

Lower Milford Township News

Volume 21, Issue 2

Fall 2018

16th Annual Fall Festival Celebrating 30 Years of Farmland Preservation in Lehigh County and it all began in Lower Milford!

Saturday, September 22
10AM to 5 PM



Free Hay Rides and
Kid's Activities
Ice Cream
Pumpkins, Mums,
Apples and More!

Free Carriage Rides



Silent Auction
Vendors
Alpacas
Cider Slushies!
Fresh Baked Pies

Free Parking

Free Activities

Great Family Fun!



Rededication of the Lower Milford Preserved
Farms Plaque by Dr. Lois Gadek and Lowell
Linde, who donated the plaque in 2006 with 36
Preserved Farms. By 2018, twelve more
farms have now been preserved

Celebrating 30 Years of Farmland Preservation

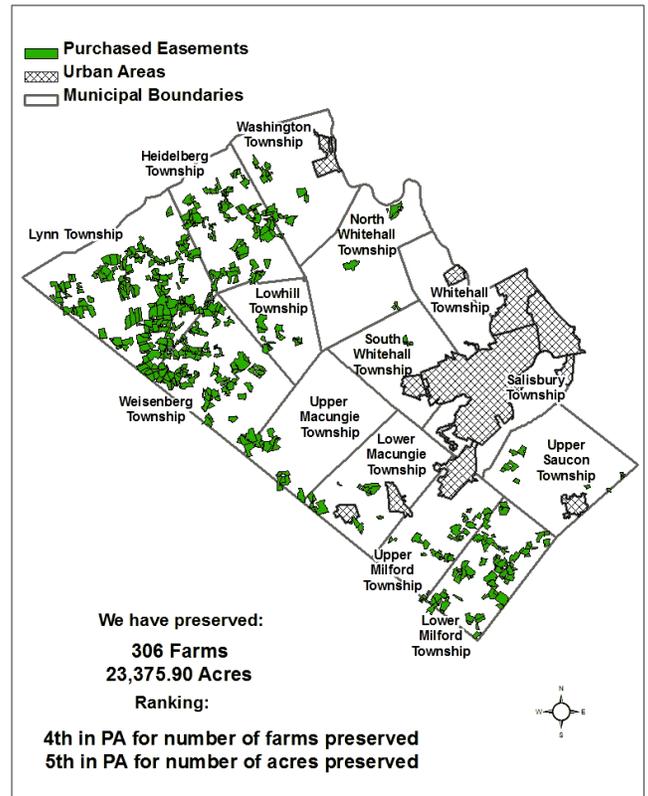
Pennsylvania, Lehigh County and Lower Milford Township have all reached a milestone in preserving farmland. Lower Milford has the proud distinction as home to the first farm preserved in Lehigh County; that being the Graber Farm located on King’s Highway. Although the farm has changed ownership and is now operated by Logan’s Heroes, an animal rescue organization, the farmland remains in agricultural production, now and in the future.

As the Easement map shows, Lower Milford leads in the southern portion of the county with 3,125 preserved acres, ranking in fourth place for the entire county.



*Shelly Family Farm
Schultz Bridge Rd
Preserved in 1994*

Lehigh County Agricultural Conservation Easements



In 1993, the Joint Planning Commission of Lehigh and Northampton County (now known as the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission), prepared a Comprehensive Plan (Plan) for the Lehigh Valley. Although their population projection for Lower Milford in 2010 was roughly 500 residents higher than the 2010 Census, Farmland Preservation was recommended by the Planners, and the voters of the Lehigh Valley, as an important goal. In fact, the Joint Planning Commission conducted a voter survey in 1988 containing questions to obtain residents’ attitude toward preserving farmland. The majority of voters in the Lehigh Valley, 81.6%, wanted farmland preserved as much as possible. The following year, a ballot question was posed to all Pennsylvania voters that led to the approval of a \$100 million bond for the purchase of farmland easements across the state.

The Plan contained mapping of Important Farmland within the Lehigh Valley. The most significant area was located through the central portion of the Lehigh Valley, from the border with Berks County to the Delaware River. Sadly, hundreds of acres of this highly productive Important Farmland fell victim to urban sprawl.

The value and benefits of farmland to the health of a community are not always fully appreciated. Everyone enjoys the view of cattle grazing in a pasture or a field of ripening wheat, but there is so much more that farmland gives to the community; lower taxes (farmland does not require the municipal services that other land uses do) and environmental benefits are two good examples. Farmland recharges the groundwater; development creates run-off from roofs, parking lots, driveways and all non-pervious surfaces.

Lower Milford farm owners have contributed greatly to our environment, our locally grown food, low taxes and a beautiful place to call home. They have preserved a legacy for future generations and deserve our appreciation. At this year’s Annual Fall Festival, Saturday, September 22 at 1:30 PM, all Lower Milford preserved farm owners will be recognized for their willingness to ensure that agriculture remains a thriving industry in Pennsylvania.



*~A Special Thank You to the Lower Milford Fire Company~
 During the August 11 flood, members of the Fire Company
 barricaded roads that were impassable and secured areas where the
 road had literally washed away over culverts, leaving dangerous
 driving hazards. **THANK YOU!***

Attention Property Owners, if you have a creek or other waterway on your property, the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection has provided guidance and standards for channel clearing at bridges and culverts. This may be beneficial for properties recently impacted by flash flooding. The information is available on the Township website: www.lowermilford.org or the Lower Milford Township Facebook page. If you would like a copy of the information sent to you, please contact the Township Office at 610-967-4949

*“The nicest thing about the rain
 is that it always stops.
 Eventually.”
 Eeyore*

August 11 Flooding
 Hosensack, Lower Milford Twp.
 Limeport Pike and the Hosensack Valley
 Inundated by the Hosensack Creek



Photos by Alex Brader

When you see a Spotted Lanternfly, SMUSH IT!



Spotted lanternfly adult (left) and nymph (right). (Photos courtesy of Lawrence Berlinger, Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture)

Nearly \$18 billion dollars of Pennsylvania goods, including grapes, hard wood and forest products, are at stake due to this invasive pest’s damaging behavior.

For more information on the SLF and methods to manage them, please visit <https://extension.psu.edu/spotted-lanternfly>

We Welcome Two New Members of the Lower Milford Township Team!

Emily Fucci, Zoning Officer and Planning Administrator

Emily's background includes Land Use and Environmental Studies. She worked for the Lancaster Farmland Trust and the Lehigh County Agricultural Land Preservation Department conducting farm inspections, ranking applications, generating maps with GIS and interacting with land owners. She has conducted water quality testing, forest survey analysis and a stream study. Her dedication to agriculture and the preservation of farmland is a valuable asset to Lower Milford Township.

Zachary (Zack) Cooperman, Assistant Township Manager (Future Manager)

Zack studied Business Management and performed the duties of Program Director and Business Manager for Lehigh Valley Martial Arts, supervising the finances and budget as well as interacting with customers. Zack also worked as a martial arts instructor and has experience in childcare having served as a Group Supervisor at the Active Learning Center. His background in budgeting is an asset to managing our resources.

Best of Luck to Emily and Zack!

Become a member of

Friends of Southern Lehigh Public Library!

You can find membership forms and fund raiser activities on the *Friends* page at www.solehipl.org. Participate in the upcoming

YARD SALE

Saturday, September 8 from 8 AM - 2 PM

at the Library



Southern Lehigh Public Library Board is seeking a volunteer to serve as a Board Member representing Lower Milford Township. For more information, visit the Library website at: www.solehipl.org or contact the Township Office at

The End of the Day

They say time flies when you're having fun and the last 32 years flew right past me. As a township resident of ten years, I began my journey serving Lower Milford Township, working in a portion of the garage; the area now used by the Road Crew for a lunch room. In 1990, the Board of Supervisors authorized converting a portion of a garage bay into office space. I had a pet spider who would play dead until the lights went off and an occasional mouse would visit along with a daily dose of diesel fumes.

Much has changed since 1986. Under the wise leadership of Ted Benson, in 2001-2002, we were able to construct an office building that we can be proud of; borrowing a meager \$150,000 that was repaid in two years. The need for public sewer in Limeport became a major priority and after years of proposals, a new approach was developed and grant funding was secured for us by PA State Rep. Karen Beyer. The plant began operation in 2011.

New state and federal laws were enacted including stormwater regulations, emergency management replaced the former civil defense program, the enhanced 9-1-1 emergency call system required a new street address system be put in place (retiring our old R.R. 2, Box 499-A), FEMA Floodplain Management Program was instituted and the PA Uniform Construction Code enacted, just to name a few. A state program that shaped our legacy is the Farmland Preservation Program. Lower Milford Supervisors created an Agriculture Security Area for the township in 1989; enrollment is a prerequisite to entering into a Farmland Conservation Easement. Today, over 3,000 acres of our township are permanently preserved.

There were community events launched that continue today. The annual Clean-Up Day attracts Scout Troops and volunteers; working together to keep us beautiful. In 2003, we celebrated the founding of Lower Milford Township in 1853 by hosting the first Fall Festival for the community. The festival has become a tradition and what better way to express our pride in the community than coming together to enjoy locally grown produce, baked goods and a celebration of agriculture and country life. An event that I am particularly proud of, is the dedication of our Veterans Memorial in 2007. With a \$5,000 grant through the help of PA Rep. Karen Beyer, bronze plaques were engraved with seals of the branches of U.S. Armed Forces. The plaque and seals were affixed to boulders donated by Trinity Great Swamp Church and the area around the township flagpole was landscaped, benches were added and the memorial was dedicated during a moving ceremony held on Memorial Day. Several wonderful Veterans of World War II were with us for the dedication while others left us years, months and in one case, days before.

I have known many dedicated residents and officials over the decades, remembering some no longer with us, who gave of their time because they believed Lower Milford was worth it.; J. Howard Shelly, Thomas Dismuke, Leslie Howatt, Joan Dreibelbis, Mary Wagner, Robert Calhoun, Ernest Kleinsmith, Lloyd Ohl, Richard Harris, Paul Wisser and others. Having worked with ten different elected Supervisors, different philosophies, goals and personalities could be a real challenge. Along with working for Lower Milford, I volunteered with the Lower Milford Fire Co. and Ambulance Corp., Area Medic V and Upper Perkiomen Ambulance Corp. As a Merit Badge Counselor, teaching young Boy Scouts about Citizenship in the Community was very enjoyable and hopefully, will produce another generation of community leaders.

An article written by a local newspaper in 2003, described me as, "Jill of all trades." In 2004, the Supervisors created the position of Township Manager, which authorized me to perform most of the duties that I already performed. That was 14 years ago. I am preparing to retire at the end of 2018 and after writing our newsletters for 21 years, I am penning my final edition. Thank you to everyone for 32 remarkable years.

Signing off,

Ellen L. Koplín

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Township Offices will be Closed on the Following Dates

*Thursday, November 22 and Friday, November 23 for
Thanksgiving*

*Monday, December 24 and Tuesday, December 25 for
Christmas*

Tuesday, January 1, 2019 for New Year's

Happy Fall and the Coming Holiday Season!

