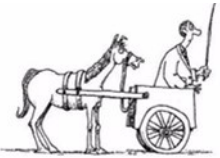


Lower Milford Township NEWSLETTER

Is the Cart Before the Horse?

Ellen Koplin, Chair



Our Lehigh Valley Planning Commission (LVPC) is evaluating all of the cities, townships and boroughs in Lehigh and Northampton Counties for how many more housing units are needed to meet the “Regional Housing Shortage.” We, meaning the Lehigh Valley communities, are expected to provide housing for the LVPC’s estimated 3,000 annual population increase. New Jersey, in 2024, went as far as to adopt legislation mandating their municipalities to provide their fair share of affordable housing according to the process outlined in the law. The New Jersey Township of Cranberry has taken steps to seize by eminent domain a 175-year-old farm owned by the same family since 1850 to construct affordable housing units.

The Lehigh Valley Planning Commission produced a Comprehensive Plan (Plan) for Lehigh and Northampton Counties dated November 2023. In this Plan, areas that can supply public water and sewer are identified for growth. The Plan also expresses the importance of preserving farmland and natural resources and contains a map identifying “High Priority Farmland Preservation.” Approximately 90% of Lower Milford Township is designated on the map as High Priority Farmland Preservation. The LVPC’s current planning for “Regionwide Housing Shortage,” conducted a review of all the Lehigh Valley municipalities and determined how many units each community is short and how many should be built by 2050. Supposedly, Lower Milford is currently short 50 units and should provide an additional 241 housing units by 2050.

The thousands of additional housing in the entire Lehigh Valley (see the LVPC website) will bring about the loss of farmland and open space, increase student populations and definitely increase traffic. The LVPC also addressed traffic with a Transportation Improvement Program and a Climate Action Plan. Looking at the Climate plan first, recommendations in the plan are to lessen the extremely poor air quality of the Lehigh Valley. Channel 69 News in an April 23, 2025, announcement stated, “Lehigh Valley, Berks County get failing grades for air quality in new American Lung Association Report.” While LVPC is touting the thousands of additional folks who want to live in the Lehigh Valley, the tremendous adverse impacts of overpopulation will generate further traffic and transportation problems, overcrowding of schools, additional burden on services and certainly worsen the currently poor air quality.

The Lehigh Valley’s main corridors are so overcrowded and dangerous that more traffic is using two-lane and back roads. Tractor trailers, car carriers and even tour buses are navigating Lower Milford’s Limeport Pike and Kings Highway. According to PennDOT’s 2021 crash data, there are sixty-seven (67) counties in Pennsylvania and Lehigh County was either highest in crashes and tenth highest in crash fatalities. That is not a statistic to be proud of.

The fate of the beautiful farm fields on Mill Hill have not yet been determined. The Geryville Quarry zoning application is waiting to be heard on appeal to the Commonwealth Court in the near future. Should Gerryville prevail, their testimony has been that 400 trucks per day will leave the Quarry site.

Continued on Page 2



Is the Cart Before the Horse? By: Ellen Koplin, Chair *Continued from Page 1*

That equates to approximately one dump truck every two (2) minutes. Those trucks will exit the property on Kings Highway, and most likely use Limeport Pike. Besides the dump trucks hauling stone, there will be liquid asphalt for the blacktop plant and tractor trailers of sand and Portland Cement for the concrete plant. Add to that the trucks picking up paving material and concrete deliveries. According to PennDOT's 2023 Traffic Counts, 6,000 vehicles per day travel on Limeport Pike through the Village of Limeport. Now add the additional truck traffic from a quarry and asphalt and concrete plants, mixed in with the school buses carrying our children, the commuters, tractor trailers using a short cut from I-78 and our Limeport Village will be a noisy and dangerous place.



The LVPC material referenced in this article may be examined on their website. Please let the LVPC know how the proposals they set forth will adversely impact our lives. Planning should start with defining the end goal. Then analyzing the steps to reach the goal and not jumping ahead or treating the steps as independent goals. The Lehigh Valley has been and continues to be encouraged to grow before the necessary accommodations, facilities, transportation arrangements, etc. have been put in place. That is called, "putting the cart in front of the horse."



Limeport Village

The survey has been received and tallied. A meeting will be held on Thursday, October 2, 2025, at 6:30 PM in the Township Building. The Board of Supervisors and the Planning Commission will discuss the results of the survey. Input from residents will be accepted to create a draft plan. Notices will be sent to recipients of the survey and posted on the Township website and Facebook pages. We look forward to hearing your ideas.

Yard Waste Facility Update!

We anticipate that our Public Works Department will begin working to create the driveway to the Township property (17+ acres) off of County Line Road during the Fall of 2025. We will keep you posted on the Township website and Facebook pages with updates.



Lower Milford Township offices will be CLOSED for the following upcoming holidays:



November 27th & 28th
December 24th & 25th
January 1st



Tax Collector Hours for the Remainder of 2025:

5:30 - 7:30 PM
on Mondays in months of
October & December

CLOSED:
December 15, 22 and 29



Remember Veterans Day
November 11, 2025

By Visiting the Veterans Memorial
Located at the Township Building by the Flagpole.
The Memorial was dedicated on Memorial Day 2007. Copies of the Dedication Day Ceremony are available through the Township Office.

An excerpt from the Lower Milford Township Bicentennial Booklet:

“Early Settlers

Following the signing of the “Deed of Conveyance”, dated June 3, 1684, between William Penn and the Lenni Lenape Indian Chief Maughaughsin, the former realized that the land was worthless unless it was used. Penn therefore sent agents to the persecuted peoples of the Palatinate (part of Germany), begging them to come to the “New Land”. Many were promised free lands and transportation, but, on arrival, they were somewhat disillusioned. The ship owners sold the immigrants to the highest bidder to recover their passage. Hence many families worked for years as indentured servants before satisfying this debt.

Sailing from Amsterdam on September 6, 1738 one of the passengers, a young lad, kept a diary recording the bad weather, the crowded conditions of their quarters and the rationing of food and water. Storms severely damaged their ship, necessitating docking for repairs. After these adverse experiences, when he landed in Philadelphia he was sold to an English planter to serve six years in payment for his passage. A year later, in the spring of 1740, he escaped, and traveled north, avoiding all settlements, since a runaway (called a redemptioner) was severely punished if caught.

Meeting a man at the foot of Lehigh Mountain, he ventured to ask for food, offering to pay by working. He was treated so kindly that he finally confessed the truth and was taken in to be one of the family. Years later he married one of this man’s daughters.

Our area was one of the very first in the region to be settled, by people who came by way of the Schuylkill, Perkiomen and Hosensack Valleys. It was close to the early roads from Philadelphia through Bucks and Montgomery counties; the land was fertile; and thirdly, the Hosensack Creek and its tributaries provided an abundance of fresh water.

The immigrants, who were mostly German and Huguenots, had left their homelands, impoverished and persecuted for religious differences. When searching for homesites, the newcomers sought sheltered slopes for farming, good timber from which to build, and running water or springs. As early as 1715 there were pioneers in the Hosensack Valley, referred to as “squatters” prior to the time when legal warrants and patents were issued by the land office in Philadelphia.

By 1730 approximately sixty families had located in this area, which was at that time part of Bucks County. Here they built homes, cleared ground for cultivation and proceeded to eke out an existence with their families. As soon as the prospects looked good, the homesteader traveled to Philadelphia, made application for a “warrant”, stated the locality, estimated the size of his claim and made a small payment to guarantee that no other settler could lay claim to his property. When he was prepared to make the next step, he would stake the boundaries of his holdings, notify the land office and the general surveyor, in due time, would survey the property. At that time and allowance of 6% was added for roads, etc. The price of land was \$43.30 per hundred acres. A “Patent”, known to us today as a deed, was issued by the Land Office in Philadelphia. An additional sum of one penny per acre was requested, to be paid yearly to the royal crown of England.”

Copies of the Bicentennial booklet, prepared by the Lower Milford Township Bicentennial Committee for the 1976 Commemorative Year, are available at the Township office for \$30.00.

Trick-or-Treat Night

Friday, October 31st

6:00 to 8:00 PM



2025 Municipal Election:

Tuesday, November 4th

Polls are open 7 AM—8 PM

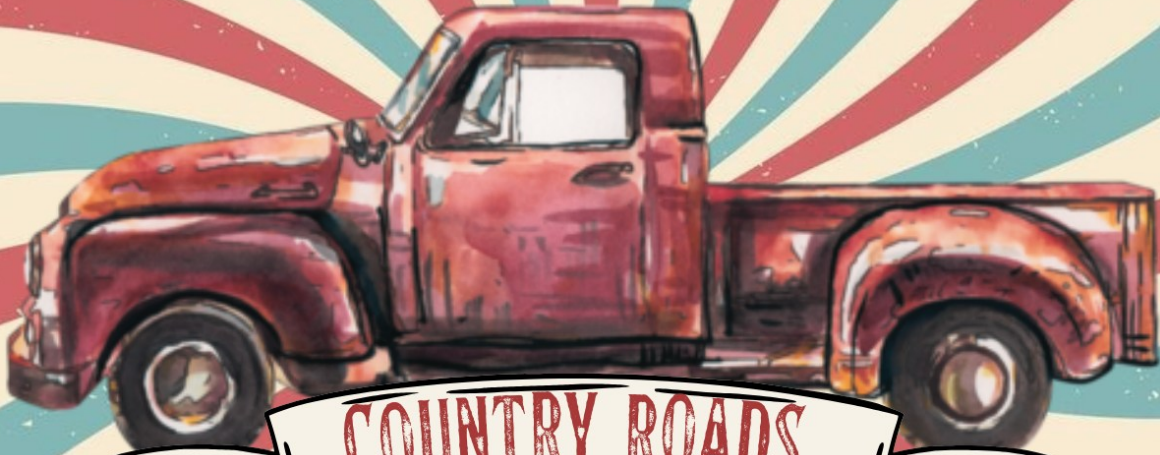


Friendly reminder that the Township polls are located at the LMT Fire Co. at 1601 Limeport Pike, Coopersburg, PA 18036

**Lower Milford Township
presents**

THE 23RD ANNUAL

Fall Festival



**COUNTRY ROADS,
TAKE ME HOME'**

Saturday, September 27, 2025

10:00 AM - 5:00 PM

7607 Chestnut Hill Church Road, Coopersburg

**Free
Parking**

Food

**Rain or
Shine**

Vendors

**Live
Music**

New this Year: Antique Car & Tractor Show!

All vehicles welcome, including cars, trucks, tractors, motorcycles, etc.

Antique and classic models are encouraged, but not required.

Due to limited space, pre-registration is requested but not required.

All participants will be entered to win free prizes!

For more information and rules & regulations, please contact info@lowermilford.org.



Schedule Of Events

10:00AM to 2:00PM Mini Horse Photobooth

10:30AM to 12:30PM Live Music from
Honey & Nutz

11:00AM 1st Round Peanut Candy Scramble

1:00PM Apple Pie Contest Judging

1:30PM to 4:30PM Live Music from Banned
from the Ranch

3:00PM 2nd Round Peanut Candy Scramble

Car Show Raffle Prizes called at 11:00AM,
1:00PM, & 3:00PM

Pre-register for the car show here!

**VENDORS ARE STILL BEING
ACCEPTED!
RESERVE YOUR SPACE AND FILL OUT AN
APPLICATION TODAY!**

6th Annual Apple Pie Baking Contest

-Fresh, local apples provided to contestants

-Apples will be available for pick-up at the Township
building from September 22nd to the 26th

-Pies must be received by noon the day of
the Festival

-The deadline to register is
September 19th



Food Vendor Word Search

- Big Poppa's BBQ
- Ce-Ce's Lemonade
- Chino's Place
- Mama's Majik Kitchen
- Mediterranean King
- The Brick
- The Udder Bar

C O Y O Z O K J S H M Y E R Y P F C W U
 C F O U K R W V V Y A V V G X T M Z L Q
 V K C I R B E H T E M J G S R H E L O P
 C S D B U J P E A D A H U Q O S D K U B
 B X J X U R P I U S S U A J B E I X U A
 Z B V E K A A L V U M I D B C Y T D H V
 E N C J H B I X R J A W H B F A E N F W
 K E O W H R I R Q Z J T E H K N R M B H
 R D T P L E A W M G I L W E D I R F E B
 V A T Y S D Y T R P K J E D A S A X D I
 J N C J G D W O Q O K Z L N M T N Q L G
 J O H Y S U N V U W I E A W M I E V E P
 B M B I Y E F M L W T C L P T V A E G O
 A E L H R H I N T E C H L F G I N A F P
 V L V U F T U D M H H S A T H S K X S P
 O S H E P A F E B I E P H B H R I I R A
 T E K N H K V V J S N R S D X L N D Q S
 V C U P U F P B A I V R Z C T G G K S B
 G E V V Z U R X C H I N O S P L A C E B
 B C Z L L T Z Q R S U G J F U J N A W Q

WE NEED YOU



**We are collecting donations for
Lower Milford Township Fall Fest
Saturday
September 27, 2025**



We created an Amazon wish list, if you are able
please shop the list and help us host an amazing
basket raffle! Scan the QR code to shop!

All proceeds from the raffle benefit
Lower Milford Township Fire Company

Contact Information:

Township Office

7607 Chestnut Hill Church Road
610-967-4949 (Office)
610-967-1013 (Fax)
Monday-Friday 8:00AM - 4:00PM

Board of Supervisors

Ellen L. Koplín, Chair
Lowell F. Linde, Vice-Chair
Timothy E. Cogle, Supervisor

Check the Calendar on the
Township Website for Meeting
updates:

www.lowermilford.org

PRSRT STD

U. S. Postage

PAID

Emmaus, PA
Permit #13

INSIDE THIS EDITION:

- ◆ Is the Cart Before the Horse? By Ellen Koplín, Chair
- ◆ An Excerpt from the LMT Bicentennial Booklet
- ◆ Upcoming Holidays & Events
- ◆ 23rd Annual Fall Festival



Lower Milford Township

7607 Chestnut Hill Church Rd.
Coopersburg, PA 18036

Phone 610-967-4949

Fax 610-967-1013

www.lowermilford.org



Lower Milford Township Newsletter