

MOUNT JOY TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2010



*May This Holiday Season
Bring You and Your Family
Health, Peace And Happiness in 2011*

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

As we approach the end of 2010, I think it is time to reflect back and evaluate the achievements this year. Despite the fact that we have accomplished a lot, there remains much more to do.

The year started with the two worst snow storms in the history of the township, and yet again I must praise the efforts of all who participated to get us through a tough winter. The hot dry summer gave the road workers the opportunity to accomplish a lot of needed road repairs across the township. The fall weather has also provided the opportunity to continue additional road repairs. As we all know the snow will be flying soon and we are prepared and ready to address what it brings.

The financial position of the township is starting to improve, but we still have a long way to go. The debt has been reduced by 29.88%, down from \$971K to \$689K. Township expenses have been reduced by 30%, this means there have been reductions throughout the budget. This has been accomplished by making some common sense decisions and a few really tough cuts. Township revenues next year will be approximately 29.71% less than this year. The current proposed 2011 budget is expected to provide a 30-33% tax REDUCTION to the township residents.

Things accomplished this year include:

- Replaced the front doors on the building and closed outside air ducts to help prevent the heat loss, reducing the heating bills
- Reduced the phone charges by working with provider to provide the services needed at half the previous cost
- Repealed the TDR ordinance (Transfer of Development Rights)
- Created new township web site to make the Township records readily available to the residents
- Repealed the Township Fire Tax (to be funded from general budget)
- Entered into an Intermunicipal agreement with Germany Township to share road equipment and workers
- Entered into an Agility agreement with Penn DOT for road equipment and workers
- Repealed the ACT 209 ordinance (Traffic Impact Fees)

The Mt Joy Township Board of Supervisors would like to wish the township residents a very happy and safe holiday season and we are all looking forward to serving you in the coming New Year.

John Gormont

Chairman, Mt Joy Township Board of Supervisors

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

WELCOME, MARY!

We are glad to have Mary Sherman join Mt. Joy Twp support staff as a part-time Secretary Assistant. Mary moved to PA from San Juan Island, Washington State. She is married with 1 child. Mary relates well with people, is results oriented and a welcome addition to our support staff. You will hear her friendly voice as she answers the township phones, always willing to help with your requests.

NOTES FROM BOARD OF SUPERVISORS' MEETINGS:

June: 2011 – Dec 2015, Sandy Cooper has been appointed to the Recreation Board for a 5 yr. term, ending Dec. 2015.

July: Ordinance No. 2010-02 was adopted, providing for **No-Impact Home-Based Businesses**, permitting use by right in residential districts, clearly secondary to the use as a residential dwelling which involves no customer, client or patient traffic. The business or commercial activity must satisfy requirements noted in the ordinance.

September: Resolution #20 of 2010, Intermunicipal Cooperative or Shared Services Agreement For Road Maintenance Services was adopted. The Township will use PennDot gradecall to cut back banks and work on ditches, PennDot will provide an operator. In exchange, the Township will maintain 3 state roads (Hoffman Home, Orphanage, and south end of Barlow Two Taverns Rds) for the winter.

October: Ordinance No. 2010-03 was adopted, deleting Section 110-155 of the Zoning Ordinance in its entirety. The Township will no longer provide for a Transfer of Development Rights (TDR) program. There have not been any TDRs exercised in the Township up to this point.

Ordinance No. 2010-04 was adopted, repealing the Traffic Impact Fee Ordinance in its entirety.

November: Ordinance 2010-05 has been adopted, amending Chapter 68 (Septic Systems) to establish a Sewage Management District in the Township. *This ordinance is required of the Township, based on Act 537, by the Dept. of Environmental Protection (DEP).* Inspection/pumping 3 yr. cycle schedule will start in January 2011. Please see the Zoning officer's report for more detailed information.



COMMENTS FROM MT. JOY'S ZONING OFFICER, CINDY SMITH

Mount Joy Joins Townships with OLDS Ordinance(On –Lot Sewage Disposal Systems)

The Pennsylvania State Department of Environmental Protection has begun to require each municipality to enact a sewage management ordinance with adoption of the ACT 537 Study. Mount Joy Township joins numerous other Municipalities who have adopted the ordinance requiring land owners to have their septic tanks pumped every three years or whenever an inspection program reveals the tank is filled with solids in excess of 1/3 of the liquid depth of the tank. One third of the residents will be required to pump in year one, the next third will pump in year two, and the remaining properties will pump in year three. Then, the cycle starts all over again. Beginning in January 2011, if you are in District One, you will receive a mailing reminding you that you will need to have your septic pumped. The mailing will include a system pumping and inspection form to be completed by your septic hauler. This form will be due within 30 days of the pumping completion, so our records can reflect that you have met your obligation. The map and inspection form is available online at our website mtjoytwp.us.

Open House: THANK YOU MOUNT JOY RESIDENTS!

Mount Joy Township would like to extend it's gratitude to all of the fire departments and businesses who participated in Mount Joy Township's Community Open House. Many of our residents came out to see the township equipment on display, antique cars and tractors, many types of fire trucks, and Sparky, the fire dog. Everyone really enjoyed the excellent pit beef provided by the Barlow Fire Department. The business fair was a great success! It was wonderful to meet the Mount Joy Township business owners, and to see all of the products that are available right here in Mount Joy! Thank you to everyone for giving up your personal time to attend. The staff here at the township wishes everyone a very happy holiday, and a safe, healthy new year!



A PIECE OF MT. JOY HISTORY

In our last article for the Mount Joy Township Newsletter, the suggestion was made that the Committee review one of the properties located in the Rock Creek White Run Union Hospital Complex Historic district for succeeding newsletters that was used as a hospital during the Civil War.

Thus, the Jacob Schwartz Farm was the site of the Second Corps Hospital. Moses Schwartz, son of Jacob Schwartz, Sr., and Mary, purchased the Family farm in 1849. After living and working the farm for several years, Moses sold the family farm to his brother Jacob who occupied the farm during the civil war. At this time the farm was compromised of about three hundred acres. The farm consisted of a two story house and barn made of both brick and wood.

Other buildings included a wagon shed, a corn crib, carriage house and smoke house. This site became the largest field hospital established after the battle of Gettysburg. The farm became the center of Federal Corps hospitals activity on July 3rd 1863 and remained so until mid-August 1863. The farm quickly was known as the Second Corp. hospital. It soon filled with 2,300 wounded Union soldiers, and almost 1,000 Confederate soldiers. This hospital was in close proximity to the first, Sixth and Twelfth Corps hospitals and it soon overlapped into parts of the Third. According to Dr. Justin Dwinell's records, about one o'clock on July 3rd the hospital was moved due to heavy shelling by the rebels into the woods a mile and a half to the rear. This was the first of the Rock Creek positions of the hospital. Thomas Livermore, the officer in

charge of the ambulance chose this location. He wrote, "I selected this location so that the hospital would be out of range of projectiles". However, the Livermore location was uninhabitable from the high water from the creek after all the heavy rains which occurred on July 4th and 5th. The hospital then moved closer to the Schwartz buildings. The men were in terrible condition. They had to lie on the ground. There were many amputations, and stumps were lying on the ground as well. There was no suitable food for the injured. The surgeons were over worked. Many were yelling out for assistance and death. Confederate Lieutenant John Dooley, First Virginia Infantry recalled the terrors of July 4. This is a horrible night, cold, wet and rainy. Groans and shrieks and maniacal

ravings; bitter sobs, and heavy sighs, piteous cries, hoard oaths, despair, the death rattle; darkness, death. The Yankee nurses near me, instead of alleviating to some degree the fearful suffering... are indulging in curses, the most ignorant curiosity, and obscene tales.

Many of the wounded did not make it. About 500 med died in the hospital. A burial record identified 140 U.S. graves and 168 were identified as Confederates. The graveyard was located behind the barn located on a ridge or hill. During the war years, the hill was called "Red Hill", or "Slaty Ridge". This property is located on Goulden Road. Today, it is a preserved farm and is actively used for that purpose and the protection of wildlife.

**Elsie Morey,
Chairperson,
Mt Joy Historical Cmte**

Literature Cited: Coco, G.A., 1988, A Vast Sea of Misery, pp.208, Hancocock, C., Ed. By H.S. Jaquette 1937, South After Gettysburg, Letters from the Army of the Potomac 1863-1865.

Benner Homestead Farm "A Living History" Grand Opening!

On Saturday, November 13, 2010, on Benner Homestead Farm, "A Living History", had their grand opening. This project was organized by Heidi Benner to obtain her Girl Scout Gold Award. The Benner Homestead Farm displays horse drawn farming implements of the 1800 and 1900's, and family living displays. Congressman Todd Platts, Senator Rich Alloway, Representative Dan Moul, Commissioner George Weikert, Mt Joy Township supervisors, John Gormont and David Updyke attended this historic event. Judy Fox, Heidi's girl scout leader and Bill Tindell, Heidi's FFA advisor were also in

SUPPORT STAFF

Susan Harbin, Secretary Treasurer
Cindy Smith, Zoning Officer
Mary Sherman, Secretary Assistant
Ronnie Reed, Roadmaster
Mike Livelsberger, Kevin Gebhart,
Road Crew

SUPERVISORS

John E. Gormont, Chairman
David R. Updyke, Vice-Chair
Gilbert M. Clark
Michael E. Gearhart
Robert N. Rhodes

Mt Joy Township Update Meetings

Thurs., Dec .16 Supervisor's Mtg, 7:00 pm
Mon., Jan. 3rd, Supervisor's Re-organization mtg, 9:00 am
Tues., Jan. 4th, Rec Board Re-organization mtg
Wed., Jan. 5th, Historical Cmte Re-organization mtg
Wed., Jan. 12th Planning Cmte Re-organization mtg
Supervisor's Workshop 1st Thursday of the month
Supervisor's regular meeting 3rd Thursday of the month

Please check our website for calendar of meetings:
www.mtjoytwp.us

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ROAD REPORT

Mount Joy Township Road Report

Our road crew, Mike Livelsberger and Kevin Gebhart, under the leadership of the Road Superintendent Ronnie Reed, have accomplished much this year, and are to be commended for a job well done. Starting with the one of the worst snowstorms in history, they gave a herculean effort plowing snow, followed by replacing over 15 drainage pipes, base repair, opening up ditches, berm and shoulder repair, crack sealing, placing and replacing speed limit and other road signs, roadside mowing, tree and brush removal, overseeing the installation of guiderails, seal coating 11 roads, line painting roads, removal of large trees and re-bedding large culverts. Moreover, the maintenance of the fleet of equipment needed to accomplish these tasks should not be overlooked. Because of their efforts, the Township is left with roads that are in good shape and ready, should mother nature throw a storm or two our way.



Happy Holidays!