

## Lower Milford Township

# NEWSLETTER



Celebrate Earth Day:

Join us for 2023 Spring Clean Up Day!

Saturday, April 22, 2023

8:00AM to 12:00PM



### Township 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

Donna L. Wright, Chair

Ellen L. Koplín, Vice-Chair

Lowell F. Linde, Supervisor

### Township Meeting Schedule:

Board of Supervisors: Third Thursday of the Month, 6:30PM

Planning Commission: First Monday of the Month, 6:30PM

Zoning Hearing Board: Fourth Wednesday of the Month, 7:00PM

Historical Commission: Meeting as Needed

**Check the Calendar on the Township Website for Meeting updates:**

[www.lowermilford.org](http://www.lowermilford.org)

Celebrate Earth Day this year by participating in our 2023 Clean Up Day!



Please consider volunteering for a few hours to help our beautiful Township remain clean and safe. Volunteers will be provided with gloves, trash bags, safety vests, waters and a map of the Township. Volunteers are not responsible for transporting the filled garbage bags—just mark their location on the map and drop the map off at the Township building. We will do the rest!

Now serving a picnic style lunch and beverages at noon in the Township Building for all volunteers.

You can sign up by emailing [info@lowermilford.org](mailto:info@lowermilford.org) or calling 610-967-4949 extension 116. Let us know how many family and friends will be volunteering!.

### Our Community Needs You!

Not sure if you want to come out? Fewer and fewer volunteers have been signing up over the years. Meanwhile, littering along our roads has been increasing. Along with being an eyesore, the trash washes away with the rain into our streams, eventually making its way into larger waterways, like lakes and rivers, posing a threat to our wildlife. Please do your part to “Keep Lower Milford Beautiful”.

# Lower Milford Honors Veterans



On November 11, 2022, Lower Milford Township held a special ceremony to honor all United States Veterans, with a special honor to our military men and women of Lower Milford.

The day was grey and light rain began by early afternoon, but that did not deter our honored guests, families and friends from filling the meeting room to express pride and gratitude to those who serve. Reverend Klersy from Hosensack E. C. Church gave the Invocation and



Benediction with the American Legion Post 242 of Quakertown, PA providing the Color Guard. A small token of appreciation was given to attending Veterans as they stood for recognition, stating their name and branch of service.



Upon the loss of a Lower Milford native son, Ted Benson, who served in the United States Army and Army Reserves, rising to the rank of Colonel, as well as his 34 years of service to our Township as Supervisor and Roadmaster, an additional plaque was added to the Township's Veteran's Memorial site in his honor. Dr. Lois Gadek spoke of Col. Benson's contributions and dedication to his community. His daughter Diane Benson-Schoen was presented with a dedication plaque.

A light luncheon was held after the ceremony with much gratitude to the Limeport Inn for their generous contributions. And last, but by no means last, a platter of the best homemade cookies was donated by our kind resident, Sally Tankred.



## ***A Letter to the Residents... When do we say, "ENOUGH!"***

***By Township Supervisor Ellen L. Koplín***

According to our Lehigh Valley Planning Commission (LVPC) publications, studies and articles, "People want to live here." We are currently in a vicious cycle of rotating "needs" between building warehouses for jobs, building housing to accommodate those who want to live here or work in the warehouses and building more housing whose inhabitants will want jobs and therefore, build more warehouses. That is absurd and doesn't deserve to be considered "planning" by any definition. In fact, planning involves all aspects of a subject. Like the expression, "don't put the cart in front of the horse." The following column contains excerpts from media sources, LVPC publications, Pennsylvania Department of Transportation statistics along with U. S. Census numbers. The information shared here is, in some instances, alarming.

An August 16, 2021 article by Nicole Radziewich Mertz, appearing on the Lehigh Valley Economic Development website, population growth has slowed in many areas nationwide with numbers, "...not seen since the Great Depression." However, the Lehigh Valley was an exception, seeing an increase of 40,000 residents between 2010 and 2020. Lower Macungie Township is the fastest growing in the Lehigh Valley with an estimated population in 2022 of well over 32,000 people

The LVPC conducted a survey in spring of 2018 seeking input from Lehigh Valley residents with a questionnaire to gather their view of current conditions and their desires for the future of the region. The people spoke loud and clearly of their preferences. Respondents placed "Preservation and protection of natural resources" at a 95% importance rate and coming in at 90-95% was "Promotion of the agricultural economy." This input from the residents was to be used in the formulation of the recently adopted comprehensive plan, ***FutureLV The Regional Plan*** (Plan). The Plan addresses housing, commerce, historic areas, industry, transportation, environment, agriculture, etc. However, the plan stresses the need for more housing and suggests municipalities consider "Suburban infill," which supports increasing density in suburban areas.

The suggestions or goals put forth by the LVPC in the comprehensive plan must be implemented by the individual municipalities through their zoning regulations. Examining how much area a municipality has devoted to the array of uses mandated by the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code, their officials have the ability to review their zoning with a planning consultant to determine if any additional area needs to be designated for a particular use. This can also be more effectively accomplished through comprehensive planning with neighboring municipalities, thereby having a larger geographic area to assign zoning districts and uses.

A use that is causing much concern by residents across the region is the proliferation of warehouses. According to a WFMZ online article by Jeff Ward posted January 28, 2021 and updated October 28, 2021 titled: *Warehouses will keep coming to the Lehigh Valley, planners say,* a former member and Chair of the LVPC questioned when the warehouse boom will taper off. Executive Director of the LVPC, Becky Bradley responded, "It's not going to." Millions of square feet currently exist and millions are being proposed with millions likely in the speculation phase.

An online article published December 2021 on the New Jersey Future website by Tim Evans, *Warehouse Sprawl: Plan Now or Suffer the Consequences*, compares the placement of warehouses in New Jersey to the placements in Pennsylvania.

***"Unlike in New Jersey, where redevelopment of existing industrial land has been the norm, much of the Lehigh Valley's new warehousing has gone up on former farm fields. The Lehigh Valley lost about 25% of its farmland between 1997 and 2017, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. And more is on the way: A 2015 study commissioned by the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission found that the volume of freight moving through Lehigh and Northampton counties was projected to double by 2040. Most of this is likely to move by truck, as is presently the case with 90 percent of the Lehigh Valley's freight tonnage."***

*(cont'd on page 4)*



The previous quoted article mentions two items of concern, the loss of farmland to warehouse construction (or other development) and the projected increase of freight traffic through the Lehigh Valley when the tractor trailer traffic carrying 90 percent of the freight is already a crisis.

Not all freight on the highway is harmless, some are flammable liquids, combustible liquids, oxidizers, radioactive material, corrosive material, flammable solids to name just a few. Trucks carrying dangerous cargo, trucks carrying other cargo, contractor vehicles, passenger vehicles are all sharing the highways, streets and even rural roads. The PennDOT 2021 Annual Average Daily Traffic (AADT) count map cites 101,000 AADT on I-78 at the Emmaus Avenue and Lehigh Street exists. Route 29 (Cedar Crest Blvd.) at the Lehigh Valley Hospital has an AADT of 21,000 and Route 22 through Whitehall contends with 88,000 AADT. Even Lower Milford cannot escape the surge in traffic with an AADT of 5,700 on Limeport Pike in Limeport. A LVPC publication, DATALV Transportation designates a portion of King's Highway in Lower Milford Township as a "high crash corridor."

Serious crashes involving severe injury and fatalities are occurring within the region daily. Lehigh County is the 10<sup>th</sup> most populated county of Pennsylvania's 67 counties and the 10th most crash fatalities, many involving tractor trailers.

Many tractor trailer drivers are not necessarily the cause of the crash. High volume traffic with vehicles cutting back and forth across lanes can be the real culprit since the tractor trailer needs a very long stopping distance.



Is it now time to say "STOP." The LVPC is again asking for resident input in examining transportation needs with a survey posted on their website. The LVPC is concerned with Congestion Management. That is literally putting the cart in front of the horse. A major planning project would logically address the order in which items should take place. Drastically increasing the need for housing and jobs by building warehouses and high density housing throughout the suburban and urban areas of the region while ignoring the traffic impact those increases will bring is absurdly poor planning. The ability to project the transportation needs for the anticipated growth should have been the very first item to be addressed. Coordination with PennDOT and the individual municipalities that have welcomed the growth needed to take place so that highways and bridges could be upgraded to accommodate the traffic that was anticipated.

If the projected increase in freight traffic in the region will double by 2040, the time has come to say, Stop. Urge our Lehigh Valley municipalities to use the tools available through legislation and case law that has been upheld, one of which is the "Fair Share Doctrine." A set of standards were developed to determine if a municipality has indeed provided enough area to accommodate a specific use. In this region, housing and warehouses are the uses that have created transportation chaos and the time to reexamine this phenomenon is now.

- Ellen L. Koplín, Township Supervisor

**SAVE THE DATE!**  
**21ST ANNUAL FALL FESTIVAL**  
**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 23,**  
**2023**  
**10:00AM TO 5:00PM**

Lower Milford is accepting letters of interest for the following **VACANT** positions:

- **Delegate for the Joint Building Board of Appeals**
- **Historic Commission Member**

Contact the Township Office for more information!

**SPRING IS HERE... AND SO IS THE TIME TO CHECK IN ON YOUR "STORM WATER SMART" PRACTICES!**



♦ Think twice before applying herbicides, pesticides and lawn care treatments this spring. These toxic chemicals are carried away with stormwater and enter into our local waterways. Use only as directed OR consider alternative, environmentally friendly options instead.

♦ Consider planting a rain garden this year to help control stormwater! Check out <https://extension.psu.edu/an-introduction-to-rain-gardens> to get started!

**WE SAID GOODBYE TO TWO MEMBERS OF OUR LOWER MILFORD FAMILY...**

**Jeffrey J. Tapler**, better known as "Uncle Jeffrey", who passed away on October 3, 2022. Jeffrey served Lower Milford Township as Police Chief upon the retirement of the late Lloyd Ohl. He was widely known for his polka and country western television shows that aired every Saturday and Sunday. His shows were well loved and widely viewed. He will be remembered fondly for his love of community and his wonderful smile.

**Charles A. Antler**, who left us on February 4, 2023. Charles was raised and worked on his family's farm in Lower Milford. Charles served over 40 years working in the Lower Milford Township Road Department as Equipment Operator, Foreman and Road Master. Charles loved country and western music. Charles will be missed dearly by his family and friends alike.

## 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 News

Emily Fucci, Editor

PRSR STD

U. S. Postage

**PAID**

Emmaus, PA  
Permit #13

### Tax Collector Hours for 2023

- **Mondays** from **5:30-7:30 pm** in April, May, July, August, October and December
- **Except** - Closed on May 29, July 3, December 18 and December 25.
- **Additional hours** open for the discount periods **5:30-7:30 pm** on May 23,24, 30 and 31; August 22,24,29 and 31
  - June, September and November by appointment only

### Spring and Summer Holidays

The Township Office will be closed on the following:

April 7, 2023 for Good Friday

May 29, 2023 for Memorial Day

July 4, 2023 for Independence Day

September 4, 2023 for Labor Day

**REMINDER:** The polling location is located at the Lower Milford Fire Company #1:  
1601 Limeport Pike Coopersburg, PA 18036.

Primary Election Day is Tuesday, May 16, 2023. Polling locations are open from 7:00AM—8:00PM



# HAVE A SAFE AND WONDERFUL SPRING AND SUMMER!

