



Lower Saucon Township

-Established in 1743-

Volume 17 Issue 2

Summer 2013

Lower Saucon Township Citizens Academy Completion



The inaugural 2013 Citizens Academy program concluded on April 11, 2013 with the awarding of certificates of participation to the 13 graduates by Lower Saucon Township officials.

The Citizens Academy, which was suggested by Lower Saucon Township Council Member Dave Willard and affirmed by the Council, was a six-week long series of presentations by the Council, Manager and Township staff. The Academy program provided attendees with an overview of the Township government; Planning and Zoning; Finance; Public Works, and the Police Department. The last session included an overview of the Township Parks & Recreation facilities and presentations by volunteer organizations such as the Saucon Valley Conservancy,

Lower Saucon Township Historical Society, and the Saucon Rail Trail Oversight Commission.

Participants expressed an appreciation for the program and recommended that the Citizens Academy should be held periodically to give more Township residents an opportunity to attend. They also provided an evaluation of the sessions so that fine-tuning can be done to the program.

The Old Mill Bridge Rededication

On April 17, 2013 the Township Council, guests and residents celebrated the rehabilitation of the historic bridge with a rededication ceremony on the structure located at the end of Old Mill Road.

The bridge, which spans the Saucon Creek, was constructed in 1867 and was in continuous use until it was closed by Northampton County to vehicle traffic in 1983. The bridge was acquired by the Township in 1986 in order to prevent it from being demolished. Since then it has been used for pedestrian and bicycle crossings. With the opening of the adjacent Saucon Rail Trail in 2011, it has taken on added

significance by providing a linkage from the southwest side of the Township to downtown Hellertown, the Saucon Valley School District campus and to future connections with the Bethlehem Greenway and D & L Trail Corridor.



Joining in the celebration were Ken and Hope LeVan of Williamsport, PA, who previously owned the Ehrhart Grist Mill that burned down in 1995. The LeVans lived in the adjacent Mill House and were instrumental in having the mill properties, including the Old Mill Bridge, included in the historic district that was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1987.

Do I need a Permit?

Lower Saucon Township requires permits for many types of construction and building work in residential structures. Please allow up to 15 business days for zoning/building permits to be processed.

Examples of work that requires a Zoning/Building Permit:

- Construction and/or installation of a fence.
- Construction and/or installation of a shed, carport, or garage.
- Construction and/or installation of a patio or porch.
- Construction and/or installation of a walkway on the property.
- Construction and/or installation of a deck.
- Widening an existing driveway.
- Resurfacing a driveway with/without enlarging it or changing the shape at all.
- Above ground and in ground swimming pools, even “wall-less” and portable pools (yes, portable pools). Any pool that is deeper than 24” needs a permit. If your pool is taken down every year, you need a permit to put it back up every year.
- Building an addition onto your house including attached garages and carports.
- Adding a roof to a patio, porch, or deck where the roof is attached to a dwelling.
- Installation of doors and windows if the new doors and windows are of a different size than the existing doors/windows.
- Upgrading an electrical service.
- The addition or relocation of electrical wiring.
- Adding stud walls such as when finishing a basement.

Examples of work that does not require any permit:

- Repair and replacement of existing structures such as floorboards in a deck.
- Putting new shingles on your roof.
- Replacing or installing siding on a house.
- Replacing windows and doors with new ones of the same size.
- Replacing a garage door (however, replacing a manual door with an electric door may require an electrical permit).
- Wallpaper, carpet, tile, paint work, and interior cabinetry such as kitchen cabinets.

Also, please note that a Certificate of Occupancy is required for anyone moving into the Township. The application fee is \$10.00. This permit should be applied for at least 10 business days prior to the move-in date.

A Moving Permit is required to move out of the Township and the fee is \$5.00. This permit is issued the same day of application.

Please contact the Zoning Officer Chris Garges at 610-865-3291 if you are unsure what kind of permit you need or if you have any questions. Please visit our website www.lowersaucontownship.org for more information.

Reading Drive Trailhead Open

On May 17, 2013 the Township officially opened the newly constructed Reading Drive Trailhead. Located off of Reading Drive at the intersection with Bingen Road, the trailhead is adjacent to the Saucon Rail Trail and midway between the Hellertown Borough and Upper Saucon Township trailheads on the current 5-mile Phase I portion of this trail. The trailhead has 20 parking spaces, toilet facilities and a picnic area (coming soon) for trail users.



Nixle Alerts

Lower Saucon Township has begun utilizing a new service to provide residents with accurate safety information when you need it.

Our Police, Emergency Services and Public Works Department will be utilizing the Nixle service to disseminate public safety messages to the community on crime alerts, stolen vehicles, road closures, power outages, severe weather conditions, lost dogs, etc. in the form of alerts, advisories, and community information posts which can be delivered to residents instantly via text, email, mobile app and/or web messages. These notifications can also be accessed via the Township website at www.lowersaucontownship.org where you can sign up to receive these alerts. When you sign up you can decide what information you want to receive and whether you want it sent to your cell phone, email or over the web. For more information please see http://www.nixle.com/downloads/why_nixle_citizens.pdf

Police Commendations

At a Township Council meeting on Wednesday, March 6th, several commendations were presented to a number of Lower Saucon's Police Officers for their fine work during 2012.

Chief Lesser presented Patrolman Charles Werkheiser with the Officer-of-the-Year Award. Officer Werkheiser scored the highest overall totals in 13 areas of police performance covering Appearance, Report Quality, Commendation vs. Complaints, Tracker/Vascar Operation, Criminal Arrests, Non-Traffic Citations, Traffic Citations, Warning Notices, Parking Tickets, Patrol Mileage, Vacant Home Checks, Vehicle Stops, and Incidents/Crashes/Offenses investigated. Patrolman Robert Winters was presented with the Runner-Up Officer-of-the-Year Award.



Left to Right: Chief Lesser, Robert Winters, Stephen Kunigus, Charles Werkheiser

Additionally, the Chief presented Enforcement Commendation Plaques to Officer Stephen Kunigus as well as Charles Werkheiser and Robert Winters for their efforts in combating the terrible effects of drunk driving and making traveling the roadways of Lower Saucon Township safer for all of us. All Officers were, as a group, among the top in the county for arrests as confirmed by the Northampton County DUI Program.

Openings on Township Boards, Commissions, Committees

Lower Saucon Township has several openings for volunteers willing to serve on Township Boards, Commissions and Committees.

Environmental Advisory Council

The Township is looking for Township residents to fill three (3) associate member vacancies on the Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC).

The EAC is a 12-person advisory board, 7 of whom are voting members and 5 of whom are associate or non-voting members. The EAC meets monthly to discuss a variety of environmental issues facing the township and provide advice and recommendations to the Township Council. Regular duties include plan review, public education, research, promotion of programs such as preservation of natural areas and water quality, and planning for a viable approach to natural resource protection.

Zoning Hearing Board

The Township is looking for a Township resident to fill a vacancy on the Zoning Hearing Board.

The Zoning Hearing Board is a five (5) member board whose primary purpose is to help assure fair and equitable application and administration of the Township Zoning Ordinance. The Board hears appeals of the Zoning Officer's determinations and has the authority to grant relief from the literal enforcement of the ordinance in certain hardship situations.

Please contact the Township Manager at manager@lowersaucontownship.org if you are interested in serving in these positions.

A Message from the Fire Marshal

Fire Officials are urging residents to think about safety and exercise caution when burning. The spring fire season coincides with the time when many people are outside in their yards doing spring cleanups that often includes burning leaves and yard debris. **Recycling is a much safer alternative than burning for the disposal of yard wastes.** It eliminates the risk of wildfire and the negative health effects of smoke. Human carelessness and debris burning are the leading causes of wildfires.

Information about the Saucon Valley Compost Center is available on the Township website at www.lowersaucontownship.org/svcompostcenter. When you light a fire, you are responsible for controlling it. If your fire gets out of control, you are liable for the cost of fighting the fire, the potential destruction of others' property, and possible criminal penalties.

Water Conservation Tips

The Lower Saucon Authority website www.lowersauconauthority.org has a wealth of information on water-related topics, including how to detect leaks in your house piping and how to read your water meter to detect leakage. If at any time you feel that your water bill is higher than expected, please contact the Authority directly. We will review your usage and, if needed, send a technician out to conduct an on-site high-bill investigation at no charge.

The website also provides guidance on how to further conserve water in the event that a Drought Warning or Emergency is declared. There is a direct link to the Department of Environmental Protection Drought Status just below the Pennsylvania Map. The link provides the latest drought status and water conservation tips directly from the DEP.

Free Child Car Seat Installations and Safety Inspections

Lower Saucon Township offers free child car seat inspections and instructions on how to properly install your child's car seat. All inspections and instructions are performed by a Police Officer who is a certified Child Passenger Safety Technician. Please call the Police Department at (610) 317-6110 to make an appointment.

Relay For Life of Saucon Valley 3rd Annual Duck Derby



The American Cancer Society's Relay For Life of Saucon Valley will be hosting its 3rd annual Duck Derby on August 4, 2013 in conjunction with the *Saucon Valley Farmers Market*, 9:00 a.m.– 1:00 p.m. Family and friends will gather at Water Street Park in Hellertown and watch as thousands of rubber ducks are released into the Saucon Creek.

Spectators can cheer on their rented ducks as they float down Saucon Creek. Beyond the Water Street Bridge, a creek crew of volunteers will be gathered with nets to collect the ducks and announce the winners. Participants buy tickets with numbers corresponding to each rubber duck. Duck rentals will be sold at the SV Farmers Market in June & July.

Duck rentals are \$5.00 each or a 6-quack for \$25.00. Prizes will be awarded to the renters of the first thirty ducks to cross the finish line. For more details call Carol Schneider at 610-838-1354 or cas68@rcn.com or visit our website: www.relayforlife.org/pasauconvalley

2013 Township Real Estate Taxes

The 2013 Real Estate bills were mailed on February 1st. Base taxes will be accepted on or before June 3, 2013. After that date penalties will be applied.



Lower Saucon Township real estate taxes are accepted in person at Town Hall, located at 3700 Old Philadelphia Pike or the Saucon Valley Branch of Lafayette Ambassador Bank located at 3727 Rt. 378 Saucon Square, Bethlehem. As a convenient service for Lower Saucon Township residents, Lafayette Ambassador Bank also accepts Saucon Valley School District and Northampton County real estate tax payments.

2013 Discounted Park Tickets

Discounted Park tickets for local & not-so-local amusement parks are available for township residents through the Pennsylvania Parks & Recreation Society. Tickets may be purchased at Town Hall from 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. For a complete list of prices please visit our website: <http://www.lowersaucontownship.org/pdf/summertickets.pdf> Click on the "Parks and Recreation" tab and scroll to "Summer Tickets".



Volunteers Needed for Saucon Valley Compost Center

The Saucon Valley Compost Center, which re-opened on April 12th for the 2013 season, is recruiting volunteers to assist with the future of the Center

Due to municipal funding limits, the operating days/hours of the Compost Center cannot be extended beyond the current schedule at this time. However, expanded schedules could be considered in the future if an adequate number of volunteers step forward to assist the facility staff.

If you are interested in volunteering your time to help out at the Compost Center, please contact the Township Manager at: manager@lowersaucontownship.org. Training and equipment will be provided to all volunteers.

Lower Saucon Township Historical Society



The Lower Saucon Township Historical Society maintains the Lutz-Franklin one-room schoolhouse located at 4216 Countryside Lane in Lower Saucon. Our mission is to provide educational programs for children and adults. This spring 399 children visited the schoolhouse with their third and fourth grade classes.

The historical society provides adult education programs for members and the community in March, April, May, October, and November. The presentations are free and refreshments are served. The programs are held in Seidersville Hall, 3700 Old Philadelphia Pike, and start at 7:00 p.m.

June 12, 2013 – The LSTHS meeting will take place at the schoolhouse instead of Seidersville Hall with a special presentation by a former Lutz-Franklin Schoolhouse student, Lawrence Kish.

July 13, 2013 – Our historical society will host an old-fashioned picnic on the schoolhouse lawn. The picnic will start at 1:00 p.m. Hot dogs, hamburgers, and drinks will be provided. Please bring a dish to pass and your lawn chair. Join us for a game of quoits or croquet, some good food, and conversation. Guests are always welcome.

October 9, 2013 - Jeff Donat will share a sampling of his large post card collection at our 7:00 p.m. meeting in Seidersville Hall.

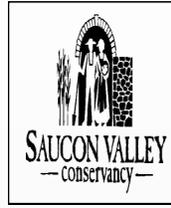
LSTHS sponsors three large events each year at the schoolhouse. History Day was the last Saturday in April this year.

June 8, 2013 is the date for our One-Room Schoolhouse Alumni Get-Together. The event will take place at Lutz-Franklin from 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.. All former one-room schoolhouse students are welcome to attend. Rosemarie Kovacs will play favorite “oldies” on the piano. Dessert and coffee will be served.

Our annual Apple Festival will be held on October 5, 2013 at the schoolhouse from 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. It will be a day of apple desserts, apple tasting, apple crafts for children, Johnny Appleseed, and musical performances. We also will feature an apple dessert contest.

LSTHS maintains an Archive Room located in Seidersville Hall. The society is looking for photographs, artifacts, manuscripts, recordings, and books relevant to Lower Saucon Township. To make a donation call 610-626-8771 or stop by our Seidersville office, 3700 Old Philadelphia Pike, on a Tuesday between 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m..

Saucon Valley Conservancy



**Save the date – Saturday, September 14, 2013
- 7th Annual Barn Tour**

Fascinated by old barns? Enjoy the unique experience of being able to tour inside some of the wonderful old barns along our rural roads in the Saucon Valley area. Each barn is truly one-of-a-kind. Your day begins with a presentation giving an overview of the barn highlights by two well known barn experts at the Beethoven Waldheim Club, 1984 Waldheim Road, Hellertown, PA. You can then travel to the barns on the tour at your leisure using our guide book. A great diversity of barns will be experienced and will expand upon the excitement that was created during the past tours that included homestead barns of many types, shapes and sizes. Tickets: \$20 each and 2 for \$35 in advance; \$25 each day of tour. Proceeds benefit the Heller Barn Preservation Fund.

Events:

- Saturday, June 1, 9:00 a.m.– 12:00 p.m., Barn Photo Workshop with Frank T. Smith, Instructor.
- Saturday, June 1 – Sunday, August 25: John Griswold Art Exhibit
- Monday, June 3, 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.: John Griswold Artist Reception
- Saturday, September 7 – September 29: Barn Photo Exhibit of Saucon Valley Barns
- Saturday, September 14, 9:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. (Rain or Shine): 7th Annual Saucon Valley Barn Tour; Starts at the Beethoven Waldheim Club Pavilion; Lecture & self-guided tour (Sponsorships available)
- Saturday, October 5 – December 15: Betty Knesevitch Art Exhibit
- Monday, December 2, 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. (Snow date December 3): 21st Annual Holiday Gathering Open House & Betty Knesevitch Artist Reception

The Heller Homestead is nestled along the Saucon Creek just off the Saucon Rail Trail at 1890 - 92 Friedensville Road (Water Street) in Lower Saucon Township, Northampton County, PA. The Art Gallery and Antiques & Collectibles gift shop are open to the public on Saturdays and Sundays, 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. (Sundays, 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. May – November) and special events. Tours of the Museum are available by appointment. Volunteer opportunities are available.

For information: 610-216-0566, SVCconservancy@aol.com, www.sauconvalleyconservancy.org.

Please join us at the historic **Heller Homestead**. We have great year planned!

Lower Saucon Township

3700 Old Philadelphia Pike
Bethlehem, PA 18015



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Lower Saucon Township Officials

Glenn Kern	Council President
Tom Maxfield	Council Vice President
Priscilla deLeon	Council Member
Ron Horiszny	Council Member
David Willard	Council Member
Lou Mahlman	Controller
Jack Cahalan	Township Manager
Leslie Huhn	Assistant Manager

Important Phone Numbers

Emergency	911
Non-Emergency (Police)	610-759-2200
Police Department	610-317-6110
Administrative Offices	610-865-3291
Water/Sewer Authority	610-317-3212

Visit us on the web @
www.lowersaucontownship.org

Season Passes for Hellertown Community Pool

Season passes for the Hellertown Community Pool will be available during normal business hours at Hellertown Borough Hall, 685 Main Street, Hellertown, Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Extended hours to purchase tickets will be available Wednesday, June 5 and June 12, 2013 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. and Saturday, June 8 and June 15, 2013 from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Tickets will **NOT** be available at Lower Saucon Township. You must purchase them at Hellertown Borough Hall.

You can find the rates, opening date, and more important information on our website at www.lowersaucontownship.org/hellertown.html



Firefighters wanted: We will provide all the training.

You will discover a new sense of security knowing you are helping your community, neighbors and friends.

Visit our website www.sewyco-fc.org or our Facebook page for more information.

Also follow the rebuilding progress at our Leithsville Station at www.sewyco-fc.org and on our Facebook page.

Meeting Schedule

Council

1st and 3rd Wednesdays - 7:00 p.m.

Parks & Recreation Board

1st Monday - 7:00 p.m.

Environmental Advisory Council

2nd Tuesday - 7:00 p.m.

Planning Commission

4th Thursday - 7:00 p.m.

Zoning Hearing Board

3rd Monday - 7:00 p.m.

Lower Saucon Authority

3rd Tuesday - 7:00 p.m.

Office Closed

July 4th - Independence Day

September 2nd - Labor Day