



MOUNT JOY TOWNSHIP

NEWSLETTER

SPRING/SUMMER 2014



SUPERVISORS:

John E. Gormont,
Chairman:

Finance, Roads

David R. Updyke,
Vice-Chairman:

Finance, Personnel

Gilbert M. Clark:
Buildings & Grounds

Bradley A. Trostle:
Personnel, Public Safety

Dennis Bowman:
Planning

SUPPORT STAFF:

Bruce Hartman,
Treasurer

Sheri Moyer,
Secretary/Notary

Cindy Smith,
Zoning & Code
Enforcement Officer

Sandra Laughton,
Office Assistant/Notary

Brad Shank,
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 Chairman's Desk

As I sit here listening to the pitter patter of rain drops things seem a far cry from the flakes of snow that fell during the winter. All the snow we had is just a distant memory now, but this was a real tough winter. Kudos to our road crew for their Herculean effort throughout the course of the winter to keep the roads clear. They did an excellent, excellent job! As a result of all the winter storms, we have pipes to be replaced and a tremendous amount of base repair. We are trying to get all the work completed in a timely manner in order to prepare several of our roads for tar and chipping and line painting well before the next winter season approaches. It is a lot of work and the road crew will be putting in a lot of hours working very hard. It's not an easy task being out there working on hot summer days digging pipes out, installing new pipes and dealing with the hot asphalt. Please, please, please be cautious and careful when you are driving and see a road crew working, (State, Township or other workers). These men are doing a task that is monumental in size to keep our roads repaired. Please provide them with all the space and courtesy you can as you pass by a work zone so they can get their job safely completed. I'll go as far as saying if they are out front or near your property you could do a tremendous act of kindness by offering them a cold drink. I'm sure that would be immensely appreciated.

As Chairman, and on behalf of the other members of the Board of Supervisors, we want to thank Michael Gearhart for his service as Supervisor over the past several years. Welcome to Dennis Bowman who was elected in the fall to serve as Supervisor for a six year term. We also want to thank Sue Harbin, who resigned earlier this year, for her service to the Township; and welcome back a former employee who previously was the Office Assistant, Sheri Moyer. Sheri is a valuable asset to the Township in the capacity of Secretary.

As most of you are aware your Township taxes were again reduced for the fourth year. We are continuing to maintain a generous flow of revenue to be able to take care of Township business and keep the Township functioning. As long as we have that revenue and are able to function within the Township without increasing taxes we will continue to strive to lower taxes.

In January 2014, we are now into the second cycle of our Township on-lot septic inspection and/or pumping ordinance. We have been through the first three years so all the districts have been through the cycle. I want to thank our residents for being as cooperative as you have in getting this task accomplished. There are a few residents that have not complied; and we, in fact, are going to proceed as the Ordinance indicates to encourage them to comply. We hope to minimize the cost and effort in pursuing a court hearing.

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As I said earlier, we are now through the first cycle of inspections and/or pumping and the first district is again required to have their septic inspected and/or pumped as necessary. I want to reiterate to everyone, please be aware of the fact that any septic hauler you contact from the Township's "Approved Hauler List" must provide you with the option of measuring your tank prior to actual pumping. That is a Township requirement. **If your tank measures less than 1/3 full of solids you are not required to have it pumped.** Please do not feel obligated to pump your septic just because you received a notice that your septic needs to be inspected and/or pumped. Measurement fees are much less costly than pumping fees. If a system has multiple tanks the only tank that requires inspection and/or pumping is the first tank. The first tank is the solid's tank. The other tanks are only liquid and do not need to be pumped, unless you desire to do so.

For those of you who have not been to the township building recently, I thought I would update you with things that are happening around the building. We decided it was time to give the interior of the building a face lift. The meeting room has been upgraded with some fresh paint, and carpeting has been installed which has tremendously enhanced the atmosphere of the room. In addition to that, we also repainted all the offices and installed new carpeting as well. It really has spruced up the place. The work was completed using in-house employees with some assistance from contracted labor. It was a very nice effort on everyone's part, and I want to thank all those involved in getting the work completed. If you have an opportunity to stop by, I think it is well worth the time to see how some of your tax dollars were spent.

There are many other things currently going on within the Township. We are going to see some new businesses coming in which, I think, is a positive sign of growth within the Township.

Have a nice summer - - - enjoy your vacation and be safe!

John Gormont, Chairman

MOUNT JOY Township Residents

Gettysburg TIMES

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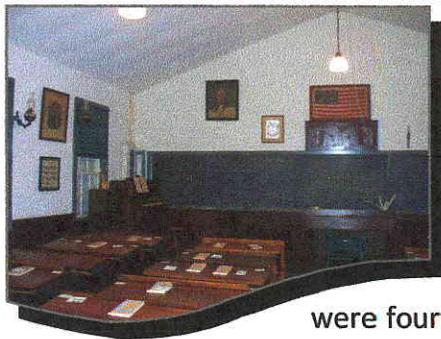
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Zoning Notes

- ◆ The new cell phone tower located on the corner of California Road and Route 97 is under construction and should be operational by the end of summer.
- ◆ Ground breaking for the Sheetz store located on the corner of Route 97 and Route 15 began in June. Sheetz is hoping to open the store prior to year end.
- ◆ Septic Inspections/Pumping—If you are a resident in the C1 Septic District, take advantage of the summer weather and schedule your inspection/pumping now. Delaying the inspection process until fall and winter can impede septic tank access and cause unnecessary delays.

Cindy Smith
Zoning & Code Enforcement Officer



Mud College Schoolhouse News

Ellie Bennet,
School House Committee

It has been a very busy spring at Mud College Schoolhouse. Once again our Living History program welcomed classes from most of the elementary schools in the County. The majority of the classes attending were fourth graders though third or fifth grade classes came from several schools.

Each student that attends spends the whole day as a "scholar" in the year 1896. They are dressed appropriately for that period in time. The classroom curriculum is taught by a volunteer docent impersonating "Miss Horner", an actual local teacher in the 1890's. The teacher instructs the children from period reading, arithmetic, and geography texts. Since the classroom is in original condition with original furnishings, the students get a very unique and first hand picture of education in earlier and very different times. They are fascinated with the desks that they sit in, surrounded by all the original artifacts. This is the 11th year that we have offered this program. Over 500 students attend each year. We are very pleased that it continues to be so well received by County teachers and students. Our volunteer docents are a major component in its success and we are all very grateful to Ann Ratay, Molly Ecker, Joan Wise, and Kenleigh Turner for their outstanding contribution of time and talent.

On June 21st the Hartman family visited the schoolhouse as part of this year's reunion. Jacob Hartman deeded 1/2 acre of land in 1869 so that Pleasant Grove School ("Mud College") could be built. The family was very interested in seeing the building and artifacts that have been kept in original condition. Our local historian, Elsie Morey, gave them a very thorough timeline of the history of this school. Many of their ancestors had attended Mud College and they were very pleased to see the excellent care that has been taken to preserve this small but important structure.

Private tours of the schoolhouse can be arranged by calling the Mt. Joy Township office. Curious about how "Mud College" got its name? We will give you our best thought in the next newsletter.

Ten (10) Tips for Driving in Work Zones

Expect the unexpected. Things may change overnight. Normal speed limits may be reduced, traffic lanes may be closed, narrowed, or shifted and people may be working on or near the road.

Don't speed. Obey the posted speed limit at all times even when workers are not present.

Don't tailgate. Keep a safe distance between you, the car ahead of you, the construction workers and their equipment. Rear-end collisions account for 30% of work zone crashes.

Obey road crew flaggers and pay attention to the signs. The flagger knows what is best for moving traffic safely in the work zone. The warning signs are there to help you and other drivers move safely through the work zone.

Stay alert and minimize distractions. Dedicate your full attention to the roadway and avoid changing radio stations or using cell phones and other electronic devices while approaching and driving in a work zone.

Keep up with the traffic flow. Do not slow down to "gawk" at road work.

Know before you go. Check radio, TV, and web sites for traffic information and schedule enough time to drive safely. Expect delays and leave early so you can reach your destination on time.

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Gettysburg, PA 17325

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An Introduction to the Mount Joy Planning Commission

The Planning Commission consists of five residents from the Township. The committee members are: Eleanor Dehoff, Chairman; Terry Scholle, Vice-Chairman; Curtis Hawkins; Sindy Jennings and Fred Lang. In addition, we are joined by Cindy Smith, Zoning and Code Enforcement Officer; Sheri Moyer, Township Secretary; Susan Smith, Township Solicitor and a representative from William. F. Hill & Associates, Township Engineers.

At the April meeting the Planning Commission accepted the resignation of Bernie Huesken due to personal health issues. He had served as a member for two years. Sindy Jennings volunteered to serve on the committee and finish out his term. We thank him for his service and wish him a quick recovery.

With nearly a new roster of fresh faces on the Planning Commission, both the Township Solicitor and the Township Engineer have been providing training. With the training they are providing the Commission will be better prepared to understand and apply the Township Ordinances and also to decipher plans submitted by builders and architects.

The Planning Commission meets once a month on the second Tuesday and all meetings are open to the public. If anyone has any questions regarding the Planning Commission, please feel free to contact me at 359-7860.

Eleanor Dehoff
Chairman