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LEHMAN TOWNSHIP



Visit us on



**Issue
SIX**

*“Lehman Township,
Luzerne County, Pennsylvania”*

or check our website
www.lehmantwp.com

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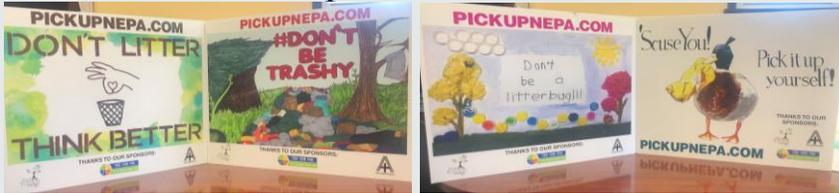
Keeping you connected to your community

in **Lehman**

Summer,
2020

did you know >>>

Pick Up NEPA initiative



Litter and dumping are a problem in Lehman Township. Please, if you see something, say something! Let the police department know where the problem is and if you have any evidence as to who is responsible. In 2019, Luzerne County announced that they are now part of the multi-county campaign that started with the Pocono Mountains Visitors Bureau named “Pick Up the Poconos”. Lehman Township takes pride in posting signage within our community.

Visit Luzerne County jumped on-board the Pick Up the Poconos program in order to spread awareness in our region, creating a multi-county anti-litter coalition. Other organizations such as Keep PA Beautiful and Discover NEPA have offered their support and assistance, as well. Anti-littering television messages run in the Pocono Mountains, Luzerne County, and Lehigh Valley. So far, 7 counties all recognize that littering has dozens of negative impacts, but are primarily looking to make the following impacts:

- Make the environment clean and green for future generations;
- Create a positive impression on visitors to the region, which puts more money into the local economy;
- Reinforce the concept that “tourism cares” and that it gives back to the community;
- Produce a higher sense of pride in the community.

The signs you see around town have been designed by children, up to age 18 and living in Luzerne County, during a contest last winter. The contestants submitted artwork from November, 2019 to January, 2020 and there were 4 winners chosen. If you would like to post a yard sign on your property, please call Chrisandra in our office and we will arrange to get one from the county to you.

elected officials >>>

A message from your Supervisors.

2020 has been difficult for everyone. Luckily, our Township has been spared from any serious outbreak of the Covid-19 virus. Obviously, that’s due to our residents continuing to be careful and following the guidelines for safe interaction with others. Thank you and please keep up the good work. Here at the Township we have been able to continue all the services our residents expect. We did have to close the building and recycling for a short time, but now that we’re in the “green” phase everything is open. Thank you for understanding that several of our meetings were only available on Facebook live. Currently, in person attendance is permitted as long as space allows for the social distancing. We purchased the most current state of art equipment available that is used to completely sanitize the building on a regular basis. Our offices are open for residents that can’t complete their business on the phone or by email. Visitors are required to wear a mask when entering the building. The pandemic has affected everyone, but if we all stay patient and follow the guidelines it will come to an end.

township meetings > >

**Township Meetings are held the
third Monday of each month at
7:00pm
unless otherwise advertised.**

New Chief of Police.



After graduating from the academy in 2003, Mark Liparela worked at Dallas Township Police Department from 2005-2010. In 2010, Liparela was hired by Lehman Township for part-time duty, becoming full time in 2012. Chief Liparela has been with the Lehman Township Police Department for ten years as an officer. In 2014, he was promoted to Sergeant and in 2019, he was promoted Assistant Chief of Police.

We cannot be happier to officially announce Lehman Township's new Chief of Police, Mark Liparela. Chief Liparela is respected within our community and among his colleagues and we are so proud he has chosen to continue his career with us as Chief. We know Chief Liparela will continue to work tirelessly to make our community united and safe.



Chief Howard Kocher, ret., began his law enforcement career with the Lake Township Police Dept in 1985. In 1991 he was hired full-time by the Lehman Township Police Department. In 1993 he was promoted to Chief of Police. Chief Kocher served his communities well throughout his 35 years as a police officer. He is a lifetime member of the Back Mountain Police Association, Luzerne County Chiefs of Police Association, Northeast Chiefs Association and PA Chiefs.

Due to the COVID pandemic, we couldn't throw our planned Retirement Party, however, we were able to host a small luncheon with a surprise Last Call.

We want to thank Howard for his many wonderful years of service to our community. We wish him the best of luck in the future and a safe and healthy retirement.



Old Route 115.

It's finally happening! With COVID setbacks we were unable to coordinate with all involved to have this project completed before the start of the school year, but we are so grateful to finally be working.

It has been years in the making to secure financing and grants in order to do this project correctly. We were awarded a PennDOT Multimodal Grant to complete this project. We will be working with New Enterprise Stone & Lime Co., Inc. to make repairs, mill the road and completely repave Old Route 115, from State Highway 118 to Market Street.



We urge you to follow our Facebook Page for road closures during this process. We apologize in advance for inconvenience; however, we know this new road will be fully enjoyed by our residents and community alike. Thank you for your patience as we restore Old Route 115 to its previous glory.

Our offices are now open. We have been very busy here at the zoning office since construction sites have reopened in the green phase.

As a reminder to help everything go more smoothly, most zoning applications are available on our website. You can print right at home and start filling out the documents. Our website at lehmantwp.com.

You may call the Zoning Office for instructions for permit pick up and/or drop off.

If you have any questions, please call the Zoning Office at 570-675-8824.

A NOTE FROM JIM WELBY

With Fall season upon us, just a reminder that raking and piling leaves on the side of the road is a violation punishable by a stiff fine. Leaves in the roadway is extremely dangerous for all motorists, especially motorcycles. Please dispose of your leaves correctly.

We also want to remind residents that school will be back in session in September and to please drive responsibly.

friendly faces >>>

Our road department couldn't be made of a better group of hardworking members! Make sure to give these guys a wave of thanks if you see them out and about!



Right to Left: Dean Kreidler, Frank Ide, Christopher Lathrop and John Martin.

Township updates.

We have been working hard this past year to partner with other municipalities, county and state departments to bring some new resources and events to Lehman. However, with everything changing so quickly in regards to the Coronavirus make sure you check our Facebook Page and Website for any last-minute updates.

Recycling Center – Open for normal hours. No new permits will be issued in person. Application and directions are located on our website. GLASS IS NOT BEING ACCEPTED AT THIS TIME.

Municipal Offices – OPEN to the public. Any and all business that can be done over the phone is encouraged.

Zoning Office – OPEN to the public. Any and all business that can be done over the phone is encouraged.

Monthly Meetings – Open to the public. Masks required and provided if needed.

Events -

Paper Shredding Event – October 3, 2020 from 9am – Noon at the Lehman Township Municipal Offices. Residents are able to bring up to 3 boxes of sensitive documents to be shredded on site.

Pick Up Lehman Event – CANCELLED. Unfortunately, we have been unable to get funding for our Pick Up Lehman event. We are looking into the option to do a cleanup in conjunction with PennDOT on our state roads, but this is not guaranteed. As always, residents are encouraged to pick up any litter they see and properly dispose of it on their own. We are deeply saddened the “free landfill space” for litter cleanup was not rescheduled.

Composting – As Township residents, composting is available to you at DAMA’s compost center on Route 118. They have limited hours, see their website and Facebook page for updates.

important news and events >>>

2020 census >>>

Completing your 2020 United States Census is now more important than ever for the future of Northeast Pennsylvania. In general, the Census helps determine the amount of federal funding our local municipalities and the County receive, which while always crucial, will play an even larger role now as the area recovers from the COVID-19 crisis gripping the nation.

Why does this matter so much? Each census response from the while ensuring that Luzerne County and its municipalities can meet the needs community has the potential to help the area

of its residents over the next ten years. Here is a breakdown of how powerful taking the time to complete the census can be:

Each person counted equals \$2,100 in federal funding each year for a variety of federal projects, including: social programs, infrastructure, roads, prisons, schools and parks.

If we miss just 500 people county-wide, that comes out to over \$1 million per year, and \$10 million total until the next census.

Additionally, the census can decide how the concerns of Luzerne County residents are heard in Washington, D.C. since it helps determine Electoral College votes and congressional districts

Please make sure you are counted. While April 1st is considered Census Day, responses will and are still being collected. Workers must submit their numbers by

September 30 (which has been extended from July due to COVID-19). When you respond to the census, count everyone living in your home as of April 1st. There are several options available to complete your census:

Online- Visit www.2020census.gov .

By Phone- Call 844-330-2020. Phone lines are open every day from 7am to 2am Eastern Time.

By mail- All homes have received a paper questionnaire if they did not first respond online or by phone. Simply fill out form and return it via mail.



COVID-19 pandemic >>>

Follow day to day changes of the virus and how it effects our county, state and country. Some useful resources are:

- CDC.gov
- Governor.pa.gov
- Whitehouse.gov

Any changes to our day-to-day operations can be found on our Facebook Page and our website under “Important Announcements for Residents” on our Home Page.