



Lower Saucon Township

-Established in 1743-

Volume 18 Issue 2
Summer 2014

**Important
Lower Saucon
Township
Reminder:**

2014 Township Real Estate

The 2014 Real Estate bills were mailed on February 1st. Base taxes were accepted until June 3, 2014. After that date a 10% penalty will be applied.

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A Message from Council President Ron Horiszny.....

The Township's annual Volunteer Appreciation Picnic will be held at 6:00 p.m. on June 16 at Town Hall Park. This event is the Councils' attempt to thank all those who volunteer and serve on our boards, commissions, and committees. We know it's a small token for all the time and effort to help the Township function that they put forth, but hope that all who can, will attend so that we can personally thank them again.

Another nod of appreciation was given by the Council during National Public Works Week - this one to the Township's Road Crew for the excellent work they do to keep our roads, parks, and buildings in great shape thru good and bad weather.

Ron

Lower Saucon Township Council President

Hellertown Area Library Improvements

Following up on the 2014 consolidation of library services for Lower Saucon Township and Hellertown Borough residents at the Hellertown Area Library, Library Director Robin Rotherham provided an update to the Township Council in May on the upgrades and improvements that are being planned for the Library.



Ms. Rotherham reported that the library has added Youth Services and Technical Services Librarians to the staff along with a Community Outreach Coordinator and Circulation Desk Assistant. New hardware that includes servers, laptops, upgraded firewall and content filtering and an improved disaster recovery system have been added to the library's technology. Databases such as HeritageQuest, ProQuest and Mango languages have been purchased and 185 new e-book titles have been added to the library's Overdrive database.

At the time of her presentation, Ms. Rotherham also pointed out that the Township and Borough Public Works Department's were in the process of installing an additional parking lot at the library which will add 8 additional spaces to the 11 current parking slots in the front lot.

Ms. Rotherham pointed out that since the consolidation, check-outs, holds and traffic to the Library's website has risen with the additional Township patrons utilizing the Library's services.

The Library will be offering a variety of programs for adults, teens and children, which are described on page 2, at the facility which is located at 409 Constitution Avenue in Hellertown, PA.

Ms. Rotherham also previewed the planned interior renovations which will allow for better utilization of space in the building to accommodate the increase in patronage. The plan focuses on improvements to all three levels of the library, and will provide a renovated computer lab; new circulation desks; enlarged space for the children's area; study rooms and a public meeting space on the lower level, in addition to new paint, carpeting and electrical work.

These interior improvements will be undertaken as soon as the Library receives a decision on the Keystone Grant application that they are submitting this year for funding to augment the capital contributions being made to the Library in 2014-15 by the Township.

Hellertown Area Library Calendar of Events

Saturday summer hours begin June 21st until August 16th and are from **9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.** For a complete list of summer events visit our web site – www.hellertownlibrary.org or our Facebook page. To receive the monthly e-newsletter visit the library web site and sign up!

All Library events are free and open to everyone but space is limited.
Please register by: Phone, in-person, or by email readabook@hellertownlibrary.org

Family Events

Summer Reading Club sign ups – June 16th – 21st.

Get ready to love Science with **“Fizz, Boom, Read”** All ages including adults! Read for weekly prizes!

Annual Firefly Catch – June 23rd at 8:30 p.m. Bring blankets, bug jars and sneakers.

Pocono Wildlife Education Center. June 24th at 4:30 p.m. Raptors, mammals and reptiles, oh my!

Robot Building – Begins August 1st – all ages. Bring a team, we supply the material, you create a robot! Complete by August 11.

Kira Wiley and the Firefly Band – Sunday, August 17th at 7:00 p.m. at **Dimmickfest!** Headliner act for the closing of Summer Reading! Join Kira for a yogarific concert!

Events for Adults

Summer Reading Club – Read and review your books each week and enter to win a prize.

Stargazing – August 8th at 8:30 p.m. Bring your smart phone and download a free star gazing app to view the interesting summer night constellations. Wine and cheese provided. Bring a blanket or lawn chair.

Events for Children

Teddy Bear Picnic Story time – June 4th at 4:30 p.m. Ages 4 –8.

Science Meets Literature – June 26th at 11:00 a.m. Experiments in science connected with a good read. School age. Story time for K – 3 – July 7th, 14, 21, 28 @ 10:30 a.m.

Story time for 3 and 4 year olds – July 10th, 17th, 24th, 31st at 10:30 a.m.

Science Meets Literature – June 27th at 11:00 a.m. Experiments in science connected with a good read. Grades 6 and up.

Events for Teens

Spark Seekers Book Club – ages 10 and up. Begins July 15th at 4:00 p.m. and continues weekly. First book is *The Search for Wondla* by Tony DiTerlizzi.

Divergent Party – August 6th at 6:30 p.m. Find out what Faction you belong with. Recommended for grades 9 and up.



Procedure for Reporting Odors Detected in Applebutter/Ringhoffer Road/Steel City Areas of Township

If odors are detected in Applebutter/Ringhoffer Road/Steel City areas of the Township, the following steps should be taken:



1. If odors are detected, individuals can call the toll free PA DEP Complaint Line at 1-866-255-5158. Press “2” to be directed to the Northeast Regional Office complaint representative/answering service.
2. If a gas odor (natural gas, landfill gas) is detected in someone’s home or along Applebutter/Ringhoffer Road/Steel City, the individual should immediately call 911 and the Township Police and emergency services personnel will respond to the scene.

3. Emergency services personnel will contact the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PA DEP) if their assistance is needed.

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.

Saucon Valley Compost Center Re-opened for 2014

The Saucon Valley Compost Center re-opened on April 5th for the 2014 season. The Compost Center will be operating on Fridays and Saturdays from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. through November 29, 2014.

This year we are reminding visitors to the Center that, per Pennsylvania State Law, all loaded trucks or trailers must be covered with a tarp when traveling on any public road and when dropping off or picking up materials at the compost center.

The Center is still recruiting volunteers to assist with the operation of the facility. If you are interested in volunteering your time to help out at the Compost Center, please contact the Township Manager at: manager@lowersaucontownship.org.

The 2014 Compost Center Brochure is viewable at: <http://www.lowersaucontownship.org/pdf/svccbrochure2014.pdf>.

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 \$5.00. 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.

Se-Wy-Co Fire Company Chief Recognized

Tom Barndt, who stepped down as the Chief of the Se-Wy-Co Fire Company at the end of 2013 after 12 years at the helm of the company, was recognized for his service by the Township Council who presented him with a resolution at their February 19, 2014 meeting. Barndt, who also serves as a Sergeant in the Township Police Department, has served a total of 36 years with the fire company in various posts. He was credited for the expansion and modernization of the fire company, for gaining accreditation of the organization from the State Fire Commissioner’s Office, and for forging the merger of the Se-Wy-Co and Leithsville Fire Company during his tenure as Chief.



Lower Saucon Township Police Department News

Department Accreditation

The **Lower Saucon Township Police Department** is proud to announce that it has been recognized as an Accredited Law Enforcement Agency by the Pennsylvania Law Enforcement Accreditation Commission.

On Wednesday, April 2, 2014, Chief Guy L. Lesser, Sergeant Thomas Barndt, Detective Corporal Christopher Leidy, and Corporal Timothy Connell attended the Commission meeting as part of the 10th Annual Pennsylvania Law Enforcement Accreditation Training Conference held in Harrisburg, PA. During the meeting the department was confirmed as an accredited agency and was presented with a plaque by William Kelly, Chairman of the Commission.

With this award, the Lower Saucon Township Police Department joins five other municipalities in Northampton County, and over ninety departments statewide, who have previously obtained accredited status. The status is valid for three years from the date of the assessment, at which time a re-assessment is conducted.

The Pennsylvania Law Enforcement Accreditation Program was designed and developed by professional law enforcement executives to provide a reasonable and cost effective plan for the professionalization of law enforcement agencies within the Commonwealth. The underlying philosophy of the program is to have a user-friendly undertaking for the departments that will result in a "success" oriented outcome. For more information, please see <http://www.pachiefs.org/Accreditation>

Commendation

At a Lower Saucon Township Council meeting on Wednesday, April 2, 2014, Detective Corporal Christopher Leidy was presented by Chief Guy L. Lesser with a commendation for his significant role in helping the Police Department achieve the status of Accredited Law Enforcement Agency under the Pennsylvania Law Enforcement Accreditation Program.

Detective Corporal Leidy, who has served with the LSTPD since 1997, and in addition to completing his normal duties and assignments, has focused on completing the required tasks to reach the assessment stage of the accreditation process. Following a mock assessment in October 2013, and full assessment in November, the department was recommended for approval and received accredited status at the Pennsylvania Law Enforcement Accreditation Commission meeting in Harrisburg, PA.

Home Vacates & Scams

If you are going away on a vacation or business trip we urge you to complete a vacation house check form which can be found on our website <http://www.lowersaucontownship.org/pdf/vacate.pdf> or by calling the Police Department 610-317-6110 during business hours. This will allow our officers to pay additional attention and check on your home while you're away.

There are a wide variety of scams; including people calling to obtain bail money, Green Dot scams where scammers instruct you to buy a card, activate it and send a money order, also when people send a letter telling you that if you send them a money order that you will win money. There are also gypsy type scams which could involve people offering extraordinarily inexpensive home repair deals. These are just a few of the scams - we urge you to not fall prey to these and if you feel it is suspicious, contact the Police Department immediately.

Peddling & Soliciting

Per Ordinance No. 2013-05, which was adopted by the Township in December 2013, the Police Department will be maintaining a registry of individual property owners who have registered their property as a "No Peddling" property. The Police Department will provide all persons who are issued a permit with a copy of this registry (of addresses) and any contact with a property owner listed on this registry will be considered a violation of the ordinance and grounds for revocation of the permit.

The permitted hours for peddling are limited to 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Monday through Saturday and no peddling is permitted on Sundays. Please check the website for the information to sign up for the "No Peddling" registry and for additional information on what is exempt from the ordinance.

K-9 Recertification

Officer Steven Kunig and K-9 Atos achieved recertification in Patrol and Narcotics Detection in April 2014.

(Atos pictured left)



Information from Lower Saucon Authority on Emergency Preparedness

The Lower Saucon Authority uses an emergency phone messaging system (**OneCallNow**) to call customers for water/sewer-specific notifications (hydrant flushing, etc.) or emergencies.



Authority customers can provide us with their preferred contact information (home phone, cell phone(s) or both) by calling us at 610-317-3212 or by sending an e-mail to administrator@lowersauconauthority.org to update your information.

The Authority website (www.lowersauconauthority.org), in addition to water and sewer-related news and information, also contains other pertinent information about home emergency planning, including links to the American Red Cross and Homeland Security. Both include recommendations on home emergency plans and kits to help families prepare for emergencies including severe winter storms, utility/power outages, etc.

Township Emergency Notifications



Our Police, Emergency Services and Public Works are using the Nixle system 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. To sign up for these alerts go to: <http://www.lowersaucontownship.org/alerts.html>.

The Township Police Department now has a Facebook page where similar alerts, messages, and advisories are posted. Please go to <https://www.facebook.com/lowersaucontwp> for more information.

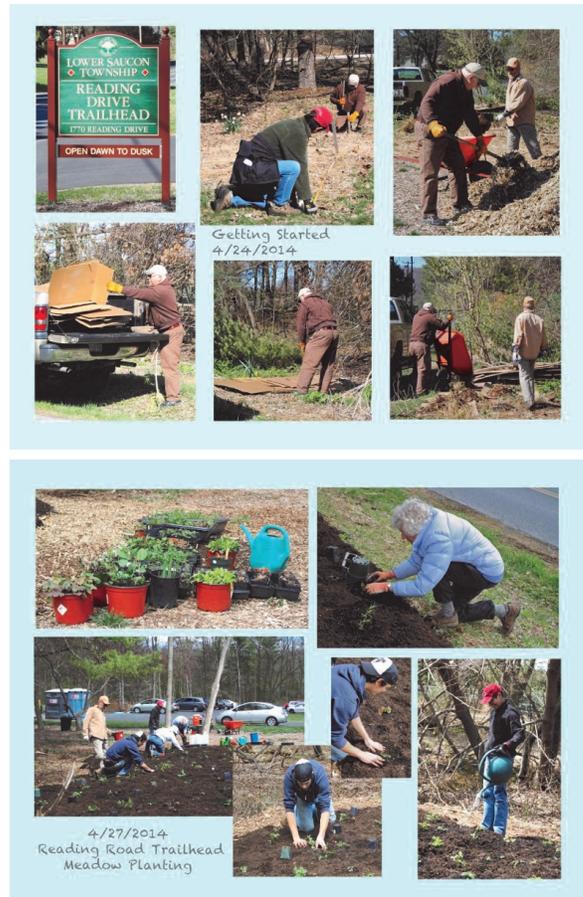
2014 Discounted Park Tickets

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”.

Reading Drive Trailhead Meadow Planting



Over the week-end of April 25-26, 2014, volunteers from the Penn State Master Gardeners, Saucon Creek Watershed Association, and the Saucon Rail Trail Oversight Commission planted a meadow on the Reading Drive Trailhead property with a variety of native plants. The Township trailhead is adjacent to the Saucon Rail Trail and midway between the Hellertown Borough and Upper Saucon Township trailheads on the 6.85-mile trail. The trailhead has 20 parking spaces, toilet facilities, a water fountain for people and pets and, a picnic area for trail users.



Lower Saucon Township Historical Society



Lower Saucon Township Historical Society maintains the Lutz-Franklin one-room schoolhouse located at 4216 Countryside Lane in Lower Saucon Township. Historical Society docents provide educational programs to school age children in the spring and fall. Members are also collecting and cataloging Lower Saucon artifacts and memorabilia for our Archive Room located in Seidersville Hall at 3700 Old Philadelphia Pike.

LSTHS meets on the second Wednesday of the month in Seidersville Hall at 7:00 p.m. Guests are always welcome and light refreshments are served. On Wednesday, September 10th, Bob Swaim will be our speaker. His presentation will include the history of the Slinky and its Pennsylvania history. He will also bring to the presentation several old-time environmentally friendly toys to share with the group.

The Historical Society will also be hosting three upcoming events at Lutz-Franklin. Guests are always welcome and tours of the schoolhouse will be provided. On July 12th an old-fashioned schoolhouse picnic will be held from 1:00 p.m. until dusk, rain or shine. Come anytime and join us for food and fun. Hot dogs and drinks will be provided. Guests are asked to bring a covered dish to share and a lawn chair.

On October 4th, the society's annual Apple Festival will be held at Lutz-Franklin from 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m., rain or shine. The event will feature an apple dessert contest plus apple tasting, apple crafts for children, and musical entertainment. A variety of delicious apple products will be on sale and lunch will be available for purchase. Our November 12th meeting in Seidersville Hall will be a special presentation by Ilhan Citak, Archivist from Lehigh University. The University will be celebrating its 150th anniversary in 2015. Ilhan Citak's topic that evening will be, "Lehigh, its history and its place in South Bethlehem".

Saucon Valley Conservancy



**Heller Homestead ~ Saucon Valley Conservancy Save the date –
Saturday, September 13, 2014, 9:30 a.m.—4:00 p.m.- (Rain or Shine) 8th 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. Your day begins with a presentation by two well known barn experts at the Beethoven Waldheim Club, 1984 Waldheim Road, Hellertown, PA. Travel to the barns at your leisure using our guide book and map.

As during past tours, included are 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. For information: SVConservancy@aol.com, www.sauconvalleyconservancy.org.

Neighborhood Watch Program

With the assistance of Council Member Dave Willard, a group of residents from the Deer Run Road/Springwood Road/Meadow Ridge Court area of the Township met in February and April with officers from the Township Police Department to discuss setting up a Neighborhood Watch Program. The group is in the process of recruiting additional residents and setting up block captains for the streets, and will be requesting approval from the Township for the erection of Neighborhood Block Watch signs on the streets. This is the first block watch group organized in the Township and the Township encourages other neighborhoods to work with the Township Police in setting up their own Neighborhood Watches. For further information, please contact the Police Department at: lstdp@lowersaucontownship.org.

Updated Floodplain Management Regulations

Following new measures promulgated by FEMA as part of their National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), a Flood Insurance Study (FIS) and a Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) have been completed for Lower Saucon Township and will become effective July 16, 2014. As a participant in the National Flood Insurance Program, the Township is required by this date to adopt a Floodplain Management Ordinance which is in the process of being advertised. The Floodplain Management Ordinance requires permits and establishes minimum standards for any new construction or development in a floodplain area. Additional information about the Flood Insurance Study and Rate Map can be viewed at <https://msc.fema.gov/webapp/wcs/stores/servlet/FemaWelcomeView?storeId=10001&catalogId=10001&langId=-1> or by stopping at the Township offices during normal business hours.

Economic Development Task Force Bus Tour

Braving a frigid winter morning, 17 members of the Township's Economic Development Task Force toured the Township on Saturday, March 1st. Accompanied by Council Members Dave Willard, Priscilla deLeon and Township Manager Jack Cahalan, the group spent two hours traveling to ten (10) sites in the Township and listened to presentations by Judy Stern Goldstein, the Township Planner from Boucher & James, Inc., and from the Township Zoning Officer, Chris Garges, on the zoning opportunities and challenges at each of the sites.



The Economic Development Task Force was established by the Township Council this past October to work on identifying economic development issues facing the Township and to recommend strategies and methods to promote and encourage new business investment and redevelopment of existing sites in the Township. The Task Force is comprised of a diverse group of volunteers from the business, development, marketing, and health care fields. Representatives from the Hellertown – Lower Saucon Chamber of Commerce and Lehigh University are also part of the group. The Task Force began meeting in January and is expected to deliver a report on their findings to the Council by October.

At the April and May meetings, the Task Force worked on developing a vision statement and goals and objectives to achieve this vision.

All Task Force meetings are open to the public. For more information the Task Force, please visit their webpage at: <http://www.lowersaucontownship.org/economictaskforce.html>

Relay For Life of Saucon Valley 4th Annual Duck Derby Duck Derby



The American Cancer Society's Relay For Life of Saucon Valley will be hosting its 4th annual Duck Derby on August 3, 2014 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 Raea Pereira at 610-838-7075 or redagleacademy@yahoo.com or visit our website: www.relayforlife.org/pasauconvalley

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 4:00 p.m.

Extended hours to purchase tickets will be available Saturday, June 7, 2014 from 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. and Wednesday, June 11, 2014 from 8:00 a.m. – 6:30 p.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

Lower Saucon Township

3700 Old Philadelphia Pike
Bethlehem, PA 18015



PRSRST STD
U.S. Postage
PAID
Lehigh Valley, PA
Permit #618

Lower Saucon Township Officials

Ron Horiszny	Council President
Tom Maxfield	Council Vice President
Priscilla deLeon	Council Member
Glenn Kern	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

13th Annual Hellertown Lower Saucon Township Community Day



The Hellertown Lower Saucon Chamber and Community Day committee are now planning the **13th Annual Community Day** in Hellertown for Saturday, **August 16, 2014**.

The event runs from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. We are encouraging all of this year's participating organizations and businesses to

make every effort to keep their booths open and staffed the entire duration of the event, as suggested by community feedback.

Family-friendly activities and demonstrations are planned throughout the day in addition to music, dance, and children's activities at the Kid's Corner – as well as the popular trackless train ride and a speed pitch game. The car show will return again this year as well and is expected to draw quite the crowd of participants.

We are expecting nearly 90 organization/business booths to participate and hope that you will once again be one of them. The involvement of our local businesses and community organizations is what has made this event so successful that it is now going into its 13th year!

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 4, 2014 - Independence Day
September 1, 2014 - Labor Day