

DISTRICT TOWNSHIP

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>Joint Comprehensive Plan</i>	2
<i>Watershed Education</i>	2
<i>Crime Watch</i>	2
<i>Roadmaster Report</i>	3
<i>Fun & Recreation</i>	3
<i>A Bit of History</i>	3
<i>Your Representatives</i>	4

District Township

202 Weil Road

Boyertown, PA 19512

Phone: 610-845-7595

Fax: 610-845-7596

E-Mail:

Distwp@DistrictTwp.Berksco.org

Office Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS REPORT

Dear Residents of District Township:

As you have already noticed it has been quite some time since the last official newsletter has been published in District Township. We apologize for the delay, but hopefully from the articles contained in this issue you will notice that it has also been a rather busy period. Following are some of the major projects and initiatives in the last 18 months.

Completed Projects:

- ADA and Fire and Panic renovations were completed to the Township Building.
- Cell Tower was erected on Bull Road property.
- Negotiated a lease with Nextel, generating \$18,000 annual revenue to Township.
- Comprehensive Communications Tower Ordinance was adopted.
- Contributing Sponsor to the Manatawny Watershed Conservation Plan.
- Purchased John Deere 5410 tractor in 2001 to replace Case loader.



District Township Municipal Building

- Purchased 14-foot boom mower for road maintenance.
- Additional playground equipment upgraded.

Projects in Progress:

- Zoning Ordinance incorporating Act 67 & 68 MPC requirements in final review.
- Agreement with Pike Township and POD to secure a WREN grant for Watershed Conservation Education.
- Entered an agreement with Berks County, Rockland, Longswamp, and the Borough of Topton to create a regional comprehensive plan.
- In process of acquiring new Ford F550 4WD pickup to replace 1986 Chevy.
- Volunteer Septic Pumping program to comply with Act 537.

- Development of District Township Website.
- Partnering with Penn State Dirt and Gravel Road program to design a permanent solution to the ongoing erosion problems on Bull Road.

- Reviewing Ag Security requirements.

Additionally there have been some key personnel changes during this period. Gene Bardo was appointed Roadmaster in 2001. As a former Supervisor, Gene brings considerable experience and expertise to the position. Susan Manwiller was hired in March 2002 to replace Christine Updegrove as Township Secretary/Treasurer. In just a few short months, Susan has made tremendous progress learning the intricacies of local government.

As you can see, the Board has been very active and hopefully is addressing the key issues facing the rural communities today and in the future. We encourage active public participation in all Township meetings and welcome your input!

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

BY ALEX HARKINS

If a large scale emergency should occur, it would benefit everyone to be familiar with the "if you are told to take shelter" portion of the County Emergency Information in the

phone book (copies available at the Municipal Building). Our Emergency Alert Stations (EAS) are WEEU 830 AM and WRFY 102.5 FM.

Please report any suspicious activity near the Duke Energy Texas Eastern pipeline to the Pennsylvania State Police at 610-378-4011.

**WANTED!
PLANNING
COMMISSION
MEMBERS!**

Anyone interested in serving the community as a member of the Planning Commission, please contact the Municipal Building at 610-845-7595.

Do you know where your drinking water comes from? Or have you ever wondered what lives under those rocks in the stream? Join the Pike Oley Watershed Association on Saturday, October 26 to answer those age-old questions and have lots of fun in the process!

We'll start with a photo journey describing the relationship between water quality and the landscape. Afterwards, pull on your boots for a trip to the stream where we'll investigate how the diversity of life in the creek can tell us the quality of the water.

This workshop will be led by Christina Medved, Education Programs Assistant at the Stroud Water Research Center.

JOINT COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

BY BART FLANNERY

The passing of ACT 67 and 68 in 2001 represents the first major revisions to the Municipal Planning Code in Pennsylvania in many years. A cornerstone of the new regulation is the encouragement of inter-municipality cooperation and regionalization. This includes everything from shared municipal services to joint zoning. The ACT specifically encourages and facilitates Joint Comprehensive Planning in conjunction with County government. As a result, District Township has chosen to enter into the Eastern Berks Joint Comprehensive Plan with neighboring Townships of Longswamp, Rockland, and the Borough of Topton. These neighbors were chosen because they share the same School

District and tax base. Funding for the Plan will be provided by the County.

A Planning Committee has been formed consisting of two representatives from each community and one alternate, plus a member of the Berks County Planning Commission. The Berks County representative is responsible for overall coordination of the project. Meetings are held every third Tuesday of the month and are rotated between various sites. A schedule is available at the Township Building. All meetings are open to the public and we encourage your participation.

To date, the Committee participated in preparation of Request For Proposal and selection of a Planning and Engineering Consultant (RothPlan).

Next steps will include a review of existing individual comprehensive plans, subdivision and land development, and zoning document. A series of interviews and surveys within government leadership and the community will follow to establish baseline for planning process.

This is a very critical first step in rethinking land use planning at a local level. Joint comprehensive planning allows a regional approach to issues affecting land use planning such as commercial, industrial, and high-density development, as well as watershed protection, agriculture preservation, and targeted growth areas. Regionalization takes the burden from each municipality to provide land uses that are not necessarily consistent with geographical or demographic composition.

WATERSHED EDUCATION WORKSHOPS

BY RUDY KELLER

The District Township Environmental Advisory Council, in partnership with Pike Township and the Pike-Oley-District Preservation Coalition (POD-PC), applied for and received a grant of \$4,000.00 from the Watershed Resources Education Networks (WREN), administered by the League of Women Voters. The grant will

fund a series of watershed education workshops, a website devoted to watershed issues, and the Oley Fair exhibit entitled, "What Is a Watershed?"

Two workshops will be held at the District Township Municipal Building in the fall of 2002. On Saturday October 26th from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00

p.m. join in for a fun, hands-on morning of activities and information about our local streams. On Saturday November 16th from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. the workshop will focus on groundwater. If you have ever wondered how groundwater quality and movement affect the water in your well, plan to attend!

DISTRICT TOWNSHIP CRIME WATCH

BY FRED GRAMPP

District Township is fortunate, as it has a low crime rate. Lets keep it that way! However, there are still three areas of concern—vandalism, dumping, and burglary. Vandalism can take the form of destroying mailboxes or windows in vehicles and homes. Dumping, or the improper disposal of trash and tires, usually becomes the property owners' responsibility to clean up. Section 3709 of the Vehi-

cle Code calls for a \$300 fine for littering. Burglary usually happens during the daylight hours. An alarm system is one way to deter burglary, but crime statistics indicate that the best deterrent is neighbors watching out for neighbors.

The State Police needs all of us to be alert for strange vehicles in our community, making a note of the license plate number, car make and color,

number of occupants, and behavior. The PA State Police number is 610-378-4011.

The next District Township Crime Watch meeting is Thursday, December 19th at 7:00 p.m. at the Municipal Building.

ROADMASTER REPORT

BY GENE BARDO

I was appointed to the part-time job of Roadmaster in January of this year after taking early retirement from the computer industry. My coworker is Paul Moyer who is also retired. Due to only having 12 miles of Township roads to maintain, the road crew jobs have always been part time. This works out well with Paul and I being retired, as we can be on the job when required during the week and are also able to attend meetings and classes during the week.

The Township road crew only maintains those roads belonging to the Township. If you want to find out if your road is maintained by the Township, call the Municipal Building.

We also maintain street name signs at all intersections in the Township, including those on State roads. I want to take this opportunity to emphasize the importance of street name signs. These signs are used by 911 emergency services (fire, police, and ambulance) to locate residents. The 911 system contains the names of all residents and the street name and number where you reside. The driver of an ambulance or fire truck relies on those signs to locate your home. If the sign is missing, the added minutes trying to find the correct street from maps may cost a life. The reason I am emphasizing this is because we have a constant problem with sign vandalism. This year we have done a num-

ber of things to try to improve on this situation. We are replacing all the stolen and damaged signs with one-quarter inch extruded aluminum that can't be bent and broken out of the bracket, plus we now use all vandal-proof bolts. After some of the new signs were stolen along with the post, I started engraving the signs with our Township name, as well as an indication that the sign is used as a 911 locator. I ask that if any resident knows of someone stealing these signs to please pass on the information about the importance of the signs to the 911 system, and try to discourage any further theft. I have no doubt that if a person is caught with our signs, then that person will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.

This past winter we started using salt that is treated with a by-product of the brewing industry and magnesium chloride (dead sea salt). This is an environmentally friendly product that melts ice down to 0 degrees rather than the normal 20 degrees of untreated salt.

The Township has purchased two new pieces of equipment this year. The first piece is a flail-head boom mower, that we just started using. The Township also has on order a Ford F550 fully equipped dump truck to replace our smallest truck. The new truck is a Ford 550 diesel four-wheel drive and will have central hydraulics, a stainless steel dump body, tailgate salt spreader, and larger plow.

FUN & RECREATION

BY STEPHEN WALKER ARENSCHIELD

The Recreation Committee oversee the operations, maintenance, and development of the recreation area of District Township, principally Gordon Park. The community park of the Township features a tennis court, baseball field, volleyball area, pavilion, playground, and picnic area. Gordon Park is open to Town-

ship residents and their guests during daylight hours. Much of the playground equipment at the park is suitable for young children with adult supervision. There is even a swing set designed to support toddlers, a feature not often found in township parks. There are BBQ grilles and picnic tables available.

No alcoholic beverages are permitted. The parks may be rented and reserved for gatherings sponsored by Township residents. Thanks to a volunteer day on August 18th, the park is looking more beautiful than ever. So come out with your family and friends and enjoy District Township's Gordon Park!

The Recreation Committee would like to thank Justin Spaar for his work maintaining the park. If you have suggestions about how we can better serve the community, please e-mail them to the attention of the Recreation Committee at:

Distwp@Districttwp.berksco.org.

A BIT OF HISTORY

BY SUSAN MANWILLER

Do you recognize the picture to the right? Believe it or not, this is our very own District Township Municipal Building! At one time, right where I now handle day-to-day Township business, many people would spend their weekends and vacations. The "dormitory," among other numerous facilities, were used for vacations and weekends by families of the Nature Friends Camp, as well as other clubs,

organizations, and by underprivileged children. Sports events and festivals were also held here.

If anyone would like to submit "a bit of history" concerning District Township, please feel free to contact the Municipal Building at 610-845-7595.



Can you guess this District Township location?

**Newsletter of
District Township
202 Weil Road
Boyertown, PA 19512**

Place Mailing Address Here.

Meeting Schedule:

Board of Supervisors: 2nd
Thursday of each month at 7:00
p.m.

Planning Commission:
1st Thursday of each month at
7:00 p.m.

Environmental Advisory
Council: 1st Monday of each
month at 7:00 p.m.

Recreation Committee: 2nd
Thursday of each month at 6:30
p.m.

Crime Watch: Quarterly at 7:00
p.m.

Watershed Education
Workshops:
October 26th and November
16th from
9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

YOUR DISTRICT TOWNSHIP REPRESENTATIVES

Board of Supervisors:

- Dan Metzker, Chairman
- Bart Flannery, Vice Chairman
- Ed Overberger, Member

Planning Commission:

- Piper Sherburne, Chairman
- Paul Kelsch, Vice Chairman
- Lou Farina, Member
- Ed Overberger, Member

Zoning Hearing Board:

- Charles McCreary
- Michael Anderson
- Heinrich Jensen

Secretary and Treasurer:

- Susan Manwiller

Emergency Management:

- Alex Harkins

**Zoning, Sewage Enforcement,
and Engineering:**

- LTL Consultants, Ltd.

Township Solicitor:

- Richard Bergeman

Tax Collector:

- Linda Collom

Road Crew:

- Gene Bardo, Roadmaster
- Paul Moyer
- Stephen Arenschield
- Fred Grampp

**Zoning Hearing Board
Solicitor:**

- Eugene Orlando

Recreation Committee:

- Stephen Arenschield
- Stuart Cox
- Carol Marker

**Environmental
Advisory Council:**

- Rudy Keller
- George Benjamin
- Scott Fiegel
- Piper Sherburne

Auditors:

- Lucille Grampp
- Ronald Scheetz
- Blaine Stoner