

Township News

Lower Milford Township
Lehigh County, Pennsylvania

Spring /Summer 2016 Volume 19, Issue 1

Quarry application receives Deficiency Notice

The PA Department of Environmental Protection's Pottsville Mining Office (DEP) issued a 12-page notice to Geryville Materials, Inc. outlining **95 significant technical deficiencies** regarding their non-coal surface mining application for a quarry in Lower Milford Township.

This came after a 2015 hearing held on June 3 at the township building by DEP. The meeting room was filled and people stood in the foyer to listen. Comments and data were presented to DEP by residents, neighboring municipalities, environmental organizations, professional hydrogeologists, sporting organizations and municipal representatives. An additional 30-day period was provided by DEP to receive written comments from the public before acting upon the application.

On October 22, DEP responded to Geryville Materials' application with a 12-page deficiency notice. Many of the deficiencies concern the data Geryville submitted for groundwater; infiltration rates, runoff, pump tests, monitoring, etc. DEP is also requesting new pump tests and monitoring at the proposed site.

To read the deficiency notice in its entirety, please go to the township website; a link is posted on the home page, www.lowermilford.net.

Is Quality of Life in the Region Important?

What will our quality of life be in another decade or so? Over the last several decades, farmland has been gobbled up by developers, covering much of the Lehigh Valley with commercial mega buildings and houses as far as the eye can see. Planning seemed to matter little and quality of life for the residents mattered even less. Although Lower Milford followed the goals and policies of maintaining a rural community with emphasis on agricultural preservation as stated in our Comprehensive Plan, others did not. A recent traffic count by PennDOT indicated over 5,000 vehicles per day travel through Limeport; most of those vehicles are commuters passing through our community.

The Lehigh Valley Planning Commission (serves Lehigh and Northampton Counties) has drafted a long range transportation plan. The plan identifies the result of a 2010 voter survey indicating that traffic congestion is a "major issue." The overwhelming increase of trucking in the Lehigh Valley cannot be ignored. According to PennDOT statistics, the section of I-78 near the Lehigh-Berks boundary line, has the distinction of a crash rate 71% above the state average and a 41% higher rate of fatalities.

Traffic congestion can only increase if the predictions cited in the Build Lehigh Valley report presented by the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission Staff on May 4, 2015, come to fruition. The report estimates an additional 50,000 households in the Lehigh Valley by 2040. While "growth" is equated by some to equal "progress" and "advancement," it is much like food consumption; if you only consume high calorie food in modest and responsible amounts, it should not harm you. However, gorging ice cream and potato chips can lead to obesity; so will overdevelopment lead to dangerous congestion and misery.

To a great extent, local government is still in control of their community's current and future planning. State legislature makes some mandates on land use and some are suggestions to formulate comprehensive plans and Zoning Ordinances to accomplish those plans. Counties also have comprehensive plans which address land use across the whole county, and in the case of Lehigh, the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission staff and committees formulate the comprehensive plan for both Lehigh and Northampton. The current Lehigh Valley Comprehensive Plan 2030 is slated for an update beginning later this year. If you have an interest in how the Lehigh Valley continues to be shaped, let the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission staff know your sentiments. Contact information is found on their website at www.lvpc.org.

Inside this issue:

Library News 2

Lights for Limeport 2

Memorial Day 3

Stormwater 4

Dirt and Gravel Rd 4

PA State Police 5

Southwest Lehigh
Plan 5



Days of Summer

Southern Lehigh Public Library News



Reminder for LMT residents – For your convenience, there is a book/media drop located in the parking lot at the Lower Milford Township building. Items are picked up once each week; the library is careful to adjust its computer settings so that residents are not charged overdue fines unfairly. We love having you visit our main location, but this drop could save you some time during your busy day!

“Tea Time” – Saturday, May 21, 12:30-2:30PM, enjoy various teas and savory and sweet treats; bring Mom as a special Mother’s Day surprise; purchase tickets online, in person, or by phone for \$10/person; bring along a special item that you’d like to share with others.

“Friends of SLPL Spring Basket Raffle” – FSLPL has created 23 gorgeous baskets that will be raffled off at the Tea Time event on May 21; tickets may be purchased at the library for \$2 each or in specially priced bundles; there are baskets that would interest men, women and children.

Summer Reading Club – This year’s theme is “On Your Mark, Get Set, Read!” for children and “Get in the Game!” for teens. Reading Club and other summer programming will be held June-August, watch the library’s website and newsletter for details.



Limeport Stadium Opening Day 1933

Please support this historical treasurer by making a donation to the *Lights for Limeport* fund drive
www.limeportstadium.org

“Limeport Stadium, Inc. 501 (c)(3) is seeking contributions/donations towards our "Lights for Limeport" stadium lights replacement project. Our current lights have been in service since 1984 and were constructed with wooden poles and structures. It's time to bring our lighting system up to modern standards. The new system will be constructed using metal poles and structures, will reduce energy consumption from improved efficiencies while providing higher lighting candle power from technologically advanced bulbs. This new system will, literally, keep the future of historic Limeport Stadium bright.

The estimated cost of removing the original system and installing a new system is \$275,000.

Please make your contribution/donation payable to:
 Limeport Stadium, Inc.
 P.O. Box 6
 Limeport, PA 18060”



*Congratulations !
 Class of 2016*

Fall Festival 2016,

Will be held on Saturday, September 24

We know it is early to be thinking about Summer’s end when it hasn’t yet begun, but planning and organizing the event starts early.

This year, the Silent Auction will be conducted by the Township with the proceeds benefiting improvements for the Township Park grounds. We are requesting donations of new or gently used household, garden, sports, cooking, recreational, children’s items, seasonal or any other items suitable for the Silent Auction. Donations may be dropped at the Township Building, Monday through Friday, 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM or you may call 610-967-4949 to request a pick-up.

Please Help Make It a Great Festival!

Memorial Day

A Day of Remembrance

Originally called *Decoration Day*, it is a day set aside to honor the Nation's fallen; those who made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedoms. Honor a relative, friend or stranger by placing a flag or flowers on a veteran's grave. And remember, please fly your flag at half-staff until noon, then raising to full-staff for the remainder of the day.



Memorial Day 2017 marks the 10th Anniversary of the dedication of the Lower Milford Township Veterans Memorial. A re-dedication event is being planned and all Lower Milford Veterans or active duty Military will be honored. A form will be mailed with the next newsletter requesting information for all known Veterans and active duty Military personnel. If you would like to participate in planning this event, please email: info@lowermilford.net or call 610-967-4949 extension 101.

More Lower Milford News ~

- The Lower Milford Agricultural Security Area has grown by the addition of the Roy, Hausman, and Pireda farms.
- Remember to visit our local growers for summer fruit and vegetables. The **"Hi Neighbor, Buy Neighbor"** guide may be found on the Township website.
- Lower Milford has an additional Facebook page, "Lower Milford News and Happenings." News and events from around the Township and area will be posted. To have your news and events posted, send the information and any photos to: info@lowermilford.net

Welcome John Quigley to the Board of Supervisors!

The Board Members and Staff of Lower Milford Township welcome new Supervisor, John C. Quigley. John and his family reside on a beautiful family farm in the western portion of Lower Milford Township. John served for many years as a Southern Lehigh School Board Director and is more than comfortable participating in public forums. We know as Supervisor, he will contribute greatly to our Township.



A Big Thank You! to Everyone Who Helped Make This Year's Clean-Up Day a Great Success!

EPA 841-F-03-003



Protecting Water Quality from Urban Runoff

The most recent National Water Quality Inventory reports that runoff from urbanized areas is the leading source of water quality impairments to surveyed estuaries and the third-largest source of impairments to surveyed lakes.

The porous and varied terrain of natural landscapes like forests, wetlands, and grasslands traps rainwater and snowmelt and allows them to filter slowly into the ground. In contrast, impervious (nonporous) surfaces like roads, parking lots, and rooftops prevent rain and snowmelt from infiltrating, or soaking, into the ground. Most of the rainfall and snowmelt remains above the surface, where it runs off rapidly in unnaturally large amounts. Storm sewer systems concentrate runoff into smooth, straight conduits. This runoff gathers speed and erosional power as it travels underground. When this runoff leaves the storm drains and empties into a stream, its excessive volume and power blast out streambanks, damaging streamside vegetation and wiping out aquatic habitat. These increased storm flows carry sediment loads from construction sites and other denuded surfaces and eroded streambanks. They often carry higher water temperatures from streets, roof tops, and parking lots, which are harmful to the health and reproduction of aquatic life. The loss of infiltration from urbanization may also cause profound groundwater changes. Although urbanization leads to great increases in flooding during and immediately after wet weather, in many instances it results in lower stream flows during dry weather. Many native fish and other aquatic life cannot survive when these conditions prevail.

For More Information

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Nonpoint Source Control Branch (4503T)
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20460
www.epa.gov/nps



The Lehigh County Conservation District has awarded a grant of \$20,000 to Lower Milford Township through the Dirt and Gravel Road Program to improve drainage and driving surface on portions of Buhman Road. The funds will be used for stormwater management materials and the Driving Surface Aggregate (DSA), which is applied by a paving machine as seen in the photo. In-kind matching resources will be provided by the Township in the form of labor and equipment. Work is estimated to begin mid May and continue through mid June. Questions concerning this project may be directed to Drake Brintzenhoff, Public Works Director, at the Township Office number, 610-967-4949 extension 112

**Shout Out from the Lower Milford Fire Company
No. 1 to Everyone Who Supported the Fire Fund
Drive, THANK YOU!**



Lower Milford Fire Company 2016 Carnival! June 8-11

Grounds open at 6:00 PM, Music & Rides start at 7:00 PM



**Food, Live Music, Games,
Rides and Fun for Everyone!**

For more information, visit:
www.lowermilfordfire.org



Lower Milford has joined the ranks of most of our neighbors in utilizing the services of the Pennsylvania State Police on a full-time basis. With a part-time department of two employees, the PA State Police have always patrolled and provided service to our Township. A 2012 publication from The Center for Rural Pennsylvania entitled, "An Examination of Pennsylvania State Police Coverage of Municipalities," PA State Police provided service to 92 percent (1,521 of 1,652) of the rural municipalities in the state from 2006 - 2010.

Some of the law enforcement services provided by the PA State Police include Computer Crime, Special Response Team (SERT), Aviation, Hazardous Device and Explosives, Forensic, Vehicle Fraud Investigation, Amber Alert Activations, as well as Patrol. For a full list of services along with information and links to other important agencies, visit their website at: www.psp.pa.gov.

Please continue to call the Lehigh County 9-1-1 Center for all emergencies; police, fire or medical emergency. For decades, the PA State Police have been serving Upper Milford and Lower Macungie Townships in Lehigh County, Upper Hanover Township in Montgomery County and Milford Township Bucks County, location of the Quakertown Interchange of the PA Turnpike Northeast Extension. Lower Milford Township is fortunate to have the services of the PA State Police available to meet the needs of our community.



This can be a scary sight in your rearview mirror and Lehigh Valley residents are told that truck traffic will significantly increase as commercial warehousing and freight operations continue to be built in our area. You can have a voice in the future of the Lehigh Valley and particularly, the Southwest Lehigh County Region. On **Tuesday, May 24 at 7 PM in the Upper Milford Township Building**, the six municipalities in the regional planning group will hold a public meeting to consider the first draft of the Southwest Lehigh regional plan update. Your input and ideas are welcome. The scene below is all too often repeated and more trucks will bring more crashes. If

you have a different vision for the Lehigh Valley, please attend and voice your concerns. It is our future. Let's protect it.



Upper Milford Township Building (The Former King's Highway School)
5671 Chestnut Street
Old Zionsville, PA

LOWER MILFORD TOWNSHIP

7607 Chestnut Hill Church Road
Coopersburg, PA 18036

Phone 610-967-4949
Fax 610-967-1013
www.lowermilford.net

PRSRT STD
U.S. Postage
PAID
Emmaus, PA
Permit # 13



Start taking those Township
Photos for the Fall Festival 2016
Photo Contest! Open categories;
must be taken in Lower Milford

Check us out on Facebook
Lower Milford Township
Lower Milford News and Happenings

Happy
Summer!



Have A
GREAT
Fathers Day!

Township Offices will be closed for the following:

- 🇺🇸 Memorial Day, Monday, May 30
- 🇺🇸 Independence Day, Monday, July 4
- 🇺🇸 Labor Day, Monday, September 5

For a Calendar of
Township Meetings and
Events, visit the website
at:

www.lowermilford.net