

Welcome to

HEIDELBERG TOWNSHIP

Lehigh County
Pennsylvania



NEWSLETTER

Spring 2018



Hello to all Heidelberg Township Residents,

The Heidelberg Township Board of Supervisors is pleased to present your 2018 newsletter. You will find a wealth of information about the area where you live, upcoming events, volunteering opportunities and activity within your local government.

The Board of Supervisors strives to offer services to our residents while maintaining a manageable budget. In this regard the Board has appointed Dawn Didra as the full-time township zoning officer, enforcement officer and enforcer of parking violations. Dawn has served the township as a part-time employee for the past 2 ½ years as the assistant in the zoning office and has gained knowledge through interaction with our former zoning and enforcement officer Christopher Noll from Keystone Consulting Engineers Inc. and by taking classes through the PA State Association of Township Supervisors and the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission. This change in staffing will save the township nearly \$10,000 a year. An additional perk to Dawn's new appointment is you as a resident of the township will have an on-site zoning officer. Dawn explains the zoning office activity later in this newsletter.

Under the Board's advisement, I have been actively pursuing grant funding to ease the burden on the tax payers of this township. The township expects to receive up to \$50,000 in state funding through a PA Community and Economic Development Grant Program. These funds will be used to replace our 30 year old heating and cooling system in the municipal building and garages. Upgrading to an energy-efficient system will save on heating and cooling costs. The submission of this grant application is in cooperation with Senator Pat Browne's office. The Township will receive a reimbursable state grant up to \$5,000 through the Green Light Go Grant Program. This funding will be used to install an uninterruptable power supply (backup battery) at the Northwest Road/Route 309 traffic signal.

Additional revenue has been garnered by the township road superintendent, Kevin Huber, through Municibid He has sold numerous pieces of equipment and vehicles for a profit of over 50% of the township's purchase price. These sales include a set of loader tires for \$2,600, a 1989 Mack dump truck for \$24,600 and a 1960's Osh Kosh truck for \$8,300.

After using the 1989 Mack truck for 28 years, the Board decided it was time to buy a new Mack dump truck which was purchased

last year for \$204,000. Financing for this purchase is through a local bank, thereby boosting the local economy

The township land owners continue to show interest in agricultural preservation. An additional 199 acres was placed into Agricultural Security Areas in 2017.

The volunteer fire fighters requested that the 4 local fire companies, Germansville, New Tripoli, Lynnport and Weisenberg, work together to establish a monetary incentive program for active volunteers. The Board agreed with the initial proposal and will be working with the fire companies to finalize the incentive program. The local volunteer fire fighters and the Boards of Supervisors in the 4 northwestern Lehigh townships, Heidelberg, Lowhill, Lynn and Weisenberg, felt this type of monetary incentive program was more equitable than the tax incentives allowed by PA Act 172.

The Board of Supervisors appointed a new emergency management coordinator in October 2017. Township resident Joshua (Josh) Bingham offered to accept the position after the resignation of the current EMC. Josh was the deputy EMC since January 2016. The Board of Supervisors thanks Josh for his commitment in helping his community prepare for any disaster, big or small, that we may encounter. As the saying goes "hope for the best, prepare for the worst".

The year 2017 was a busy year indeed and 2018 appears to be following that trend. With guidance from the Board of Supervisors the township staff and consultants continue to attend meetings for the updating of the Lehigh Valley Hazard Mitigation Plan, the rewriting of the Northern Region of Lehigh County Comprehensive Plan, the updating of the Lynn/Heidelberg Joint Emergency Management Plan and MS-4 storm water management mandated updates.

I thank the advertisers in this newsletter and show the township's appreciation of their support by asking you, as a resident of Heidelberg Township, to frequent these businesses.

If you have any suggestions for future issues of your township newsletter, please contact Dawn Didra or myself at the township office. Have a wonderful year.

Kind Regards,
Janice Meyers, Township Administrator

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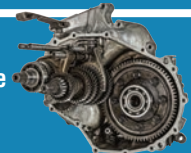


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Chairman's Message

Heidelberg Township Board of Supervisors

Happy 2018 Heidelberg Township! It is again an honor to serve as your Chairman of the Heidelberg Township Board of Supervisors for the coming year at the start of my new 6 year term on the board of this amazing township!

We've had a fairly calm beginning of the New Year. Although the snowfall has been somewhat mild so far, the extreme cold temps of this winter have been hard on everyone's wallet. Some good news at the township level is that we have been working with Senator Pat Browne's office to secure a \$50K grant to update our heating and cooling system at the township building. If this grant comes through, we will finally replace our antiquated HVAC with a much more efficient system, hopefully saving thousands of dollars per year in heating and cooling costs!

Another item on the horizon, with more information to follow, is the formation of a Civilian Emergency Response Team (CERT). Although we don't regularly expect 'drastically severe' weather conditions in this 'neck of the woods', we can't assume we will never be affected, and must therefore prepare with the worst in mind.

The CERT team will be the civilians who would operate and coordinate the shelters under the guidance of our Emergency Management Coordinator. Duties would include feeding, sheltering, clothing, and possibly providing emergency medical help to residents displaced in such an event. I personally had always assumed that in any such emergency that the fire company personnel would be the ones doing the above, but the firefighters and emergency service providers will be the ones out in the field providing the life-saving and property-saving services, and they too may need the support of the CERT team to keep themselves and possibly their families sheltered and safe while performing their difficult tasks outside.

Again, more to follow as we get the CERT team organized, but volunteers will be needed, so please contact the township if you are willing to help.

God Bless, and have a wonderful 2018!

Steve

Steven Bachman, *Chairman*



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ZONING OFFICE

Hello from the Zoning Office

After two and a half years, many educational classes, and on the job experience, I have been appointed Zoning Officer by the Board of Supervisors. Having a Zoning Officer on site will speed up processes and save money. I will still be handling the processing of permits, maintaining the website, putting together the newsletter and various other duties.

Being a resident and Zoning Officer can be a challenge, but it also means I am dedicated to this community and its residents. I am excited to be involved in the updating of the Multi-Municipal Comprehensive Plan which will be covered more in another article. I am also working on reviewing the Code of Ordinances and suggesting any updates that may be needed.

There are several exciting things coming up in the next year or two that will benefit residents. One of those things is a Home Water and

Septic System Workshop on May 22, 2018 at 6:30 pm. This workshop is free and will offer FREE water testing to 30 residents who to register.

Another is a local festival planning meeting on May 10, 2018 at 7 pm. Look for the article for more information on this exciting event!

I am always open to suggestions for the Township Website and Newsletter. Please contact me if you have any comments or suggestions. My email address is ddidra@ptd.net.

The weather is getting warmer, the plants are blooming, and it's a great time to get outside and enjoy this beautiful area!

Take care,

Dawn Didra ~ ddidra@ptd.net



Save the Date!

Pioneer Festival

presented by the Lynn-Heidelberg Historical Society

Saturday, October 6, 2018

LOCATION: Ontelaunee Park in New Tripoli

Take a tour of historical and replica buildings such as Fort Everett, Ziesloff House, Tripoli Train Station and the Mail Pouch Tobacco Barn. Savor homemade PA Dutch fare and baked goods.

Enjoy interactive pioneer and Native American demonstrations.



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HOW DOES A MULTI-MUNICIPAL COMPREHENSIVE PLAN BENEFIT ME?

A Multi-Municipal Comprehensive Plan plans for the future of our community and the surrounding communities. It also offers protection from land uses that may not make sense for our community. By planning how and where it makes sense to grow, we can better protect areas that are important for environmental, historical, or quality of life reasons.

Here's how: Every municipality in Pennsylvania has to allow for EVERY possible land use. That can be anything from agriculture to high density residential, industrial, commercial, etc. The only exception is if the municipality is part of a Multi-Municipal Plan. By joining with other municipalities we are protected from having to allow uses that may not make sense for our community by ensuring they are planned within partner communities that do make sense and vice versa.

In November 2004 the Board of Supervisors realized the benefit of adopting the Multi-Municipal Comprehensive Plan for the Northern Region of Lehigh County – Slatington Borough, Heidelberg, Lowhill, Lynn, Washington and Weisenberg Townships.



The Multi-Municipal Comprehensive Plan for the Northern Region of Lehigh County was THE FIRST Comprehensive Plan adopted after the State introduced the concept.

The plan is in need of an update so that it can take us into the future.

Here's where YOU come in, public input is an important part of the creation of the Comprehensive Plan. Surveys and public meetings where you can give your opinions and ideas of what you want our Township to look like going into the future will be an important part of the process.

This plan is called Comprehensive, because it covers everything from land use planning, to natural resources, zoning, infrastructure, economic growth, housing, agriculture, transportation and much more!

Meeting dates will be posted on the Township website and will be advertised in the Northwestern Press.

Rural Preservation Association of Northwestern Lehigh County

The Rural Preservation Association of Northwestern Lehigh County was formed in 1996 when a group of like-minded people from all walks of life realized the need for promoting the preservation of farms, forested land, and open space here in our beautiful northwestern Lehigh area.

The farmland and slopes of the Blue Mountain make tremendous contributions to the entire Lehigh Valley in value of agricultural products, wildlife habitat and water recharge as well as scenic beauty. Members of the RPA are advocates for maintaining these treasures for the generations to come, and for keeping the spirit of rural community alive as it has been for generations past.

Over the years, the RPA has been participating in many events including the Schnecksville and Kempton Fairs, the Mini Farm Show at the South Mall, The Green Valley Coalition, Open Gate Farm Tour food court, the annual Cleansweep event, and has sponsored the PA Farm Bureau's Ag Lab mobile educational classroom, scholarships to Conservation Camp and scholarships to Northwestern Lehigh graduating seniors. The group supports the Wildlands Conservancy and the Lehigh Gap Nature Preserve, and participate in and are members of the Farm Bureau, Renew LV, LV Planning Commission Future of LV Strategy sessions, and the Sterling Raber Land Preservation Board.



Communities Begin Festival Planning

Heidelberg Township officials along with officials from Lynn Township, local farms and the Greater Northern Lehigh Chamber of Commerce have begun the planning stages for a new festival, slated for the 2019 season – a farm and agriculture festival.



The unnamed festival will help bring together the farming and business communities as well as those interested in learning about and experiencing the farm to table food culture. Tentative possible dates for the festival are September 14 or 21, 2019.

"We are situated in an agriculturally driven area" said Alice Wanamaker, Assistant VP for the Chambers' Northern Region, "A festival that brings together our farmers, producers, community members, non-profits, businesses and visitors is sure to be a home run."

The festival has a steering committee that is looking for parties interested in participating in the planning and execution of the festival. A planning meeting will be hosted on Thursday, May 10, 2018 at 7 p.m. at the Heidelberg Township building for anyone who is interested in getting involved. Volunteers will be needed in all avenues of the festival and everyone is encouraged to come out to the planning meeting.

For more information, please contact Alice Wanamaker at 484-274-2080 or alicew@lehighvalleychamber.org

HEIDELBERG TOWNSHIP



FORGOTTEN FELINES AND FIDOS

Forgotten Felines and Fidos, Inc. (FF&F) is a 100% volunteer based no kill animal shelter located in Germansville, PA. Volunteers are always welcome and appreciated. If you are interested in a rewarding experience working with animals at the shelter or assisting with fundraising activities, contact our Volunteer Coordinator Mary Ann at 610-737-6851.

FF&F provides a low cost neuter and spay program for cats and dogs less than 35 pounds, which is supported by an experienced and caring team who are committed to providing quality care to the animals. Female house cats are spayed for \$70 and males for \$60. If you need financial assistance to have your personal house pet spayed or neutered, FF&F may be able to assist you if you are a qualified applicant based on specific guidelines.

FF&F implemented a Trap, Neuter and Return (TNR) program in an effort to help control the feral cat population. Feral cats caught in a Have-a-Heart trap and brought to the shelter in the trap will be spayed or neutered for \$30. All cats will be vaccinated for rabies and distemper.

FF&F also hosts a vaccination clinic at the shelter twice a year, in April and September, to benefit the community.

If you are interested in adopting a cat or kitten, FF&F's experienced volunteers can provide a pleasant adoption experience for a reasonable fee. Medical records are provided for all adopted pets and all cats will be microchipped.

If you are 65 years or older and adopt one of our senior cats (age 8+) you may qualify for our "Seniors for Seniors" program. FF&F will provide food, cat litter and medical treatment to a qualified adopter. Fostering is a rewarding way to volunteer time by helping to socialize a cat or kitten(s) in a loving environment with the intention of preparing it for a forever home.

For adoption or fostering related inquiries call Therese at 610-248-7399.

For more information on any of the services/programs discussed above, please call the shelter at 610-760-9009, visit our Facebook page, or our website www.forgottenfelines.org.



Girl Scouts®

Girl Scouts of Eastern Pennsylvania

- Girl Scout troops are open to girls in kindergarten through 12th grade.
- Meeting days, times and locations vary by troop.
- The membership year runs October 1 - September 30, with most girls registering in August and early September.
- Most troops are active during the academic school year.
- You can learn more about available local troops and meeting times at gsep.org/join or by emailing MemberServices@gsep.org.

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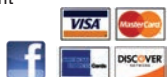
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A Night in the Country

Saturday, August 18, 2018 • 4:00pm – 10:00pm

LOCATION: Northwestern Recreation Commission Park in New Tripoli.

Enjoy local food vendors and organizations offering activities for all ages. Chinese Auction, Cow Flop Contest, Car Cruise, Live country music band, DJ playing rock and roll music, pony rides, antique tractor display, fire fighter competitions and so much more.

Tremendous fireworks display at 10pm!



Kate Miller, Executive Director **Miracle League of the Lehigh Valley**
484-707-5746-Cell • 610-769-2096-Office • kate@miracleleaguelv.org

Miracle League of the Lehigh Valley (MLLV) provides sports and opportunities for children with special needs. The largest program is baseball, which organizes nearly over 100 games from May until October. Games are played at the Jandl Family Park on a field specifically designed for the needs of our athletes.

Events and gatherings occur throughout the year that encourages children to be more active members of the community. All of our programming and events are made possible by the generosity of volunteers and donors.

The Miracle League of the Lehigh Valley Spring baseball and cheerleaders season is starting on Saturday April 1st. We are excited to start a new year of baseball at the Jandl Family Park located on 5858 Sell Rd Schnecksville, PA 18078.

Please call the office if you would like to donate or volunteer. We need 30 volunteers to help our players with special needs to have an "Angel in the outfield" to help them be successful. Please go to our new website to get all the upcoming events. www.miracleleaguelv.org

Spring events:

Saturday April 7th opening day!

Wednesday April 25th is our first game for the spring season.

Sincerely,

Kate Miller



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Cornerstone Living serves seniors with varying degrees of dementia. Cornerstone Living has effectively merged the most current medical techniques and methods of serving adults with dementia, with a university developed social model program, to achieve the best possible results within a non-medical setting. Cornerstone Living is a secure center for those who are memory impaired, due to Alzheimer's or other forms dementia.

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HEIDELBERG TOWNSHIP ~ A COMMUNITY OF DISTINCTION

Heidelberg Township was one of 4 municipalities nominated for the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission's Community of Distinction Award! This award honors a community that exemplifies consistent plans and policies that support efficient and sustainable development, land management, and resourcefulness.



To be awarded the Community of Distinction, a municipality had to be nominated by a Lehigh County Commissioner and asked by the LVPC to make a presentation to the judging panel. Each presentation was to demonstrate a strong commitment to planning and implementation, consistent with the Comprehensive Plan ~ The Lehigh Valley... 2030 and exemplify innovation across other award categories. The other municipalities that were nominated were: Bethlehem Township, Catasauqua Borough, and Portland Borough. The winner (Catasauqua Borough) was announced at the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission Gala & Awards on October 17th. All municipalities that were nominated received an award recognizing them as a Well Planned Community.

Here's some of the information I shared during my presentation to the Planning Commission in support of our nomination:

FACTS:

- Population: 3,416 (Census 2010)
- Area: 26.3 Sq. Miles, 17,000 Acres
- Miles of Township Roads: 47.87
- Miles of State Roads: 35.67
- 4 bridges
- Established: October 1752
- Employees: 1 full time road superintendent/road crew
- 3 full time road crew
- 1 full time administrator/secretary/treasurer
- 1 full time zoning officer/office assistant
- It is served by the Northwestern Lehigh School District.

COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING:

- In November 2004 the Board of Supervisors realized the benefit of adopting the Multi-Municipal Comprehensive Plan for the Northern Region of Lehigh County – Slatington Borough and Heidelberg, Lowhill, Lynn, Washington and Weisenberg Townships.
- The Multi-Municipal Comprehensive Plan for the Northern Region of Lehigh County was the first Comprehensive Plan adopted after the State introduced the concept.
- The Board continues to follow this plan by:
 - o Promoting the purchasing of agricultural conservation easements by adding a line item to the township budget. Funds to be used to purchase easements or assist the county and state in funding the purchase of easements.
 - o Zoning changes keep the rural agricultural character of the township. Zoning for mini-cellular towers within the township right-of-way and for large gatherings and events and creating an amusement tax gives the township some added control of construction and uses within the township.

o Roadway improvements for the safety of our residents and visitors. The Board has applied for and used the Lehigh Conservation District Dirt and Gravel Road grant funding as a means to keep township costs down while adhering to best management practices for road maintenance.

- Meetings are underway for an update of this plan to take us into the future. Public comment is an important part of this process. The Township encourages residents to be involved in shaping the future of the Township by taking part in surveys and attending meetings.
- The Multi-Municipal plan update will be covered more thoroughly in a separate article.

ROADS AND BRIDGES

- Budget for 1 mile of road to be repaved annually.
- Several years ago all 4 of our bridges (all of which had deficiencies upon inspection) were brought up to standards.



Rex Road Bridge

- The Hunters Hill Road Bridge was completely removed and replaced with the help of a grant.
- The Rex Road Bridge decking was replaced by our road crew using supplies purchased through government surplus.
- The Werleys Corner Bridge was removed and replaced by a cul-de-sac after polling the residents whose properties were affected. This allowed the state to put the monies that would have been used to replace the bridge back into the budget to use on other bridges.

BLUE MOUNTAIN PRESERVE ZONING:

- The blue mountain preservation district was created to protect the Blue Mountain and its wooded base.
- This portion of the township is recognized as having physical characteristics, including steep slopes, areas of high water table, and stony soils, which warrant such protection.
- This zoning district is also to conserve and protect the unique and environmentally sensitive natural features and resources present there.
- Bake Oven Knob is part of the Appalachian Trail and is one of the townships natural treasures.

AGRICULTURAL SECURITY AREAS:

- The Board of Supervisors adopted the Agricultural Security Area resolution in August 1988 at the request of many land owners. The first land to be accepted into the Lehigh County Farmland Preservation Program was 140.9 acres in November of 1991.
- As of August 2017 the township has 7105 acres (89 farms) in the ASA and 3308.59 acres (45 farms) of conservation easements in the county preservation program.
- The township continues to work with the Lehigh County Farmland Preservation Board to promote ASA growth contiguous to current ASA parcels.

HEIDELBERG TOWNSHIP ~ A COMMUNITY OF DISTINCTION

AGRICULTURAL ZONING:



- The Agricultural Preserve Zoning not only promotes agricultural uses, it also includes a sometimes controversial 10% rule for nonagricultural dwelling units.
- This ordinance in part states “Maximum percentage of existing lots to be used. No more than one lot plus 10 percent of the area of each lot as it existed on the date

of enactment of this chapter shall be used for this purpose, including the area of any access roads constructed. The remainder of the lot shall be reserved for other allowable uses of this district.”

- This ordinance was first adopted in 1983 and was rescinded in 1994 only to be reinstated in 1998 when a large group of residents replaced the existing supervisors with 3 new pro-farmland preservation supervisors.
- This ordinance is still contested by a small number of residents and developers who would like to see it removed, and is always at the forefront of every election.

AGRICULTURAL HISTORY AND FUTURE:

- Heidelberg is home to several traditional crop and animal husbandry farms that are generations old and farm hundreds of acres.
- Recent years have seen new farms starting, both traditional and smaller specialty farms.
- Organic, grass fed, CSA (customer supported agriculture) farms that operate on just a few acres are flourishing and more are continuing to move here.
- These farms are popping up alongside traditional farming operations using smaller parcels not suited to larger, more traditional operations.



COMMUNITY:

- Several businesses that have been in operation for many years, like The Mill in Germansville, have been given new life by new owners who have wanted to see those businesses continue to serve the community. Others have been handed down through the generations, like Lee Miller’s Used Trucks and Cars.
- Northwestern Recreation Commission serves the 4 townships within the Northwestern Lehigh School District. The Township Board of Supervisors has supported and been part of the NWRC Board since its inception in the early 1980’s. Our road department is allowed to work on projects at the recreation fields, saving money for the NWRC.
- Township Newsletters and Website: Keeping our residents informed is very important to Heidelberg Township. Not only are the Township employees or supervisors available to answer residents questions on a daily basis, the Township annually mails a Township Newsletter to each household. We created and maintain a Township website for the convenience of our residents and visitors.

- Township sign: The sign outside the Township building was installed as a Boy Scout Eagle project. The sign is another way we keep our residents informed of local events. Space on the sign is on a first come, first serve basis and is only for non-profit or Township use.
- Environmental Advisory Council: The Board of Supervisors created an EAC for the township in an effort to foster knowledge regarding environmental and historical issues within the township.
- The EAC has held bat box workshops, invasive species seminars, water barrel workshops, a recycling event and Bake Oven Knob clean up days. The EAC also awards a self-funded scholarship for a Northwestern Lehigh student.
- A riparian buffer area has been created and is maintained by the EAC on the Township property.
- The EAC published a one-room schoolhouse guide as a self-driven tour available to residents and visitors.
- Currently the EAC is assisting the Township meet the state’s MS-4 regulations regarding storm water.

WHY ARE PEOPLE CHOOSING TO LIVE/INVEST IN HEIDELBERG TOWNSHIP:

John and Aimee Good, of The Good Farm say:

We have always admired the pastoral beauty of Heidelberg township, and we appreciated the fact that the township has retained its rural, agricultural base for so many years, as development pressure has pushed all around it. We were very excited to find farmland to purchase 3 years ago in Heidelberg township, to move our farm operation here. We were looking for good soils, well-drained for vegetable production, with little slope, in a location that was not too far from our customer base in the Lehigh Valley. We found that in Heidelberg, and so much more.

This Township and the community is very supportive of agriculture. As farming is a challenging business, we truly appreciate being surrounded by other farmers, and being in a place where farming is supported and appreciated. We hope to do all we can to continue to keep Heidelberg rural and agriculturally based, as we value this way of life.

Teena Bailey owner/farmer of Red Cat Farm says:

We were attracted to Heidelberg when we heard about the ag protective zoning. We were interested in moving into and being part of an ag community rather than a developing bedroom community that we saw in many parts of the Lehigh Valley.

The support services and farmer to farmer connections have proven to be so valuable in getting equipment repaired and being able to tap into the accumulated knowledge of lifelong crop growers.

Our place is only 1 1/2 acres but we are able to use the space to its fullest with field plots and two structures. A small hoop house and a 72’ high tunnel. The area and the zoning is conducive to farming, and we have no objections from neighbors about anything we are doing.

When venturing into growing grains about six years ago, I was able to find a few very small parcels to rent on which I grow wheat

HEIDELBERG TOWNSHIP ~ A COMMUNITY OF DISTINCTION

and oats. It is challenging to find 2-4 acres pieces that are suitable for agriculture and available for rent.

Heidelberg is attractive for farming because of abundant groundwater and some excellent soils that are well drained and fertile. The establishment of a number of small farms in the recent past has resulted in an informal network and sharing. Many of us sell at the same farmers' markets and help each other out when we can. As a bonus, it is beautiful and peaceful and we get to watch the mountain as the seasons change.

Kevin Guldin owner of The Mill in Germansville says:

I have owned Oley Valley Feed since 2002 and have been friends with the previous owners of The Mill in Germansville, the Schlauch family. I was aware of the history of the Mill and the need it filled in the community. When I heard the Mill was going up for sale I felt it was my calling to step in and continue to provide this important service to the community as well as save the jobs of the people who work there.

Kreeky Tree Farm owner Christin Gangi says:

We moved to the area to be near friends who live in Kempton. A realtor sent us a listing on a home and property in Heidelberg Township and once we saw it we knew this is where we wanted to start our farm.

We love the area for the beauty, being right next to the Blue Ridge Mountains, and all the people we meet are all so kind and generous of their time.

It's remote enough to not have to deal with the bustle of a city but close enough to get to all the things we need. It's been a joy to create our farm life here!

MULTI-MUNICIPAL PARTNERSHIP

- Northwestern Recreation Commission: Heidelberg, Lowhill, Lynn, Weisenberg Townships and the Northwestern Lehigh School District formed this commission to create the recreation fields for use by residents of each township. Since the recreation fields are located within Heidelberg Township, the Board of Supervisors keeps abreast of decisions made by the NWRC Board and also maintains a membership on the Board. The Township assists with projects for the NWRC.
- HLLW COG: The Heidelberg, Lowhill, Lynn, Weisenberg Council of Governments was created jointly by the Boards of each Township in an effort to share equipment and road personnel. The HLLW COG continues to be a cost saving

way for each Township to complete road projects sharing equipment, personnel and expertise.

- 6-Township Meetings: Although there is no formal agreement between Heidelberg, Lowhill, Lynn, North Whitehall, Washington and Weisenberg Townships, the managers, road masters and/or supervisors meet on a quarterly basis to share ideas and concerns.
- Lehigh County Council of Governments: Heidelberg Township is present at meetings to share knowledge and create an environment of caring between all municipalities within Lehigh County.

EMERGENCY SERVICES:

- Goodwill Fire Company #1
- To support our very active volunteer fire company the supervisors enacted a fire tax in 2013.
- In addition to fire certifications, several vehicles and volunteers have been certified in QRS and are answering and assisting during EMS calls.
- NOVA-Northern Valley Emergency Medical Services
- After considering several options, in 2015 the board of supervisors agreed to make NOVA the ambulance service for Heidelberg Township.



- NOVA has turned out to be a very good fit providing excellent service with an emphasis on community service.

CHALLENGES & OBSTACLES:

- Limited resources: Budget constraints are the main reason for limited resources. In the past few years, the Board has purchased new or slightly used vehicles and equipment but until recently we still maintained a 1989 Mack plow truck. Our road personnel not only maintain our roads, but they also keep our vehicles and equipment well maintained so each can serve us for many years. Both the supervisors and the employees are always looking for ways to make the most of our limited budget.
- Limited personnel: Also due to budget constraints, the township personnel is kept at a minimum, with each employee wearing

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many hats on a daily basis. When hiring new personnel, the board of supervisors takes this into consideration and looks for employees that are well rounded and are willing and able to function in multiple capacities. Salaries are also relatively low compared to other local municipalities. Even though the employees have many varying duties and lower pay than surrounding Townships, the employee turnover is very low with the average years of service being 10 years. This is a testament to our employees being vested in our community and helping it flourish.

- Budget constraints: Due to the desire of the residents of Heidelberg Township to remain a rural agricultural community with limited commercial and no industrial uses, the township has a very limited tax base. The Board of Supervisors keeps tax millage at a minimum by being fiscally conservative and using our resources wisely. Our total budget for 2017 was \$1,683,984, with \$123,470 reserved for fire protection. Our

millage rate is 1.40 mills (1.0 general purpose, 0.40 fire tax)

Zoning for the Future:

- The Township is currently working with LVPC to take a new look at our zoning. The goal is to continue to protect our agricultural heritage while giving property owners more avenues for revenue.
- Goals for the future are to stay true to the comprehensive plan and protect our agricultural land while allowing for growth in specific areas and in a way that makes sense for our community.

This article was created by Dawn Didra, Zoning Officer/Office Assistant with input from Janice Meyers, Administrator/Secretary/Treasurer, Kevin Huber, Road Superintendent, and Board of Supervisors: Steven Bachman, David Fink, and Jonathan Jakum. *A special thank you to the community members who offered their comments for inclusion in this article.

NORTHWESTERN RECREATION COMMISSION



The Northwestern Recreation Commission (NRC) meets monthly to oversee the Northwestern Community Park which is located directly across from the Northwestern Lehigh High School, and behind Katie's Restaurant & the New Tripoli Plaza. The Recreation

Commission Board is comprised of seven voting members, one representative from each of the four Northwestern School District Townships, (Heidelberg, Lynn, Lowhill & Weisenberg), two school board members, and one member –at- large.

The officers for 2018 are:

President: Justin Smith (Lynn Twp)

Vice President: Linda Gorgas (Weisenberg Twp)

Secretary: Todd Hernandez (School Board)

Treasurer: Christie Steigerwalt (not a voting member)

This year the NRC is focused on completing a new paved walking trail looping around the top half of the park that will hopefully be completed by the fall of 2018. This project was funded by grant money, Nestle Waters and funds from the NRC. In addition the park has a 5K walking trail mapped out for your walking and running

enjoyment, and has the Lions Pavilion at the lower playground that is free to residents, and can be reserved for group gatherings by filling out a facilities request form on the following NW school district web page: <http://www.nwlehighsd.org/community.cfm?subpage=1987051>

The Park is open to the public during day and although the sports fields are usually scheduled for the various Northwestern Youth Athletic Association (NYAA) sports teams, these fields are open for community use when not used by the NYAA. The fields may also be reserved for various other school or sports affiliations for tournaments and rehearsals, etc. These reservations and facility requests are scheduled at the monthly Recreation Commission meetings.

Our annual "A Night in The Country" event is coming up on August 18th from 4:00-10:00 pm (rain date is August 19th). This event offers one of the greatest fireworks displays in the valley, and brings together many local businesses and community service organizations for a one night blowout that is a must to attend. There is something for everyone, including a car cruise, fire fighter competition, cow flop, live music, Chinese auction, bingo, great food, and much more! The proceeds from this event is what the NRC use to maintain the park year round.

Please enjoy our facilities and feel free to contact us if you have any questions!



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Update of the Lehigh Valley Hazard Mitigation Plan

By Janice Meyers

All 62 municipalities, 17 school districts and 2 counties within Lehigh and Northampton County have been called upon by the Lehigh County Emergency Management Agency (LV EMA) to assist with the update to the Lehigh Valley Hazard Mitigation Plan. The Lehigh Valley Planning Commission (LVPC) is also a partner in this vital undertaking. This update is required by law to occur every 5 years. By being a partner in this plan, Heidelberg Township, will be able to continue to receive grant funding from the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). PEMA and FEMA also will assist the township when an emergency happens. In the past we received funding for natural disasters such as Hurricane Irene and for winter storms.

This hazard mitigation plan forms the foundation for a community's long-term strategy to reduce disaster losses and break the cycle of disaster damage, reconstruction and repeated damage. FEMA states that for every \$1 spent on mitigation projects, \$4 is saved from the impacts of a disaster.

During this update period, which should run through November 2018, the township will be assessing possible hazard types and hazard prone areas. Some natural hazards are drought, earthquake, flood, hailstorms, winter storms, lightning strikes, wildfires, tornados, pandemic and infectious diseases and invasive species. Some of the non-natural hazards include civil disturbance, nuclear incident, terrorism, transportation accidents, and utility interruption. It is very probable that more than one natural and/or non-natural hazard happens at one time.

The planning teams will be holding public meetings throughout the year. The meeting dates, times and locations will be posted on our website and the LV EMA will advertise meetings in a local newspaper.

For more information, you may visit the LVPC website at

<http://www.lvpc.org/hazard-mitigation.html>.

NORTHERN VALLEY EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES, INC.



Northern Valley Emergency Medical Services, Inc. (NOVA) is a not-for-profit organization. We provide community-based emergency medical services to Heidelberg, North Whitehall, and Washington Townships, Slatington Borough, Walnutport Borough and portions of Lowhill Township.

Every year our highly-trained paramedics and EMTs respond to more than 3,600 calls for help. We respond to calls from three stations; 2375 Levans Rd, Coplay, 524 W. Church St., Slatington, and 6272 PA Route 309, New Tripoli. The closest available unit is dispatched.

In addition to covering emergency calls, we attend on standby for Northwestern Lehigh and Northern Lehigh School districts' football games and other sporting events as requested. It's a little-known fact that we standby for churches, bike races,

marathons/5K's, and many other community events that require the presence of an ambulance.

We now have a certified technician who will make certain your child's care seat is installed correctly by performing a Child Car Seat Safety Check; free of charge.

NOVA's Auxiliary supports the Corps by raising funds. They cater weddings, parties, and corporate events in addition to hosting many events throughout the year. Events include a Chicken BBQ in July, a shoe fly pie sale in September, an apple dumpling sale in October, and a Thanksgiving sale including filling, bacon dressing, and nut breads in November. Their cooking is second to none! Call 610-262-7749 for information or to place an order.

Have a safe and enjoyable summer!!



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Senator Pat Browne

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Toll-Free: 1-800-280-7728
FAX: 610-821-6798

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Senator Pat Browne
Appropriations Committee Chairman

NEWS FOR CONSTITUENTS

By Senator Pat Browne, Appropriations Committee Chairman

IDENTITY THEFT PREVENTION AND CREDIT MONITORING

In light of the recent Equifax data breach and ongoing concerns over cyber security, it is now more important than ever to take steps to ensure that you are not a victim of identity theft. Here are a few simple suggestions on how to better safeguard your identity:

- Shred all sensitive documents that you intend to dispose of, including bank statements, credit card bills, receipts, utility bills, ATM receipts, and pre-approved credit offers.
- Use unique passwords that only you know.
- Be wary of giving out your social security number, account number, credit card number, passwords or user ID.

- Consider placing a credit freeze on your files. A credit freeze makes it harder for someone to open a new account in your name.
- Monitor your existing credit card and bank accounts closely for charges you don't recognize.
- Don't carry your social security card in your wallet. Only give out your SSN when absolutely necessary.

It is also a great idea to continually monitor your credit score and report. You are entitled to a free credit report annually from each of the three major credit reporting bureaus, which can be accessed by visiting the federal government's website www.annualcreditreport.com.

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Bringing State Government to You

By Rep. Gary Day (R-Lehigh/Berks)

As your state representative, I believe it's my foremost responsibility to be your link to state government and your voice in Harrisburg. In order for me to effectively represent you in Harrisburg, I need to hear from you.

Whether the issue involves road and bridge projects, pending legislation, concerns about state agencies or a policy improvement, my district staff and I are here to serve you.

To reach me, you can visit my temporary district office location at the Good Will Fire Company Trexlertown, 7723 Hamilton Blvd Breinigsville, PA 18031 you can call us at 610-760-7082; or you can email me at gday@pahousegop.com. I also operate a Facebook page at www.Facebook.com/RepGaryDay and a variety of forms and applications for state programs and services is available on my website at www.RepGaryDay.com.

We are here to help you navigate the complexities of state government -- from the most complicated PennDOT paperwork to applications for the Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program. My office can also connect you with the Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry regarding Unemployment Compensation concerns, assistance with the PACE/PACENET prescription drug assistance programs and LIHEAP applications.

continued on page 16

State Representative Gary W. Day Serving Lehigh and Berks Counties

What My District Office Can Do For You:

- Driver's license and vehicle registration applications and renewals
- Assistance with PennDOT paperwork (*lost cards, changes, corrections, special registration plates, vanity plates and temporary placards for disabled persons*)
- PACE and PACENET applications for seniors
- Property Tax and Rent Rebate applications
- Voter registration forms and absentee ballot applications
- State tax forms
- Student aid applications
- Free state maps
- Copies of legislation
- Tours of the State Capitol
- Referrals to agencies to resolve state-related matters

Save the Date:

Rep. Gary Day's Senior Fair
Thursday, October 4, 2018 • 10AM-1PM

Kutztown Fire Company
310 Noble St, Kutztown



2018 Calendar – Lehigh Gap Nature Center

NOTE: Additional events will be added to the calendar. Please check www.lgnc.org for more information.

*All events begin at the **Osprey House** in Lehigh Gap and are free to the public (unless noted otherwise). Events are sponsored in part by a **Lehigh County Quality of Life** grant. For directions, see <http://lgnc.org> or contact us at lgnc@ptd.net or 610-760-8889.*



April 21 – Earth Day Workshops

7:30 to 10:00 a.m. –

Birding Lehigh Gap Nature Center

Learn where the best birding spots are at the Refuge.

10:00 to 11:00 a.m. –

Birding for families and Junior Naturalists.

10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. – Habitat Garden clean-up.

11:00 to 11:30 a.m. –

Snakes Alive! Learn about snakes with our corn snake Maize as the subject.

May 5 – Curious Naturalist Workshops

7:00 to 9:30 a.m. – Spring migrants of LGNC. Enjoy the birds returning to LGNC, passing through, and those that live here year-round.

9:30 a.m. to noon – Herp Hunting.

Start with captive live specimens, then travel to the Three Ponds area in search of turtles, frogs, snakes, and salamanders.

1:00 to 3:00 p.m. – Botany Walk. Learn to identify trees, flowering plants, and more around the Osprey House.

May 12, 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. – Second Saturday Bird Walk and Big Sit at LGNC

We will start with a bird walk around the Osprey House grounds at 7:00 a.m. and continue all day with a “Big Sit,” counting all the birds we can see from a 15-foot-diameter circle. Contact us to volunteer for a shift for the Big Sit.

May 19, 9:00 a.m. to ? – Natural History Hike (with Allentown Hiking Club)

Little Gap to Lehigh Gap. Enjoy at 5-6 mile hike with a difficult descent into Lehigh Gap from the east. Bring water and lunch. Meet at the Osprey House, and carpool to the starting point.

Lehigh Gap Bike & Boat Adventures

Back by popular demand! Don’t miss the opportunity to explore the Lehigh Gap by bike and canoe on a guided excursion hosted by LGNC and Wildlands Conservancy. Trips will take place May 20 (noon-4:00 p.m.), July 14 (4:00-8:00 p.m.), and September 9 (noon-4:00 p.m.). Registration required and limited to 18 participants. Registration details TBA.

June 2, 7:00 p.m. – Whip-poor-will Hike

Meet at the Osprey House at 6:45 p.m. or at the Translater Lane Parking lot at 7:00 p.m. We will hike up Translater Lane to the top of the mountain by dusk and then listen for Whip-poor-wills on the way back down in the dark. Bring a flashlight if you wish.

June 9, 8:30 a.m. – Second Saturday Bird Walk

Join the Lehigh Valley Audubon Society on a search for the beautiful breeding birds that have returned to LGNC.

June 10, Noon to 3:00 p.m. – Volunteer Appreciation

All volunteers are invited to an event to recognize and thank our many volunteers. This year we will be celebrating LGNC’s 15th anniversary!

June 23, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. – National Pollinator Week Celebration

Garden tour, arboretum tour, butterfly and bee survey, native plant information, and crafts for adults and kids. This is part of National Pollinator Week (June 18-24), an annual celebration of native pollinators that includes self-guided garden tours at various locations throughout Carbon County.

Young Ecologists Summer Camp

June 18-22 – For students finishing grades 5-7. Registration required. Contact the Nature Center for an application.

July 7 – Watershed Workshops

9:00 to 10:30 a.m. – Riparian Bird Walk. Discover what birds live in and along the Lehigh River.

10:30 a.m. to noon – Macroinvertebrate Survey. Assess the quality of the Lehigh as we see what critters call the river home.

Noon to 1:00 p.m. – Fish Seining. Help LGNC investigate fish diversity in the Lehigh River!

Four B Walks (Bugs, Butterflies, Birds, and Blooms) with Doug Burton Thursdays July 5-26 & Saturday, July 14 at 10:00 a.m. For families with children ages 5-11.

July 7, 6:00 p.m. – Members’ PicnicPotluck Picnic – bring a dish to share with everyone. Enjoy the habitat gardens, entertainment, and stay late for a nighttime insect and astronomy session.

July 21, 10:00 a.m. to noon – Dragons and Damsels

Join us for a dragon(fly) hunt at the Kittatinny Ponds with the Naturalist Club.

August 11, 7:00 a.m. – Second Saturday Bird Walk Bird walk at LGNC. Meet at the Osprey House.

August 11, 9:00 a.m. to noon – Summer Clean-up Get the Osprey House ready for the intern, weed the arboretum, and do other maintenance chores around the Osprey House grounds.

August 25, 8:30 a.m. to noon – Autumn Migration Birding Workshop

Learn why birds migrate and how to identify autumn migrants, before taking a field trip to Bake Oven Knob in search of songbirds, Bald Eagles, and Ospreys. Meet at the Osprey House.

August 15 - November 25 – Bake Oven Knob Hawk Count

Join us on the lookout to help with the 58th annual Autumn Hawk Count as a volunteer counter or spotter, to learn about the raptors, their ecology and migrations, or just to enjoy the view and the spectacle of the hawk flight. The lookout is staffed daily by our research intern or by LGNC volunteers.

2018 Calendar – Lehigh Gap Nature Center

Autumn Speaker Series – Events to be announced. Check www.lgnc.org for more information.

September 8, 9:00 a.m. – Second Saturday Bird Walk Visit to Bake Oven Knob to see migrating Bald Eagles, Ospreys and Broad-wings. Meet at the Osprey House at 9:00 a.m., or go directly to the lookout.

September 22 – Migration Fest Our annual celebration of hawk migration and Appalachian Mountain ecology. Learn about the annual fall spectacle of hawks and butterflies migrating along the Kittatinny Ridge and how to identify raptors. Activities throughout the day – schedule to be announced on website (www.lgnc.org).

October 13, 9:00 a.m. – Hawk Watching at BOK.

Visit to Bake Oven Knob to see migrating Sharpies and falcons. Meet at the Osprey House at 9:00 a.m., or go directly to the lookout.

October 20, 1:00 p.m. – LGNC and Allentown Hiking Club Autumn Refuge Hike

Hike with us along the Prairie Grass and Chestnut Oak trails. Wear sturdy shoes, and bring water. This will be a six-mile hike with a 600-foot elevation gain. Great views.

November 2-11 – Nature in Art Exhibition

Our 6th-annual juried art exhibition. View and/or purchase works from local artists. Vote for People's Choice Award. Artists' reception November 11.

November 3, 6:30 p.m. – Fall Campfire and Astronomy

Join us for a campfire, s'mores, and stars.

November 10 – More or Less 10K Trail Run (and 2-Mile Scamper)

See www.lgnc10k.com for more info.

November 15, 10:00 a.m. – Cabin Fever Book Club

Book to be announced.

November 17, 6:30 p.m. – Hawk Watch Celebration

All are welcome to celebrate the 58th Bake Oven Knob Hawk Count. Following a presentation of the count data by Bob Hoopes, guest speaker Dave Levandusky will show us some of his wildlife photos from the past year.

December 1, 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. – Holiday Open House

Join us for holiday crafts, and explore nature in winter. Bring some goodies to share, and make a holiday decoration for your home.

December 20, 10:00 a.m. –

Cabin Fever Book Club

Book to be announced.

Contact us for more information, and check the website for additional events.

phone: 610-760-8889

email: lgnc@ptd.net

website: www.lgnc.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/lehighgap



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HEIDELBERG TOWNSHIP

Environmental Advisory Council Fundraiser

The Heidelberg Township Environmental Advisory Council is selling coupon cards for Dan Schantz Greenhouse as a fundraiser.

Coupons are available through EAC members and at the Township Building during business hours.

The coupon cards are \$20.00 and if you take advantage of all the items on the coupon card the value is over \$40.00! It's a great deal and it benefits the community and the environment!

The EAC sponsors a scholarship for a Northwestern Lehigh High School student, maintains the riparian buffer area behind the township building, provides free educational programs for the community, reviews plans, advises the township on environmental issues, and more.

The EAC is responsible for its own budget and any monies raised will be invested back into the community and environment. EAC members are appointed by the Board of Supervisors and are volunteer positions. The public is always welcome at EAC meetings and events!



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MONTHLY MADDNESS

Thank you for participating in your organizations fundraiser, we are working together to raise funds for our community.

Patrick Flanley



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Slatedale-Emerald Area Lions Club is Looking for New Members!!

Meetings 1st & 3rd Tuesday of the month at 7pm in Friedens UCC Church, 7227 Rt. 873, Slatington, PA 18080

Our club covers the Heidelberg Township and Northwestern School District areas. Anyone over 21 can become a member, and if you are under 18 you can join the LEO club in your school.

Come join us and make a difference in the lives of people right here in your community! Most people know us for our work supporting vision loss, but we do so much more that directly affects our local community!

Some of the Local Services we support are: Local Food Banks, Center for Vision Loss, Local Fire Companies, Northern Valley Emergency Medical Services (NOVA), Lion Laird A. Swartz Scholarship, Lions Youth Leadership Seminar and more!

We also work with the LEO Club and their projects at

Northwestern Lehigh School District.

Did you know our club has medical equipment that can be loaned for short periods of time free of charge! Some items available are a hospital bed, wheelchair, walker, etc.

If you can't volunteer, you can support us by attending, purchasing, or donating to any of our projects or fundraisers.

For more information or to become a member call John Weremedic at 610-767-4024



Bringing State Government to You By Rep. Gary Day (R-Lehigh/Berks)

continued from page 13

My highly trained and knowledgeable staff has extensive experience helping constituents obtain copies of birth and death certificates, and state tax forms; filing claims for unclaimed property from the state Treasury; copies of state legislation; and questions about many other programs and services, such as those through the state's COMPASS website.

We also have a number of seasonal publications available: trout stocking guides in the spring, vacation guides for the summer, as well as hunting season and bag limit guides in the fall.

Sometimes when you encounter a problem with government, you may not know where to go. We can help point you in the right direction.

More information about our services is available online at www.RepGaryDay.com, if you have any questions about state government concerns, please contact us. We are here to help you.

HEIDELBERG UNION CHURCH

HEIDELBERG UNION CHURCH is the oldest and only church in the township, serving our community for over 278 years. Their outreach includes programs for all ages, youth through retirement age; support for local food banks; the Allentown Soup Kitchen and their traditional Sunday services. ALL ARE WELCOME.

Pastor Karen Yonney has been serving as the United Church of Christ pastor for almost 13 years. Sunday services are currently at 11:00 a.m. Starting June 10th, service time will be 10:15 a.m. except for Union Services (see below). Then starting September 9th, service time will be 8:30 a.m.

Currently, the Lutheran congregation is served by The Reverend Virginia Goodwin, Interim Pastor since September 1, 2016. Services are currently at 8:30 a.m., except for Union Services (see below). Starting September 9th, service time will be at 11:00 a.m.

Union YOUTH FAITH FORMATION (PreK through 8th grade) and COFFEE AND CONVERSATION currently meet from 9:45-10:45 a.m. through June 3rd. During the summer, Youth Faith Formation and Coffee and Conversation do not meet, but will resume meeting on September 9th.

- Upcoming Sunday Union Services held at 10:15 a.m. are: Sunday, July 1st; Sunday, July 22nd; Sunday, August 19th.
- Upcoming Sunday Union Services held at 11:00 a.m. are: May 6th, Spring Handbell Service; June 3rd; October 14th, Confirmation Reunion; December 2nd, Christmas Handbell Concert; Sunday, December 16th, Faith Formation Program.
- Union Christmas Eve Services are on Monday, December 24th, Christmas Eve Candlelight at 8:00 p.m.; Monday, December 24th, Christmas Eve Communion at 11:00 p.m.
- Vacation Bible School will be held July 16th-20th, from 6:30-8:00 p.m. The closing program will be on Sunday, July 22nd, at 10:15 a.m.

The church's address is 5187 Irvin Road, Slatington, PA (intersection of Church and Irvin Roads near Saegersville); church phone: 610-767-4740; U.C.C. Website: www.uccheidelberg.org; Lutheran Website: www.heidelberglutheran.org. Look for us on Facebook, too!



THE HEALING PLACE at Living Stone Fellowship – Where Miracles Happen

6925 Flint Hill Road (at the intersection of Long Court & Flint Hill Rd) New Tripoli, PA

We welcome our neighbors and friends in Heidelberg Township to join us for Celebration, Praise, Worship and Prayer each Sunday at 10AM. We are a Christ-centered full gospel charismatic family church that exists to share the love of God and His goodness to all.

We are a place where miracles happen; where you can find help for whatever you may be going through; and where you can find hope for your future.

THE HEALING PLACE at Livingston Fellowship was created:

- To glorify and worship God;
- To lead people to faith in Jesus Christ;
- To help people find their destiny and purpose in life;
- To disciple adults and children to maturity in the Word of God;
- To support people in their ministry and life's mission; and
- To bring them into the fellowship of a church family.

We have something for everyone at THE HEALING PLACE at Living Stone Fellowship. You will find people here who are from "all walks of life", different ages, different cultures, different heritages, but of the same spirit, coming together as a family, to love God, love each other and together growing to become more like Jesus. We welcome you to join us to see how great it is to become a member of the Kingdom of God.

We offer many events and fellowship experiences for people to deepen their spiritual understanding of our Father's love and His goodness.

Join us for the following regularly scheduled events:

- Every Sunday Morning at 10AM – Sunday Celebration with Children's church
 - 2nd Saturday of every month at 6PM – Family and Community Night – FREE meal served to everyone who attends. Along with a time of fellowship, great food, sharing, enjoying a family get together. Free Movies, Free Bingo and Games. Activities vary month to month. Everyone in the Community is invited. Just let us know you are coming so we can provide for everyone – RSVP 610-298-3020
 - 2nd & 4th Mondays at 6:30PM – **Gemstones Women's Ministry**
 - 2nd Saturday of every month at 8AM – **Men's Bible Study Ministry**
 - 3rd Saturday of every month at 8AM – **Men's Fellowship Breakfast** with a special guest speaker
 - 3rd Tuesday of each month at 6:45PM – **Family Prayer Time – Where Miracles Happen**
 - Every Sunday morning – Children's ministry in our **Kids Zone** classes for ages 3-14
- * Spanish translation available upon request



Senior Pastor Jean F. Masiko
Associate Pastor Jaime G. Gonzalez

HEIDELBERG TOWNSHIP

WHAT IS AN NPDES PERMIT, AND DO I NEED ONE?

NPDES stands for National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System. As authorized by the Clean Water Act (CWA), the NPDES Permit Program controls water pollution by regulating storm water that discharge pollutants into waters of the United States. Examples of pollutants include, but are not limited to, rock, sand, dirt, and agricultural, industrial, and municipal waste.

Do I need an NPDES permit for earth disturbance on my property?

The Lehigh County Conservation District hopes to help answer that question with the following information. Keep in mind that earth disturbances of 1 acre or more, over the life of the project, require that the owner/operator of the parcel obtain an NPDES permit for discharging stormwater from a construction site. Given that, the LCCD presents two common scenarios that can constitute the need for a permit.

Scenario #1:

Question: I installed a driveway to access my property last year, and now I am ready to build my house, do I need a permit?

Answer: Most likely yes, you will need a permit.

The earth disturbance of 1 acre is over the "life of the project": The intent of that requirement is to prevent people from piecing together their project. So if the earth disturbance associated with building the driveway was only .10 acres or greater (but less than 1 acre), you would still need to obtain a permit if the overall earth disturbance would be 1 acre or more over the life of the project. In other words, you could not disturb .20 acres the next year, .70 acres the following

year and so on to avoid getting a permit. This falls under the "common plan of development" found in PA Code, Title 25 Environmental Protection under the Chapter 102 regulations. As always, contact the LCCD with any questions prior to starting earth moving activities to determine if a permit may be needed.

Scenario #2:

Question: My project is on adjoining tax parcels, so I have .80 acres of earth disturbance on one parcel and .70 acres of earth disturbance on another parcel. Do I need an NPDES permit?

Answer: Yes, you do need a permit.

Again this is covered under the "common plan of development" found in the Chapter 102 regulations. The acre threshold is not tied to disturbance being solely on one tax parcel. It may be multiple tax parcels and these parcels can adjoin, be across the street from each other or even blocks away from each other, if the earth disturbance is part of a common plan. An example of this would be that a building being constructed disturbs .80 acres and the parking garage across the street that is being constructed solely for the building is going to be .70 acres of earth disturbance, then the earth disturbance would total 1.50 acres and a permit would be required.

Again, always feel free to reach out to the LCCD office with any questions pertaining to if and when an NPDES permit may be required.

Lehigh County Conservation District
4184 Dorney Park Road, Suite 105



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PennState Extension

Photo: B. Swistock

Home Water & Septic System Workshop

Date: Tuesday, May 22

Time: 6:30 - 8:30 PM

Cost: Free

You Will Learn:

- How to protect your health, your property, and our shared ground and surface water resources
- How to test and treat your drinking water
- How to maintain your septic system

Free Drinking Water Testing

Free educational drinking water testing will be provided for the first 30 households to register. Results from simple tests can help guide you in future testing by accredited labs. Water collection instructions will be provided to registrants.

Support provided by the Master Well Owner Network grant from PA DEP and PGWA.

Location:

Lehigh County
Heidelberg Township Building
6272 Route 309
New Tripoli, PA 18066

To register:

Call 1-877-345-0691

Online:

extension.psu.edu/home-and-septic-workshop

Deadline:

Registration closes May 18

If you anticipate needing any type of accommodation or have questions about the physical access provided, please contact Jennifer Fetter (717) 921-8803 in advance of your participation or visit.

This flyer is available in alternative media on request.

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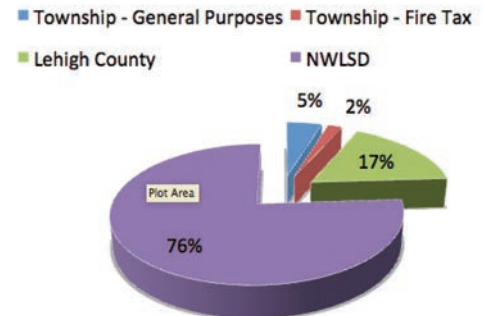
HEIDELBERG TOWNSHIP

Who gets a part of your real estate tax pie?

Your Board of Supervisors keeps a tight rein on expenditures and realizing how much of your real estate tax money actually goes to your local government explains why. With Heidelberg Township's small sliver of pie, 5% of your total tax dollars. Your Board of Supervisors and their small staff maintain your roads and bridges, keeping them safe for travel, plan where and what type of growth should happen to benefit their township residents, adopt and enforce ordinances to keep you safe and protect the high quality of life all their residents enjoy. Your volunteer fire company, Goodwill Fire Co. No. 1 in Germansville, gets another small sliver of the pie at 2%. These volunteers use your tax dollars wisely to keep you and your family protected when the unthinkable happens whether it be a car accident, fire, rescue or other emergency. Lehigh County gets a bigger slice of pie at 17% and the Northwestern Lehigh School District gets the largest slice of pie at 76%.

Looking at the actual dollar amounts: For every \$100,000 of assessed value, you pay Heidelberg Township \$100.00 in real estate taxes, your fire company \$40.00, your county \$364 and your school district \$1,596.

2018 Real Estate Tax Pie



NEWS FOR CONSTITUENTS *continued from page 13*

By Senator Pat Browne, Appropriations Committee Chairman

For more information on preventing identity theft, visit the PA Attorney General's website at www.attorneygeneral.gov. Check out Identitytheft.gov/databreach for information on what you should do in the event of a data breach.

PROPERTY TAX & RENT REBATE APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE

The 2017 Property Tax and Rent Rebate program is now open and accepting applications. The program benefits Pennsylvanians age 65 and older; widows and widowers age 50 and older; and people with disabilities age 18 and older. The income limit is no more than \$35,000 for homeowners and \$15,000 for renters during the 2016 year. Applicants are reminded that when calculating income, only half of Social Security income is included. The deadline to apply for

a rebate program is June 30, 2018.

Applications and information are available by visiting or calling any of my offices or by visiting the Property Tax and Rent Rebate section of PA Department of Revenue's website. If you need assistance in filling out the application, my office staff are here to help. Make sure to provide all the necessary income, property tax or rental information – including a rent certificate signed by your landlord – for your claim to be processed accurately and quickly.

Since the Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program's 1971 inception, older and disabled adults have received more than \$6.7 billion in property tax and rent relief. The program is funded by the Pennsylvania Lottery and slots revenue.

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Heidelberg Township would like to thank the businesses who advertised in this publication and to recognize them each as supporters and cornerstones of our community. For it is with their contributions that this newsletter has been produced at no charge to our residents.

Goodwill Fire Company #1

PO Box 69 | Germansville, PA 18053 | Social Hall: 610-767-7757

www.germansvillefire10.org



2018 Fire Company Officers:

President - TJ Stellar • Vice President - Ann Arsenault
Treasurer - Jamie Zanelli • Membership Secretary - Rachael Scheffler • Recording Secretary - Paul Zanelli

2018 Fire Team Officers:

Fire Chief - Jay Scheffler • Deputy Chief - Randy Metzger • Assistant Chief - Rich Witt
Assistant Chief - Erik Pfeiffer • Captain - John Fritz • Captain - Billy Shellhammer
QRS Captain - Mark Smith • Safety Officer - Rick Young

The fire team closed out 2017 having responded to 152 calls in Heidelberg and Lowhill Townships and assisted with additional incidents in surrounding municipalities. The fire team is staffed 100% by volunteers who put countless hours into training, education and incident responses. Please thank a volunteer for their service!

The 2018 membership drive is underway – for those of you who renewed already, thank you for your support. If you are interested in renewing or becoming a new member for 2018, individual memberships are \$10, family memberships are \$25 and lifetime memberships are \$125. Contact Rachael.scheffler@gmail.com if you would like an application.

As we look forward to warmer weather with the spring and summer months, chilly days and nights are still upon us, at least for a little while longer. To keep your family safe while burning coal and wood stoves, please remember to test your CO and smoke detectors at least twice a year. They have a life span of approximately 10 years.

During incidents of power outages, generators should be placed outside while in use to allow for proper ventilation. If you encounter downed electrical wires on your property or on the road, please do not attempt to move or touch them. You should always assume the wires are live. Allow the utility companies to address the situation.

Red reflective mailbox or house address markers are available for purchase through the fire company. They are a great way to make your house number easily identifiable in the case of an emergency. If you are interested in getting an address sign for your home, they are available for purchase by contacting Fire Chief Jay Scheffler at 484-239-5020.

Many members of the fire team are actively engaged in continuing education classes to learn new skills that can be applied to hands-on emergency situations. Continuing education keeps our volunteers current and assists the department in retaining local and national certification status. Recently, two members of the fire team completed the curriculum and required tests, and are now EMT certified. Having two additional volunteers available to help the responding ambulance corps is an invaluable asset to the community.

If you have appropriate materials to burn at your residence, remember to report all controlled burns to the Lehigh County Communications Center by calling 610-437-5252. Burning is only approved during daylight hours. For a full copy of the township burning ordinance, please contact the Heidelberg Township office.

It is a state law to yield to emergency vehicles you see on the roadways. Be courteous and safely pull off to the shoulder of the road. When you encounter an accident, please pass with caution and remain alert for fire company personnel who are assisting at accidents or related emergencies.

If you are interested in learning about fire company events and information concerning decisions discussed for the greater good of the organization, monthly meetings are held on the first Monday of each month starting at 7:30 p.m. It's a great way for you to get involved and stay informed.

The fire team trains each Monday evening starting at approximately 6:30 p.m. If you are interested in learning about ways in which you can get involved, please stop by the fire house on a Monday night. New volunteers are always welcome!

If you are interested in hosting an event, party or fundraiser at the Germansville Fire Company, we have two spaces available in the building for your consideration. A large upstairs hall and smaller, downstairs hall. To book one of the spaces, please contact Ann Arsenault at 570-952-1847 or 610-767-7757.

The fire company will continue to host community events throughout the year. They are fundraisers for the fire company and serve as great gatherings for community members and friends! The next wing and cheese steak night is Saturday, April 14th starting at 5:00 p.m. Bring your friends and come out for a night of great food and music!!

In the name of safety,

Jay Scheffler

Jay D. Scheffler, Fire Chief



HEIDELBERG CONTACT INFORMATION

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE LOCATION: 6272 Route 309 ~ Suite A | New Tripoli, Pa. 18066 | 610-767-9297
TOWNSHIP WEBSITE ADDRESS: www.heidelberglehig.org

Board of Supervisors

Meetings-3rd Thursday of every month at 7:30 p.m.
Steve Bachman, Chairman
David Fink, Vice Chairman
Jonathan Jakum

Planning Commission

Meetings-Last Monday of every month (when there is an agenda) at 7:30 p.m.
Mark Steidinger, Chairman
Priscilla Brennan, V-Chairman
Christine Bailey, Secretary
Brian Alnutt
Sidney German
Patricia Fenstermacher
Dillon Turner
Donald Billig, Alternate
Janice Meyers, Recording Secretary

Zoning Hearing Board

Meetings-3rd Monday of every month (when there is an agenda) at 7:30 p.m.
Andrew Toth, Chairman
Michael J. Bailey
Stephen Dymond
Mary Beth Dolinich-Alternate

Environmental Advisory Council

Meetings-2nd Tuesday of every month
Priscilla Brennan, Chairman
Morgan Kunkel, Secretary
Dawn Didra
Jonathan Jakum
Lucas Savage

Agriculture Security Area Advisory Council

Meetings as required
David Fink, Chairman
Daniel Hartman
William Dietrich
Michael Bailey
Janice Meyers, Recording Secretary

Township Auditors

Meeting-Tuesday after 1st Monday in January
Susan Zellner, Chairman
Sharon Metzger, Secretary
Barbara Weaver

UCC Board of Appeals

Meetings (when needed)
Gregory Snyder, Chairman
Jay Scheffler, Vice Chairman
Barry Mantz
Jeff Christman
Steven Ackerman

Township Solicitor

Atty. Charles Waters-Steckel & Stopp Law Offices

Zoning Hearing Board Solicitor

John Ashcraft III, Esquire

Emergency Management Coordinator

Joshua Bingham

Lehigh County Emergency Services

Office of Emergency Management
640 W. Hamilton Street, 8th Floor
Allentown, PA 18101
610-782-4600

Heidelberg Township

Administrative Office Location

6272 Route 309, Suite A
New Tripoli, PA 18066
Phone 610-767-9297 ext. 11

Township Website Address

www.heidelberglehig.org

Township Administrator, Secretary, and Treasurer

Janice Meyers ~ 610-767-9297 ext. 14

Township Zoning Officer /Office Assistant

Dawn Didra ~ 610-767-9297 ext. 11

Road Maintenance Department

Kevin Huber, Road Superintendent ~ 610-767-9297 ext. 15
Travis Moyer
Daniel Watt
Jonathan Pasieka

Township Engineer and Alternate Zoning Officer

Keystone Consulting Engineers, Inc.
Christopher Noll ~ 610-865-4555

Sewage Enforcement Officer

Christopher Noll ~ 610-865-4555
Alternate Sewage Enforcement
Scott Bieber ~ 610-965-1167

Tax Collector ~ Property

Phyllis Breininger ~ 610-767-7919
6292 Sunset Road
Germansville, PA 18053

Tax Collector ~ Wage

H. A. Berkheimer, Tax Officer ~ 1-800-360-8989
50 North Seventh Street
Bangor, PA 18013

Building Inspectors

CodeMaster Inspection Services ~ 484-223-0763
Blue Mountain Inspection Service ~ 570-943-2577

Emergencies ~ 911

Communications Non-Emergency 610-437-5252

State Police ~ 610-861-2026

Bethlehem Barracks
2930 Airport Road
Bethlehem, PA 18017

Goodwill Fire Company #1 ~ Germansville

6011 Memorial Road ~ PO Box 69
Germansville, PA 18053
Social Hall 610-767-7757
Social Hall Rental ~ Please Contact Anne Posey
570-952-1847

Germansville Post Office

6066 Memorial Road
Germansville, PA 18053
610-767-3367

NOVA

2375 Levans Road
Coplay, PA 18037
610-262-1075

Northwestern Lehigh School District

6493 Route 309
New Tripoli, PA 18066
610-298-8661

PA State Representative ~ District 187

Gary Day
6299 Route 309 ~ Suite 302
New Tripoli, PA 18066
Phone 610-760-7082

PA State Senator ~ District 16

Patrick "Pat" Browne
702 Hamilton St
Allentown, PA 18101
Phone 610-821-8468

District Justice 31-3-01

Thomas Creighton III
106 South Walnut Street
Slatington, PA 18080
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RCN ~ 1-800-746-4726
HughesNet ~ 1-877-271-0627
DIRECTV ~ 1-888-795-9488

Banks

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ESSA ~ 610-760-7850
Neffs National Bank ~ 610-767-3875

Newspapers

Morning Call ~ 1-800-666-5492
Northwestern Press ~ 1-800-596-6397

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