



Lower Saucon Township

-Established in 1743-

Volume 19 Issue 1
Winter 2015

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

The **2015** Real Estate Taxes were mailed out the beginning of February.

All 2014 Real Estate Taxes are due no later February 16th

2014 saw a number of significant accomplishments in Lower Saucon Township, from the State Accreditation of our Police Department, the continuing progress and growth at our consolidated Hellertown Area Library, and the completion of the playground and pavilion at Polk Valley Park. Like the Library, other joint projects with Hellertown Borough showed continuing great results with improvements made and record use recorded at the Saucon Valley Compost Center and along the Saucon Rail-Trail, which had a geology exhibit, kiosk, and nature garden added.



The first year of the Economic Development Task Force created a number of goals for 2015 work, including forming a new citizen's committee to review policies and permitting procedures. We also streamlined and improved the format for our annual budget and are in the process of forming a budget advisory committee, which were among the recommendations in the 2014 study of our finance procedures that was conducted by an area accounting firm.

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The acquisition of the former Woodland Hills golf course in late 2014 will be a tremendous asset to Township citizens and neighbors, but getting it ready for easy access by them will require considerable effort this year. During 2015 we will be working with PennDOT to improve truck traffic safety on Flint Hill Road, continuing our discussions with the volunteer fire companies with the goal of establishing a consolidated Township fire department, and monitoring the potential impacts from the proposed PennEast pipeline.

We anticipate hearing more from two proposed housing developments during 2015, which could potentially have some impact on the 1 mill township tax increase that was enacted this year.

The LST Council wishes all of its constituents a happy, healthy, successful 2015!

Ron

Lower Saucon Township Council President

Economic Development Task Force Produces Final Report

On October 15, 2014, the Economic Development Task Force delivered its final report to the Township Council. Formed in 2013, the group of 16 volunteers, which included representatives from the Lehigh Valley Chamber of Commerce and Lehigh University, met monthly during 2014 under the leadership of Township Council Member Dave Willard and worked with the Township Planner and staff to identify economic development issues facing the Township.



The Task Force report, which is available on the Township website at: <http://www.lowersaucontownship.org/economictaskforce.html>, contains a variety of recommended action steps which the group felt could provide additional economic development ideas for the Township.

Lower Saucon Township Police Department News

Address Display Requirements

The Township Police Department urges residents to properly display their address on mailboxes or on the front of their homes so that police, fire, and EMS responders can locate their residences without any delay. The key address requirements are:

- The street address number shall be in four (4) Arabic numbers.
- The street address number should be neat and legible to approaching emergency responders on mailboxes, buildings, and doors.
- The street address number should be displayed either horizontally or vertically (see examples).
- The street address number should be at least 2 inches high and displayed on both sides of the mailbox or mailbox post.



More information on these requirements can be found on the Township website at:
<http://ecode360.com/6772868>.

Winter Weather Driving

Severe weather can be both frightening and dangerous for automobile travel. Motorists should know the safety rules for dealing with winter road emergencies.



Lower Saucon Police and AAA would like to remind motorists to be cautious while driving in adverse weather.

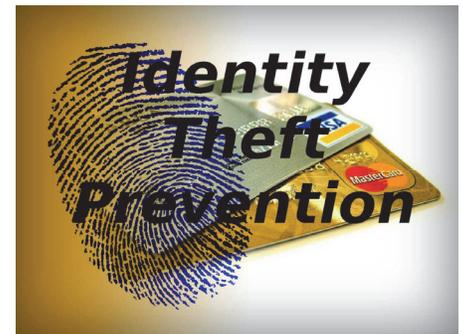
Winter Driving Tips:

- Avoid driving while you're fatigued. Getting the proper amount of rest before taking on winter weather tasks reduces driving risks.
- Never warm up a vehicle in an enclosed area, such as a garage.
- Make certain your tires are properly inflated.
- Never mix radial tires with other tire types.
- Keep your gas tank at least half full to avoid gas line freeze-up.
- If possible, avoid using your parking brake in cold, rainy and snowy weather.
- Do not use cruise control when driving on any slippery surface (wet, ice, sand).
- Always look and steer where you want to go.
- Use your seat belt every time you get into your vehicle.

Identity Theft

Here are some tips to help you minimize the risk of becoming a victim of identity theft:

- Ensure websites are secure prior to submitting your credit card information.
- Do your homework to ensure the business or website is legitimate.
- Never throw away credit or bank statements in usable form.
- Be aware of missed bills which could indicate your account has been taken over.
- Be cautious of scams requiring you to provide your personal information.
- Never give your credit card number over the phone unless you initiate the call.
- Monitor your credit statements monthly for any fraudulent activity.
- Report unauthorized transactions to your bank or credit card company as soon as possible.
- Review a copy of your credit report at least once a year.



Winter Snow Reminders for Residents



Clearing Sidewalks — Section 140-17 of the Code of Lower Saucon Township requires that sidewalks be cleared of snow and ice within 36 hours of termination of the precipitation event.

Parking in Cul-de-Sacs — Township Ordinance No. 2011-11 restricts parking in all of the Township's cul-de-sacs and dead-end streets during the periods when Public Works is removing snow or ice. Please cooperate and move your car so we can clear these areas as quickly as possible.

Snow Pushed into Roadway – Snow that is pushed or plowed into the roadway can be deemed an unsafe obstruction and the police can issue a citation to the resident who could also be liable for the cost of removing the obstruction.

Clearing Ice and Snow from Fire Hydrants – Our volunteer fire companies ask residents with fire hydrants near their properties to assist them by clearing ice and snow from around these hydrants.

Placing Snow Markers – In order to assist the Township snow plow operators in determining the edge of your lawn, please place flexible reflectorized markers which are available at your home improvement store at 50 foot intervals along your property. If no markers are in place and the snow plow tears up the sod in front of your property, it will not be repaired by the Township.

For further information, please review the Township Snow Removal Policy at: www.lowersaucontownship.org/pdf/snowremoval.pdf

Winter Fire Awareness Tips from Lower Saucon Fire Departments

Home fires occur more in winter than in any other season. As you stay cozy and warm this winter season, be fire smart!

Half of all home heating fires occur in the months of December, January, and February.

Heating equipment is involved in **1** in every **6** reported home fires and **1** in every **5** home fire deaths.

Keep anything that can burn at least **3** feet from any heat source like fireplaces, wood stoves, radiators, or space heaters.

Keep portable generators outside, away from windows, and as far away as possible from your house.

Install and test carbon monoxide alarms at least once a month.

Have a qualified professional clean and inspect your chimney and vents every year.

Store cooled ashes in a tightly covered metal container, and keep it outside at least **10** feet from your home and any nearby buildings.

Plug only **1** heat-producing appliance (such as a space heater) into an electrical outlet at a time.

For more information on how to prevent winter fires, visit www.usfa.fema.gov/winter/ and www.nfpa.org/winter/

Election Day Locations

The Municipal Primary Election is **Tuesday, May 19th, 2015**. Not sure where to go to cast your vote? Listed below are the voting districts and their addresses. The polls will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. For more information contact the Northampton County Election Office at 610-559-3055, or visit their website at www.northamptoncounty.org. Please note the Township Offices are closed on Election Day.

District # 1

Lower Saucon-Hellertown
Saucon Valley High School
Door #19
2097 Polk Valley Road
Hellertown, PA

District # 2

Lower Saucon-Leithsville
Leithsville Social Hall
1995 Leithsville Road
Hellertown, PA

District # 3

Lower Saucon-Lower Saucon
Christ Lutheran Church
of Lower Saucon
Old Schoolhouse at the Corner of
Easton & Mockingbird Hill Roads,
Hellertown, PA

District # 4

Lower Saucon-Seidersville
Seidersville Hall (Old Town Hall)
3700 Old Philadelphia Pike
Bethlehem, PA

District # 5

Lower Saucon-Shimersville
Steel City Fire House
2121 Riverside Drive
Bethlehem, PA

District # 6

Lower Saucon-Wassergass
Southeastern Volunteer
Fire Co.
2687 Wassergass Road
Hellertown, PA

District # 7

Lower Saucon-Colesville
SE-WY-CO Fire Company
3621 Old Philadelphia Pike
Bethlehem, PA

District # 8

Lower Saucon-SE-WY-CO
SE-WY-CO Fire Company
3621 Old Philadelphia Pike
Bethlehem, PA

Hellertown Library Information



Lower Saucon Township is pleased to announce that the Township and the Hellertown Area Library have been awarded a \$117,000 Keystone Recreation, Park and Conservation Fund grant. The grant was applied for jointly by the Township and the Library and the funds are awarded to the supporting municipality. The Township's capital contribution to the library will be matched with the grant award to provide a total of \$234,000 in funding that will be used to renovate and improve the interior library space, including a new computer lab, new circulation desk, increased square footage in the children's area, and new paint and carpet throughout the facility.

At the start of 2014, the Hellertown Area Library became the home library for both Hellertown Borough and Lower Saucon Township. As a result, the Library's service area more than doubled; from 5,898 borough residents to a combined population of 16,670.

Keystone funds are used to help public libraries build new facilities, renovate older buildings and make services more accessible. Since the inception of the Keystone Fund, The Office of Commonwealth Libraries has awarded funds to support 212 projects in 48 different counties across the Commonwealth. The Borough of Hellertown and the Hellertown Area Library received a \$75,000 Keystone Fund grant in 2007 to install an elevator in the library building which is located at 409 Constitution Avenue in Hellertown Borough.

Hellertown Area Library Community Challenge Grant

This past August the Hellertown Area Library received an anonymous letter from a community member and library supporter that challenged residents of Hellertown Borough and Lower Saucon Township to donate to the library to help with the cost of building renovations. The letter included an initial donation of \$1,000 and a promise to match future contributions up to \$5,000. To date the Community Challenge Grant has raised a total of \$3,120!

Please make a difference in our community by donating to the Hellertown Area Library.

Hellertown Area Library News and Events

Super Special Event! Professional story teller Karen Mauer shares exciting stories about Chinese New Year on Saturday, February 28 at 11:00 a.m. Space is limited register early!

Family Events

February 11 – Mother / Daughter Book Club at 6:30 p.m.
February 19 – “I SPY” in the Library! Kids under 4 must be accompanied by a parent.
March 7 – “Green Eggs and Ham” Read Across America at 10:00 a.m. Celebrate all things Seussical with a special visit from the Cat in the Hat!
April 11 – Kick off National Library Week with our ever popular Book Bingo at 10:30 a.m.

Children's and Teen Events

February 6, 13, 20 and 27 – Drop In Story time at 10:00 a.m.
February 10 – Arts & Crafts for Kids – “Clay Fun” at 4:30 p.m.
February 11 – Teen Art Club – “Decoupage Letter” at 3:15 p.m.; Teen Advisory Group at 4:30 p.m.; **NEW** Mother/Daughter Book Club at 6:30 p.m.
February 25 – Minute to Win It! Ages 10 and up at 3:15 p.m.

Adults

February 9 – AARP Foundation FREE tax preparation for people 55 and older! No appointments, this is a drop in service. Tax preparers will be available every Monday from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. until April 13.
February 21 – Card making with Stampin' UP representative Jennifer! 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
March 19 – Photography class with Mr. Jan Doddy of Hellertown from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Six week class. More information to follow.

Please call 610-838-8381, send an email to readabook@hellertownlibrary.org or drop in the library to register for any event.

For more information visit our website
www.hellertownlibrary.org

Please Note the Library is closed on Monday, February 16th in observance of Presidents Day.



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

www.hellertownlibrary.org

Neighborhood Watch Signs Approved



Council Member Dave Willard with Neighborhood Watch Sign

At the October 22nd Township Council meeting, Neighborhood Watch signs were approved by the Council to be erected in the Deer Run Road/Springwood Road/Meadow Ridge Court area of the Township.

With the assistance of Council Member Dave Willard, a group of residents from this area met earlier this year with officers from the Township Police Department to discuss setting up a Neighborhood Watch Program.

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: lstpd@lowersaucontownship.org.

Polk Valley Park Dog Park



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.

Kiosk Dedicated at Reading Drive Trailhead



On a chilly but bright Saturday morning on November 8, 2014, Council Members, representatives from the Saucon Rail Trail Oversight Commission, Boy Scouts, and their family members, attended a ceremony

dedicating the new information kiosk that was recently installed at the Township's Reading Drive Trailhead.

The kiosk was constructed by Boy Scout Emmett Brown, a member of Boy Scout Troop 416, as his Eagle Scout project. Under the guidance of Roger Jurczak from the Saucon Rail Trail Oversight Commission, Emmett and his fellow scouts worked on fabricating and assembling the parts of the kiosk over the past spring and summer at his home and with the assistance of the Township Public Works Department, installed it at the trailhead at the end of September. Dr. Joseph Trapasso M.D., a Township resident and avid trail user, generously donated the funds to cover the cost of the kiosk materials. Visit www.lowersaucontownship.org/gallery.html to see photos of the installation and dedication.

The Reading Drive Trailhead was acquired by the Township in 2012 with State and Open Space funding and constructed by the Township Public Works Department. The site, which provides access to the Saucon Rail Trail, has 20 parking spaces, toilet facilities and a picnic area. In 2013 funds were raised to install a drinking fountain with a dog watering station at the trailhead.

Geologic Educational Sign Installed Along Saucon Rail Trail



A sign that provides information about the geology of a rock outcrop has been installed on the Saucon Rail Trail just south of the Meadows Road crossing in Lower Saucon Township. The sign is located in front of a rock formation that displays excellent examples of fossilized stromatolites that date back 500 million years ago to the Cambrian Period. Students from Lehigh University's Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences, under the direction of Dr. Frank Pazzaglia, cleaned

the dolostone rock outcrop to prepare it for display.

For more information on the geological site, visit: http://www.lehigh.edu/~fjp3/srt/srt_geology.html.

Lower Saucon Township Historical Society



Lower Saucon Township Historical Society meets the second Wednesday of each month in Seidersville Hall, 3700 Old Philadelphia Pike. May, June, and July meetings are held at the Lutz-Franklin Schoolhouse located at 4216 Countryside Lane. 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.

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

Society members will host the following events at the schoolhouse in May and June:

- May 2nd is the annual Saucon Valley History Day. The schoolhouse will feature activities that students enjoyed at a May Day gathering in past years such as cakewalks and May Pole dances.
- Former students of one-room schoolhouses are honored at Lutz-Franklin on June 6th with a “Schoolhouse Get Together” from 1:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m. Danny Ruth, using visuals from our Archive Room, will present, “A Visit to Lower Saucon’s One-Room Schoolhouses.”

Saucon Valley Conservancy

Our past will amaze you.

Saucon Valley Conservancy—Heller Homestead

1890-92 Friedensville Road, Lower Saucon Township, Northampton County

We are working hard preserving history at the Homestead and would like to thank all of you who helped us in 2014! Your hard work continues to make a difference in our community.



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.

The Art Gallery and Antiques & Collectibles, a charming gift and consignment shop, will reopen on Sunday, March 8th. 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.

2015 Upcoming Events/Meetings at Heller Homestead

Monthly Meetings - 7:00 p.m. 1/15; 2/19; 3/19; 4/16; 5/21

- Sunday, March 8 - Sunday, April 19, 12:00 p.m. –3:00 p.m. Bethlehem Palette Club "Paint-in/Paint-out" Exhibit
- Monday, March 30, 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Artists' Reception for BPC "Paint-in/Paint-out" Exhibit (Snow date 3/31)
 - Sunday, April 26 - Sunday, May 17, 12:00 p.m. –3:00 p.m. 7th Student Artistry Exhibit
 - Saturday, May 2, 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Saucon Valley History Day & Student Artistry Artists' Reception
 - Saturday, May 9, 9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Barn Photo Workshop
 - Saturday, May 30, 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Saucon Creek Arts Festival
 - Sunday, May 31 - Sunday, August 30, 12:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. Mark Locher Art Exhibit

For more information: 610-838-1199, SVConservancy@aol.com, www.sauconvalleyconservancy.org, visit us on Facebook at Heller Homestead—Saucon Valley Conservancy. Tours available by appointment.

Not a member? Need to renew? Membership forms available on website.

Service Electric Cable TV Veterans' and Low Income Senior Discounts

Veterans' and Low Income Senior Discounts will now be available to any qualified Lower Saucon Township subscriber sixty-five (65) years or older. The discount is \$2 off the Life-line Cable Service or \$4 off the Full Channel Lineup Cable Service rate.



To qualify for this discount:

1. Applicant's name must be on the account.
2. Applicant must be the head of the household.
3. Applicant must be sixty-five (65) years of age or above.
4. Applicant must provide proof of age.
5. Applicant must provide proof income eligibility by submitting one of the following documents:
 - a. Supplemental Security Income
 - b. Veterans Service Benefits
 - c. PACE or PACENET Medical Card
 - d. Medicaid Medical Card

Discount is not applicable to promotional rates, currently discounted rates and/or bundled services. Forms are available at the Township or on our website (www.lowersaucontownship.org) under forms and documents.

Subscriber must fill out and return form to Service Electric annually. The form will outline the discount requirements and should include your Social Security Number and signature.

2015 Pavilion Rental Information

Interested in renting the Town Hall, Southeastern or Kingston Park pavilion for your special event? Reservations are now open for the 2015 season and must be made in person (not over the phone) Monday thru Friday, 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Payment is due at time of reservation.

Rental rates are as follows: \$100 rental fee and \$50 deposit for Township residents (Driver's license required); \$150 rental fee and \$50 deposit for non-residents.



Town Hall Pavilion



Kingston Pavilion



Southeastern Pavilion

Northampton County Household Hazardous Waste Drop-off Event

Saturday, May 30, 2015 8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Saturday, October 10, 2015 8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
 Northampton Community College Main Campus
 Entrance from Green Pond Rd ONLY
 Follow Signs to parking area

****Northampton County residents only****

****No appointment needed****

****No need to leave your car****

****No charge for HHW****

****Please bring Photo ID or recent utility bill to verify residency****

****Please package and handle carefully to prevent spills****

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE ACCEPTED

Adhesives, Aerosol Cans, Antifreeze, Automotive Fluids/Cleaner, Batteries (all types), Compressed Gas, Fire Extinguishers, Flammable/Combustible Fluids, Fluorescent Lights, Herbicides/Pesticides, Household Cleaners, Mercury-containing Products, Motor Oil/Filters, Oil-based Paint & Stain (NO LATEX), Pool Chemicals, Thermostats



Tire Collection Fee:
 Estimated \$1.00 per tire
 \$2.00 per tire with rim
 \$5.00 per tractor tire

Items NOT considered hazardous cannot be accepted including
****NO Latex Paint ****

Questions? Contact Ken Zinis,
Environmental and Sustainability at:
kzinis@northamptoncounty.org
or 610-559-3200, ext 6

2015 Discounted Ski/Tubing Tickets

Discounted Ski/Tubing tickets for Resorts are available at the Township through the Pennsylvania Parks & Recreation Society. Tickets may be purchased from 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday until mid March. For a complete list of prices please visit our website: <http://www.lowersaucontownship.org/pdf/wintertickets.pdf>



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

2014 Saucon Valley Compost Center Season

2014 was another busy season for the Compost Center, which is operated jointly by Hellertown Borough and Lower Saucon Township. Over 8,500 visits were made by residents using the Center, down slightly from the 8,800 visitors who were logged in during 2013.

ID card use continued to work successfully again for the second year allowing visitors to enter the Center and log in more rapidly. During the season, 243 new ID cards were issued to first time users bringing the total registrations for the Center to 2,148.

The Center machine grinds the leaves and yard waste material that is dropped off throughout the year, which produced approximately 402 tons of excellent ground mulch that is available to residents for free. Machine loading of the compost is available for a modest fee, which generated \$4,680 in revenue for the year.

The agreement with neighboring Williams Township that allows them to dispose of yard waste collected from their residents at their municipal Public Works facility continued to operate successfully for a second year, resulting in approximately 165 tons of material being dropped off for a fee of \$3,000, which added to the machine loading revenue helps defray the Center's cost for the machine grinds. This fee will be raised to \$3,500 in 2015 due to the increase in grinding costs.

The Compost Center was open on Saturdays this past January again to accept Christmas trees. The tentative 2015 opening date for the facility is planned for April 11, 2015.



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

April 3 & 6, 2015 - Easter
May 19, 2015—Election Day

