

News, Resources, Current Events and Other Information for Residents and Property Owners of West Chillisquaque Township -- Northumberland County

In this edition:

Montandon Community Days -- May 24-27 see full details on Page 3

Meet the Teams -- The Township Planning Commission and Zoning-Hearing Board serve vital roles in the operation of the Township. See Page 2 for more information.

Upcoming Township Meetings:

- Monday June 4 at 7:00 pm
- Monday July 2 at 7:00 pm
- Monday August 6 at 7:00 pm
- Tuesday September 4 at 7:00 pm
- Monday October 8 at 7:00 pm
- Monday November 5 at 7:00 pm
- Monday December 10 at 7:00 pm

(all are subject to change)

Representative Culver

Visit: State Representative Lynda Culver had to cancel her May 18 visit to the Township. It is unsure when it will be rescheduled. Notification will be sent via our electronic distribution list. Please see back page for more information.

Recycling: Remember, while there is no recycling center located in the Township, there are recycling centers operated by Lewisburg and Milton Boroughs as well as a comprehensive recycling center operated by the Hand-Up-Foundation on Mahoning Street in Milton. Additional information can be found on-line.

"Who Ya Gonna Call??"

The following is contact information you may find useful for Township business and issues (570 Area Code):

Township Municipal Building – 523-3911

This is an un-staffed office – leave a message and your call will be returned in several business days or call one of the other numbers below as appropriate.

Township Maintenance Building/Roadmaster 742-8102

Township Supervisors:

Vaughn Murray, Chairman 524-0460

Doug Everitt, Vice Chair 524-2745

Willard Miller, Supervisor 524-9777

Code Enforcement/Zoning Permits

Jeff -- Light-Heigel and Associates – 524-7742

(or 800-257-2190)

Building Permits

Curtis -- Light-Heigel and Associates – 524-7742

(or 800-257-2190)

Sewage Enforcement Officer (septic systems)

James Sanders – 922-1218

Milton Regional Sewer Authority (public sewer)

742-3424

Township Secretary/Municipal Services Tax

Cherie Boyer – 524-9889

Township Treasurer

Cherie Boyer – 524-9889

Township Real Estate Tax Collector

Cherie Boyer – 524-9889

911 Center Non-Emergency Number -- 523-1113

Milton State Police Barracks -- 524-2662

Email requests to: WCcomment@dejazzd.com

(This information will be updated and repeated in each newsletter)

Zoning-Hearing Board:

There is a part of local government that many of you may not be aware of. This is the Zoning-Hearing Board. Members of this Board are appointed to rotating three-year terms by the Supervisors, but they act as an independent quasi-judicial board to hear "cases". There are three members and two alternates in case of member unavailability or any conflict of interest. ***They serve without pay.*** They act as a completely independent body, having their own legal counsel, different from the township solicitor. In many cases, one of the "parties" in a hearing could be the township.

The Zoning-Hearing Board performs three major functions:

- 1) Interpreting the Zoning Ordinance, especially when someone challenges a decision made by the Zoning Officer. The Zoning Hearing Board serves as the first level of "appeal" when someone disagrees with a decision made by the Zoning Officer.
- 2) Review and decide Special Exceptions as described below.
- 3) Conduct Variance Hearings, as described below.

Special Exceptions: There are certain times when Zoning Laws can not be written in a way to automatically allow or exclude certain items, and additional examination is required to ensure the suitability and safety for some types of development or land use. Some uses in certain zones are only allowed by "Special Exception" and the Zoning-Hearing Board reviews the circumstances under a set of guidelines that are part of the Zoning Ordinance.

Variations: In addition, there are times when unnecessary hardships mean that a property owner may need to apply for a variance from the Zoning Ordinance.

Process: In either case, the Zoning-Hearing Board will hold a hearing with parties being able to present their cases. Using procedures laid out by the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code and West Chillisquaque Township Ordinances, the Board reviews the case and after deliberating, will issue a decision. More information can be found in the Zoning Ordinance available at the WCT resource page maintained at:

<http://www.light-heigel.com/Info/Municipalities/WChillisquaque.html> or by contacting the Township.

The Next Step: If a party is not satisfied with the ruling of the Board, they then have the option of appealing the decision to the Northumberland County Court of Common Pleas.

Meeting and Organization: This group typically meets the third Monday of the month at 5 p.m., but only if a hearing is necessary. They may also advertise and conduct hearings at other times if necessary. All meetings of the Board are advertised in the Standard-Journal, either annually each year or when special meetings are necessary. We will showcase members of this Board in future newsletters.

In a Future Issue -- look for information on the Township Planning Commission, a dedicated group that performs a vital job of reviewing development plans and Zoning and Land Development Ordinances for the Township.

Zoning-Hearing Board Members:

Shane Murray: Chairman
Vicki Baker: Member
Scott Geiser: Member
Jeff Moser: Alternate
Kent Strohecker: Alternate

Lonnie Hill -- Solicitor

Emergency Management:

The Township continues to look to reorganize our Emergency Management Team. Several of you have expressed interest in serving for planning or in event of an emergency. We are attempting to schedule a re-organization meeting of those interested and also to include officials from the County EMA office. However, we continue to look for additional help. If you are interested, please contact via methods listed elsewhere in the newsletter. Topics for discussion include:

- 1) Overview of Emergency Management
- 2) Organization of WCT EMA
- 3) Development of Resources
- 4) Review/update of WCT Emergency Plan.

Montandon Community Days -- May 24th Through May 27th, 2012

Thursday -- 7:00 p.m. "Montandon Marriage Game" -- Come watch area couples vie for the grand prize. Hosted by Pastor Tom Marker "under the tent".

Friday -- 6:00-9:00 p.m. Enjoy the Band "Top Shelf" -- Bring your lawn chairs and appetites to the tent outside the Township Building to enjoy 100% Danceable Live Music from the 50's to 80's. Various food items will be available for purchase. A 50/50 drawing will be held and cake wheel will also be available.

Saturday "Festival Day" -- 9 a.m. until 4 p.m.

Crafts, Fun, Food & Entertainment -- Enjoy an Old Fashion Memorial Day Weekend

- ◆ Cake Wheel, Dime Pitch, Face Painting, Craft Booths, Hayrides, Pony Rides
- ◆ Chinese Auction with over 200 items
- ◆ Many Food Vendors and much more
- ◆ 50/50 Raffle
- ◆ Chinese Auction Closes at 2:30 (winners announced at close of Re-Creation's performance)
- ◆ 4 pm -- Parade Raffle

Free Entertainment Includes:

- ◆ 10:30, 12:30, and 2:30 -- Re-Creation
- ◆ 10:00 and 12:00 -- Kingdom Kidz Puppets
- ◆ 11:30 Andy & Mary Reich

Sodom School open for tours 10-1 (weather permitting)
[for your safety, please park in grass lot on East side of school]

Sunday

8:00-9:30 a.m. Breakfast Sandwiches will be Sold

10:00 a.m. Community Church Service "under the tent", featuring Re-Creation

1:00 -- Parade along Main Street, followed by Cemetery Services Conducted by American Legion Post 841; Community meal following service

1:45 (approx) -- Pizza eating contest at Bertoni's Pizza

Events will take place in the tent behind the Post Office next to the Township Building and along Railroad and Center Streets

Please come out and support your community with your neighbors and friends at this popular event!

Many thanks to the Community Days Committee and Parade Committee for organizing this event and providing this information

Question/Comment? Submit via email @ WCcomment@dejazzd.com or by mail at PO Box 252 Montandon

WEST CHILLISQUAQUE TOWNSHIP
485 RAILROAD STREET
PO BOX 252
MONTANDON PA 17850

«Name»
«Addr1»
«Addr2»
«City»

Web Site -- The Township is still working on a web site. Plans are to meet with potential developers in June. Thanks to those who provided some feedback. We continue to look for any ideas that any of you may have. As always, you can contact us at WCcomment@dejazzd.com.

Mailing List and Notifications -- Remember, we are still trying to build an email list to distribute these newsletters and other information electronically. Thanks to those who have provided this information. We will send out notification of Lynda Culver's rescheduled visit to those on the list. Please send us your name and email address and we will send future newsletters to you electronically instead of in the mail. Also don't forget to let us know about email address changes or you will no longer receive the information. In between newsletters, we may also send out other important pieces of information as they become available.

Open Burning -- This is the time of year when people often burn large piles of brush or other wood products. Remember in this day of cell phones, good-meaning "passers-by" use these devices to report what they think is fire. This results in putting our emergency responders at unnecessary risk and wasting resources to respond. PLEASE, if you are going to burn brush or have any large fires in a controlled manner, contact the Union County 911 center at 523-1113 and advise them of the location and expected duration of the burn. They will ask other pertinent information such as your name and phone number in case there are any issues that need clarification. Of course if the fire gets out of control, call 911 immediately to request the fire department. Thank You!!