the local level on many fronts. Managing growth requires very strategic policies and planning, coupled with a sustained vision to see that to its end. An engaged community will weather these events, but, not without enduring struggles and often times conflict. Developing a long term approach to this issue as well as fostering a deep collaboration by bringing the public officials, private citizens, and business owners together to engage is a mission worth embarking upon. Please join us for the great things today and the greatness to come. The Township administrative staff also works diligently to ensure that up to date, accurate, and necessary information is published on the website. You can find answers to a majority of your questions, be it Land Use, Frequently Requested Resources, and other valuable information. Meeting minutes are also posted online under most requested resources. There are several interactive calendars, allowing at a glance views of Township meetings and the availability of the Lancaster Township Community Center. Never hesitate to contact Benjamin Kramer at 724-452-7213, extension 2 or by email at bkramer@lancaster-township.com.
April 9—April 13 Lancaster Township participated in Work Zone Awareness Week. Each day the entire staff of the Township participated in a morning toolbox talk in which each person shared an important safety fact, each day ended with a safety stand down. These actions foster a culture of commitment to safety and creates an environment in which everyone understands and acknowledges what is at stake with respect to workplace safety functions and best practices. There may be periods of brief delays along Township maintained roadways, please be patient, the flagging teams will get you through the Township Work Zones in a timely manner. EVERYBODY has a family, a place to get to, a meeting, a practice, and MANY other important functions, lets ALL get HOME safely to enjoy their family. Work zone safety practices also extend to any operations in which a contractor may be working on your property. Any activities in which the roadway is encroached upon require traffic control, including proper work zone signage and flagging controls. Any and all workers conducting any operations along to roadway are required and expected to have these measures in place. The Lancaster Township Police Department, in conjunction with the Lancaster Township Roadmaster will continue enforcement efforts as these issues occur. If there are any questions, please contact Roadmaster Mike Spiker at 724-452-7213, extension 5.

PAVING
Paving operations will be scheduled later for the summer of 2018. Shields Asphalt Paving was awarded the 2018 paving project bid. Work will occur on the following roadways:

1) Woodland Way will be paved in its entirety and wedge curbs installed
2) Camp Run will be paved from the intersection of Scott Ridge Road extending approximately 900 l/f

TAR & CHIP ROAD RESURFACING
Tar & chip operations will be scheduled periodically throughout the summer of 2018. Russell Standard in conjunction with the Lancaster Township Road Department will complete road resurfacing projects on the following roadways:

1) Ascot Ct, Kniess Rd, Little Yellow Creek Rd, Pfeifer Rd, Salt Works Rd, Scott Ridge Road, Seneca Farm Dr, and Swain Hill Rd.

INFRASTRUCTURE
Drainage projects to install additional catch basins and various cross over pipes will be completed by the Lancaster Township Road Department in areas of the following roadways:

1) Salt Works Rd and Swain Hill Road
The Lancaster Township History Center is located behind Sally’s Cider Press on Route 19 in Middle Lancaster. Those interested in local history are welcome to join in on group discussions on Tuesdays or Thursdays, 1PM—3PM and the 3rd Wednesday evening of each month, 6PM—8PM. The History Center has family histories, business interests, farm properties, barn uses and designs, one room school houses that are located in the Township, as well as churches, cemeteries, old photographs, and memorabilia are topics the group has researched. We welcome visitors to stop and see all the interesting local lore the group has assembled. Pictures of old homesteads, family members, and buildings that are long gone are also items the History Center can preserve if you have items to share.

Annually, the Lancaster Township History Center presents “OLD HOME DAY”. Old Home Day will be held Sunday, November 4, 2018. Old Home Day takes place from 1PM—4PM, at the Community Center located adjacent to Kings Alley & Community Center Drive across from the Harmony Fire District Lancaster Township Substation on Route 19. This wonderful event includes a historical speaker, refreshments, door prizes, and a meet & greet. We look forward to sharing this special day with you.

Citizens of Lancaster Township vote at the Lancaster Township Community Center, located adjacent to Kings Alley & Community Center Drive, across from the Harmony Fire District Lancaster Township Substation on Route 19. The 2018 General Election will be held Tuesday, November 6, 2018. Lancaster Township is represented in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives by the 14th District, the Pennsylvania State Senate by the 47th District, and the United States House of Representatives by the 3rd District. Additional information can be obtained from visiting the Butler County Bureau of Elections, located at the Butler County Government Center on the Diamond in downtown Butler. You can also visit www.lancaster-township.com and choose “Find My Elected Official” from the list of Most Requested Items.

As written from Civics Online—Voting gets this writer’s vote every time as the most vital of all cherished civil liberties enjoyed by U.S. citizens. The underlying rationale is dual-pronged and hinges on two indisputable facts. The first is automatic forfeiture of any right to self-imposed adverse circumstances. Secondly, as Boston Tea Party antagonists aptly noted, one cannot expect meaningful relief from burdensome taxation absent zealous representation.

Consistent presence at ballot boxes creates an accurate voice for We the People

Although “one man, one vote" is the bedrock of democracy, far too few citizens even bother to cast their first ballot. That self-evident truth is clearly reflected in numbers that never lie and always speak for themselves. For instance, longitudinal studies conducted during the last three decades consistently reveal a large disproportionality of high-income, older voters with very partisan special interests. This grossly disproportionate voter profile prompts speculation as to how different our world would be with full political participation to protect against the erosion of representative democracy.

Functional Democracy is critical to fulfill Nonprofit U.S. Goals and Civic Missions

Father Time has consistently proven that democracy should never be taken for granted. Instead, it needs considerable nourishment and encouragement from citizens to reach full-scale dimensions. Nonprofit organizations are much more likely to survive and thrive where public esteem and confidence in government is exceptionally high. This outcome stems from greatly enhanced participation and trust of governed citizenry (ies).

Elected Politicians Do Pay Close attention to who does and who doesn’t vote

Elected public representatives are fully aware of who votes as well as who does not vote. All voter demographics and election information is contained in public records. Armed with that insight, politicians then act accordingly. If your locale is heavily populated by non-voters, elected officials naturally tend to ignore residents’ special needs. Such aloofness in turn spawns more resentment and anger among community members that culminates in even lower voting rates. Thus, it is essential that all residents stay on the same page to ensure full hearing of their unique challenges and concerns.

Voting returns multiple side benefits for participants

Those who do vote tend to be actively involved in various community-based activities such as volunteerism and making frequent contact with elected officials. This functionally equates to greater awareness of neighborhood projects and community issues, thereby contributing to the social capital of their locale.

The Bottom Line can easily be defined by just one unjustified vote.

The Zelienople Area Public Library - It’s not just Books! - from the Zelienople Library Staff

So you’re not a reader? The Zelienople Area Public has lot of activities for non-readers too. We offer Tai-chi on the second and fourth Saturday of the month at noon. Yoga will begin in June and be held on the first and third Saturday of the month. Spanish Conversation Hour gives you a chance to practice your language skills. Senior Memory Café gives our older patrons a chance to exercise their minds and gather together on the second Monday at 11 am. A new Anime club is being formed for 6th to 12th graders—the club will begin in May. Hands on STEM and STEAM projects for the kids and teens are also on our schedule. We can help you polish your resume, complete a letter, learn Facebook or Google Docs. Call 724/452-9330 to set up a one-on-one appointment or email us at zelienople@bcfls.org. The Library staff, trustees and volunteers are committed to helping you improve your life in many ways, be it with health literacy programs like Autism Answer Night and Shingles education or financial literacy like tax help and other programs. Throughout 2018 look for us at community events. If you have an event you would like us to attend please contact us and we will try to take part. The Library will be collaborating with the pool-less Zelienople Community Park this Summer with planned activities for kids and families in addition to our annual Summer Quest Reading Program. All of these programs are free to all.

For our faithful readers we continue to add new bestselling fiction and nonfiction, large print books and quality children’s materials to our shelves. We can also aid you in downloading ebooks, audiobooks, and magazines or show how to access the many databases you can use online with your library card. If you are interested in exploring a book group, we have a new discussion group forming this Summer. The Library has study and tutoring space available when you need it and our Community Meeting Room is also available for rent for your event. We are happy to help out students who need a place for their senior project event. Library hours were recently extended to serve you and your families better. New hours are Monday 10 am to 8 pm, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday 10 am to 7 pm and Saturday 10 am to 6 pm. Also, starting July 1 there will no longer be a $1.00 fee for feature film DVDs. Library card holders will be able to check out DVDs not only from our collection of 800 DVDs, but from the county-wide DVD collection which has approximately 10,000 DVDs (DVDs you request from another county library will be delivered to Zelienople Library for you to pick up).

“Zelienople Library Presents…” an Arts and Culture Speaker Series kicks off May 10 with Heather Terrell. She is the author of Carnegie’s Maid and The Other Einstein. The speaker series will continue with artist and illustrator Stacy Innerst on August 16 at 7 pm and Colonial and Early American Historian Carl Robertson on November 1 at 7 pm. Each event is $8.00, children $12.00 and under is $5.00, and there are five free tickets available for Teens from SVSD. You may purchase a discounted package price for all three events at $20.00. The 2019 speaker series line-up starts off with John Haigh, who served on Air Force One under four U.S. Presidents, on March 15, 2019. Zelienople Library Presents is a fundraiser for the Library. Tickets are available at the Library or on Eventbrite.com.

Starting in June, the Zelienople Area Public Library will host a free reading, viewing and discussion series for adults called Pushing the Limits. The series brings together popular books and quality video featuring authors, scientists and everyday people who thrive on exploring the natural world. Discussion will include the ways we push the limits in areas of energy technology, sustainability, preserving heritage, and the natural environment and how this impacts the local community. The overarching theme is one of real people, real stories and real science. The series is open to all adults in the community, with sessions facilitated by Dr. Becky Thomas (SRU department of Parks, Conservation, and Recreational Therapy and the Macoskey Center for Sustainable Systems Education and Research) and by Miranda Crotsley (Jennings Environmental Education Center). This national program (Pushing the Limits) has been developed by a team of library professionals, scientists, and filmmakers and is made possible by generous funding from the National Science Foundation.

Sign up on our website, zelienoplelibrary.org, or at the library. The schedule for this program is below and is offered Saturdays 11AM—12:30PM at the Zelienople Public Library.

June 2 theme: SURVIVAL: Clive Cussler, Arctic Drift
June 30 theme: NATURE: T.C. Boyle, When the Killing's Done
July 28 theme: KNOWLEDGE: Jean Auel, The Land of Painted Caves
August 25 theme: CONNECTION: Erik Larson, Thunderstruck

The Zelienople Area Public Library’s 2018 Summer Program, Libraries Rock, will be held June 16 through August 9. This program is for all ages from infants and toddlers all the way up to teens and adults. The theme this year is music. Please go to the Library’s website to review the full list of programs and to register. Registration will begin June 2nd both at the Library and online on our website. Each age group can participate with an age appropriate activity log that includes a variety of reading and learning activities. The summer program will officially kick off on Saturday, June 16 at 2pm with a 20th Anniversary Party for the Jennifer Adham Memorial Children’s Library which will feature stories, games, memories and special treats. For eight weeks, starting on June 18, the library will offer a weekly schedule of activities for all ages. Visit the Library for a full calendar of activities with dates, times and age groups.

Our thanks to all those who have supported the Library’s Bucks for Books campaign this Spring and our other fundraisers. These donated funds will go toward ensuring that the Library will continue to receive annual State funding. One of the State’s stipulations for public libraries receiving State funds is that the public library must expend 12% of its annual expenditures on collection resources each year in order to be qualified to continue to receive future funding from the State. Often, public libraries cannot meet this financial standard alone (due to needing to pay other expenses involved with operating the Library) and thus need to rely on local community support via Library fundraisers or book drives (such as our Bucks for Books drive) to meet this standard. For more information on this requirement established by the State, please contact the Library at 724-452-9330.

Upcoming fundraisers include the Summer Wine Walk in Harmony on June 9, the annual July Used Book Sale during Horse Trading Days, Book the Night Silent Auction on September 27, and Zelle on Tap on October 13 during the Fall Festival. If you are interested in attending, sponsoring or volunteering at any of these events please contact the Library.
Scout Troop 360 will not be holding an auction this year. The Boy Scout Troop and the Cub Scout Pack are hoping to see more boys turn out on the 1st and 3rd Mondays of each month. Scout meetings are held at the Lancaster Township Community Center located adjacent to Kings Alley and Community Center Drive from 7PM—9PM. Participants in Cub Scouts are boys in kindergarten through 5th grade. Boys ages 11 and up are welcome to participate with the Boy Scouts of Troop 360. The Troop is very grateful for the support the community has shown over the last 50 plus years. We know many community members looked forward to the annual auction. If any Township resident wishes to contribute financially to support Troop 360, any donation would be greatly appreciated. See below for additional details:

Checks should be made payable to Troop 360 and mailed to:

Scout Troop 360
Bill Hastings
107 Hastings Lane
Prospect, PA 16052

LANCASTER TOWNSHIP CLEAN-UP DAYS

Seneca Landfill has once again graciously partnered with Lancaster Township to host its residents the week of June 4th, 2018 to dispose of unwanted items. Please see the attached presentation card below. IT MUST BE PRESENTED IN ORDER TO PARTICIPATE. NO PHOTOCOPIES WILL BE ACCEPTED.

Acceptable Items: Furniture, Tires (2 PER FAMILY, OFF THE RIM), Empty Paint Cans (dried is acceptable), Large & Small Appliances (must be tagged that Freon has been properly evacuated by a licensed professional), Metals, Motor Oil (in a separate container), Batteries, and unbroken E-waste: Keyboards, Computers, Printers, etc.,

TELEVISIONS & MONITORS: 1 PER HOUSEHOLD

PROHIBITED ITEMS: Live Ammunition/Explosives, Oversized Tires, Tires on rims), Liquids, and Propane Cylinders.

LANCASTER TOWNSHIP CLEAN-UP DAYS
MONDAY - FRIDAY, JUNE 4 - JUNE 8: 8:00AM — 2:00PM
SATURDAY, JUNE 9: 8:00AM — 12:00PM

Seneca Landfill Site - 421 Hartmann Road, Evans City, PA 16033

TOWNSHIP RESIDENTS ONLY, ONE TRUCKLOAD LIMIT.
Must fill out this card and present it at site.
NO PHOTOCOPIES WILL BE ACCEPTED. NO ADDITIONAL CARDS WILL BE PROVIDED.

Name: ____________________________________________________________ Phone: ___________________________
________________________________________________________________________
Number & Type of Items Brought to the Landfill: ____________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

*For a list of acceptable and prohibited items, please see the details above in this newsletter*
SECRETARY—TREASURERS REPORT

As Secretary-Treasurer of Lancaster Township, my responsibilities range from writing meeting minutes, providing benefits information to all employees, maintaining day-to-day financial information to enable Supervisors to make decisions and being one of the first faces a resident sees in the administrative office. When I began this position, almost 3 years ago I was unaware of the many services and opportunities and how varied they are across the municipalities. The township currently employs 3 full-time and 1 part-time road employees to ensure safety with snow removal, damaged trees and maintaining roads, culverts & basins. Beginning January 1, 2018, Lancaster began to offer 24/7 police coverage to insure in the resident’s safety. Lancaster Township offers rental of the community center and Bauder Park. We have received necessary permits to move forward with the development of Four Springs Park, and plan to begin the walking trail prior to the end of 2018. When I travel across Butler County to the other surrounding communities, I am proud to be a part of community that has welcomed growth and continues to focus on providing and expanding services to the residents of Lancaster Township. Should you have any questions or comments, please feel free to reach out to me at csenft@lancaster-township.com

FOUR SPRINGS PARK

Official permits were received early in 2018 to complete grading and any earth disturbance activities at Four Springs Park. Four Springs Park is to be built on 20 +/- acres located at the corner of West Lancaster Road and US Route 19. The Master Site Plan was adopted by Resolution on July 1, 2015 by the Lancaster Township Board of Supervisors. The Master Site Plan is available for review at www.lancaster-township.com and choose “Four Springs Park Master Site Plan” from the list of Most Requested Resources. Anyone interested in learning more about being involved in the development can contact the Lancaster Township Municipal Office at office@lancaster-township.com.

LANCASTER TOWNSHIP
113 KINGS ALLEY
HARMONY, PA 16037
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED