



South Lebanon Township

COMMUNITY NEWS



Unfunded Mandates & Local Tax \$\$\$

Calendar of Events

- Dec. 13—Supervisors Meeting
- Dec. 19—Planning Commission
- Dec. 25—Christmas
- Dec 26—Christmas Observed**
- Dec. 27—Supervisors Meeting
- Jan. 1—New Year's Day
- Jan 2—New Year Observed**
- Jan. 3—Supervisors Meeting
- Jan. 4—Auditor's Meeting
- Jan. 18—Authority Meeting
- Jan. 23—Planning Commission
- Jan. 24—Supervisors Meeting
- Feb. 14—Supervisors Meeting
- Feb. 20—Presidents Day**
- Feb. 27—Planning Commission
- Feb. 28—Supervisors Meeting
- Mar. 13—Supervisors Meeting

Dates in **bold print** indicate days the Township Administrative Office is closed.

The Township Supervisors and Employees would like to wish everyone a safe and joyful Holiday Season!



Township Personnel

- ✦ Robert Arnold, Chairman
- ✦ David Eggert, Vice Chairman
- ✦ Stephen Krause, Supervisor
- ✦ Curtis Kulp, Manager
- ✦ James Loser Assistant Manager
- ✦ Michael E. Leshner, Police Chief
- ✦ Ron Johnson, Highway Foreman
- ✦ Mike Kipp, Park Superintendent

Suppose the township supervisors passed an ordinance that required you to paint your house every year at your own expense – or face a fine. Or maybe a mandate that you and every resident over 18 buy and carry a \$25 “residency card” each year as proof that you live in the township.

Not fair, you say? Well, you’re right, and fortunately, it’s unlikely that any municipality would ever enact one of these outrageous what-ifs. But the above scenarios give you a good idea of what our township is up against.

Frequently, state and federal lawmakers institute laws, rules, and regulations that we, as township supervisors, must follow. Quite often, our community is expected to dig into its own wallet and foot the bill to meet these requirements, too.

From implementing a new statewide earned income tax collection system to keeping up with an ever-changing and arbitrary menu of federal clean-water requirements, townships and other local governments face a range of budget-draining unfunded mandates. But before you brush this off as something you don’t need to worry about, consider this: It’s your tax dollars that support unfunded mandates. And every time our township is socked with another one, we have to find the money to pay for it from a limited list of not-so-great options. We might have to divert funding from a local project (*maybe repairing your road*), cut services, or increase taxes.

Finally, however, some relief is in sight. For many years, our supervisors, our colleagues across the state, and the organization that represents all of us, the Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors, have

been urging lawmakers to ease up on unfunded mandates and update outdated laws that cost communities hundreds of thousands of dollars a year.

The good news is, they’re beginning to listen.

It all started this fall when Gov. Tom Corbett signed Act 84 of 2011 into law. The new statute increases the minimum dollar amount that requires townships to advertise and seek bids for purchases and contracts. By upping the current threshold from \$10,000 to \$18,500, the law ensures that fewer local purchases fall under the state’s cumbersome and bureaucratic bidding procedures. It also means local tax dollars won’t be frittered away on needless advertising. Instead, our township will now have more money to invest in local services and projects.

“The last time the bidding provisions were amended was in 1990, and they have been frozen in time since then, not allowing for inflation and thus eroding the purchasing power of township government,” PSATS Executive Director David M. Sanko says. “Increasing the bidding threshold will make procurement more cost-effective and, as a result, will provide more advantageous choices for townships and their taxpayers.”

And while Act 84 is definitely a step in the right direction, the truth is, our township still has more work ahead of it.

That’s why we are asking lawmakers to adopt additional common-sense reforms that would impose little, if any, cost on the commonwealth but would save townships like ours hundreds of thousands of dollars in prevailing wages and advertising.

Highway News

We would like to remind everyone **mailboxes are the responsibility of the home owner.** **Now** is the time to check the condition of yours and make any needed repairs. Is the post solidly in the ground? Is the post in good condition? Is the mailbox solidly connected to the post? **If a mailbox is damaged during the normal course of snow plowing, the homeowner will be responsible for replacement or repair.**

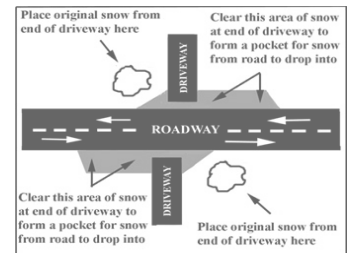
We would also like to remind everyone that you have **12 hours** after the snow has ceased falling to clear your sidewalks, so it is to your advantage to wait until the snow plow has passed your property before shoveling. **REMEMBER IS IT UNLAWFUL TO THROW THE SNOW BACK INTO THE STREET.** If you must shovel before plowing is complete, place the snow to the right side of your driveway (as you are facing the street from the house) so the plow does not push it back in front of your drive. For the same reason, it is helpful if you clear a section of snow from the street to the left of your drive (see graphic to the right). **Another way to help the snow plow drivers is to place stakes**

or reflectors along your front yard to let them know where your curb line is. If you have curbing, place the stakes right behind the curb. If you do not have curbing, place them about 1 foot back from the edge of the paved road.

If you have a fire hydrant or a catch basin on your property, it would be very helpful to firemen and township crews if you could clear them of snow also.

The Township does not and cannot remove snow from private sidewalks or driveways. If you cannot physically remove the snow on your property we suggest trying to find a neighbor who can help. Or you might check with a local church or the county senior center to see if they know of someone who can help.

Please keep in mind the crews plow major roads first, then developments, and lastly they clear alleys. Please be patient. Our crews work as fast as they safely can. So when the snow begins to fall, slow down and be patient. We want you to arrive at your destination safe and sound.



Please use this diagram as a guide for cleaning snow.



Anyone wishing to submit articles, coming events or suggestions for the March newsletter, must do so by **February 3, 2012.**

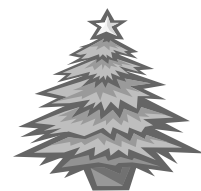
Christmas Tree Drop-off Sites

Everyone is becoming very busy with preparations for the upcoming Holidays. Part of that preparation may include a live Christmas tree. As in past years, the Township will be collecting Christmas trees after the Holidays. Starting December 27, 2011 through January 16, 2012, trees may be dropped off at one of our 3 locations:

- ❄ **behind the Township building**
- ❄ **the old salt shed on State Drive**
- ❄ **the AES Playground - S. 14th Ave.**

Signs will be erected to designate where the trees should be placed. Be sure to remove **ALL** decorations. **DO NOT** place trees in bags. Please remember these drop sites are for Christmas trees only. Anyone caught leaving any other items will be cited. We do monitor the sites. Your neighbors thank you for being considerate and not spoiling this program for everyone.

We would also like to remind everyone you can take green waste to the **North Cornwall Township Yard Waste Facility** if you have a permit. Contact Phyllis at 274-0481 if you need more information.



Remove all decorations and bags.

Bits & Pieces

- ✧ *South Hills Park* officially closed in November and will reopen March 18, 2012, weather permitting. Please keep in mind South Hills Park is officially closed during the winter months and does NOT perform any winter maintenance so the walking path could be covered with snow and/or ice. Pavilion reservations will be taken after January 2, 2012.
- ✧ If you see someone *dumping illegally*, please contact Curtis Kulp at 274-0481.
- ✧ Please remember when placing your trash curbside for collection, it must be in a container with a secure lid or be properly secured to prevent the contents from blowing out of the container. This will help keep our Township clean and one we can all be proud of!
- ✧ A reminder to *pet owners* that **ALL** pets, including cats, must be on a leash or under your control at all times. Cats and/or dogs may not run loose and defecate on any public or private property in the Township. Violators could be fined up to \$300 per incident.
- ✧ *The South Lebanon Lions Club* is currently conducting their Sight Seal Campaign. Donations may be sent to Charles Darkes, 1017 Franklin Avenue, Lebanon, PA 17042.

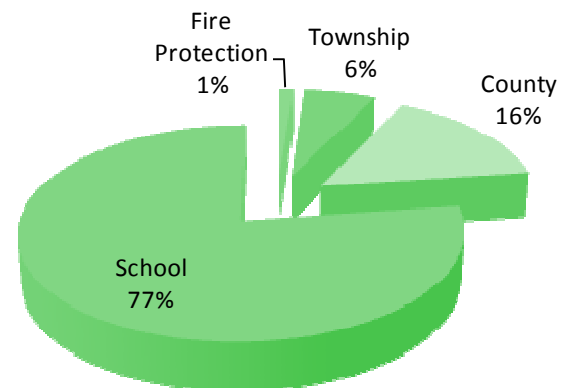


The Lions Club needs your support to continue their programs for the visually impaired

2012 Budget

The **2012 proposed Budget** was presented to the Board on November 22nd and is now available for review at the Township building—Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. The 2012 budget will be adopted December 27, 2011. The 2012 budget will include a tax increase of 2 mills. This will generate approximately \$195,000 which will be used to pave roads (\$100,000), help pay for the building addition for the Police Dept. (\$75,000) and to maintain the current level of service.

The 2011 tax rate for the township is 7.8 mills plus 1.5 mills for fire protection which is a small portion of your real estate tax liability each year. The pie chart at the right shows the distribution of real estate taxes for South Lebanon residents.



New Year's Traditions Trivia

- 1—Which of these foods is not associated with bringing good luck in the new year?
Cabbage—Cranberries—Black-eyed Peas—Donuts
 - 2—What does “Auld Lang Syne” mean?
Another year over—Old friends of mine—Old long time—Here’s to you
 - 3—The 1st Tournament of Roses festivities were held in 1886? What replaced football during the festivities from 1903—1915?
Chariot races—Baseball—Soccer—Parade float races
 - 4—New Year’s Resolutions started with the Babylonians. What was the 1st resolution?
Pray more—Drink less—Return borrowed farm equipment—Share more food
 - 5—The New Year is the oldest holiday observed. How long has it been observed?
2,000 yrs.—4,000 yrs.—6,000 yrs.—8,000 yrs.
 - 6—To secure 12 happy months in the coming year, Spaniards eat 12 of these at midnight.
Slices of ham—Brussel sprouts—Grapes—Turkey legs
 - 7—The ball has been dropped at Times Square every year since 1907.
True or False
 - 8—It is considered good luck to wear this on New Year’s Day.
Purple scarf—Red underwear—Yellow socks—Blue suede shoes
- Good Luck! Answers can be found on page 5.



Test your knowledge about New Year’s Traditions

Recycling Reminders

Reminder, South Lebanon Township is mandated by the state to have a recycling program. Our ordinance gives everyone the freedom to choose any hauler registered to do business in Lebanon County (there are currently 4). These haulers are required to collect your recycling as well as your refuse. All residential, commercial, institutional and industrial establishments in our township are required to recycle **newspaper, clear & colored glass, bi-metal and aluminum cans & plastic bottles & jars**. Commercial, industrial & institutional establishments are also required to recycle **office paper and corrugated cardboard**. If you do not have a recycling container, one can be picked up at the Township Building.

We have a dumpster at our maintenance shed on State Drive for **CORRUGATED CARDBOARD**

ONLY. If this service is abused, it will be stopped immediately.

We also collect **inkjet cartridges and old cell phones** for recycling. Bring them to the Township building and drop them in the appropriate box located in the display case in our lobby.

Our leaf and yard waste programs have ended for this year. But you can still take yard waste to the North Cornwall Township drop facility. Just come to our township first to get an address verification form. There is a charge to use this facility. Call Phyllis at 274-0481 if you have any questions.

If you have any recycling questions, please call Phyllis at 274-0481.



If your hauler does not collect your corrugated cardboard, you can drop it in the dumpster on State Drive

Thanks for recycling!

Neither Rain nor Snow...

Did you happen to notice the snow storm back in October? That was a surprise to all of us, but it did not bother the Friendship football team! Even though they lost the game, the kids had a wonderful



time playing in the snow! Thanks to Coach Larry Neuman for sharing this picture with us. It is my understanding this is the only game that was not canceled due to the snow that day.

Sewer Rates to Increase

Everyone who is connected to public sewer will see an increase in their bills beginning in February. The minimum amount will go from **\$24.60 to \$37.20** with \$4.46 added for every 1,000 gallons of water used.

Due to the major undertaking of improvements to the wastewater treatment plant, the City of Lebanon Authority is undertaking debt service of approximately \$45 million to finance the project. About half of the project expenses are improvements for more stringent discharge limits to meet

the federal mandates for the Chesapeake Bay for Nitrogen and Phosphorus. The remaining increase is to replace outdated equipment and improve the biosolids disposal program.

The Authority anticipates another increase of approximately 15% in January of 2013.

If you have any questions regarding the improvements being done or the financing of the project, please contact the City of Lebanon Authority at 272-2841.



Sewer rates are increasing

Property Code Enforcement

Consideration was given to the enactment of an ordinance adopting a property maintenance code in South Lebanon Township. This conversation was held due to the uncertain economic climate, possible decline of property maintenance conditions, existing deteriorated properties, and the possible negative impact on property values within South Lebanon Township.

After extensive discussion and review, the South Lebanon Township Board of Supervisors authorized the publication of a Property Maintenance Code Ordinance at the regular township meeting held on April 26, 2011. A subsequent hearing, following the legal publication of proposed Ordinance #323, establishing Property Maintenance Codes for the township, was held on May 24, 2011. There being no comments from the public, Ordinance #323 was adopted.

Dave Eggert, a member of the Board of Supervisors and a certified International Code Council Property Maintenance Inspector was hired (after the publishing of an advertisement seeking a certified International Code Council Property Maintenance Inspector, application period, and subsequent interviews) on a part-time basis to respond to complaints, conduct inspections and follow-up inspections, and initiate appropriate actions if no attempts have been made to bring the property maintenance violations into compliance with the 2009 Edition of the International Property Maintenance Code.

Please contact Dave at 717-304-9760 with any questions, comments, or concerns regarding Property Maintenance issues.



Property Code Enforcement is a tool to keep deteriorated properties from having a negative impact on the township

Avon Fire Company Fundraisers

Santa Claus is coming to Avon Fire Company

Saturday December 17th from 1—3 p.m.

Kids come tell Santa Claus what you want for Christmas and have some cookies & milk and help decorate their tree for Christmas.

POTATO FILLING SALE

Cost \$5.00 per quart

To order, call Melissa at 639-1248 by December 17th

Filling will be available for pick-up at the Avon Fire Hall on

December 24th from 12—2 p.m.

Bingo on Sundays

Doors open at 4:30 and bingo starts at 6:55

(No Bingo on Christmas Eve or New Year's Eve)



Enjoy a game of Bingo at Avon Fire Co.

New Year's Traditions Trivia Answers

- 1—Cranberries
- 2—Old Long Time
- 3—Roman Chariot Races
- 4—Return borrowed farm equipment
- 5—4,000 years
- 6—Grapes
- 7—False (not in 1942 or 1943 during the war)
- 8—Red underwear



How much do you know about traditions?

Presorted Standard
US Postage Paid
Permit No. 117
Lebanon, PA

South Lebanon Township

1800 S. 5th Avenue
Lebanon, Pa 17042-7999

Phone: 717-274-0481
Fax: 717-274-1272
Email: sltownship@comcast.net
Website: www.twp.south-lebanon.pa.us

A COMMUNITY OF SERVICE

Printed on recycled paper

**Christmas
Tree Drop-off
Info Inside!**

THANK YOU

to
ALL OUR RESIDENTS
for recycling !

Do You Know . . . ?

We had another terrific response to the contest question in our last issue! The correct answer was **beside our storage building on State Drive** and was found on page 2. The 2 lucky winners from the correct entries were Patricia Linthurst and Sandra Brunn. We hope they are enjoying their prizes. Check out the question below, look for the answer in this issue, fill in your name, address , phone # and the answer & page found in the spaces provided and return the **bottom portion of this page** to Phyllis McGann, South Lebanon Township, 1800 S 5th Avenue, Lebanon, PA 17042 **prior** to December 21st. On the 21st, 2 names will be drawn from all the correct entries. One person will win a multifunction radio lantern and the other will win 2 CFL bulbs. Good luck! Township employees and their families and winners from the past 12 months are not eligible.

How much money is needed to pave roads ?

Name _____ Phone # _____

Address _____

Answer & Page Found _____
