



Lower Saucon Township

-Established in 1743-

Volume 19 Issue 2

Summer 2015

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

The **2015** Real Estate bills were mailed on February 2nd. Base taxes were accepted until June 3, 2015. After that date a 10% penalty will be applied.



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I know we all hate those annoying interruptions during public television or radio shows where they do pledge drives to raise funds and keep saying that “if you like programs like these and want to see them continue, please make a pledge”. Well, guess what, I am going to do the same thing to you in this newsletter issue to remind you of one of the biggest problems we are facing in the Township – A **SHORTAGE OF VOLUNTEERS!** Fortunately, we have enough dedicated residents who are serving on our Township boards and commissions, but there are other community events and organizations in the Saucon Valley that we all love that are in danger of “going off the air” if we don’t get more volunteers to sustain and keep them going. I know you enjoy attending the Community Day in Dimmick Park every August where our Saucon Valley businesses and organizations are showcased. You probably don’t know that the organizing committee for this event needs volunteers to help them keep this community treasure going on for many more years. The Saucon Valley Farmers Market is another venue that has become part of our Sunday morning routine from April to November. The volunteers that run this wonderful event need your time and energy to keep this event successful and growing in the future. Got mulch? Well, if you like the free mulch that is available up at the Saucon Valley Compost Center and like having a place to drop off your yard waste to recycle it, guess what, they need volunteers too to keep that operation going strong. Do you like preserving our history so that our children and grandchildren can appreciate it someday? There are three historical societies in the Saucon Valley that would love to have you drop in and contribute some of your time. Did you know that our new joint Hellertown Area Library is starting Friends of the Library effort and could use some volunteer help also. Finally, our biggest volunteer shortage hits us where it could hurt us the most and that’s with our volunteer firefighters. The shortage of volunteers willing to put in the time for training and responding to fire calls has gotten to the critical stage across the state and country. If you or someone you know are willing to help out, drop by one of the fire stations and let them know you are interested.

Volunteers are responsible for many of things that make our community so wonderful. Think about becoming one of them. Believe me, you’ll love it and you won’t have to get out the checkbook or look for your credit card. All you have to contribute is your time.

Ron
Lower Saucon Township Council President

Summer Travel Tips

School is out, graduations are over and the heat of summer is on. You've got your suntan lotion, a giant cooler and you're ready for a summer road trip. Or maybe you're just putting up with the usual hour's long commute in stop-and-go traffic, but with waves of heat bouncing off the asphalt. A few hours of prep now might save you from hours stuck on the side of the road, a big repair bill and a ruined vacation. Whether you have longstanding travel plans, a last minute road trip in mind, or just sticking around town this summer, the Lower Saucon Township Police Department has the following summer-time SAFE DRIVING TIPS.

Prepare Your Vehicle

- Check the tires, including the spare – proper inflation and good tread can save money, time and lives. Inspect the engine, battery, hoses, belts and fluids for wear and proper levels. Check the A/C.
- Test the lights, wipers and clean the windows (inside and out).
- Prepare an emergency roadside kit, including jumper cables, a flashlight and plenty of bottled water.

Bike Safety

Biking can be dangerous! Remember that you may be just riding a bicycle, but you are actually operating a vehicle just like the driver of any car. Always follow traffic signals and road signs.

Follow these rules to be a safe Bicyclist:

1. Always ride on the **RIGHT** side of the street. Never ride against traffic. Ride on the sidewalk, if you can safely do so, but if there is a bike lane provided on the roadway you are not permitted on the sidewalk. Pedestrians always have the right-of-way on a sidewalk. Be alert for vehicles that may be backing up.
2. When riding on the street or on the sidewalk, ride single file if possible, but never more than two abreast. If you want to pass a pedestrian or another bicyclist, honk a horn or yell, "On your left."
3. Always check behind you before passing or changing lanes.
4. Watch out for objects that may be on the road or sidewalk that could cause you to lose control of your bike.
5. Stop at all stop signs.
6. Know your hand signals and use them when making turns.
7. Always ride with both hands on the handlebars.
8. Be extra careful around parked cars. Someone could open a door into your path.
9. Always be prepared to stop, so make sure your bicycle's brakes are in good working condition.
10. Never ride at night without the proper lighting equipment. (a white headlight and a red rear taillight, reflectors on both sides of each wheel, and a red reflector facing the rear). Wear light clothing and always wear a helmet.
11. Also, a reminder for drivers of automobiles, in 2012 the Pennsylvania law was amended to require that motorists passing a bicycle may be **no closer than four (4) feet to the cyclist.**

Buckle Up Drivers & Passengers

- Be sure the seat is installed properly. Feel free to contact Lower Saucon Police for information at 610-317-6110.
- Remember that long trips can be particularly tough on your kids, especially in the heat – pack plenty of snacks and cold drinks for the road.
- Use books, toys, DVDs and video games to keep children occupied and the driver focused. It's a good idea to keep children 12 and under in the back seat – it's the safest place. Stopping along the drive gives everyone a chance to stretch and makes the trip easier.
- If you have a fussy baby, don't take them out of their car seat while driving to soothe or provide a bottle. If your child needs that level of attention, pull over in a safe place, such as a rest stop.

Focus on the Road

- Don't text or talk on your cell phone while driving and program your mobile GPS before you get on the road.
- Schedule your trip to allow for frequent breaks. Share the driving with other passengers to avoid fatigue.

Block Watch News

- Always report any suspicious incidents **IMMEDIATELY** to Northampton County Dispatch (Emergency 911 and Non-emergency 610-759-2200).
- Help deter any would be prowlers or burglars by using exterior lighting. Motion lights are especially effective as they can surprise someone sneaking around your home!
- Please remember to lock the doors and windows of your residence. And remember to lock your vehicle (also keep valuables out of sight).
- Be aware of phone scams. The most recent being fake calls from the IRS. **NEVER** give any personal information (SS number, bank info, birth dates, etc.) to a stranger over the phone.
- The summer weather is here! This brings out the solicitors. A permit is required to solicit in the Township. Report any solicitors to Northampton County Dispatch. Remember that political and religious solicitation is allowed.



Zoning Permit Information

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 Permit:

- Construction and/or installation of: a fence, shed, carport, or garage, patio or porch, walkway on the property, 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 a 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, 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.

Polk Valley Park Dog Park News

Lower Saucon Township installed a new sign at the entrance to the Dog Park at Polk Valley Park that will let Dog Park visitors know whether the park is open or closed.



Opened in 2009, the 1+ acre park, which is open from dawn to dusk, features separate areas for small and large dogs, landscaping, and seating for dog owners. Weather conditions and routine maintenance require closures of the popular facility from time to time, which are posted on the Township’s website at: www.lowersaucontownship.org. However, visitors arriving at Polk Valley Park with their dogs had to park and walk over to the Dog Park to see if it was open or closed.

The new sign, which was unveiled by Council President Ron Horiszny on December 15, 2014, will display the open/closed status of the facility to visitors as they drive into the park.

Join the Polk Valley Dog Park Page

The Township has created a Facebook page for the Polk Valley Dog Park, which will contain up-to-date notices of the open/closed status of the facility and will improve communications between the Township and Dog Park visitors.

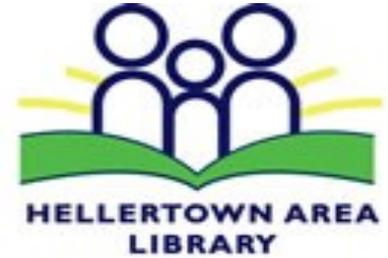
Polk Valley Dog Park



Hellertown Area Library Information



409 Constitution Ave.
Hellertown, PA. 18055
610-838-8381



2015 Summer Reading Program “Calling All Heroes” Kickoff Event with local firemen and policemen on Wednesday, June 24th from 6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.

Story Times:

Book Bugs (under 3 with a caregiver)

Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m. – June 23, July 14, August 18

Caped Crusaders Ages 3 & 4

Thursdays at 10:30 a.m. – July 9, 16, 23, 30

School Age Grades K-3

Mondays at 10:30 a.m. – July 6, 13, 20, 27

Beach Blanket Family Story Times All ages

Fridays at 10:00 a.m. – June 19, July 31

Picnic Family Story Times for all ages

Bring your lunch and a blanket Fridays at 12:00 p.m.

July 24 and August 14

PJ Story Times

Wear your pj's and bring a stuffed animal.

Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. – June 17, July 22

Back to School Story Time and Craft

Friday, August 28 at 10:00 a.m.

Workshops:

Super Hero Training and Costume Making

(3 session series) Grade 1 – 4

Thursdays at 1:00 p.m.– June 18, 25 and July 2

Hero Camp (3 session series): stories, games, reader's theater and crafts for grades 2 – 5 Tuesdays at 1:00 p.m. July 14, 21 and 28

One Day Events:

Superhero Drawing Class and Meet & Greet with Professional Comic Artist Scott Hanna

for ages 9-13 – July 15th 5:00 p.m.—6:45 p.m.,
for ages 13-18 – July 15th 6:15 p.m.—8:00 p.m.

Super Hero Art for ages 6+ - Tuesday, June 30th at 10:30 a.m.

Baymax Day Family event: Story, Craft and Snack, Tuesday, July 7th at 10:30 a.m.

Library Secret Service Agents Family Event: Helping our local heroes Friday, July 10th at 1:00 p.m.

Family Superhero Party: come dressed as a superhero! Wednesday, July 29th at 6:30 p.m.

Firefly Catch: Stories and firefly catching. Bring a container. Wednesday, August 5th at dusk

Sand Art Kid's Arts and Crafts ages 7+ (\$5 fee) August 11th at 1:00 p.m.



Book Clubs

Ages 7+ and an adult Reading “High Time for Heroes” by Mary Pope Osborne, July 23rd at 1:00 p.m.

Ages 9+ and an adult Reading “Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief” by Rick Riordan, August 13th at 1:00 p.m.

Ages 11+ (no adult) Reading “Eragon” by Christopher Paolini, July 30th at 1:00 p.m.

Mother Daughter Book Club ages 8-13 and an adult (\$5 fee), Wednesday, July 8th 6:30 p.m. and Wednesday, August 26th at 6:30 p.m.

Economic Development Citizen's Committee

In December 2014, the Township Council authorized the formation of a Citizen's Committee comprised of former Economic Development Task Force members and new volunteers. The Committee was charged to work with Township staff on reviewing Township policy and permitting procedures. The Committee began its work in February and will meet at least four (4) times during the year, and will produce a report with recommendations for the Council by the end of 2015.

The goals of the Citizens Committee are to ensure that Township policy and permitting procedures are user-friendly to residents and, to encourage economic development

The Citizen's Committee has prepared a survey to obtain information from residents and developers about their experience with the Township's policies and permitting procedures which can be accessed at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/EDTFCCCLST>. Please take a few moments to complete the survey, which will be helpful to the Committee in formulating their recommendations to the Township Council. The data collected will be anonymous.

Saucon Valley Compost Center Re-opened for 2015

The Saucon Valley Compost Center re-opened on April 11th for the 2015 season. The Compost Center will be operating on Fridays and Saturdays from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. through November 28, 2015. 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.

New this year, the Compost Center has added 4 additional days to the calendar. The center will be open June 10, July 8 from 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. These expanded hours are for drop-off only—there will be no mulch pickup at that time.

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 2015 Compost Center Brochure is viewable at: <http://www.lowersaucontownship.org/pdf/svccbrochure2015.pdf>.

Adopt-a-Road Participants Recognized at March 18th Council Meeting



Eighteen Adopt-a-Road participants were recently recognized at the March 18th Township Council meeting for keeping Township roads clean and free of litter. Representatives from the following organizations and families were on hand to receive Council resolutions from Council President Ron Horiszny:

Lower Saucon Township Historical Society, Lower Saucon Sportsmen Association, Saucon Creek Watershed Association, Lower Saucon Township Environmental Advisory Council, Saucon Valley Wrestling, Saucon Valley Youth Sports Association (Youth Football & Cheerleading), Saucon Community Bible Fellowship Church, Hellertown-Lower Saucon Little League, Christ Lutheran Church, Lower Saucon United Church of Christ & Red Door, St. Theresa's Church, Saucon Valley Farmers Market, Future Business Leaders of America, IESI Bethlehem Landfill, Petak Family, Zimpfer Family, Muschlitz Family, Riegel Family, Macsek Family, Pagoda Family, Birkel & Palik Families, Jesse Repash

The Adopt-a-Road Program began in 2010 with four (4) organizations who stepped forward to adopt Township roads to keep them free of litter. The program has now grown to a total of twenty-three (23) Saucon Valley area organizations, churches, and families who have adopted roads and conduct twice-a-year litter clean-ups.

During this period, the Adopt-a-Road groups have devoted over 389 hours of their time to remove 718 bags of trash and assorted tires, furniture, car parts, and discarded electronics from their adopted roads. The Township is very appreciative of these groups for the time and effort they have volunteered to keep our roads clean and litter free!

Hellertown/Lower Saucon Electronics Recycling Event

FREE Electronics Recycling event on Saturday, August 1, 2015 from 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m, hosted by Cheyenne Reiman of Coldwell Banker Hearthside, Realtors and Heintzelman Funeral Home, Inc. There will be additional fees for certain items.

The drop-off location will be at 301 Front Street – Hellertown, PA 18055 (rear parking lot of Heintzelman's Funeral Home).

**There will also be a Hoagie Sale to benefit the Saucon Valley Spirit Parade.*



Lower Saucon Township Historical Society



Lower Saucon Township Historical Society meets the second Wednesday of each month in Seidersville Hall, 3700 Old Philadelphia Pike at 7:00 p.m. Visitors are always welcome to join us at a meeting. Check our website, www.lutzfranklin.com, for updated information on meeting agendas, location, and time. Summer office hours are on Tuesdays from 1:00 – 5:00 p.m. in Seidersville Hall. Contact information is: lshistorical@yahoo.com or 610-625-8771.

The Historical Society maintains the Lutz-Franklin one room schoolhouse, a National Historic Site. The schoolhouse is located at 4216 Countryside Lane. Docents provide heritage education programs to third and fourth grade classes in April, May, and October.

Upcoming events at the Schoolhouse:

July 11th – An old-fashioned schoolhouse picnic will be held from 5:00 p.m. until dark, rain or shine. The picnic will be potluck with the historical society furnishing hot dogs, buns, and drinks. Bring a lawn chair and appetite.

October 3rd – Apple Festival will take place from 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m., rain or shine.

Saucon Valley Conservancy

Our past will amaze you.

Saucon Valley Conservancy—Heller Homestead
1890-92 Friedensville Road, Lower Saucon Township, Northampton County
The Art Gallery and Antiques & Collectibles, a charming gift and consignment shop. Stop by and visit. We are open to the public on
Sundays 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. and during special events.



We are in immediate need of volunteers! Everyone has his or her own special talents, and all can be used. So if you are interested in serving on one of the committees, staffing the gift shop and art gallery, helping with mailings or artist receptions, barn preservation, fundraising, grant writing, or giving tours of the homestead, please let us know. You will find helping to preserve the history of the Saucon Valley a rewarding and enjoyable experience.

2015 Annual Volunteer Picnic



On June 8th, the Township recognized its volunteers with the annual volunteer picnic celebration that was held for the 7th year at Town Hall Park Pavilion. Braving much needed rain showers, Council President Ron Horiszny and Council Members Tom Maxfield, Priscilla deLeon, and Dave Willard shared a picnic supper with the volunteers serving on the Planning Commission, EAC, Lower Saucon Authority, Parks & Recreation Board, Saucon Rail Trail Oversight Commission, Economic Development Citizen's Committee, Hellertown Area Library Board, and with the Junior Council Members, Boy Scouts, and firefighters, and thanked them for their continued service to Lower Saucon Township.

Lower Saucon Township Fire Departments

Volunteers needed: Your Lower Saucon Fire Departments are always in need of volunteers. Did you know that there are opportunities for anyone age 14 years or older? Additionally many opportunities beyond fire and rescue exist. Are you able to drive trucks or direct traffic? Help is needed with station maintenance, vehicle maintenance, small engine repair, grant writing and about any other task you can think of.

The Lower Saucon Fire Departments would like you to enjoy this summer and to remember that enjoying the summer means paying attention to the special safety concerns associated with summertime activities. Have FUN by being SAFE!

Pool Safety

If you have a pool at home, install a fence. The fence should be at least four-feet high and have a self-closing, self-latching gate that has a locking mechanism beyond a child's reach. Supervision is a must. Follow the 10/20 rule when you're at the pool, which states the supervising adult needs to position themselves to be able to scan the pool within 10 seconds and reach the water within 20 seconds. Always check the pool first if a child is missing. Many drowning accidents happen when children have been missing for less than five minutes. Empty small wading pools after children are done playing and remove all toys. Infants can drown in just a few inches of water. Pool toys may attract children to the pool when it is unattended. Teach your child to swim, but remember that younger children shouldn't be left unsupervised around water even if they know how to swim. Have a phone poolside and learn CPR in case of emergencies.

Grill Safety

Keep grills at least 10 feet from any structure. Grilling mishaps cause more than 8,300 fires and send 3,000 people to the emergency room each year. Never grill indoors or near garages or porches, even if it's raining. Never leave the grill unattended, especially when young children or pets are nearby. Never use gasoline or kerosene to light a charcoal fire. Both can cause an explosion. Let coals/ash cool in the grill for at least 24 hours before disposing of them. Never empty hot/warm coals into a garbage receptacle, and especially not into a plastic receptacle.

Gasoline and Lawn Mowers

Gasoline vapors are highly flammable. They stay on your clothing and can ignite if you light a match or cigarette. Store gasoline only in approved containers, outside or in a building not attached to the house. NEVER keep gasoline inside the home. Keep gasoline away from all heat sources such as smoking materials, pilot lights, campfires and grills. Never fuel a lawn mower while it is hot. Give it a few minutes to cool off first. Keep hands and feet away from the mower while it is running.

The Danger of Fireworks

The 4th of July fireworks are an American tradition. But did you know that more fires are reported on that day than on any other day of the year in the United States? Nearly half of these fires are caused by amateur fireworks. The Lower Saucon fire departments recommend you enjoy a professional, supervised fireworks display rather than trying to do it yourself.



2015 Hellertown – Lower Saucon Community Day



Mark your calendars for the annual Community Day celebration on August 22, 2015 from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at Dimmick Park. The event is marking its 14th year and promises to be better than ever! Come and enjoy a wonderful day at beautiful Dimmick Park with a car show, music and dance, food, and friends. Local businesses, Macarro Auctions and the Valley Voice, will be recognized along with the Hellertown Area Library.



Lower Saucon Township

3700 Old Philadelphia Pike
Bethlehem, PA 18015



PRSRT 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

2015 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”.

2015 Hellertown Community Pool Information



Hellertown Community Pool opened for the 2015 season on June 13, 2015 through August 28, 2015 from 12:00 noon to 7:00 p.m. 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. with extended hours to purchase tickets on Saturday, June 13, 2015 from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. at the Borough.

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

Please be sure to have proof of residency (driver’s license and school id’s of school age children for all those applying).

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 3, 2015—Independence Day
September 7, 2015—Labor Day

