



MOUNT JOY TOWNSHIP

NEWSLETTER

FALL/WINTER 2012



SUPERVISORS:

John E. Gormont,
Chairman:

Finance

David R. Updyke,
Vice-Chairman:

Finance, Roads

Gilbert M. Clark:

Personnel, Planning,
Land Use & Zoning

Michael E. Gearhart :

Buildings & Grounds,
Council of Govt.

Bradley A. Trostle:

Personnel, Public Safety



SUPPORT STAFF:

Susan Harbin,
Secretary/Treasurer

Cindy Smith,
Zoning Officer

Sheri Moyer,
Office 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

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

As we approach the end of another year, we need to reflect back on the happenings of the year.

We started the year off by fulfilling a promise we made when we ran for office; to eliminate the township's debt. It was completed early in the year, when we closed out three township owned CD's the township which had matured. The three CD's were making less than \$5K in interest and we were paying close to \$30K in interest on the loan. In addition, we made the scheduled loan payment of \$70K. Together the scheduled payment, plus the money from the CD's, totally paid off the debt.

In April, we made the final payment of \$26K (from liquid fuels funds) on the CAT Loader that had been financed over a five year period.

In addition to keeping our promise to eliminate the debt, we also made a commitment to lower your Township taxes. We did that as well. For the past two years, there has been a 20% tax reduction in the tax rate. This year we will be proposing another reduction in the tax rate. In fact, by the time you read this, you may already be aware of the new proposed rates. I think you will really be surprised by the additional tax reduction. But the tax rates are still a "work-in-progress" in my view. There is more to do going forward.

So in less than three years, we have eliminated the debt, lowered taxes three years in a row and have still continued to maintain a moderate financial reserve for the township.

The roads in the township have been very well maintained by the Road Master and his dedicated crew. The mowing went well, several pipes were replaced, and we are completing the repairs that were caused by last fall's storms. Once the work is 100% complete, we can submit the paperwork for FEMA reimbursements to cover restoration costs.

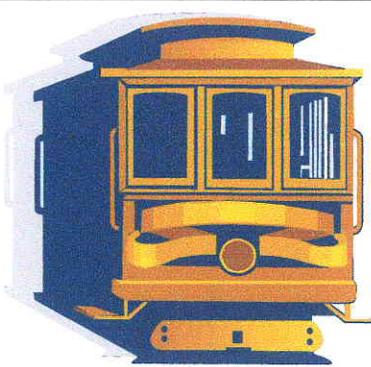
There are a couple of new things pending in the township. The addition of another hotel located at the Outlet Mall is currently proceeding through the land development process. A Sheetz Store plans to locate on the Yingling Property at the RT97 and Interstate 15 intersections. A "Satellite Parking" facility for the Gettysburg Visitors Center has been put in place. Additional signage has been added on Interstate 15, as well as RT97, identifying the location of the satellite parking.

As we move into the fall of the year, we know that the cooler weather will soon bring on the white stuff and we will all have to deal with it. I ask that everyone try to do their part to provide safe passage for the drivers of the snow plows. **PLEASE DO NOT** push or shovel your snow back out on the roadway. I know it gets irritating when the plow pushes snow in your walk or driveway (they plow it into mine as well), but they have to put it somewhere. Your consideration is appreciated!!

As I think about the end of the year approaching, I want to wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season. Enjoy the turkey on Thanksgiving, the blessings of Christmas, and the Joy of the New Year. Be Safe!!!

John Gormont, Chairman, Mt. Joy Township Board of Supervisors

P.S. We were very fortunate to survive Hurricane Sandy without a great deal for damage within the township. Thanks to all who helped to make that happen.



LOOK WHAT'S NEW IN OUR TOWN TO HELP WITH GAS PRICES!

Rabbit Transit

Freedom Transit provides public transportation on three fixed routes which serve the Gettysburg area including the Blue Line, Gray Line and Lincoln Line. The Lincoln Line features a historic trolley replica. All lines help connect residents and tourists to major destinations in historic downtown Gettysburg and The Outlet Shoppes at Gettysburg. Freedom Transit rides are free to the public. We honor flag stops along the routes, in which a rider can signal the driver at a safe location. Park once and leave the driving to us. For more information, visit our website at www.ridethetrolley.com or call 1-800-963-9063.

Commuting to Harrisburg? The 15N rabbitEXPRESS is a commuter bus service between Gettysburg and Harrisburg operating Monday through Friday. It offers free WiFi onboard as well as an Emergency Ride Home Program. The service also make connections to Amtrak and the Harrisburg International Airport via Capital Area Transit. Visit www.rabbittransit.org/express for more details.



ROAD REPORT



The Township's Road Master, Ronnie Reed, and his crew have been busy over the summer. They filled in potholes along township roads, trimmed tree lines back from the edge of the roads, mowed along the roads, the Pine Bank cemetery and Mud College School property. The crew painted lines on the Township parking lot along with painting and replacing decals on all the fuel tanks. In July the Township advertised bids for seal coating and line painting. Barlow Two Taverns, Bowers and Straley Roads were seal coated in September. In October nine of the township roads were line painted. Stop Ahead signs were replaced on Bowers and White Church Road. On Highland Avenue and Low Dutch Road we replaced the speed limit and curve signs. Galvanized culvert pipes were replaced with plastic pipes on the following township roads: Clappsaddle, Dague, Shottie Speelman Klinger and White Church Road. 79 tons of blacktop was used in the replacement of the pipes. During the late summer storm the crew was out closing roads and reopening them once the water subsided and of course, after the storm is over there is always storm debris that needs cleaning up. As a result of that storm Low Dutch Road had additional damage to the shoulder of the road, at the bridge, that needed to be repaired.



PLEASANT GROVE SCHOOL a/k/a MUD COLLEGE SCHOOL HOUSE

We are very pleased to announce that The Pleasant Grove School (also known as Mud College School house) has been named to the National Register of Historic Buildings. The committee is very grateful to Elsie Morey who worked tirelessly on the application process. The certificate is on display at the Township building on the wall adjacent to the painting of the school house. Over 200 similar school houses were active in Adams County from around 1839 to 1950. After this period, they were all closed as students went to consolidated schools in each District. In 1951 the Mud College School house was purchased from the Littlestown School District by the Walter Crouse family, many of whom had attended this one room school. They made sure that the building and its contents remained in tact at a time when others were sold for unrelated uses or demolished. Every Spring classes from many of the county school districts spend a day learning lessons as they were taught in 1896. This program is enjoyed by approximately 500 students each year, and is valued as a unique way to experience a piece of history which may otherwise be lost. Mud College School house is a treasure in our community and the recognition by the Pennsylvania Historic and Museum Commission is a worthy acknowledgement of the importance of preserving a tangible reminder of the beginnings of our educational system.



Ellie Bennett, School House Committee



Please note: The Township property is not a trash and brush collection spot. Please contact your waste removal company (trash service) to find out how to properly dispose of unwanted trash, brush and lawn debris.

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. However, for repairs of \$2,500.00 or more an Adams County building permit is required.

Septic pumping for Zone 2 is coming to a close at the end of 2012. Please be aware, if you live in Zone 3, your notice will arrive in early 2013.

Cindy Smith

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PRSR1 STD

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



COMMUNITY NEWS



NEW BUSINESSES TO MOUNT JOY TOWNSHIP

Herrick Building and Excavating Land Development Plan has been approved for 3772 Baltimore Pike.

Vibe Performing Arts Center recently opened and is located at the Village at Two Taverns, 3070 Baltimore Pike. For more information go to www.vibeperformingarts.net or call 717-420-5292

Gettysburg Outlets : November 17, at 10:00 a.m. Breakfast with Santa
November 23-December 22, every Friday and Saturday night 4-7:00 p.m. free horse and carriage rides.
November 23-Mid-night Madness, all stores open at 12:00 a.m. (mid-night)
December 8-Cash for clothes event 11:00-3:00 p.m.

Alpha Fire Company/Littlestown: November 16-Turkey Bingo Doors open at 5:30 p.m. Bingo at 7:00 p.m.
January 27, 2013 - 2000 Club (\$15.00/ticket)

Barlow Fire Company: November 3-Shrimp Feed

Bonneauville Fire Company: Weekly Bingo every Monday-doors open at 5:00 p.m.
November 3-Shrimp & Chicken Feed
November 16-Late Night Bingo
December 14-Basket Bingo
December 21-Late Night Bingo