Lower Saucon Township

-Established in 1743-

Volume 20 Issue 2

Summer 2016

The **2016** Real Estate bills were mailed on February 1st. Base taxes were accepted until June 1, 2016. After that date a 10% penalty was applied.

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A Message from Council President Ron Horiszny……

Construction of Phase 2 Steel City Park improvements began early this spring with the park remaining closed during this time. The Public Works Department has been installing sedimentation basins and diversion trenches. Check out our website for updates as work progresses.

The Township's annual Volunteer Appreciation Picnic was held on June 13th at Town Hall Park. This event is the Councils' thanks to 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 that they put forth to help the Township function. If you have any interest in volunteering your time please contact the Township Manager at manager@lowersaucontownship.org

Ron

Lower Saucon Township Council President

Saucon Valley Compost Center

The Saucon Valley Compost Center re-opened on April 9th for the 2016 season. The Compost Center will be operating on Fridays and Saturdays from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. through November 26, 2016. 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.

Continuing this year, the Compost Center has added 4 additional days to the calendar. The center will be open June 8th, July 13th, August 10th and September 14th 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.

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.

Upcoming Community Events

Come one, come all! **Dewey Fire Company Carnival** is coming to Dimmick Park on July 12th - July 16th, 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. daily. Ride the rides for $20 on wristband nights which will be Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 6:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. The car show will be held on Wednesday night with the band Desire preforming. Fireworks display will be on Friday night at 10:00 p.m.

The Hellertown - Lower Saucon Community Day committee is planning the **15th Annual Community Day** to be held on Saturday, **August 20, 2016**.

The event runs from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and will be filled with family-friendly activities and demonstrations planned throughout the day including music, dance, and children's activities at the Kid's Corner – as well as the popular trackless train ride and a speed pitch game. Be sure to visit the LSTPD K-9 demonstration while strolling among the many vendors and don't forget to visit the car show which returns again this year and is expected to draw quite the crowd of participants.

Lower Saucon Township EAC will be hosting a plant sale August 21st at a booth at the Saucon Valley Farmers Market. Native plant sale sample options will include Sileve, Native Sunflower, Aster, Solidago, Turtlehead, Violets, Coneflower and Monarda. (additional perennial plants including small shrubs will be available). Large pots of flowers will average $10, shrubs $15-$25 depending on size.

Safe Burning Guidelines

We encourage environmentally-friendly composting or recycling, however, if you do burn we ask that follow these safe burning guidelines.

- Check the Township website (**www.lowersaucontownship.org**) for burning advisories or call Town Hall at 610-865-3291.
- Notify the Non-Emergency dispatch by calling 610-759-2200 prior to burning.
- Select a location away from any dwellings/buildings, utility lines etc.
- Have fire extinguishment materials on hand including a water supply, shovels and rakes.
- Never use gasoline, kerosene or any other flammable liquid to start a fire because the risk of personal injury is high.
- Burn one small pile in a contained area at a time and slowly add to it. This will help keep the fire from getting out of control.
- Attend fire until extinguished.
- Always be aware that if the smoke becomes a nuisance to neighboring properties, your neighbors have the right to contact the police to complain.
- Use common sense and be prepared to extinguish your fire if the winds pick up or weather changes. Sudden wind change is how most open burning gets out of control.
- If for some reason, the fire should get out of control, call 911 immediately.

Alternatives to burning…...Open burning releases large amounts of carbon dioxide, other gases, and solid substances directly into the air, which can contribute to respiratory problems. Burning of natural materials is never as good for the environment as using them again in a different form. If you can't compost or chip tree limbs, brush and other forestry debris, you can bring it to the Compost Center on Springtown Hill Road Friday's and Saturday's from 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. where it will be ground up and re-used.

Lower Saucon Township Police Department News Crime Safety

With the warmer weather of summer, we tend to see an increase in night time activity throughout the Township.

- Remember to lock your vehicle doors and activate the alarm if you have one.
- DO NOT leave valuables in your vehicle, especially in plain sight. This is an open invitation to a would be thief.
- Also remember to close and lock your outside garage and main doors.
- As always, outside lighting is a great deterrent to those prowling around at night. Motion lights in key areas around your property (driveways and entrances) are a good idea.

Remember to call and report any suspicious activity IMMEDIATELY.
911 for emergencies or for non-emergencies 610-759-2200

Bike Safety

There are so many great reasons to ride your bike: It offers fun, freedom and exercise, and it's good for the environment. More children ages 5 to 14 are seen in emergency rooms for injuries related to biking than any other sport. Helmets can reduce the risk of severe brain injuries by 88 percent – yet only 45 percent of children 14 and under usually wear a bike helmet.

Here are a few tips so that you'll be safe while you do so.

- We have a simple saying: "Use your head, wear a helmet." It is the single most effective safety device available to reduce head injury and death from bicycle crashes.
- Tell your kids to ride on the right side of the road, with traffic, not against it. Stay as far to the right as possible. Use appropriate hand signals and respect traffic signals, stopping at all stop signs and stoplights.
- Teach your kids to make eye contact with drivers. Bikers should make sure drivers are paying attention and are going to stop before they cross the street.
- When riding at dusk, dawn or in the evening, be bright and use lights – make sure your bike has reflectors as well. It's also smart to wear clothes and accessories that have retro-reflective materials to improve biker visibility.
- Actively supervise children until you're comfortable that they are responsible to ride on their own.

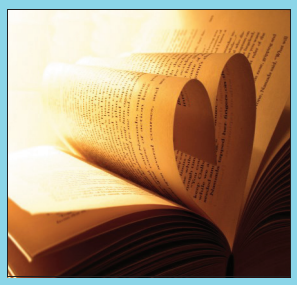
Heat in Cars

Remember – **NEVER** leave pets unattended in a hot vehicle with the windows rolled up. If you leave a pet in a car, roll the windows down enough for ventilation and provide a dish of water. Better to leave the pet at home rather than in a sweltering car.

CHILDREN SHOULD NEVER BE LEFT UNATTENDED IN CARS, EVEN FOR A SHORT TIME.

Hellertown Area Library Information

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



The 2016 summer reading program will focus on maintaining a healthy mind and body with lots of exciting activities that feature sports and games, reading, and summer fun!

Be a Champion Reader! Kids and teens – track the books you read this summer, bring your log sheets in to the library and trade them for prizes!!! Will you read the most in your age category and receive the Reading Champion prize?

Summer Programs for Kids

Karate Demonstration and class with Saucon Valley Karate (ages 6-12) – Saturday, June 25th at 10:30 a.m.

The Amazing Summer Reading Race (2nd-5th grade) – stories, crafts and games from around the world – Thursdays, July 7th, 14th, 21st and 28th at 1:00 p.m.

Read with an Athlete (age 5 and up) HS, college and professional athletes will talk about their sport, show you some equipment and "moves" and read stories Wednesday, June 29th, July 13th and August 3rd at 1:00 p.m.

Arts and Crafts for Kids – sports crafts (age 7 and up) Tuesday at 2:00 p.m. July 26th

Be Healthy and "Just Dance" (K-5th grade) Enjoy some dance fun Wednesday July 27th, August 18th at 1:00 p.m.

Tangram Competition and Fun (K-5th grade) – Saturday 11:00 a.m. July23rd

Mother Daughter Book Club (ages 8-12) July 27th at 6:30 p.m. ($5 fee)

Relay Games Fun (1st-4th grade) – Tuesday June 28th at 1:30 p.m.

Summer Science (2nd-5th grade) Wednesday July 5th at 2:00 p.m.

Please check the website for more summer programs for kids, Teen (6th grade and up) and Family Events – www.hellertownlibrary.org. Space is limited for most programs. To ensure a spot, register for all programs and events by calling (610) 838-8381, e-mailing youthservices@hellertownlibrary.org or stopping by the library.

2016 Hellertown Pool Season Pass Information

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

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

***2016 Season Pass Resident Rates:**
Child under 3 years - FREE
Season Youth (ages 4 to 17) - $45.00
Season Adult (18 to 61) - $65.00
Season Senior (62 or older) - $10.00
Season Family (first 5 members) - $130.00
Season Family Additional Passes (6 or more) - $15.00 /ea

****2016 Season Non-Resident Pass Rates:**
Child under 3 years - FREE
Season Youth (ages 4 to 17) - $75.00
Season Adult (ages 18 to 61) - $110.00
Season Senior (62 or older) - $20.00
Season Family (first 5 members) - $190.00
Season Family Additional Passes (6 or more) - $15.00/ea

*A person who maintains his/her primary, permanent residence within the city limits of the **Borough of Hellertown** and **Lower Saucon Township.** (Proof of residency will be required to purchase a season pass)

A person who maintains his/her primary, permanent residence outside the city the limits of the **Borough of Hellertown and **Lower Saucon Township.**

Visit our website for more information at **www.lowersaucontownship.org/hellertown.html**

Understanding Radon in Saucon Valley

What is Radon?

Radon gas is colorless, odorless, and relatively nonreactive gas that emits radiation when it decays. It also decays to form a radioactive solid (polonium) that emits additional radiation upon decay. Because it is a gas, radon can migrate into the indoor air and then enter your lungs when inhaled. The decay product (polonium) can stick to lung tissue and create damage as it decays and releases radiation.

Why does it matter?

Indoor radon gas has been recognized by the Surgeon General as the second leading cause of lung cancer in the US.

Why is it present in Saucon Valley?

Radon is produced by the spontaneous decay of naturally occurring uranium in rocks, soil, and even certain building stone and masonry. Uranium is common in the metamorphic rocks that form the ridges surrounding the Saucon Valley and also in the limestone and dolomite that underlies it.

How does it get into my house?

Radon migrates into homes through cracks in the foundation or basement floor, through drainage sumps, and along incompletely sealed line utility lines entrances. It may also be emitted from certain building materials, especially fieldstone. Radon can be dissolved in groundwater and may be released from water when it comes out of faucets and showerheads. Radon in groundwater is usually highest in homes served by private wells. Radon that is ingested in drinking water is considered to have a much lower health risk.

What can I do to protect my home and family?

#1 TEST

The first step is to have your home tested. There are commercial companies that do testing, or you can buy do it yourself test kits online or at many home centers or hardware stores. You can also have your water tested.

#2 COMPARE

The EPA recommends that radon levels above 4 picocuries/liters be addressed. It is important to test radon in living areas where you spend time

#3 ADDRESS

You can use a variety of methods to reduce radon levels in your home: sealing cracks in floors and walls or increasing ventilation through a system installed by a qualified contractor. Radon in groundwater can be addressed by water treatment systems

Where can I learn more?

The US EPA has a very comprehensive website that provides more information on Radon Hazards. https://www.epa.gov/radon

Created by the Lower Saucon Environmental Advisory Council

Farmland Preservation a Focus of Concern in the Lehigh Valley

As a great philosopher - or bumper sticker - once said, "No farms, no wine". While this might be a cheeky take, the message is essential: without farms, not only would the vibrant food and beverage scene in the Lehigh Valley be gone, but also our ability to meet the very basic of our human needs. The need to protect the land that provides our bountiful food system should be a key priority, as erosion of farm land, soil loss, and financial difficulties are threatening the family farmer. In response, a coalition of non-profit organizations and community leaders are now bringing attention to the serious concern of farmland preservation.

Leading this effort is RenewLV, a coalition of community leaders that are addressing critical challenges for the Lehigh Valley community. RenewLV seeks to preserve 25% of the land in Lehigh and Northampton Counties for agricultural use, which is the goal set forth by the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission's regional comprehensive plan. Further, they want for current farmers to have the support they need to grow and maintain a healthy business and contribute to our economic wellbeing.

To get there, RenewLV proposes a number of initiatives to both educate active citizens and provide policy and economic support to realize this preservation goal. Polls conducted by RenewLV have indicated that 94% of Lehigh and Northampton county residents agree with the premise that funding should be restored for farmland preservation to the levels it had been in the past. 77% of residents would support a ballot measure that would involve taxes and bond issuance to bring that funding level back to previous years. Beyond the economic aspects, RenewLV is also seeking to train citizens as advocates for farmland preservation, as well as educational activities for farmers to provide reasonable options and support to preserve and let thrive their agricultural businesses.

Farmland preservation and is part and parcel with quality of life and availability of healthy food for the region. To be nourished, physically and emotionally, is the most basic of human needs and a central human security concern. Further, farming and our agricultural spirit is fundamental to the character and tradition of our Lehigh Valley.

Over the next few months, we will be working in conjunction with local agencies to provide public education around farmland preservation and connect farmers with essential resources. For more information about tools to support farmland preservation in the Lehigh Valley, check out the RenewLV toolbox: **http://renewlv.org/farmland-preservation-toolbox/**.

By: Sarah Stanlick, Lower Saucon Township EAC

Woodland Hills Preserve

Lower Saucon Township has opened the Woodland Hills Preserve property to the public. The 148-acre former golf course property was acquired by the Township in 2014 with the assistance of state, county and Township open space funding. Access to the site is on Countryside Lane where a parking lot with a portable toilet, trash receptacle and trail signage is available. Two grass trails have been mowed through the preserve allowing visitors to hike, bird watch, and fish in the several ponds on the property.

Earlier in May, Tim Burris of the Natural Land Trust and a member of the Mariton's Bird Group (along with 9 other members) went on a birding walk at the Preserve and were able to see almost 50 species of birds.

The group found a few Brown Thrashers (pictured to the left). Burris stated that this bird likes brushy habitats and Woodland Hills provides a nice scrub/brush habitat for them. Brown Thrashers are one of the mimics that can copy other birds' songs, or even noises like cell phones. The other two mimics, the Northern Mockingbird and Gray Catbird, were also spotted during their walk. He said that it was a great opportunity to hear all three birds singing in one place so he could work on the differences in songs. Burris mentioned that it was only a few short years ago that it was hard to find Brown Thrashers. He said they were only around if you knew where to look for them, the Brown Thrashers seem to be making a comeback.

Pictured to the right (at the preserve) is an Orchard Oriole. Its characteristics are similar to a Baltimore Oriole.

Other brush-lovers like the Field Sparrows, Eastern Towhees, Eastern Bluebirds, and Blue-winged Warblers were sighted. They were surprised by some forest dwellers like Wood Thrush and Scarlet Tanager. Because of the ponds, they even saw Wood Ducks. See more at: **https://natlands.org/preserves-to-visit/blog/mariton-birding-at-woodland-hills/#sthash.JoE79NE4.dpuf**

Be Aware of Ticks & Spotted Lanternfly!

According to "Townships Today", a local government newsletter, Pennsylvania has led the nation in confirmed cases of Lyme disease for three straight years, and for the first time, deer ticks have been found in its 67 counties. The State Department of Health reports. The number of Pennsylvanians diagnosed with the disease also continues to grow. Between 2013 & 2014. The cases of Lyme disease jumped from 5,900 to 7,400.

Protect yourself, know where ticks live. Ticks tend to be near the ground, in leaf litter, grasses, bushes, and fallen logs. Dress defensively and wear shoes, socks and long pants and sleeves. Use repellent on exposed skin—studies show that repellents with **DEET** and, picaridin, or lemon eucalyptus oil are the most effective. Check for ticks when outdoors, periodically inspect your clothing and skin. Once home, take a shower right away. This will wash off any unattached ticks. Put your clothes in the dryer—running your clothes in the hot dryer for 10 minutes before you wash them will kill any ticks that may be there. Protect your pets—ticks can infect dogs and cats, too. Also, their fur can act like a "tick magnet", carrying ticks into your home. Consult with your veterinarian about tick prevention for your pets.

Spotted Lanternfly….

The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture warns the Spotted Lanternfly is a plant hopper native to China, India and Vietnam, and has been introduced in South Korea and Japan. In Korea, where it was first detected in 2004, the Spotted Lanternfly is known utilize more than 70 species, 25 of which also occur in Pennsylvania, including cultivated grapes, fruit trees, and hardwood species. In the U.S., the Spotted Lanternfly has the potential to greatly impact the viticulture (grape), tree fruit, plant nursery and timber industries. This pest poses a significant threat to the state's more than $20.5 million grape, nearly $134 million apple, and more than $24 million stone fruit industries, as well as the hardwood industry in Pennsylvania, which accounts for $12 billion in sales. Early detection is vital to the effective control of this pest and the protection of PA agriculture and natural resources-related businesses.

Residents can limit the spread of Spotted Lanternfly: You can take steps personally to limit the chance you may spread Spotted Lanternfly. Do not park or leave items under tree lines and always check your vehicle for hitch hiking Lanternflies. By doing this, it will reduce the risk of Spotted Lanternfly becoming an unwelcome hitch hiker.

Report a site: Call the Bad Bug hotline at 1-866-253-7189 with details of the siting and your contact information. For more information or to report possible populations of Spotted Lanternfly: Contact the Invasive Species Hotline at 1-866-253-7189 or visit the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture at **www.agriculture.pa.gov**.

Lower Saucon Authority Tips to Conserve Water

If you feel your water usage is higher-than-normal, there are a number of things you can do to analyze and correct the issue. Leaking toilets are by far the most common cause for excessive water usage. Check the float adjustment in the storage tank or the flapper valve at the bottom of the tank to make sure it is seated correctly. Even the newest toilets can leak.

A **dye test** is one way to tell if there is a problem. Put food coloring or a dye strip in the tank and let it sit for 10 to 15 minutes. Then, without flushing, check for any color in the toilet bowl. If the color migrates into the bowl, there is a leak. Dye test strips are available at no charge at the Authority office at 3706 Old Philadelphia Pike.

If you feel your water consumption is higher than it should be, and need help, please call the Authority at 610-317-3212. We can review your usage history and, if needed, schedule a field tech to come to your home to help identify any problems. This is done without charge. We will often call you if we spot an unusually high meter reading. In addition, the Meter Reading page on our website provides guidance on how to read your water meter and spot ongoing leakage. These and other tips on water conservation can be found on the Lower Saucon Authority website at: **www.lowersauconauthority.org.**

Lower Saucon Township

3700 Old Philadelphia Pike
Bethlehem, PA 18015
Administration hours: 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Public Works Summer hours: 6:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

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

Lower Saucon Township Officials

Ron Horiszny	Council President
Sandra Yerger	Council Vice President
Priscilla deLeon	Council Member
Glenn Kern	Council Member
Donna Louder	Council Member
Lou Mahlman	Controller
Leslie Huhn	Township 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

Summer Fun at a Discount

Did you know that the Township sells discounted Park tickets for local & not-so-local amusement parks? Residents & Non-residents can purchase tickets at Town Hall from 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday (cash/check only).

For a complete list of parks & prices please visit our website: http://www.lowersaucontownship.org/pdf/summertickets.pdf Click on the "Parks and Recreation" tab and scroll to "Summer Tickets".

Meeting Schedule

Council
1st and 3rd Wednesdays – 7:00 p.m.
No meeting 1st Wed. in July /August

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, 2016 Independence Day
September 5, 2016 Labor Day