

Brecknock Township Newsletter

L A N C A S T E R C O U N T Y , P E N N S Y L V A N I A

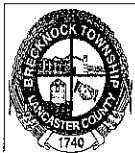
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Brecknock Township
Ordinances
on the web:
www.generalcode.com



Good News....

A Brecknock Township Website is Coming Soon...

A Few Reminders for Animal Owners

Excerpts from Chapter 54 of the Code Ordinance-Full versions are available at the Township Office.

It shall be the duty of all animal owners, to keep the dog or other animal securely tied or penned in an enclosure in such a manner that the dog or other animal cannot break loose and run at large over the streets, alleys or public grounds in the township upon the property of anyone other than the animal owner or the property of another person who has granted permission to the animal owner to allow the dog or other animal upon such person's property.

It shall be unlawful for any animal owner to permit any animal to defecate or urinate upon any sidewalk, passageway, park or any other public place where people congregate or walk or upon any private property or another person without permission of the owner of said property unless, with regard to defecation only such animal owner shall immediately remove and dispose of, in a sanitary manner, all feces deposited by such animal.

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Help Wanted!

Bowmansville Days Committee is Looking For New Members

If you are interested in joining, or are looking for further information, please contact the committee at bowmansvilledays@yahoo.com and they will be happy to assist you.

2012 Bowmansville Days will be held August 10th-11th & 12th

Bowmansville Fire Co 100th Anniversary Celebration May 17, 2013

The Company needs your help. They are looking for old Fire Co. related photos. If you have any and would be willing to share, please contact Torry Sensenig at 610-636-7142 or 717-445-6293. The sooner the better! For more info check their website at www.bowmansvillefire.com.

The Parks of Brecknock Township

Brubaker Park, located along Long Lane and Bowmansville Memorial Park, located along East Maple Grove Road, offer lots of summer fun and those days are just around the corner!

Picnic pavilions, baseball fields and all sports areas are available for rental. These facilities are very popular so reserve for your picnic and family reunions now! For answers to your questions and to make reservations call the Township office at 717-445-5933.

Both parks are always getting new improvements added along with a fresh coat of paint to spruce up old favorites. Come enjoy the parks of Brecknock Township.



Plan now for your summer picnic

South Central Alert

On Tuesday, November 15, 2011, the Lancaster Co. Board of Commissioners and Commissioners from other Counties unveiled South Central Alert. This is an eight County region mass notification system to be used to notify the public of serious emergencies. It will enable Emergency Management officials to get disaster information to the general public in many cases.

The system currently has residential and business phone numbers from the white and yellow pages. If a resident or business has an unlisted number, Voice over IP service such as Vonage, or does not have a wired line phone, they must register and enter the phone numbers into the system. Lancaster County Citizens are urged to register their cell phones, texting devices and other communication methods in the secure system. To do so, citizens should go to <http://www.setfpa.org/scalert> and click on the link to sign up for alerts. You can list up to five locations for which you want to be notified and up to 10 different methods for contacting them. A video has been developed explaining the system and can be seen on YouTube at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m6wZUu6fQZE>.

The system will provide early warnings and information, but does have some limitations. For example, a county wide warning such as a Tornado, may take over 90 minutes for messages to be sent out due to the sheer number of calls, however, a local emergency warning can go out in a matter of seconds. The system is another tool to convey clear, accurate information to our citizens in an emergency.

New Fire & Dog Officer

The Brecknock Township Supervisors have appointed a new Fire & Dog Officer, Robert "Pete" Martin. Pete can be reached at 717-989-3593.

(Excerpts from Chapter 45 of the Code of Ordinances)

- * No materials other than wood and wood products may be burned in an open fire (no treated wood).
- * Smoke shall be so controlled as not to be offensive to others.
- * All containers for open fires shall be covered by a screen to prevent sparks from flying.
- * No fire shall be maintained closer than 75 feet to any structure.
- * Open burning shall only be permitted between sunrise and sunset.

Copies of all Ordinances are available at the Township Office or on-line at <http://ecode360.com/BR1339>

Unfunded Mandates Gobble Up Local Tax Dollars

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 statewide 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 laws that are costing communities hundreds of thousands of dollars a year. The good news is, they're beginning to listen.

It all started last 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 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.

Our work continues

Townships, for instance, spend upward of \$5000 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 PA 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 PA 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," PSATS Exe. Director David M. Sanka says, "but it can do something about the Prevailing Wage Law".

* Township Today-Fall 2011 *

Call Before You Dig!!!

Know What's
Below!!

CALL
811

Pool Permits

A one time pool permit is needed for all types of pools including the blue inflatable pools.

Permit applications are available at the township office.

Permit Needed?

Always check to see if a permit is needed before starting a home project

Call the Township Office or Zoning Officer

Zoning Officer

Tom Schultz
(610) 286-1622
Ex. 105

*Office hours at
Brecknock Township
Office
Wednesday
12:30pm-4pm

BRECKNOCK TOWNSHIP

Board of Supervisors 2nd Tuesday

D. Garth Wise, Chairman
Larry Horning, Vice Chairman
Melvin Boyd, Member
Carol Martin, Secretary/Treasurer
Arthur Zerbe, Roadmaster

Sewer Authority 2nd Monday

Larry Horning * Melvin Boyd
Ron Funk * Mike McHenry * Dennis O'Brian

Park & Recreation 3rd Monday

Garry Messner * James Brubaker
Geno Crivelli * Deborah Crivelli
Connie Ginder * Jeff Tudor * Sheri Greeby

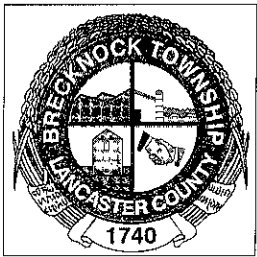
Zoning Hearing Board 3rd Tuesday

Jerry Long * Ronald Hershey * George Gass * Mike Thomas-Alternate

Planning Commission 4th Monday

Harry Lehman * Dean Imhoff * Melvin Boyd * Holly Dobbs
Gene Martini * James Regener

All Meetings Begin at 7pm at the Brecknock Township Building



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