

MOUNT JOY TOWNSHIP



NEWSLETTER

FALL 2011



FROM THE DESK OF MT. JOY'S CHAIRMAN, JOHN GORMONT

From the Chairman's Desk,

As fall approaches, we should reflect back on the past couple of months and say 'Thanks' everyone (especially the Road Master, Ronnie Reed) that sacrificed their time to ensure that the township roadways were maintained in a timely and safe manner. I'm not sure, but from what I understand, this was the most rain we have ever had in this area. All that I can say at this point is that I am glad it was not snow; we might still be digging our way out.

Now, speaking of snow, it will be here again very soon. We are getting the plans in place to be prepared to handle whatever comes our way. The salt and antiskid has been delivered, and the trucks have been serviced and are ready to go. Now all we need to do is wait for the snow.

We are now working on a lot of the end of the year projects, such as the 2012 budget. As Dave and I crunch the numbers to determine the overall budget, we again are looking to find ways to continue to reduce the spending where we can to allow the township to again provide as much of a tax reduction as possible. We understand that the township taxes are a small part of your overall tax bill, but every little bit helps when it comes to lowering taxes. Some budget items will increase and some will decrease, in the end the goal is to reduce the spending and help all of our residents by lowering the taxes.

As we look forward to next year, there will be new challenges for the township. At this point, we have a very good office staff and road crew to manage the coming challenges.

We have provided the 2011 contributions to the fire departments and are looking forward to completing the arrangements with the departments for 2012. The following is a breakdown of the contributions for 2011:

Department	PA Fireman's Relief Funds	Township General Fund	Total
Gettysburg Fire Department	\$13,404.10	\$18,462.86	\$31,866.96
Barlow Fire Department	\$19,496.87	\$23,991.43	\$43,488.30
Alpha #1 Fire Department	\$13,268.71	\$18,282.86	\$31,551.57
Bonneauville Fire Department	\$7,988.30	\$11,262.86 **	\$19,251.16
Totals	\$54,157.98	\$72,000.01	\$126,157.99

** (This payment is being held pending the township receiving the fire dept's 2010 financial reports)

Nov. 8th is Election Day. Everyone is encouraged to get out and vote for your elected officials. Voting is one way you can express your opinion.

John Gormont
Chairman, Mt. Joy Township Board of Supervisors

MT. JOY'S SECRETARY/TREASURER NOTES BY SUE HARBIN

WE HAVE A NEW SMILE IN THE OFFICE . . . WELCOME, SHERI!

Sheri Moyer has joined the Township as our new Secretary's Assistant. She comes with 30 plus years of administrative experience in a variety of fields from the legal to public education to information technology. Sheri was born and raised in Abington Township, Pennsylvania (a suburb of Philadelphia). In 2004, she and her husband Rick, along with their two German Shepherds, Bailey and Alex, relocated to Adams County. On weekends, during the summer months, you may find her walking the streets of Gettysburg as a civilian civil war re-enactor.



- ✿ Mary Sherman will continue to help in the office for special projects and on an 'as needed' basis.
- ✿ We have had some troublesome issues with the Township website and apologize if you have tried and were unable to open web files needed. Our computer website manager has located the problem. We are currently working to establish a user friendly website. Please be patient with us as we update and add archived files for viewing.
- ✿ You can check the Calendar of Events on our website for time/dates of meetings held at the Twp. Click on the event listed and you will see the full information concerning the meeting. Please feel comfortable calling the secretary with any questions concerning meetings/dates/times.
- ✿ A Community Bulletin Board is posted in the lobby of the Twp. Bldg. We post all sorts of interesting items for residents, along with business cards of Twp. businesses.



COMMENTS FROM MT. JOY'S ZONING OFFICER

In an effort to promote safe and efficient ice and snow removal, the township has adopted Ordinance 2011-02. This will restrict parking on White Run Lane, Spring Creek Circle, Robin Circle, Vicki Circle, and White Rd. during ice and snow events.

In response to the many inquiries I would like to offer the following information: For projects with no structural changes, such as window, door, and roofing material replacement, a township zoning permit is not required. For repairs of \$2,500.00 or more a Adams County building permit is required.

The Gettysburg Outlet Center has received Conditional Use approval from the Board of Supervisors' for the proposed Family Fun Center. Also, the Zoning Hearing Board conditionally approved a Variance Application for construction of a four story hotel.

Septic pumping for Zone 1 is coming to a close at the end of 2011. Please be aware, if you live in Zone 2, your notice will arrive in January 2012.

Have a wonderful Fall!

Cindy Smith

SUPERVISORS:

John E. Gormont, Chairman:
Personnel, Finance, Council of Govt.

David R. Updyke, Vice-Chairman:
Finance, Roads

Gilbert M. Clark:
Planning, Land Use & Zoning

Michael E. Gearhart :
Personnel, Buildings/Grounds

Brad Trostle

The Supervisors do not work at the Township Office, but if you have a question or comment for a Supervisor, you may contact the Township Office. The Office Assistant or Secretary will be happy to relay any information. You may also e-mail the Supervisors via the website.

SUPPORT STAFF:

Susan Harbin, Secretary/Treasurer

Cindy Smith, Zoning Officer

Sheri Moyer, Secretary/Assistant
Ronnie Reed, Road master

OFFICE HOURS:

Mon., Wed., & Fri.: 9:00am - 12:00pm

Tues. & Thurs.: 1:00pm - 4:00pm

717-359-4500

mtjoytwp@mtjoytwp.us



A PIECE OF MOUNT JOY HISTORY

The Isaac Lightner Farm

Isaac Lightner was often referred to as "Sheriff Lightner" as he served as sheriff of Adams County from 1857-1860. The original Lightner farm consisted of 115 acres which is located near Mark's (White Church) Lutheran Church which today is Evangelical Holiness Church. The property served as a Civil War hospital for the Second Division, First Corps beginning July 1, 1863. Surgeon New mentioned that when he took possession of "White Church" he also took possession of the house and barn of Mr. Lightner. The Second Division surgeon -in-charge was C. J. Nordquist of the 83rd New York Infantry.

Private John Chase wrote "I was taken to the first Army Corps Hospital. It was a farm owned by Isaac Lightner. They laid me down beside the barn where I waited three more days before my wounds were dressed. The surgeon let me lie there to "finish dying" I then lay on the barn floor several days, and was taken into the house, were I (stayed) for a week. From there I was removed to the Seminary Hospital." Chase survived this ordeal though he had been wounded 48 times.

J. H. Wert, who lived on White Run Road, stated that the commanding officer of this battery, Greenleaf T. Stevens, was also taken to this farm after being wounded.

In the damage claim which was filed after the war, Lightner stated "all ...buildings on (my property) were occupied (by) the first Corp Army of the Potomac." Hay from the Lightner barn was carried to White Church and were used for bedding. Shingles and boards were taken to be used for crutches, tent floors and bunks for the wounded as well as coffins for the dead. Isaac Lightner claimed the buildings were used from July 2 until July 20th as a First Corp hospital. The bake oven was used to make bread for the soldiers. Lightner reported the baking fires consumed great quantities of his rail fencing which was used for firewood.

The barn was dismantled by John Sanders sometime in the 1970's as the wood of the barn was sold. The house remains with all its beauty. It was constructed of brick and was completed about 1862. Today the property is the Lightner Bed and Breakfast.

References: Coco, G.A.1988, A vast Sea of Misery, Thomas Publications, Gettysburg, PA. p.208
Elsie Morey, Chair of the Historical Committee.



COMMUNITY NEWS



Gettysburg Outlets

The Outlets will open at 12:00 am on November 25, 2011.

Am Red Cross Blood Drives

Blood Drives take place at the Community Room (near center Gazebo) from Noon until 6:00PM on the following dates:

October 21, 2011
November 18, & 26, 2011
December 20 & 27, 2011

*Dates subject to change

Bonneauville Fire Company

Nov 5th Shrimp & Chicken Feed
Nov 9th Thanksgiving Bingo
Nov 18th Late night Bingo
Don't forget Monday Night Bingo!
Doors open @ 5:00 p.m.

Rick & Sally Meyer Animal Shelter

Adams County SPCA

As a 501(C)3 nonprofit organization we are always in need of help from the community. We are always in need of help from the community in monetary donations and also donating items. Please visit our website <http://meyersshelter.org> for our shelter wish list. Thank you for your support.

Littlestown Alpha Fire Company

Nov 18th Turkey Bingo
Littlestown residents can have a free smoke detector installed in their home! For more information, call 359-4212, leave a message and someone will get

November 19th Gettysburg Remembrance Day Events

1:30 pm Parade. The route of the parade will be as follows; Exiting Lefever Street onto East Confederate Ave. turning west onto East Middle Street. At Baltimore Street the parade will turn south and then veer south west onto Steinwehr Ave ending at the National Park.

5:30-9:30pm 9th Annual Remembrance Illumination. On the anniversary weekend of the Dedication of the Soldiers' National Cemetery and the Gettysburg Address, the Gettysburg Foundation lights over 3,500 luminary candles - one on each Civil War soldier's grave in the National Cemetery - to remember and honor the sacrifices made by

Barlow Fire Company

Nov. 5th Shrimp Feed Doors open @ 5:15pm, Feed 6:00pm

PERMIT NO. 3
LITTLESTOWN, PA
PAID
U.S. POSTAGE
PRSRST STD

Mt. Joy Township
902 Hoffman Home Rd.
Gettysburg, PA 17325



PLANNING COMMISSION REPORT



With the current economic climate, our township has seen a decline in the number of Subdivision and Land Development Plans submitted for review and approval by the Planning Commission (PC). This gives us an opportunity to begin our review and update of the Comprehensive Plan. The current Comprehensive Plan was adopted in September, 2003. The PA Municipalities Planning Code requires that the Comprehensive Plan be reviewed “at least every ten years”. The MJT Board of Supervisors has requested that the PC work from the structure of the current Comprehensive Plan updating it with current information from the 2010 Census of Population and Housing reports, updated maps, and current land uses. To this end, the PC invited input from the Adams County Office of Planning and Development at their July meeting. Representatives from that office provided us with census results analysis regarding population data and projections. For our November meeting, we will have a representative from the Adams County Economic Development Corporation who will share information regarding the current economic climate and prospects for future growth in our area.

The revision of the Comprehensive Plan lays the groundwork for any zoning changes that may be recommended to better reflect the current use and/or possible future use that would promote economic development in our area. Perhaps more important, in addition to input from these various organizations with fixed numbers, facts and projections, we would appreciate input from the citizens of the Township. The overall consensus of opinion in 2003 seemed to be that the citizenry wished to maintain the “rural character” of the Township while managing growth. In lieu of spending dollars on a survey that may or may not truly reveal the wishes of the residents, we would invite anyone to come to our meetings to share your thoughts on the Comprehensive Plan, and/or land use and zoning issues. Planning Commission meetings are held the second Wednesday of the month at 7pm in the Township building. Meeting nights for 2012 may change at the January reorganizational meeting. If you cannot attend a meeting, please share your thoughts via letter to the Township office - Mt. Joy Township – Planning Commission, 902 Hoffman Home Rd., Gettysburg, Pa 17325; or via e-mail – mtjoytwp@mtjoytwp.us

Before the Planning Commission makes any recommendations to the Board of Supervisors for updates to the Comprehensive Plan, we are required to have a Public Hearing. We hope to be at that point sometime next Spring.

Audrey Weiland, Chairperson, Mt. Joy Township Planning Commission



ROAD REPORT



Road master Report:

The Road master, Ronnie Reed and has been very busy the last couple of months. The crew seal coated, tarred and chipped Barlow Two Taverns Rd, Roberts Rd., Plunkert Rd., (1/2 of the road), Yingling Rd., and Maryland Line Rd. They laid 60 tons of black top on Barlow Two Taverns Rd. The following roads California, Bowers, Updyke, Krug, Md Line Rd., Miller, Schottie, Study, Solomen, and Golden all were lined. Stop signs and curb signs were placed on White Church Road. Mowing was done on all township roads. The crew repaired roads and cleaned up of debris from various flooding incidents. They also repaired culverts on Dague Road, Forney Rd., and Low Dutch Rd. Tree removal and clean up on Basehour Roth Road was also done. Bridge end sighs were placed on Low Dutch Road.