



# PENN TIMES

The Official Newsletter of Penn Township

VOL. 6 NO. 3

[www.penntwpcc.org](http://www.penntwpcc.org)

JULY, 2009



**The Annual Fireman's Festival!**  
**Come One. Come All!**

**August 6, 7 & 8, 2009**



**Penn Township Volunteer  
Fire Company Grounds  
Pine Road**



**Hours 4:00 p.m. until ???  
Fireworks Saturday night  
10:00 p.m.**

## 2009 Township Calendar

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

### August

- 3 Planning Commission Meeting
- 6 Park and Rec Board Meeting
- 6-8 Annual Fireman's Festival
- 14 Zoning Hearing Board Meeting
- 13 Board of Supervisors Meeting
- 26 School Starts
- 29 Fire Company Sportsmen's Raffle

### Sept

- 3 Park and Rec Board Meeting
- 7 Labor Day
- 8 Planning Commission Meeting
- 9 Zoning Hearing Board Meeting
- 10 Board of Supervisors Meeting
- 12 Cancer Run/walk & Yard Sale
- 26 Fire Company Pot Pie Dinner

### October

- 1 Park and Rec Board Meeting
- 2 Fire Company Anniversary Bingo
- 5 Planning Commission Meeting
- 8 Board of Supervisors Meeting
- 12 Columbus Day
- 14 Zoning Hearing Board Meeting

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

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## 1st Annual Citizen of the Year Award Linda Piekut



Linda Piekut was awarded the 1st annual Citizen of the Year award for 2008 for her dedication and service as Editor and Publisher of the "PENN TIMES" newsletter since its beginnings.

The newsletter has always been an all-volunteer effort started in 2004 by members of PENN TAC, with input from a variety of Penn Township citizens.

"Working on the newsletter has always been a rewarding experience and enabled me to meet many of the residents of Penn Township over the years. I'm honored to receive this award," stated Linda.

## *Run/walk and Yard Sale to benefit Pancreatic Cancer Research September 12, 2009*

A run/walk and yard sale to benefit Pancreatic Cancer Research will be held at the Centerville Community Park, on Saturday, September 12th at 8:00 AM. Water and fruit will be provided to all walkers. The first 25 people to start the walk will receive a free t-shirt.

Setup for the yard sale will begin at 7:00 AM, and the charge for a space will be \$10, which will benefit Pancreatic Cancer Research.

There will be baked goods for sale, along with refreshments. Donations are also welcome!

For additional information, please call Deborah Finkenbinder at 776-6429.



## PARKS & REC

### Volunteers Needed!

The Park and Rec Board needs some new members on the Board to help complete projects already underway. If you like what you see at the Fire Company hike/bike trail and the Centerville Community Park, come help us complete the work and develop a long range plan to address the township park and recreation needs. Once a plan has been formulated, the Board will be able to apply for grant money for future projects. The Board meets once a month for planning purposes.



These playground toys and the volleyball court are currently available. A swing set and a rocking horse have been received and will be installed at the

park in the near future

The pavilion at the park is available for rent. The cost is \$45 per day with a \$100 refundable deposit, and reservations may be made by calling Susan Whitesel at 486-4069.



### Skool Daze!



School Starts  
August 26!



### **Penn Township Personnel**

#### ***Zoning Hearing Board***

Holbert Myers, Chair  
Todd Vogelsong, Vice-Chair  
Matthew Farkas  
Linwood Clippinger, 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***

Pat Walker, Vice-Chair  
Susan Whitesel, Secretary  
Pat Sangialosi, Treasurer  
Ron Tritt  
John Wardle, Jr.

#### ***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  
Cindia Whisler - Facility Contact  
Richard Kann - Chaplain

#### ***Fire/Police Members***

Robert Kough, Sr., Captain  
Bob Alleman, Lieutenant  
Amos Seiders, Sergeant  
Art Danner  
Wayne Hockensmith  
Dennis McGarry  
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

#### ***Vacancy Board***

J. Michael Ickes, Chair

#### ***Loan Grant Coordinator***

Buck Shuller

## **Board of Supervisors**

### **Supervisors' Meeting Minutes**

#### **April 2009:**

- Accepted a 90-day extension to review the Harrison plan.
- Returned the Sammy Dunn conditional use application and check until such time as the application can be completed properly.
- Tabled the awarding of the Citizen award.
- Set the zoning permit fee for any construction under \$1000 at \$15, and any construction greater than \$1000, the posted \$30 fee.
- Approved the purchase of a boom lift for \$10,000.
- Accepted the resignation of Seth Shafer from the Zoning Hearing Board, and approved the appointment of Matt Farkas to that position.

#### **May 2009:**

- Approved the conditional use request to build four individual housing units at Whispering Hope.
- Approved a 90-day extension to review the plans of the construction at the fish hatchery.
- Approved the David Harrison plan.
- Ratified the award of a bid from South Mountain fencing for chain link fencing at the District Justice office.
- Ratified the award of a bid from Paul Seiders for an addition to the municipal building for the housing of equipment.
- Approved the selections of Roadmaster Jeff Gillaugh for road material bids through the COG, and ratified the choice of Alpha Space for line painting.
- Approved the hire of Stephen Shumaker for part-time employment.
- Approved Stevie Seiders for part-time employment.

#### **June 2009:**

- Approved Solid Waste Ordinance 2009-003 to ensure that all residents properly dispose of household trash.
- Approved changes to the Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance, mostly to bring the ordinance into compliance with other ordinances.
- Ratified the bid of Keystone Construction for \$34,850 for the Leeds Road bridge project.
- Accepted the resignation of Vickie Wallick as Secretary of the Park and Rec Board and as Township Assistant Secretary, and approved Susan Whitesel as Secretary of the Park and Rec Board.
- Approved the appointment of Linwood Clippinger as a Voting Alternate to the Zoning Hearing Board.
- Awarded a bid for seal coating to Wilson Paving for \$96,440.96.
- Accepted the resignation of Lloyd Jones from the Park and Rec Board.

The complete minutes of the Supervisors' Meetings are available, once they are approved, at the Township Building or on our NEW AND IMPROVED website, [www.penntwppcc.org](http://www.penntwppcc.org).

## PA Property Tax/ Rent Rebate News

### New Web Tool Allows Pennsylvanians to Check Status of Property Tax/Rent Rebates

Eligible older adults and residents with disabilities can now check the status of Property Tax/Rent Rebate applications online at [www.papropertytaxrelief.com](http://www.papropertytaxrelief.com)

“Our commitment to property tax relief is unwavering, and this new Web tool enhances customer service for the older adults and people with disabilities who rely on these annual checks,” Governor Edward G. Rendell said, introducing the new tool in late April.

Six weeks after submitting a Property Tax/Rent Rebate application, the applicant may visit [www.papropertytaxrelief.com](http://www.papropertytaxrelief.com) and check the status of the rebate sue gates by entering his/her Social Security number, anticipated rebate amount and birth date. Applicants may use the Web site to confirm claim status, rebate amount and the date a rebate is expected to be mailed or direct-deposited. Rebate checks will begin being distributed to early applicants on July 1.

Through a similar automated phone service, Property Tax/Rent Rebate applicants can check rebate status by calling, toll-free, 1-888-PATAXES.

The new online tool to check rebate status has the potential to reduce administrative costs for the Revenue Department. The online service is maintained at a minimal cost, while each toll-free phone call from taxpayers costs the department about 3.1 cents in phone charges, plus costs associated with staffing.

The rebate program benefits eligible Pennsylvanians age 65 and older; widows and widowers age 50 and older; and people with disabilities age 18 and older. A 2006 program expansion increased the income limit from \$15,000 to \$35,000 (which excludes half of Social Security income) for homeowners and raises the maximum standard rebate for both homeowners and renters from \$500 to \$650. The income limit for renters is \$15,000.

The program expansion also provided for supplemental property tax rebates of up to \$325 – on top of the standard rebates – to homeowners in Philadelphia, Pittsburgh and Scranton and to those in other parts of the state who pay more than 15 percent of income on property taxes.

Property Tax/Rent Rebate claim forms (PA-1000) and information are available online at [www.papropertytaxrelief.com](http://www.papropertytaxrelief.com) and by calling 1-888-222-9190. Forms and assistance also are available at Department of Revenue district offices (listed in the government section of local telephone directories), local Area Agencies on Aging, senior centers and state legislators’ offices.

The deadline to apply for a rebate on property taxes or rent paid in 2008 is Dec. 31.

### Spring Cleanup

The Penn Township Supervisors and road crew would like to express our appreciation to the residents of Penn Township for their cooperation during the recent spring cleanup. Drivers were courteous, patient and cautious when encountering our crew and equipment. The cleanup was accomplished in an efficient and safe manner with no injuries or accidents.

**THANK YOU!!!**

My name is **Beau Lloyd**. I am a Boy Scout from Troop 185 in



Huntsdale. I am currently working on my Eagle Scout Project restoring a cemetery in which Civil War soldiers are buried. It is located on the Lowell and Virginia Hassinger property at 1632A Pine Road. There are documents saying the original name of the cemetery is the Williamson Store Cemetery. If anyone has any pictures or information where the headstones are located, please contact me at 776-6969.

We also removed a lot of firewood from the area and we will have it for sale this fall with all proceeds going to Troop 185.



## PROJECT UPDATES

### Lebo and Leeds Road Bridges

The Leeds Road Bridge replacement begins on July 20. Keystone Concrete Products of New Holland, Pa was awarded the contract to manufacture, final grade and install the new bridge culvert. Penn Township Road crew is responsible for the removal of the old bridge, rough grading for the new culvert, and backfilling and paving finish work.

The Lebo Road bridge bog turtle study has been completed and no bog turtles were found in the construction zone. Final applications and permits will be secured and the bridge replacement is tentatively scheduled for summer of 2010.

### Act 537

The Pennsylvania Sewage Facilities Act (Act 537, as amended) was enacted to correct existing sewage disposal problems and prevent future problems. To meet this objective, the Act requires proper planning in all types of sewage disposal situations. Local municipalities are largely responsible for administering the Act 537 sewage facilities program. Accordingly, Penn Township is required to develop and implement comprehensive official plans that provide for the resolution of existing sewage disposal problems, provide for the future sewage disposal needs of new land development; and provide for future sewage disposal needs of the municipality.

### Municipal Building Addition

The Municipal Building addition is being constructed in 3 phases. The block walls and floor have been completed and the contracts for the roof and garage doors have been awarded. The roof contract includes installing a new metal roof on the existing portion of the municipal building.



### Farm Road Crossing Lights



Norfolk Southern Railroad has completed the installation of crossing lights and gates on Farm Road. This is the culmination of a 2 year effort by the Township to improve the safety of the railroad crossing.

### ATTENTION HOMEOWNERS AND HOME IMPROVEMENT CONTRACTORS

Did you know that under the Consumer Protection Act 132, home improvement contractors who do \$5000.00 or more business per year must be registered with the State Attorney General's office? The law becomes effective July 1, 2009. The law affords protection for consumers who hire contractors to perform home improvements on their residential properties; the law requires written contracts between the contractor and consumer when the total cash price of all work agreed upon exceeds \$500.00; and the law provides criminal penalties for home improvement fraud and civil penalties for violations of the act.

Contractors can register online at [www.attorneygeneral.gov](http://www.attorneygeneral.gov) for faster processing of the application.

### Fish Hatchery Adds New Microscreen Water Filtration System

James Wetherill, the Manager of the Huntsdale Fish Hatchery tells the Penn Times that they are constructing a new water filtration system that will include 5 filter units and a new retention pond. The system is being built to meet DEP standards in filtering out total suspended solids from the hatchery water before it is released back into the Yellow Breeches. The \$3-5 million dollars needed for the project came from the Growing Greener Fund.



There is a building below grade which is almost completed that houses the filtration panels. Each filter unit has 192 panels. Above ground, the building will contain a generator to power the units and to act as a backup to the main generator. In addition, there will be a series of pipes and valves underground to handle the flow of water.

The final piece is a replacement septic system.

### Roadmaster's Report

This quarter on Penn Township Roads:

- Seal coating of Farm Road, Lebo Road, Church Road, Quarry Hill Road North and South, McCullough Road, Kelly Road, and Smith Road.
- Line painting – AGAIN a reminder that when you see the line painting trucks, please stay behind them. The paint is fast drying, but if you pass before the paint is dry, you could get it on your car.
- Leeds Road bridge replacement
- Upgrading gutters
- Mowing
- General Road maintenance

### **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 August 31, 2009. Our thanks to Curt Saylor for his donation to the newsletter.

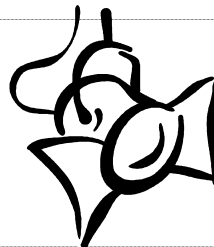
### **Newsletter Advertising**

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:

| <u>Size</u>              | <u>Cost/Issue</u> | <u>Cost/Year</u> |
|--------------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| 1/8 Page (Business Card) | \$50              | \$175            |
| ¼ Page                   | \$100             | \$350            |
| ½ 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 October issue is due by September 30th.



## **Employee Spotlight**

### **Jeff Gillaugh**

Jeff Gillaugh graduated from Big Spring High School and has lived in this area all his life. He has worked for Penn Township since 1998, and has been Roadmaster since 2004. He lives with his wife, Marlene, and son, Jeff, Jr. on his grandfather's farm in Lower Frankford Township. In addition to his work with the Township, Jeff has a small, 1-acre truck farm on his property.



When asked about his hobbies, Jeff admitted that he liked to fish (although he hasn't been out often enough). He also collects and restores antique tractors, especially John Deere and Oliver.

As Roadmaster, Jeff is responsible for setting the priorities on the road work that needs to be done. Even when an outside contractor is hired for any road work, it is the responsibility of the road crew to clean the roadbed and gutters. The current project is the work on the Leeds Road bridge replacement. Work begins July 20, and the road crew will be responsible for removing the old grate and then paving and finishing up after the contractor drops in the new culvert and widens the roadbed.

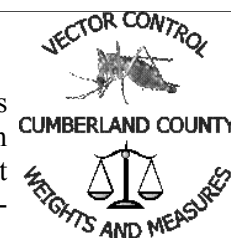
The road crew just finished a correction to the repaving of the Lebo Road railroad crossing. Norfolk Southern had paved the crossing, but had left the pitch of the road too severe, causing the farm charles bonner III vehicles to scrape and get hung up crossing the tracks. With Norfolk Southern picking up some of the expense, the road crew laid new asphalt to change the degree of slope on the north side of the crossing.

Jeff says the best parts of his job are running heavy equipment, being outside, and meeting and talking with people throughout the Township. He doesn't even mind plowing snow in the winter.



**Thanks, Jeff Gillaugh, for a job well done!**

## 2009 MOSQUITO SEASON



Recent rains are leaving behind stagnant water providing habitat for mosquitoes. Mosquito samples collected reflect a significant increase in the adult mosquito population. This has led to an increase in adult mosquito prevention inquiries from County residents. Mosquitoes carry disease including West Nile Virus. Cumberland County participates in the Pennsylvania West Nile Virus Surveillance Program.

The County will take additional measures to monitor and suppress the mosquito population and limit the potential for West Nile Virus. Beginning Tuesday, June 2, 2009, the County Vector Control Office will be adding treatments known as mosquito “adulticiding”; spraying areas where adult mosquito populations are very high. This method involves using an ultra low volume sprayer, mounted on the bed of a truck, dispensing an adult mosquito control material (see website or call for control product information) during the early evening hours. This is an effort to provide relief in residential neighborhood areas experiencing problems in the western and southern County municipalities where source habitat is difficult to access.

Not all habitat is large or obvious. Homeowners can play a vital role in identifying habitat on their property and in neighborhoods. It is important for residents in all locales to look around their home and properties for potential mosquito breeding habitat. There are many objects around the home which may contain water providing habitat for mosquitoes. Artificial water habitats include but are not limited to:

- Discarded containers, buckets, yard toys
- Bird baths, ornamental ponds, pool covers
- Clogged roof gutters, storm drains
- Unused uncovered boats, wheelbarrows, ceramic pots

The simplest and most economical solution is to empty the water from the container and render it so that it will not hold water again. If that is not possible (ornamental ponds and such), there are products that the homeowner can purchase at a lawn and garden store to place in the water that will inhibit mosquito growth. A listing of some of those products is available on the Vector Control Webpage.

In addition to mosquitoes and West Nile Virus, Vector Control provides information or referrals for residents on household pests and wildlife. The office also administers and participates in control programs for Gypsy Moth, and the Black Fly.

See the Vector Control website for additional information ([www.ccpa.net/vector](http://www.ccpa.net/vector)), and/or the DEP State website [www.westnile.state.pa.us](http://www.westnile.state.pa.us) or phone 240-7808.

Vector Control conducts an Adult Mosquito Control program by responding to residential areas where high adult mosquito populations exist.



A truck mounted Ultra Low Volume Sprayer is used to distribute an [adult mosquito control spray product](#). Since adult mosquitoes are mostly active after dusk, spraying is scheduled evenings between 8 and 11pm. Ideally, you may wish to avoid being out at that time.

However, if the truck is spraying while you are out, avoid being directly in the spray path. The nozzle on the truck is angled upward and the materials droplet sizes are intended for the material to rise and travel in the slight breeze. Generally, the material travels with the direction of the breeze. The truck operator is instructed to stop spraying when there is a passerby.

[Sign up for an automatic email notification of spray events on the website, www.ccpa.net/vector](http://www.ccpa.net/vector)

**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  
Ron Tritt, Assistant

**Sewage Enforcement Officer**

Vincent Elbel  
Edward Elbel, Assistant

**Township Secretary**

Pat Sangialosi

**Roadmaster**

Jeff Gillaugh

**Employees**

Ron Tritt  
Ernie Beecher