



PENN TIMES

The Official Newsletter of Penn Township

VOL. 6 NO. 1

www.penntwpcc.org

JANUARY, 2009

PENN TOWNSHIP PROJECTS UPDATE

Lebo and Leeds Road bridges

Bridges – Lebo Road bridge is on hold pending a Bog Turtle study scheduled for Spring of 2009. The Leeds Road bridge permits have been submitted and the bridge replacement is planned for 2009.

New Township Equipment



The township staff recently received a new self-propelled broom to be used on the local roads. The broom has an 8' wide power angle brush and a 72 gallon water reservoir for dust control. The broom

will be used to remove stones, gravel, dirt, leaves and millings from road surfaces.

Verizon Tower

The Board Of Supervisors has approved the Verizon/Zimmerman Land Development Plan for the erection of a communications tower to be located at 768 Centerville Road.

Township Tower

The Board of Supervisors approved an agreement with Priority Tower to erect a communication tower on Township property. Priority Tower will solicit customers and compensate the Township according to the number of users.

Act 537

Act 537 has been forwarded to the county for review and comments. When returned, a public hearing will be scheduled to provide an opportunity for residents to ask questions and provide input prior to adoption by the Board of Supervisors.

Spring Cleanup

Spring Cleanup will be held around the first two weeks of June again this year. Please check the April newsletter for more specific information.

District Justice Office

The new building located at the Centerville Community Park is complete and the District Justice is now in full operation.



The building was constructed by Galbraith Pre-Design and was finished 9 days early and within budget.

The township has entered into a long term lease with Cumberland County to provide the office space and local services such as trash and snow removal. Also, a privacy fence was installed on the east and south sides of the property.



An open house to enable the public to tour the new facility is scheduled for February 9th from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Park and Recreation News	2
Board of Supervisors Meetings	3
About Penn Township: The Mills of Milltown	4-5
Fire Company News	6
Township Calendar	6
Advertising Rates	7
Volunteer Service Awards	7



Penn Township Road Crew did a great job widening Smith Road making it wider and safer.



PARKS & REC

Parks & Rec came through a busy schedule for 2008 with many projects accomplished. We were fortunate to have volunteers come out to help with work details and once again we owe you a BIG Thank You. We are now looking forward to a busy 2009.

We would like the township residents' input as to new ideas for the new year. An example of activities we are considering are: a township yard sale at Centerville Park, a Christmas craft show, a township recipe book, and once we have the community center completed we would like to start line dances one night a week. If you have ideas that you would like us to consider please either drop off a suggestion at the township office or contact Vickie Wallick at 486-4116.

The holidays saw an increase in our t-shirt sales. However, we do still have a nice selection of 100% pre-shrunk cotton shirts for sale. The prices are \$10.00 without a pocket and \$12.00 with a pocket. The colors available are tan and grey. We have sizes M. L. XL & XXL.

In future newsletters we will write a small but informative profile on our Park & Rec board members. We look forward to introducing board members to the township residents in an effort to get to know us better.

HELPFUL CONTACT INFORMATION

Telephone:	Embarq	1-866-304-6820 www.embarq.com
Electric:	PPL	1-800-342-5775 www.pplweb.com
Trash:	Waste Management	1-800-634-4595 www.wm.com
	Interstate Waste Services	1-800-223-3888
Cable:	Kuhn Communications	1-800-771-7072 www.kuhncom.net
	Comcast	1-888-266-2278 www.comcast.com
Big Spring School District:		717-776-2000 www.bigspring.k12.pa.us
Tax Collection:	Mable Stitt 2655 Walnut Bottom Rd.	717-776-3606
Polling:	Penn Township Volunteer Fire Department 1750 Pine Road, Newville, PA 17241	717-486-5488

Planning Commission

- Planning Commission member George Rohrs developed a report on anti-idling truck traffic that he delivered to the township supervisors.
- Recommended approval of the Mt. Asbury development plan subject to revisions.
- Recommended approval of the Verizon-Zimmerman plan.
- Recommended approval for Barry Jackson to install a holding tank.

A Note from the Zoning Officer:

CERTIFICATE OF NON-CONFORMANCE

A certificate of non-conformance may be issued by the Zoning Officer upon the request of the owner of any property which is identified as containing a non-conforming use or structure. The owner's property and the issuance date of such certificate shall be registered in the records of the Township.

This Certificate shall be for the purpose of insuring the owner the right to continue a non-conforming use in accordance with the regulations of the Zoning Ordinance.

Fred Leeds
Township Zoning Officer

Penn Township Personnel

Zoning Hearing Board

Holbert Myers, Chair
Todd Vogelsong
Seth Shaffer
Matthew Farkas, Voting Alternate
Richard Mislitsky, Solicitor

Planning Commission

Fred Leeds - Chair
George Rohrs - Vice-Chair
Marcia Leeds - Secretary
Gary Cribbs
Victor Barrick
Kathleen Shirey
Ron Tritt
Richard Mislitsky, Solicitor

Parks & Recreation Board

Lloyd Jones, Chair
Pat Walker, Vice-Chair
Vickie Wallick, Secretary
Pat Sangialosi, Treasurer
Bill Feuchtenberger
Ron Tritt
John Wardle, Jr.
Susan Whitesel

Fire Company Executive Officers

Ernie Beecher- President 226-2895
Tim Knepp, Sr. - Vice President
Wayne Hockensmith - Treasurer
Loretta Hair - Secretary
Brenda Bowes-Assistant Secretary
Bill Wardle- Financial Secretary
Fran Hair-Chaplain

Fire Company Line Officers

James Hair - Fire Chief - 226-4485
Robert Kough, Jr. - Deputy Chief
Chris Alleman - Assistant Chief
Kevin Enyeart - Captain
Dennis Shoff - Lieutenant
Tim Knepp, Sr. - EMS Captain
Westly Gingrich - EMS Lieutenant

Fire Company Auxiliary

Anna Group - President
Evie Seiders - Vice President
Mary Wert - Secretary
Joyce Wardle - Assistant Secretary
Romaine Sheaffer - Treasurer
Kay Kann - Financial Secretary
Erma Dingle - Facility Contact
Richard Kann - Chaplain

Fire/Police Members

Robert Kough, Sr., Captain
Bob Alleman, Lieutenant
Amos Seiders, Sergeant
Art Danner
Wayne Hockensmith
Jim Sheaffer
Ricky Stitt
Ron Tritt
Ira Wagner
John J. Wardle, Jr.

Emergency Management Coordinator

Robert Kough, Jr. - 226-6537
Ernie Beecher, Assistant

Codes Enforcement Officer

Fred Leeds
Ron Tritt, Assistant

Vacancy Board

J. Michael Ickes, Chair

Loan Grant Coordinator

Buck Shuller

Board of Supervisors

October 2008:

- Approved the purchase of a self-propelled highway broom for \$24,000.
- Approved a motion to send letters to township residents to help defray the \$16,212 cost of gypsy moth spraying in 2009.
- Approved a motion to ask for nominations for a Citizen's Award to be given to an individual who has volunteered his services for the township and is not getting paid for his or her time.
- Approved using Crystal Springs to supply the water cooler to the District Justice's office.
- Appointed Pat Sangialosi as the Open Records officer for the township.
- Approved a motion to have John W. Gleim, Jr. Excavating level a field at the Centerville School site for a walking trail. The township will pay the cost of \$32,617, and Lauth will repay the township.
- Approved a motion to pay \$1800 to have a boring test done at the school site(!)

November 2008:

- Approved the use of the township backhoe to help Bo Lloyd with his Eagle Scout project of cleaning up an old Civil War cemetery on Lowell Hassinger's land.
- Approved an agreement with Priority Tower to install a cell tower on Township property.
- Approved Matt Allen to develop the new website.
- Accepted the resignation of Buck Shuller from the Park and Rec Board.
- Approved a motion to contract with an accounting firm in addition to the elected auditors to audit the books for 2008.
- Approved several motions for enhancements to the District Justice office:
- Accepted the bid of \$10,091.81 from Blue Mt. Supply to erect a privacy fence along the property lines of Shoff and Smith.
- Approved a cost of \$487 to add door buzzers to each desk.
- Approved a request to have the surveyors come in and replace some of the survey markers that were lost in the landscaping project.
- Approved a cost of \$500 to put an awning over the entrance door.
- Approved the cost of \$570 for Eric L. Diffenbaugh, Surveyor, to field locate and plot additional wetlands area at the Lebo Road bridge site.
- Approved the allocation of \$45,000 for 1/2 of the EDUs from the Centerville Sewer Account.

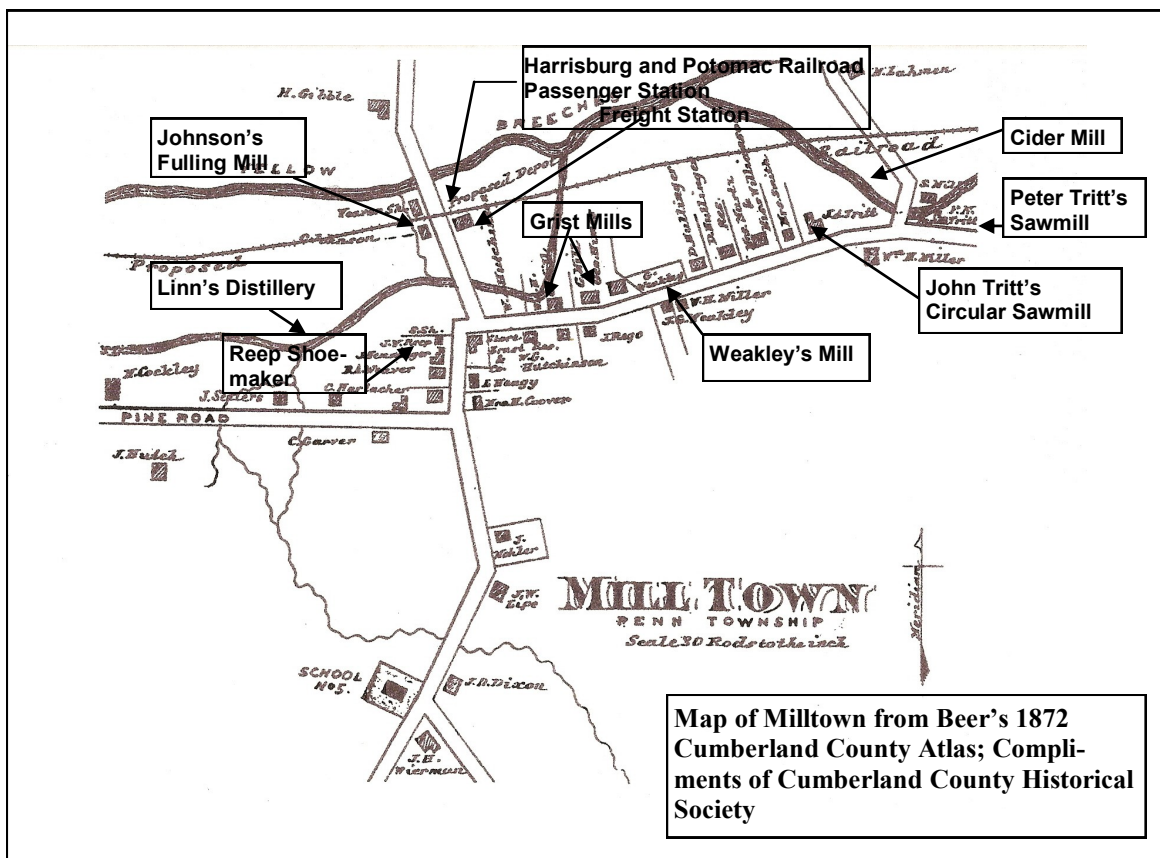
December 2008:

- Approved the Verizon Wireless Land Development Plan pending Verizon obtaining a removal bond.
- Accepted a 90-day extension of the David Harrison plan.
- Adopted Resolution 2008-012 to approve the 2009 budget and set fees for the new year.
- Accepted the bid of \$7900 from Smith, Elliot and Kearns for an outside audit of the township books.
- Approved the hiring of Michael Bowes and Gary Myers for part-time employment.
- Approved the payment of \$47,490 for 1/2 the cost of the EDU's from Key Logistics Park sewer account.

Check out our new website! It is being re-developed to give you more of the information you need to know. New site should be ready around the end of January.

About Penn Township.....The Mills of Milltown

The mills of Milltown operated from pre-1850 until the last years of the century. By the year 1900, they were gone from the town. The 1850, 1860, and 1870 census of Upper Dickinson Township lists the occupation of Conrad Johnson as "Fuller." The Johnson Fulling Mill is shown on the 1850 map of the area as well as the Cumberland Furnace and Peter Tritt's sawmill. By 1872, several of the properties thought to be mills are shown on the map of the village.



one of the Milltown millstones.

During the time of the growth of the mills along the Yellow Breeches, several other businesses were established to accommodate the industry of the village. George Russel and Isaac Castle were storekeepers 1860s, but it is not known where their store was located. J. W. Reep was a shoe-maker in the 1870s. It stood on the northwest corner across from Ernst store, now crossed by the Pine Road. It can be seen on the 1872 map above. Ernst and Clever were partners in a chain of general stores with a branch at Huntsdale, and the iron works had a company store.





In 1876, Peter Tritt contributed to the financing of a railroad terminal in Huntsdale. In time, there was a passenger station built on the north side of the tracks (right), and a freight station and warehouse on the south side (left). The original line was the Harrisburg and Potomac Railroad, but changed to the Philadelphia and Reading in later years. It was a single track line until 1904 when the second track was laid. Each day the train made three stops in Huntsdale. There was a stop at 9:00 am headed for Shippensburg, one at 2:00 pm headed for Harrisburg, and one



at 5:00 pm returning from Shippensburg.



In 1877, Henry K. Miller established a grain warehouse on the northeast intersection of the railroad crossing where he traded in grain, coal, flour, seeds, and salt. This flour sack was found in the original Miller house which became the home of the Supervisor of the Fish Hatchery in later years. The 1880 Penn Township census shows Henry, age 30, as a Laborer. In 1900, the census shows Henry K. Miller, age 50, Grain Merchant.

In 1902, the Dennis Company closed the stone mill and began using the water for water-cress ponds. They converted the mill into a shop for making boxes for shipping cress and supplying other needs of the organization. A Mr. Shank who lived across the road from the mill was the box maker. A sawmill was put into service in Pine Swamp in the general area of what is now Lake Warren Estates. The sawmill was later moved to Huntsdale and set up west of the present hatchery buildings. Ice was needed in the summer to keep the water-cress fresh in shipment. Dennis's had an ice house near the sawmill. When the pond ice became thick enough, a horse drawn cutter was used to score it into long ribbons. It was then sawed into blocks to be stacked. Sawdust was spread between the layers. Among those who filled the ice house were Merle Yoter and Lester Mellinger.



After the Huntsdale ponds were started, Dennis began buying land and setting out apple and peach trees. In 1911 he brought Thomas LeDane to Huntsdale as local manager. The land buying and planting continued until there were 650 acres of orchard. The best paying part of the orchard operation was the sale of fruit overseas. Apples were packed in barrels, loaded on rail cars, and sent to a port city. From there they were shipped to European markets. World War II ended this trade. Fruit which couldn't be sold locally was sent to canners.

The orchards provided some full time employment and much seasonal work. Planting, pruning, spraying, and grass control were regular jobs. In the picking season much help was needed to gather, grade, pack, and ship. These jobs were especially important to people during the depression years. There were several small orchards in the Township as well.

In about the same time period the lumber business which was started by Peter N. Tritt was operated by William Tritt. Two of his employees were Frank McManus and Charles Tritt. When this business closed the planing mill was converted into a cider press. Pete Seiders recalls seeing wagons in line on the Pine Road both east and west of the press waiting their turn. If they hadn't been taken care of by quitting time the horses were unhitched and the wagons let stand by the road. The next morning the owners came back and resumed their place in line. George (Butch) Motter ran the cider press.

Sources:

Pictures of old Mills and railroad depots donated by Ken Sheaffer

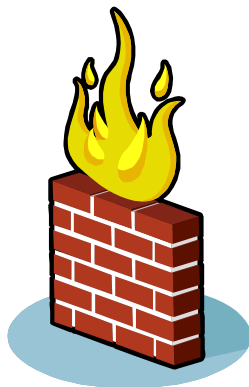
1872 Beers Map of Penn Township and Milltown—Cumberland County Historical Society

School paper, "Huntsdale" by Betty Lou Seiders contributed by Butch Brough

Penn Township 125 Years by Robert J. Smith

The Passing of Old Huntsdale by John A. Leer, Jr

Many, many stories and memories contributed by Louise Potteiger, Lowell Hassinger, Bob Brough, Butch Brough, and Jeannette Utech. Thank you!



FIRE COMPANY NEWS

We at Company 50 hope all our residents had an enjoyable Holiday Season!

We often hear of fires on television or in the newspaper, but we never imagine that one could hit close to home. Unfortunately, home is where a fire is most likely to hit. Each year, heating equipment is involved in roughly 70,000 reported home fires according to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA). The cost of

these fires goes far beyond just money and property damage with more than 600 deaths and almost 1,600 injuries on average each year. Heating equipment fires kill two people every day.

As energy costs reach record highs, many families are turning to portable electric space heaters and wood, pellet, coal or kerosene stoves and other non-traditional heating sources to defray costs. With the increase in use comes an increase in fire risk. While home heating fires are quite prevalent, they are largely preventable. **PENN TOWNSHIP VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT** is encouraging you to not let this tragedy happen to you. With your help, we can reduce the number of home heating fires. Here are just a few simple ways you can decrease the risk of a heating fire in your home:

Have your chimney inspected each year and cleaned if necessary.

Use a sturdy fireplace screen.

Allow ashes to cool before disposing in a metal container.

Space heaters need space. Keep all things that can burn, such as paper, bedding or furniture, at least 3 feet away from heater.

Turn portable heaters off when you go to bed or leave the room.

Plug power cords only into outlets with sufficient capacity and never into an extension cord.

Install smoke alarms in every bedroom, outside each sleeping area and on every level of the home.

Test smoke alarms at least once a month. Install and maintain a carbon monoxide alarm in a central location outside each sleeping area.

Never use an oven to heat your home.

If using candles for light and or heat never leave them unattended

Additionally, **Penn Township Volunteer Fire Company** is teaming up with **ABC 27 News, Operation Save A Life & Kidde Corp.** to further protect our community by supplying **Kidde** Smoke Alarms to residents at no charge. If you can't afford or don't have smoke alarms PLEASE contact the Fire Dept. Working together we can prevent fires and protect lives.

Ernest R. Beecher, President
Penn Township Volunteer Fire Department

1750 Pine Road ♦ Newville ♦ PA ♦ 17241 ♦
Phone: 717-486-5488 ♦ Fax: 717-486-8673

2009 Township Calendar

All meetings are held at the Township building, 1301 Centerville Road, Newville, PA at 7:00 pm unless otherwise stated.

February

- 2 Planning Commission Meeting
- 5 Park and Rec Board Meeting
- 9 District Justice Office Open House
4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
- 11 Zoning Hearing Board Meeting
- 12 Board of Supervisors Meeting
- 14 Fire Co. Meat Raffle 7:00 p.m.

March

- 2 Planning Commission Meeting
- 5 Park and Rec Board Meeting
- 12 Board of Supervisors Meeting
- 14 Fire Co. Meat Raffle 7:00 p.m.

April

- 2 Park and Rec Board Meeting
- 6 Planning Commission Meeting
- 8 Zoning Board Quarterly Meeting
- 9 Board of Supervisors Meeting
- 11 Fire Co. Easter Egg Hunt
10:00a.m.
- 11 Fire Co. Meat Raffle 7:00 p.m.
- 24 Fire Co. Pot Pie Supper
3:30 p.m. to ?

NOTE: Fire Company BINGO is held every Friday night, 7:00 at the Fire Hall

**Check out our new website
later this month!**

**It is being re-developed to
give you more of the
information you need to
know!**

www.penntwpc.org

Assistant Zoning Officer Position Open

Applications now being accepted for this position. If you are interested, please stop by the township offices at 1301 Centerville Road.

ROAD MASTER REPORT

Weather permitting, the crew will do some brush cutting and cold patching. Snow plowing and cinder spreading will be done as needed.

Please be aware when our road crews are working in the township and adjust your speed when approaching these areas.

Jeff Gillaugh

Find Your Name

The names of two Township residents, selected randomly from township records, are "hidden" out of context somewhere in this newsletter. Find your name and we will treat you to a \$20 gift certificate to Saylor's Market in Newville. If you find your name, claim the reward by stopping by the Township office before February 28, 2009. Our thanks to Curt Saylor for his donation to the newsletter.

Newsletter Advertising

The PENN TIMES is published quarterly (January, April, July, and October), and offers area businesses the opportunity to advertise their businesses to all of the residents of the township. Advertisements may be changed to fit the seasons. Seasonal businesses may choose to advertise in the issue that is closest to their peak season.

The following are the prices for advertising in the 2009 PENN TIMES:

Size	Cost/Issue	Cost/Year
1/8 Page (Business Card)	\$50	\$175
1/4 Page	\$100	\$350
1/2 Page	\$200	\$700
Full Page	\$400	\$1400

Contact the township office at 486-3104 to reserve your space. You must provide the camera-ready artwork. Advertising for the April issue is due by March 31st.

SCHOOL DAZE BIG SPRING CALENDAR



January 19	Staff Development Day (No Students)
January 27	Two Hour Delay for Students Staff Development
February 16	Staff Development Day (No Students)
February 24	Two Hour Delay for Students Staff Development
March 13	Staff Development Day (No Students)
April 9-13	Spring Recess
April 28	Two Hour Delay For Students Staff Development



Volunteer Service Awards

The Board of Supervisors, upon the recommendation from a township resident, has instituted an award program to recognize individuals, groups, and businesses whose contributions have enhanced the quality of life in Penn Township. Nominations may be made by any Township resident by completing the "**Recognition Award Nomination Form**" available at the Township office or on the Township website.

The **Penn Citizen Award** may be presented annually to an individual for exemplary service during the previous calendar year. The nominee must have performed services without monetary compensation and have had a positive impact on the direction and success of the Township. The nominations for the Penn Citizen award must be submitted no later than March 1st, 2009. The **Special Recognition Award** may be granted at any time during the year to an individual, group or business for service or contributions that have had a positive impact on the Townships mission or community needs. Nominations for the Special Recognition Award may be submitted at any time.

Penn Township
1301 Centerville Road
Newville, PA 17241

PRSRT STD
US POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT #583
HARRISBURG, PA

If you know of a Township resident who did not receive this newsletter, extra copies are available at the Township office.

Penn Township

Address:

1301 Centerville Road
Newville, PA 17241
Phone: (717) 486-3104
Fax: (717) 486-3522

Office Hours:

Monday, Tuesday: 8:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.
2nd Monday of Each Month: 6:30 a.m. — 1:30 p.m.
Wednesday: 9:30 a.m. — 5:00 p.m.
Evening Hours by Appointment

Township Staff

Board of Supervisors

Gary Martin, Chairman
Ken Sheaffer, Vice-Chairman
Amos Seiders, Supervisor

Township Solicitor

Marcus McKnight, III

Township Engineer

John Shambaugh

Township Auditors

Charles Leeds, Chairman
Trina Manetta, Secretary

Township Tax Collector

Mable Stitt

Zoning Officer

Fred Leeds

Employees

Ron Tritt & Ernie Beecher

Sewage Enforcement Officer

Vincent Elbel
Edward Elbel, Assistant

Township Secretary

Pat Sangialosi
Vickie Wallick, Assistant

Roadmaster

Jeff Gillaugh