

TALK of the TOWNship

Winter 2011
Vol. XVIII Ed. 4



Senior Expo 2011

Senior Expo 2011 was a rousing success! We had the largest turnout ever for a Senior Expo, with 307 registered guests. We know many more people came through the exhibition area without registering. We are fortunate to be able to partner with Carlisle Regional Medical Center and the Cumberland County Aging & Community Services to offer the information and testing that is crucial to the health of our residents.

We hope everyone who participated in the event came away feeling that it was a benefit to be here. We encourage you to attend the Expo every year, and bring your friends and neighbors. We'll see you in September of 2012 with a full range of testing, information and fun!



Oops!! In the rush of getting ready for Expo -We forgot to thank a great individual - Ron McKeehan - for donating a first aid kit from his business, Cumberland Perry Health Education Resource Center, for a Bingo Prize at Expo. We are sorry this happened.

SOUTH MIDDLETON TOWNSHIP

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The Township has decided to publish 3 newsletters in 2012 instead of the usual 4. You will be receiving a Summer, Fall and Winter newsletter next year. It is felt we can still deliver the same information to you in 3 newsletters, and save the cost of sending a 4th edition.

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Bill Bevan - Mechanic

Matt Kempf - Mechanic

Brian Steigleman - Heavy Equipment Operator

Craig Shaw - Maintenance/Truck Driver

Sean Clouse - Maintenance/Truck Driver

Rodney "Jake" Starnier - Maintenance/Truck Driver

Paul Smith - Maintenance (Part-time)

William McNaughton - Compost Site Attendant

Paul Sheffer - Compost Site Attendant

EMERGENCY

**If an after hours emergency occurs in the Township,
please observe the following procedures:**

Fire & Ambulance: Call 911

Roadways: Call the Township Office at 258-5324 and leave a message. We will respond as quickly as we can. If you have an emergency, please call 911.

Sewer & Water: Call the Municipal Authority Office at 258-6476. An answering service will direct your call.

From the Manager's Desk...

SALUTE TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

Most duties and responsibilities of the Township are covered by paid staff. That is a necessity because of the local, state and federal requirements we must meet in today's society. However, especially in today's economy, it is not possible to cover all the little extra jobs that make local government so special. That's where we rely on our volunteers.

The recent Senior Expo is a prime example of volunteers enhancing our quality of life. Volunteers were involved in some of the planning that went into making the Senior Expo so special, and that's important. When we don't solicit other opinions about what will work, we can easily find ourselves in a rut without any ideas of what people want and expect. But when we introduce another group of people into the mix, we can get their opinions to see if they have additional or different ideas about how things should go.

The purpose of the Senior Expo is to help our older generation recognize possible health issues through testing, and help them navigate through the various programs and organizations that can help them address their needs. With so much information out there about health issues, one can easily become confused and quickly give up. The Senior Expo is our attempt at helping our residents through some of that. We couldn't have provided the great event we had in September without volunteers, both planning it and actually assisting the day of the event. They helped with registrations, directing the residents through the vendors and tests, helped with bingo and testing. No task was too small or large for them to help – they willingly did what was needed.

We want to take this opportunity to salute our volunteers – all of you – for helping to improve our quality of life. You are very important to us, and we value your assistance and your partnership. This is part of why South Middleton Township is such a special place to live.

Volunteers Needed

At various times of the year, the Township needs volunteers to serve in different positions. Appointments to boards and commissions are typically made at the annual Reorganization meeting (the first Monday of the year after January 1st) and to fill terms when the appointee resigns.

There are also less formal volunteer tasks that are needed throughout the year.

If you are interested in volunteering for any particular position or just volunteering in general, please send a letter of interest to the Township or contact the Township office. We can direct you through the process and try to fit your abilities and interests to openings we might have.

The Holidays with the Humane Society

Over the holidays, it is typical to be concerned about others and their individual situations. While our thoughts usually go first to children, the homeless and the unemployed, and rightly so, there is another part of society that also needs our help.

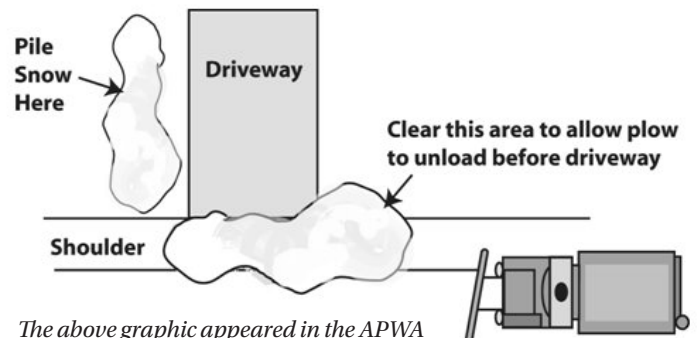
The incidence of homeless animals is increasing, in large part due to the economy. When people struggle to feed their families, feeding pets can be a real burden.

Please consider making a donation to the Humane Society – or any pet rescue – in addition to your other acts of charity. Most rescues have websites that will tell you what they need and when. If you can't find what you're looking for, give the Township a call and we can answer your questions. Animals can't tell us what they need or when they hurt – it is up to us to try to figure that out. They will reward you for your care.

When you're making your Christmas list this year, please also remember the animal rescue organizations. Better yet, adopt a pet or two. The companionship and love you will receive in return is worth it – and that lasts long past the Christmas season. It is a furr-ever gift!

Winter snow-plowing

Snow should be plowed or shoveled to the right side of the driveway as you are facing the intersecting highway (see diagram). By plowing away from the direction of oncoming snow plows, this action will prevent the bulk of the snow from being pushed back onto the driveway. Eliminate snow piles at the driveway entrance whenever possible. **Do not push snow out onto roads at any time.** This creates hazardous driving conditions for all vehicles. Homeowners can be held responsible for accidents which result after snow has been shoveled onto Township-maintained roads. The Township is asking the public's cooperation by following these guidelines.



WHAT TO DO WITH UNUSED MEDS

Expired drugs are dangerous to leave sitting around but shouldn't be thrown in the trash or flushed down the toilet, either, because they can contaminate landfills and groundwater. Now you can dispose of them properly through the Safe Medication Disposal Program. Get a specially designed envelope at pharmacies such as Walgreens or Rite Aid and mail your drugs in. Since its launch last fall, the program has collected more than 61 tons of medication.



Source: *Ladies Home Journal*

SUBDIVISION & LAND DEVELOPMENT PLANS

PENDING:

- Morgan's Crossing - 232 lots - Petersburg Road, Preliminary Subdivision
- Old Forge Station, Phase 2 - 28 lots - Forge Road, Final Subdivision
- Parkview at Boiling Springs - 39 lots - York Road, Final Subdivision
- Deer Path Valley - 3 lots - Sandbank Road, Final Minor Subdivision
- Anthony L. & Cynthia J. Quickel - 2 lots - 852 York Road, Final Minor Subdivision
- Carlisle Evangelical Free Church - 1 lot - 290 Petersburg Road, Preliminary/Final Land Development
- Donald A. Group - 2 lots - Pine Road, Final Subdivision
- Robert A. & Michelle M. Grochalski - 2 lots - 379 Petersburg Road, Final Minor Subdivision

APPROVED:

- Mayapple Real Estate & Gladys Otto - 2 lots - 1 Mayapple Drive, Final/Minor Subdivision
- Wilbert L. & Shyrle M. Diehl - 2 lots - Old York Road, Final Minor Subdivision
- Forgedale Crossing Section 9 - 18 lots - Amherst Lane & Seaton Court, Final Subdivision

NEW:

- Wengers Development - 6 lots, 1175 Walnut Bottom Road, Final Subdivision
- Richard R. Burgoon - 4 lots, Spring Garden Street, east of Bonnybrook Road
- Heller's Gas - 1 lot, 1560 Holly Pike, Final Minor

Trash Talk

Some pointers to remember:

- Recycle everything you can.
 - Aluminum; glass (clear, brown & green)
 - Plastic 1 through 7 (natural and pigmented narrow-neck containers such as water/milk bottles, shampoo bottles, bleach bottles)
 - Ferrous (iron, steel, tin) cans
 - Newsprint (DO NOT USE PLASTIC BAGS)
 - Construction/craft paper
 - Junk mail, catalogues, phone books
 - Corrugated cardboard
 - Boxes (cereal/shoe/other).
- Place your trash and recycling containers curbside the night before your pickup.
- Place totter trash container curbside with opening toward the road. This allows the automatic arm of the truck to dump the container without taking extra time to maneuver it to the truck.
- Don't put newspapers or cardboards outside in the rain. Wet material is trash.
- Don't use plastic bags to protect your recyclables unless draped and secured on top of the recyclables.
- Prepare cardboard as directed (3' x 3' pieces) and tie with twine or place loose in recycling bin.
- Encourage all businesses and offices you visit to recycle.

*Please note - the trash and recyclables that are put at the curb for pick up belong to you and the trash company - no one else. We are increasingly receiving complaints about residents who are experiencing people rummaging through their trash, particularly recyclables, sometimes leaving their materials in a mess. No one is authorized to take your trash and recyclable material other than Interstate Waste Services unless you give them permission.

If you experience problems such as this, please contact the Township office with as much descriptive information as possible, e.g. person, vehicle, license number. This practice is a violation of Township ordinances, and is subject to fines.

200th Birthday South Middleton Township Photo Album

We still have some of our 200th Birthday books available - "South Middleton Township Photo Album" along with the coins and pins.

The Village Artisans Gallery, located at 321 Walnut Street in Boiling Springs, has graciously agreed to sell this photo album at their gallery. The books and other items are also available at the Township building for the following prices:

South Middleton Township Photo Album	\$12.00
Commerative Coin	\$5.00
Commerative Pin	\$3.00

TOWNSHIP MEETING SCHEDULE

All meetings are subject to final approval and advertisement by the various boards involved.
Please check the website or call the Township office for an update.

JANUARY

- 3 Board of Supervisors 5:00 PM
- 9 Zoning Hearing Board..... 5:00 PM
- 11 Building Code Appeals Board..... 4:00 PM
- 17 Planning Commission..... 7:00 PM
- Workshop 6:00 PM
- 19 Parks & Recreation Board..... 6:30 PM
- 19 Board of Supervisors 6:00 PM
- 25 Building Code Appeals Board..... 4:00 PM

FEBRUARY

- 8 Building Code Appeals Board..... 4:00 PM
- 9 Board of Supervisors 6:00 PM
- 13 Zoning Hearing Board..... 5:00 PM
- 16 Parks & Recreation Board..... 6:30 PM
- 21 Planning Commission..... 7:00 PM
- Workshop 6:00 PM
- 22 Building Code Appeals Board..... 4:00 PM
- 23 Board of Supervisors 6:00 PM

MARCH

- 8 Board of Supervisors 6:00 PM
- 12 Zoning Hearing Board..... 5:00 PM
- 14 Building Code Appeals Board..... 4:00 PM
- 15 Parks & Recreation Board..... 6:30 PM
- 20 Planning Commission..... 7:00 PM
- Workshop 6:00 PM
- 28 Building Code Appeals Board..... 4:00 PM
- 29 Board of Supervisors 6:00 PM

APRIL

- 9 Zoning Hearing Board 5:00 PM
- 11 Building Code Appeals Board 4:00 PM
- 12 Board of Supervisors..... 6:00 PM
- 17 Planning Commission 7:00 PM
- Workshop..... 6:00 PM
- 19 Parks & Recreation Board..... 6:30 PM
- 25 Building Code Appeals Board 4:00 PM
- 26 Board of Supervisors..... 6:00 PM

MAY

- 8 Zoning Hearing Board 5:00 PM
- 9 Building Code Appeals Board 4:00 PM
- 10 Board of Supervisors..... 6:00 PM
- 15 Planning Commission 7:00 PM
- Workshop..... 6:00 PM
- 17 Parks & Recreation Board..... 6:30 PM
- 23 Building Code Appeals Board 4:00 PM
- 31 Board of Supervisors..... 6:00 PM

JUNE

- 11 Zoning Hearing Board 5:00 PM
- 13 Building Code Appeals Board 4:00 PM
- 14 Board of Supervisors..... 6:00 PM
- 19 Planning Commission 7:00 PM
- Workshop..... 6:00 PM
- 21 Parks & Recreation Board..... 6:30 PM
- 27 Building Code Appeals Board 4:00 PM
- 28 Board of Supervisors..... 6:00 PM

Meeting Locations: Board of Supervisors, Planning Commission, Zoning Hearing Board and Parks & Recreation Board: South Middleton Township Municipal Building, 520 Park Drive, Boiling Springs

Municipal Authority: South Middleton Township Municipal Authority Office, 345 Criswell Drive, Boiling Springs
Anyone with special needs requesting assistance at any meeting should please contact the Township Office at least one week prior to the meeting date to make arrangements for assistance.

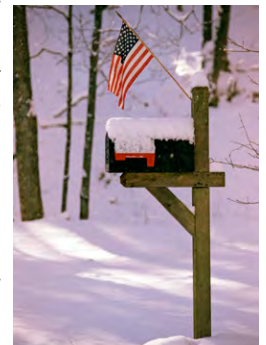
South Middleton Township 2012 Holiday Schedule

The township office will be closed on the following holidays for the 2012 year.

- | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------------|
| January 2, 2012 | New Year's Day |
| April 6, 2012 | Good Friday |
| May 28, 2012 | Memorial Day |
| July 4, 2012 | Independence Day |
| September 3, 2012 | Labor Day |
| November 12, 2012 | Veteran's Day |
| November 22, 2012 | Thanksgiving Day |
| November 23, 2012 | Friday after Thanksgiving Day |
| December 24 & 25, 2012 | Christmas |

South Middleton Township Policy on Mailbox Damage During Snow Removal

Mailboxes and the area leading into them along the roads are the homeowners' responsibility. If mailboxes are damaged from the snow or ice coming off of the plows, it is the homeowner's responsibility to make repairs. If the plow or truck hits the mailbox and causes any damage, the township will repair or replace the mailbox. Mailboxes and posts should be kept in good condition in order to help avoid damages.





Coffee Break Training - Fire Protection Series

Inspection Techniques: Wood Stove Safety

No. FP-2011-44 November 1, 2011

Learning Objective: The student shall be able to list important safety reminders about wood stoves.

The winter heating season is upon us, so it is a good time to remind people of the dangers of wood-burning appliances. More than one-third of Americans use fireplaces, wood stoves, and other fuel-fired appliances as primary heat sources in their homes. Unfortunately, many people are unaware of the fire risks when heating with wood and solid fuels.

Heating fires account for 36 percent of residential fires in rural areas every year. Often, these fires are due to creosote buildup in chimneys and stovepipes. All home heating systems require regular maintenance to function safely and efficiently.

Remember these simple safety tips:

- Have your chimney or wood stove inspected and cleaned annually by a competent and qualified chimney specialist.
- Clear the area around the hearth of debris, decorations, and flammable materials.
- Leave glass doors open while burning a fire. Leaving the doors open ensures that the fire receives enough air to ensure complete combustion and keeps creosote from building up in the chimney.
- Close glass doors when the fire is out to keep air from the chimney opening from getting into the room. Most

glass fireplace doors have a metal mesh screen which should be closed when the glass doors are open. This mesh screen helps keep embers from getting out of the fireplace area.

- Always use a metal mesh screen with fireplaces that do not have a glass fireplace door.
- Install stovepipe thermometers to help monitor flue temperatures.
- Keep air inlets on wood stoves open and never restrict air supply to fireplaces. Otherwise, you may cause creosote buildup that could lead to a chimney fire.
- Use fire-resistant materials on walls around wood stoves.



Wood-burning stoves can provide efficient, low-cost heat, but must be carefully monitored to prevent unwanted building fires.

For additional tips, refer to the U.S. Fire Administration (USFA) website at www.usfa.fema.gov/citizens/home_fire_prev/heating/fireplace.shtm

SOUTH MIDDLETON TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY ANNOUNCES SEWER RATE INCREASE

The SMTMA has approved a 5% sewer rate increase that will take effect for the first quarter in 2012. This increase is necessary because of the major treatment plant upgrade needed to comply with the Authority's permit to discharge treated wastewater to the Yellow Breeches Creek in Monroe Township. Through the US EPA and PA DEP, the Authority is obligated to upgrade its plant in accordance with the mandate to clean-up the Chesapeake Bay by removing the nutrients Nitrogen and Phosphorus. The existing plant is approximately 35 years old and is not designed to remove these nutrients.

The Authority has decided to raise the rates over the next two to four years in small increments as opposed to waiting to impose one or more larger increases.

The 5% increase will raise residential rates from \$80.30 per quarter to \$84.32 per quarter. This equates to an increase of \$4.02 per quarter or \$1.34 per month. The non-residential rates will also be increased by 5%. Although the new rates take effect for the first quarter of 2012, the billing will not be mailed until the first week of April 2012.

Further increases will be announced at later dates. The Authority expects to have the plant upgrade under construction in mid to late 2012 with completion expected by September 2014.

If you have any questions, please contact the Authority office during normal business hours at 258-6476.

AARP Tax Preparation

The AARP tax aides will be at the South Middleton Township Building on Tuesdays beginning February 7, 2012 and ending April 10, 2012 from 9:00 AM until 3:00 PM. Call 258-5324 to make an appointment to have your income taxes prepared. This program is mainly for senior citizens.



Unfunded Mandates Gobble Up Local Tax Dollars

Lawmakers Beginning to See Value of Common-Sense Reforms

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 the supervisors mandated that you and every other 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 guess what? The above scenarios do give you a good idea of what our township is up against.

Frequently, state and federal lawmakers and agencies 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 state-wide 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 and your neighbors 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.

Reform begins bringing relief

For many years, our board of 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 are costing 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 that local tax dollars won’t be frittered away on needless advertising. Instead, our township will now have more money to invest where it will do the most good: 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.

Our work continues

Townships, for instance, spend upward of \$5,000 on average — and often much more — each year complying with the state’s outdated legal advertising laws, which were drafted before the Internet’s rise in popularity.

On top of that, a 2008 Pennsylvania Supreme Court ruling requires our

township and others to pay contracted workers higher wages, commonly referred to as “prevailing wages,” for routine road maintenance projects — another unfunded mandate that has significantly increased our road and labor costs.

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.

Specifically, we would like the state General Assembly to do the following:

- **Modify the Prevailing Wage Law** by increasing the \$25,000 contract threshold to at least \$250,000 and correcting the 2008 Pennsylvania Supreme Court ruling that subjected paving and other formerly exempt projects to the law.

- **Allow townships to increase their advertising visibility and access** by permitting them to place legal ads on the web or in mass circulation, community newspapers. This would give townships options beyond general circulation newspapers, where advertising costs are rising and readership is declining.

The bottom line is that townships, like you, are facing increasing costs, from fuel to steel and concrete. “There is nothing the state can do about those,” Sanko says, “but it can do something about the Prevailing Wage Law.”

That and other reforms, however, won’t happen unless our residents unite with us to ensure that local tax dollars aren’t wasted simply because the General Assembly has failed to update a handful of outdated state laws, he says.

“We’re so close to getting these reforms passed,” Sanko says. “Bills have been introduced in the legislature; however, if we do nothing, we’ll get nothing. We all have to heed a call to action.”

Reprinted from Townships Today newsletter, Fall 2011



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 Harrisburg, PA

**ECRWSS
 POSTAL CUSTOMER**

 **Clip and Save**

COMPOST SITE SCHEDULE

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
JANUARY		2 pm - 5 pm	2 pm - 5 pm	2 pm - 5 pm		8 am - 1 pm
FEBRUARY						8 am - 1 pm
MARCH		2 pm - 5 pm	2 pm - 5 pm	2 pm - 5 pm		8 am - 1 pm
APRIL		2 pm - 6 pm	2 pm - 6 pm	2 pm - 6 pm		8 am - 1 pm
MAY		2 pm - 6 pm	2 pm - 6 pm	2 pm - 6 pm		8 am - 1 pm
JUNE		2 pm - 6 pm	2 pm - 6 pm	2 pm - 6 pm		8 am - 1 pm
JULY		2 pm - 6 pm	2 pm - 6 pm	2 pm - 6 pm		8 am - 1 pm
AUGUST		2 pm - 6 pm	2 pm - 6 pm	2 pm - 6 pm		8 am - 1 pm
SEPTEMBER		2 pm - 6 pm	2 pm - 6 pm	2 pm - 6 pm		8 am - 1 pm
OCTOBER		2 pm - 6 pm	2 pm - 6 pm	2 pm - 6 pm		8 am - 1 pm
NOVEMBER	2 pm - 5 pm	2 pm - 5 pm	2 pm - 5 pm	2 pm - 5 pm	2 pm - 5 pm	8 am - 1 pm
DECEMBER		2 pm - 5 pm	2 pm - 5 pm	2 pm - 5 pm		8 am - 1 pm

CLOSED HOLIDAYS AND INCLEMENT WEATHER.

Compost Site Rules

Must be S. Middleton Twp. Resident
Please remove all containers and bags

Accepted

- Leaves on leaf pile only
- Brush/shrubbery clippings
- Dry ornamental grass
- Logs under 8 inch diameter/less than 6 ft. long
- Pine cones & seed pods in compost only
- Shrubbery roots that are free of dirt and stones

Not Accepted

- Weeds from garden
- Dirt
- Grass clippings, garbage, dirt, stones
- Nuts
- Fruit/vegetables
- Corn fodder
- Corn cobs
- Mulch/old compost
- Construction materials