

LOWER ALSACE TOWNSHIP NEWS



www.latownship.org



610-779-6400

Lower Alsace Township
1200 Carsonia Avenue
Reading, PA 19606

Township Office hours

Monday - Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
except holidays

Phone -610-779-6400

Fax - 610 370-0797

Web Site - www.latownship.org

Facebook - www.facebook.com/loweralsace.township

Board of Supervisors meetings are held the second and fourth Thursday of each month at 6:30 p.m. please see the Township web site for the posted agendas and meeting minutes

Planning Commission meetings are advertised for the first Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. and held as needed.

See page twelve (12) for additional phone numbers and information regarding municipal officials and agencies

Details on initiatives, projects and taxes are explained further in this newsletter Including:

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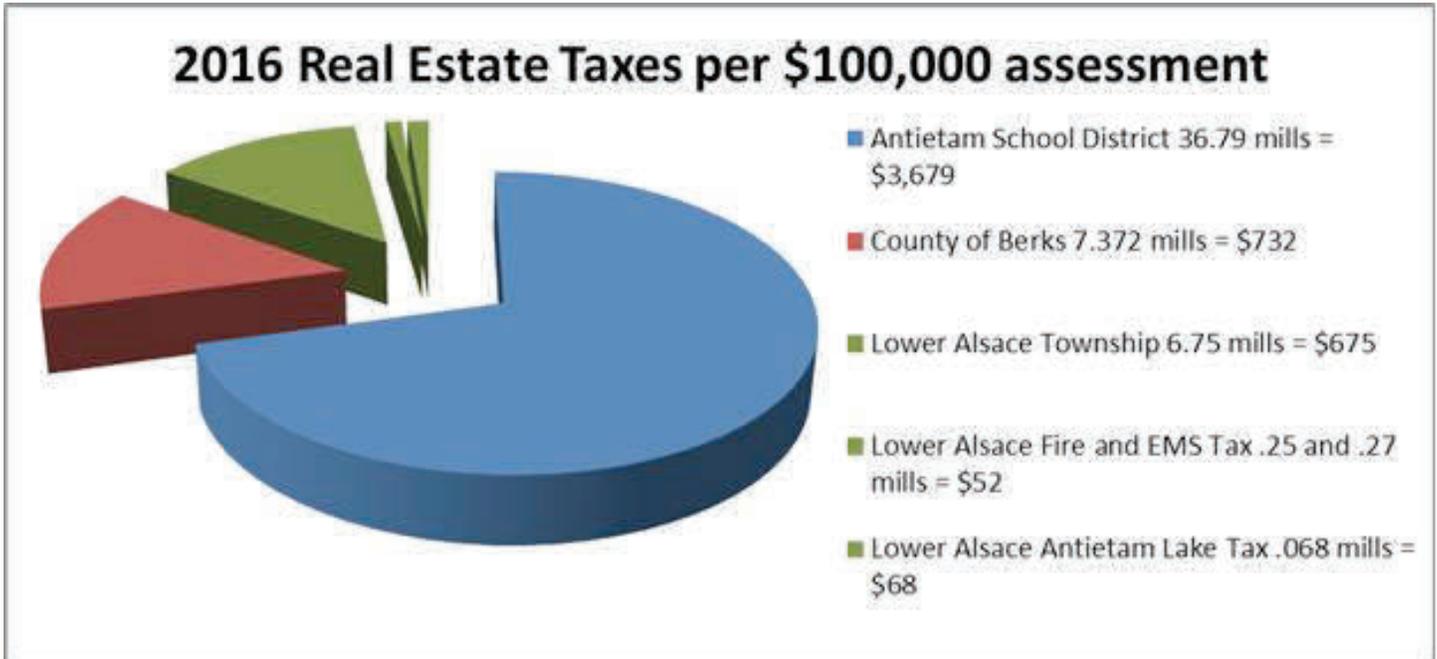
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The cost of local government services



Your Township Supervisors hope you understand that the smallest portion of your overall real estate tax burden is what actually funds your basic township services. In 2016 the annual Township real estate tax bill for a home assessed at \$100,000 would be a total of \$795.00. For that annual tax bill your family receives 24 hour police protection, snow removal and road construction improvements for the 24 miles of township roads, leaf and brush collection for the densely populated neighborhoods, building, zoning and property maintenance code enforcement, a free recycling drop off facility and a free summer playground program. In 2016 the township has enacted an EMS tax to provide stable funding for the Lower Alsace Ambulance and automatic membership to the Ambulance for all Township residents. (see page six for additional details and information about your membership)

Real Estate Taxes will continue to be the largest source of revenue for the Township. The 2016 budget will draw down approximately \$520,000 from the fund reserve balance. As in prior years, the township will pursue other sources of funds, such as grant programs and will prepare permit fee schedules so that they are designed to cover the cost of those municipal services. If the Township's Earned Income Tax revenue increases sufficiently to cover increasing costs, the future budgets may avoid additional property taxes, but absent any significant increase in that tax revenue derived from the W-2 earnings of the residents, the Board of Supervisors will be faced with the decision of cutting services or increasing property taxes. The current board believes that the incremental increases will be less of a burden than putting off the inevitable larger tax increase, so the 2016 budget includes a ½ mill increase for 2016. That one half mill equates to \$50 per home assessed at \$100,000. In addition to the need for the ½ mill tax increase for governmental services the Lower Alsace Ambulance Association requested the Township Supervisors to enact its first EMS Tax to provide continuing support for the Lower Alsace Ambulance Service. This new EMS tax was enacted for 2016 and equates to \$27 per property assessed at \$100,000 and enables each Township household to have a paid membership with the Lower Alsace Ambulance Service.

Antietam Valley Summer Playground Program



The success of the joint playground program which involves the cooperation with Antietam Valley Community Partnership, the Antietam Valley Recreation and Community Center , Lower Alsace Township and Mount Penn Borough continued in 2015 with increasing attendance .

In addition to the new campers we introduced a new playground leader, Jenna M Martorana who joined our veteran leaders Lydia Faro and Kaley Harman in 2015 year. They created a Face Book page for the information to get to the campers families each day.

The campers also took part in a program to learn about stormwater pollution that included the causes, the effects and ways we can all prevent it in our backyards. One of the campers was awarded a prize as a runner up in the 2015 Berks County MS4 Stormwater Inlet Painting Contest. In addition they were visited by all of our community's first responders (Fire, Police and Ambulance) More fun was had with a Christmas in July party and then they ended the year with a big scavenger hunt! Please watch the Township and AVCP Web sites for information on the 2016 Playground program.

Antietam Valley Recreation and Community Center



Any resident of Exeter Township, Lower Alsace Township, St. Lawrence Borough and Mt. Penn Borough are welcome to join the Antietam Pool. Opening day for the 2016 season is Saturday, May 28. Each member must present their AVRCC 2016 photo ID for entrance to the pool. Non-swimmers must have his/her medallion sewn on the lower left leg of his/her swimsuit. Access to the pool can be denied without proper membership identification.

Hours for the main pool are 12:00 noon - 7:45 p.m. weather permitting.

Hours for the Olympic Pool will be posted.

Antietam Pool is located at 905 Byram Street, Reading, PA 19606. Contact us at 610- 779-5240 or e-mail at office@antietampool.org



SATURDAYS 9 AM - 12 PM • Indoors at the Rec Center
 Antietam Valley Recreation & Community Center at Carsonia Park, Byram Street, Pennside



Antietam Valley Community Partnership

The Antietam Valley Community Partnership (AVCP) was founded to improve the quality of life in the Antietam Valley, which includes the Boroughs of [Mount Penn](#) and [Saint Lawrence](#), the Township of [Lower Alsace](#), and the immediately surrounding area. One of AVCP's main objectives is to build pride in the Antietam Valley through the development of community events. Over the years the AVCP has developed a series of community events, most of which are held each year, including free outdoor movies at the A-Field, a free Summer Playground Program at Carsonia Park, the annual Community Yard Sale and Flea Market, a Holiday Tree Lighting Celebration and Reception at Carsonia Park, a Street Fair, a Historic Trolley Tour, and a community dinner at Antietam High School. New for 2015 was the development of the Antietam Valley Farmers' and Artisans' Market at Carsonia Park, a 5K Fun Run and Walk in Pennside, the Carsonia Craft Beer Amusement, and free Concerts in Carsonia Park.

AVCP also supports a number of charitable causes in the area. In 2013, AVCP provided the grant match funding of \$2,000 to the Lower Alsace Tree-Vitalize Program, which planted over 70 street trees along Carsonia Avenue and Prospect Streets. AVCP has also made substantial financial contributions to the Mount Penn Area Business Association, the Antietam School Musical Productions, each of the three Fire Departments in the area (Exeter, Lower Alsace and Mount Penn), Central Berks Regional Police Department, the Lower Alsace Ambulance Association, the Antietam High School Post Prom Party, and the Antietam Community Players.

AVCP's Board Meetings are open to the public, and are held every-other month at Trinity UCC in Mount Penn. They meet on the third Tuesday at 6:30pm in January, March, May, July, September and November. The Following is the proposed list of 2016 activities - please see their web site for more current and detailed information.

- **Community Dinner • March 6** – Antietam High School Cafeteria
- **5K Fun Run** • April 30 – Carsonia Park
- **Concert in Carsonia Park** • May 29
- **Summer Farmers' Market** • Saturdays May 21 – September 24
- **Movie Nights at the A-Field** • June 11, July 16, August 13
- **Antietam Valley Street Fair** • June 18
- **Community Yard Sale & Flea Market** • September 17
- **Trolley Tour of Historic Carsonia Park** • October 1
- **Carsonia Craft Beer & Wine Amusement** • October 15
- **Haunted House in Carsonia Park** • October 19
- **Winter Farmers Market** • November 5 & 19, December 3 & 17



Mount Penn Area Business Association

www.mountpennarea.org

Promoting and strengthening the business, professional, and civic interests of our community. Check the Mt. Penn Borough web site for information on the 2016 for Block Party that is scheduled for October 1st with a rain date of October 2nd.



Thanks to the leadership of the newly formed Antietam Valley Regional Parks Commission, no less than five grant applications for the future development of the parkland as well as the protection of the valuable watershed of the Carsonia Park area have been written and submitted. The first two of those grant applications summarized have already been approved.

- Community Conservation Partnership Program at the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources--\$250,000 for improvements to Carsonia Park
- C2P2--\$27,725 for acquiring the Whitman Parcel behind Carsonia Park
- Greenways, Trails and Recreation Program through the PA Department of Community and Economic Development--\$248,000 for improvements to Carsonia Park
- Watershed Restoration and Protection Program through DCED--\$140,000 for watershed improvements at Carsonia Park
- Growing Greener Fund at PA Department of Environmental Protection (by and for the Water Authority)--\$103,000 for a study of Crystal Lake

Lower Alsace Township together with Mount Penn Borough have both set aside matching funds in their 2015 and 2016 budgets to enable the community to draw down these grant funds. Several fund raising projects led by the Antietam Valley Community Partnership (AVCP) succeeded in raising approximately \$35,000 that will also be used towards the Park Commission projects.

New for 2016 For the Residents of Lower Alsace Township

The elected officials of Lower Alsace Township have voted to institute an Emergency Medical Services Tax in the amount of .27 mills or \$27 per \$100,000 in assessed valuation of your property. As a result of this, ALL legal residents of the Township will be considered subscription members of LAEMS and entitled to the same privileges and limitations as a paid subscription member.

Lower Alsace Ambulance Association 2016 Subscription Membership Program

As a resident of the Township, your subscription membership can assist you in preventing high ambulance bills as you will receive the following benefits:

- Unlimited 911 EMERGENCY ambulance treatment with transportation to a Berks County hospital, meeting medical necessity minimums by Medicare, Medicaid and Insurance carriers.
- Up to 3 non-transport 911 emergency incidents (i.e. lift assist or refusal of service/transport). Any additional non-transport 911 emergency calls for service will be charged to the patient.

Donations are still appreciated

This past year has been a very active and exciting time at Lower Alsace Ambulance Association (LAEMS). During the course of the year LAEMS increased the level of life saving service they provide to the community from Basic Life Support (BLS) to Advanced Life Support (ALS). This means that in addition to their highly trained Emergency Medical Technicians, they now also have Paramedics ready to respond to any medical emergency you may experience.

These changes and improvements come at a cost which is defrayed by contributions from the municipalities, a new emergency services tax, soliciting subscription memberships, donations from the citizens we serve, billing patient insurance and, when insurance does not cover the cost of services, billing the patient out of pocket.

Due to the ever increasing cost of providing Emergency Medical Services and GREATLY decreased insurance reimbursement, LAEMS will continue to seek solutions to overcome the costs of providing professional high quality service to the community. Together with their efforts they are reaching out to all of the LAEMS community residents to request donations. These donations, regardless of size, will be used to defray the cost of operations, as well as to assist with capital projects such as ambulance replacement and equipment upgrades.



If you have an emergency please call 9-1-1



Central Berks Regional Police Department
 2147 Perkiomen Avenue, Reading, PA 19606
Emergencies call - 9-1-1 for non emergency calls use 610-655-4911
Office Police Office calls 610-779-1100

Established in 1993, The Central Berks Regional Police Department serves the Township of Lower Alsace and the Borough of Mount Penn, and is currently contracted to provide police service to St. Lawrence Borough. The Department is staffed by a Police Chief and Administrative Assistant, a Detective Sergeant, Four Sergeants and eight patrol officers. The Police Commission is overseen by a six-member board of local officials who meet once a month. Those meetings are open to the public, and residents are encouraged to attend.

In 2015 there were over 2500 calls from LA residents handled by the Police Department; Those calls often result in additional statistics including accidents and arrests:

Did you know that Central Berks is on Face Book and are you aware of the following additional services they provide ??

- **Vacation Check-** The Department will provide a courtesy patrol by your home while you are on vacation. Just fill out the Vacation Notice from the [Forms](#) page of their website, and submit it to them within three (3) days of your departure date. Please note, they will not accept a vacation notice if someone will be staying in your home while you are away.
- **Fingerprinting-** Fingerprinting service is provided at a cost of \$25. Please call the office to schedule an appointment.
- **Tours-** Individual or group tours of the police station are given by appointment only. Please call the office at least seven (7) days in advance to schedule a tour.
- **Security Services-** A request for security services by a police officer must be in writing and submitted at least two (2) weeks in advance of the event. Please visit the [Forms](#) page of their website for a request form.
- **Report Requests-** Requests for a police report can be submitted to their office in person during [office hours](#), by mail, fax, or e-mail. The cost of each report is \$15, payable by cash, check, or money order. Please note that certain reports will not be available for release due to criminal history laws. Visit the [Forms](#) page of their website for a request form.
- **Medication Drop Box-** Any unused, unwanted, or expired medications can be dropped off in their lobby during [office hours](#). Medications should remain in their original containers. Personal information should be crossed out, but information about the medication should be legible. Be sure check on their web site to determine what is not accepted.

www.centralberks.org



Lower Alsace Fire Company
 1206 Roosevelt Avenue, Reading PA 19606 -
emergencies call 9-1-1 - non emergencies call

During 2015 the Fire Company responded to many emergency and non-emergency incidents in and around the community. Those incidents include responding to automatic fire alarms, traffic accidents, assists to ambulance calls and of course fires of which only four structure fires reported in 2015. The Lower Alsace Fire Company is still staffed entirely by volunteers, funded with the Lower Alsace Fire Tax, donations and of course fund raising activities.

Please continue to support your local fire department!

Our efforts to maintain property values will continue in 2016.

By adopting the International Property Maintenance Code, the communities served by Central Berks Regional Police Department are attempting to ensure a minimum level of safety and sanitation for both the general public and the occupants of a structure, and to maintain a building’s structural and weather-resistance performance. Many common complaints that fall under this code are overgrown weeds, debris, vacant and dangerous buildings and abandoned or junked vehicles. Additional fire safety requirements, plumbing, mechanical and electrical requirements are also addressed in this ordinance which may cause violators to be subject to fines and penalties. Lower Alsace Township submitted a Grant Application to the PA DCED (Department of Community and Economic Development) Shared Municipal Services Program. The purpose of the grant application is to seek funding assistance for start up costs in the formation of a Joint Property Maintenance Enforcement program with the Borough of Mount Penn. This program will be capable of providing expedited property maintenance code enforcement services for the community currently served by the Central Berks Regional Police Department.

Lower Alsace Township and Mount Penn Borough like many urban communities are facing the possible loss of property value due to the impact of urban blight and the resulting growth of crime that tends to follow. During 2015 the Township conducted approximately 50 rental inspections and 75 property settlement inspections. By ramping up the property maintenance enforcement efforts through property transfer inspections, rental inspections and other program enhancements, the desired result is to encourage more useful properties that add value to our neighborhoods, increase and or stabilize property assessments and reduce crime.

By combining two municipal code officials under the management of the Central Berks Police Department, it will allow the Police Officers to report codes issues and work directly with the enforcement team designated to enforce and hopefully eradicate the blighting influences on the Community. One long term the goal will be to grow the program into a larger community wide initiative that can serve this and additional communities if the Regional Police Department ever expands into other areas. Several new code enforcement strategies such as a neighborhood improvement “quality of life“ ticketing program, and Crime Free Rental Housing program are a few of the opportunities that will be considered so that these communities can quickly respond to the blighting influence on the neighborhoods.



The following reflects the permits and inspections performed by Township Officials in 2015

- Building (181 records, Total Fees - \$28,179.12)
- Burn (60 records, Total Fees - \$1,400.00)
- Driveway (1 record, Total Fees - \$75.00)
- Dumpster (11 records, Total Fees - \$450.00)
- Electrical (19 records, Total Fees - \$2,957.00)
- HVAC (32 records, Total Fees - \$4,608.00)
- Plumbing (40 records, Total Fees - \$4,710.29)
- Rental (51 records, Total Fees - \$5,140.00)

Do I need a permit?

The various codes adopted by this community are intended to protect the health and safety of the citizens. Permits are required to assure that the contractors working for you have the knowledge and expertise to do the work properly and in compliance with the statewide codes. Managed effectively, these regulations can help to foster home ownership, ensure the maintenance of the building stock and stabilize the property value of your neighborhoods.



Call before you dig! Performing a free pre-plan PA one call can save you countless hours of frustration and needless expense.

Building Permits - The International Building code requires that any owner or authorized agent who intends to construct, enlarge, alter, repair, move, demolish or change the occupancy of a building or structure, or to erect, install, enlarge, alter, repair, remove, convert or replace any electrical, gas, mechanical or plumbing system, shall first make application to the Lower Alsace Township's Codes Official and obtain the required permit for the work.

Property Settlement Inspections - Since the adoption of the Property Settlement Inspection ordinance in the fall of 2011 there have been over 200 inspections performed as houses are transferred to new owners. The majority of the inspections revealed serious building code violations relating to important safety issues such as the installation of smoke detectors and ground-fault circuit interrupter electric outlets (GFCI) which help to prevent electrical shocks. These relatively inexpensive items help to ensure that all future residents of these homes enjoy a dwelling unit in compliance with the latest safety requirements and hopefully enjoy some peace of mind. In addition to the safety benefits, this process helps to stabilize your neighborhood's property values.

Plumbing permits may only be acquired by a Master Plumber with an approved plumbing license filed in the Township of Lower Alsace. Section 106.1 of the International Plumbing Code: Any owner, authorized agent or contractor who desires to construct, enlarge, alter, repair, move, demolish or change the occupancy of a building or structure, or to erect, install, enlarge, alter, repair, remove, convert or replace any plumbing system, the installation of which is regulated by this code, or to cause any such work to be done, shall first make application to the Lower Alsace Township Code Official and obtain the required permit for the work.

Residential Electrical permits may be acquired by the property owner or by an electrician who is registered with the PA Office of the Attorney General as a Home Improvement Contractor. Electrical permits are required for any new work to erect, install, enlarge, alter, convert or replace any electrical system. The applicant shall first make application to the Lower Alsace Township Code Official and obtain the required permit for the work prior to the start of the work. Work such as repairing or replacing an individual electrical device, such as a switch or receptacle, does not require a permit. Any work that requires new wiring or devices / fixtures to be installed does require a permit. Commercial electrical permits may be acquired by the property owner or by a licensed electrician. Commercial electrical permits are required for any new work to erect, install, enlarge, repair, alter, convert or replace any commercial electrical system. The applicant shall first make application to the Lower Alsace Township Code Official and obtain the required permit for the work prior to the start of the work.

Dumpsters

If you need need to arrange for a dumpster to be delivered to your property but have no room, you may be permitted to temporarily park it on the public street. Prior to doing so, please arrange for a Township Dumpster permit first. The township will ensure property safety measures are taken for its placement as well as assurances in place to protect the road surface.

Winter Activities - Please help us help you

We would like to remind homeowners and those in the snow removal business to avoid depositing snow, ice or slush on any roadway or highway when plowing out driveways. This happens frequently when plow operators push snow across the road or along the shoulder adjacent to driveways and it can cause hazardous driving conditions on our roadways.

Our plows sometimes push snow onto driveways as the snow leaves the plow and we really don't have a way to control how the snow falls off the plow. We know that it's frustrating to shovel your driveway and then have the plow come by and push snow back at the base. Although we'd like to minimize the problem, there is no "efficient" way to plow the roadway so that your driveway remains snow free.

One way to assure that minimal snow will be piled in your driveway entrance is to follow the diagram provided above. Remember you could create a hazardous condition when you plow or blow snow back on the roadway after the road has been plowed. All shoveled or blown snow should be piled in your yard. Please follow the suggestion below to minimize windrows in your driveway opening.



Shovel the snow to the right side of your drive as you face the road, and clear a pocket of snow on the opposite side of your driveway.

The accumulated snow on the plow will dump into the pocket and NOT in your driveway. This simple procedure will minimize the amount of residual snow being plowed from the roadway

If an accident were to occur because of the snow you (or your plowing service) had placed on the public right-of-way, you could be held liable. Your best bet when clearing snow is to pile all of it on your own property. While you're out there, clear the area in front of your mailbox (if yours is at the curbside) after the plow has passed.

What NOT to do with Snow

Do not shovel, plow, push or throw your driveway snow onto the public (or private) roadway and do not try to push it all the way to the other side of the road. This practice will create a hazardous surface when traffic passes over it. Please be sure your plowing contractors honor these restrictions too; you are responsible for their actions on your property.

A note of caution is in order. Please be extremely careful when working next to the roadway especially when snowplowing operations are in progress.

In the interest of assisting the township road crew with effective curb to curb snow removal on the Township's emergency routes, please don't wait for a snow emergency to be declared to move your vehicle from the street. **Help us help you by not leaving your vehicle parked on the following roads during a snow storm.**

If a snow emergency is declared, the information will be posted as an announcement on the home page of the Township's web site, Face Book page and also on and TV 69 News.

Remember, during a declared emergency, any cars parked on an emergency route are subject to being ticketed and towed.

The following roads are designated Township Snow Emergency Routes:

- **Harvey Avenue** – from Carsonia Avenue to Exeter Township line.
- **Columbia Avenue** – from Carsonia Avenue to Roosevelt Avenue
- **Marshall Avenue (Stony Creek)** – from Antietam Road to Logan Street
- **Prospect Street** – from Carsonia Avenue to its intersection with North 26th Street
- **Cherrydale Avenue** – from Friedensburg Road to its intersection with Carsonia Avenue
- **North 25th Street** – from Harvey Avenue to Park Street (west side)



Township office located at 1200 Carsonia Avenue, Reading PA 19606
Hours 8 AM to 4 PM Monday through Friday except holidays
Phone 610-779-6400 – Fax – 610-370-0797

Administrative Staff - Terry L. Styer, Manager/Secretary-Treasurer and Corrie Crupi, Assistant Secretary
Solicitor – Michael A. Setley, Esq. Georgeadis || Setley
Road Crew - Richard Bitting, Road Foreman, Roger Stief Jr., Tyler Neiswender and Rick Gerhart, Jr.

Tax Collector – Patrick Duggan – 484-797-5009

Antietam Valley Municipal (Sewer) Authority - 502 Butter Lane, 610-779-0150
Mount Penn Borough Municipal Authority (Water) - 200 N. 25th Street, 610-779-4900

Building/Zoning Inspector – Terry Naugle, Great Valley Consultants – 610-375-8822
Plumbing and Property Settlement Inspector – Brian Sands, 610-374-8397
Property Maintenance Code Inspector and Fire Marshall – Rick Gerhart, Jr. 610-898-0780
Sewage Enforcement Officer - Quinn Haller, Technicon Enterprises -610-286-1622

Engineer – Joseph Rogosky, Great Valley Consultants – 610-375-8822
Planning Commission - Thomas Watcke, Matt McGough, Homer Williams, Joel Reber and Tracey Larish
Zoning Hearing Board - Michael Farrara, Charles Snyder and John Eisenhard
Board of Auditors - Barry Groebel, Linda Orth and Don Pottiger

Be sure to make your voice count!
2016 Primary Election day is April 26
2016 General Election day is November 8



For information on registration and voting
please call the Berks County Elections Department at
610-478-6490 or go to www.co.berks.pa.us/elections.

Your polling locations in Lower Alsace Township

Precinct 01 - Lower Alsace Ambulance Bldg. 750 N. 25th Street - 25th and Harvey Streets

Precinct 02 - Lower Alsace Township Building 1200 Carsonia Avenue

Cable TV Questions????? Please call 1-800 COMCAST

Recycling and Rubbish disposal - Township Residents only - 1200 Carsonia Avenue



PLEASE HELP US KEEP THIS COMMUNITY SERVICE SAFE AND SANITARY BY OBEYING THE RULES

- Material may not be contaminated with food;
- Be sure to fill the recycling bins from the back to the front;
- Flatten large plastic jugs and cardboard boxes;
- DO NOT THROW BAGS of recyclables into the bins;
- OPEN bags first and pour your items into the recycling bins;

The following paper may be mixed together:

cardboard, newspapers, magazines, envelopes / junk mail, office paper

The following commingled material may be mixed together:

clear, amber, brown and green glass, aluminum cans, tin cans, steel; plastics: PET and HDPE # 1 through #7 provided it is no bigger than a laundry bottle.

THE FOLLOWING ITEMS ARE NOT ALLOWED IN RECYCLING CONTAINERS:

appliances, lawn chairs, yard waste, flammables, fluorescent tubes, styrofoam, any type of container containing hazardous materials, pots and pans, plate glass, window glass, mirrors, any type of oil or oil rags, miscellaneous plastic, light bulbs, anything containing food such as used pizza boxes or restroom waste.

The following special waste collection is provided by the Berks County Solid Waste Authority

Please call 610-478-6362 for questions regarding the following:

OPEN EVERY TUESDAY, THURSDAY & SATURDAY 8:00 AM – NOON

1316 Hilltop Rd., Leesport, Bern Twp (Near the Reading Fairgrounds – Off Rt. 183)

Automotive Tires Only:

Standard passenger and light truck tires shall have diameter between twenty inches (20”) and thirty-two inches (32”) and a width between six inches (6”) and twelve inches (12”) and shall be free of dirt, water and foreign objects. The tires must not be deformed and must have the normal geometry of a typical tire.

FEE SCHEDULE (Effective 1/1/2015) Tires without rims \$ 2.00 each; Tires with rims \$ 3.00 each

2016 Collection Schedule – Free to residents of Berks County

Paper Shredding and Pharmaceuticals

April 23, 2016 (Governor Mifflin Intermediate School.)

October 15, 2016 (FirstEnergy Stadium, Rt. 61, Reading)

Household Hazardous Waste

April 16, 2016 (Governor Mifflin Intermediate School.)

October 22, 2016 (FirstEnergy Stadium, Rt. 61, Reading)

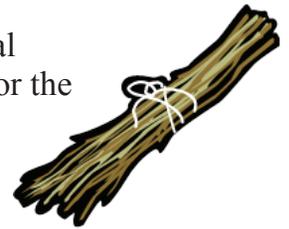
8:00 AM – 2:00 PM

2016 Spring and Fall Clean up Days will be scheduled for Saturday April 23th and Saturday October 15th; 8 am to 3 PM at the Lower Alsace Township Building - 1200 Carsonia Avenue



Please plan ahead to take advantage of these two Saturdays to conduct your neighborhood clean up programs or just to bring junk you've been hoping to get rid of for some time. You may even want to drop in and volunteer your time to help the Township Supervisors with this community clean-up effort.

The Township will be arranging for several dumpsters; the purpose of which will be for the easy disposal of your unwanted items including but not limited to furniture, appliances, (NO ELECTRONIC WASTE) unmounted car and truck tires – 2 per household @ \$2.00 piece. In addition to the disposal of junk, we will also have our dump truck available for you to dispose of your brush and tree trimmings.



ABSOLUTELY NO GARBAGE, ELECTRONIC WASTE (NO TV'S OR COMPUTERS) AND NO HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES WILL BE ACCEPTED.

Please maintain your street trees:

Lower Alsace Township Ordinance No. 37 requires that “trees shall not be permitted to grow on any property with limbs extending over the sidewalks of the Township at a height of less than 8 feet from the surface of the said sidewalk or over the Township streets, roads or alleys at a height of less than 12 feet from the surface of such streets, roads or alleys.” Spring and Fall are good seasons to take care of this responsibility as the Township will be providing brush disposal opportunities for you! See the dates above.

Leaves – For the residents in Pennside and Stony Creek, please be informed that the Township Fall leaf collection will begin on Tuesday, October 25th, 2016(weather permitting) and will continue until the first significant snow fall or the first Friday in December - which ever comes first. Remember that leaves (and only leaves) should be placed in such a manner that they will not pose a traffic hazard but will enable the leaf vacuum to easily collect.

IMPORTANT It is critical that the leaf piles do not contain yard debris and or brush. Please see the instructions above for the brush collection procedures and date and Thank you for the cooperation we receive each year.



Why is Stormwater Runoff a Problem?

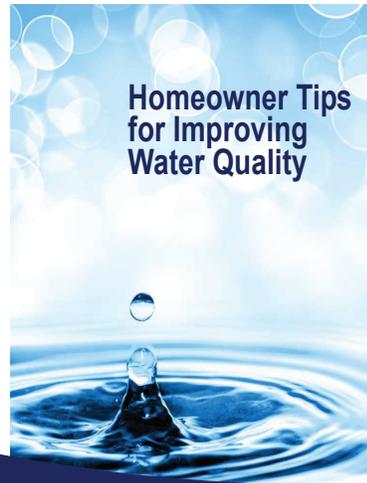
Stormwater can pick up debris, chemicals, dirt, and other pollutants and flow into a storm sewer system or directly to a lake, stream, river, wetland, or coastal water. Anything that enters a storm sewer system is discharged untreated into the waterbodies we use for swimming, fishing and providing drinking water.

Polluted stormwater runoff can have many adverse effects on plants, fish, animals and people such as:

- Sediment can cloud the water and make it difficult or impossible for aquatic plants to grow.
- Debris such as plastic bags, bottles, and cigarette butts washed into waterbodies can suffocate and disable aquatic life like ducks, fish, turtles, and birds.
- Household hazardous wastes like insecticides, pesticides, paint, solvents, used motor oil, and other auto fluids can poison aquatic life. Land animals and people can become sick from eating diseased fish and shellfish or ingesting polluted water.

What is Stormwater Runoff?

Stormwater runoff occurs when precipitation from rain or snowmelt flows over the ground. Impervious surfaces like driveways, sidewalks, and streets prevent stormwater runoff from naturally soaking into the ground.



Homeowner Tips for Improving Water Quality

Stormwater Management for the Homeowner

Learn what you can do on your property and in your community to improve the health of your watershed.

LOWER ALSACE TOWNSHIP

REDUCE POLLUTION

PROTECT DRINKING WATER

PROTECT FISH AND WILDLIFE

Lawn and Garden

Use pesticides and fertilizers sparingly. Avoid applications with heavy rain in the forecast and do not apply on frozen ground. Keep fertilizer off impervious surfaces like driveways and pavements. These chemicals can be washed into the storm water system or local streams. Use organic products.

Sweep up yard debris and compost it instead of hosing down dirty areas into the street and storm water drains. Utilize the Spring Township facilities for yard debris composting.

Do not blow grass clippings into the street which can block storm water drains. Let lawn clippings lay to fertilize the lawn or compost.

Maintain a buffer strip of unmowed natural vegetation bordering waterways to trap excess nutrients and sediment entering into those water bodies.

Install a rain barrel at the bottom of your gutter downspout to collect rainwater for watering your garden and plants.

Pet Care

Pick up your pet waste – leaving pet waste on the ground can pose a health risk from their bacteria which can come in direct contact with people or enter into the stormwater system and the local water supply.

Flush your pet waste down the toilet, so that it can be treated at the sewage treatment plant.

Vehicle Maintenance

Wash your vehicle on the lawn or unpaved surface; use low phosphate detergent; dump soapy water bucket down the toilet.

Check your vehicle for leaks and drips- these drips can be picked up in rain water and can enter stormwater drains and/or streams. Clean up any spilled fluids to avoid contamination of water.

Recycle used motor oil and other fluids at a participating service station. NEVER pour these fluids down the toilet, into stormdrains, on the ground, or into streams.

Home Improvement

Sweep up debris before it enters storm drains or waterbodies; prevent obstruction of storm drains and water contamination.

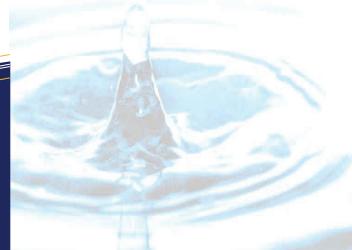
Use paints and solvents sparingly; clean up spills; recycle leftover materials. Purchase non-toxic and biodegradable products. Check the County of Berks at www.co.berks.pa.us/swa for recycling events for household products.

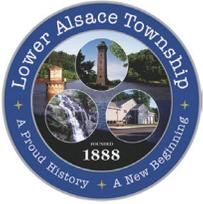
Plant trees and increase vegetated yard area to increase rain water infiltration into the ground for recharge.

Get Involved in Your Community

Organize a clean up – litter and other trash can clog up stormwater drains and can pollute stormwater entering streams.

Contact your township or borough office officials to inquire about participation in activities that improve water quality of our streams, our water recreation, and the water supplies.





Lower Alsace Township
 1200 Carsonia Avenue
 Reading, PA 19607

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Lower Alsace Township Board of Supervisors

Todd Weikel, Chairman James Oswald and Vice Chairman John Theodossiou

Lower Alsace Township, as part of the Antietam Valley Community, is fortunate to have many elected and appointed officials (current and former), as well as countless volunteers who are working together for a better tomorrow. These efforts include the formation of the Central Berks Regional Police Department; the Antietam Valley Municipal Authority; the adoption of the Lower Alsace and Mount Penn Borough Joint Comprehensive Plan and Joint Zoning Ordinance. Recent accomplishments include the formation of the Antietam Valley Regional Parks Commission and an award of grant funds to assist with the start up costs in the development of a Joint Property Maintenance Code Department. In addition, funds from the Multi-Modal Transportation grant program have been sought on behalf of the Township, the City of Reading and Alsace Township for the reconstruction of Skyline Drive into a multi-use roadway for vehicles, pedestrian and bicycles.

The Board of Supervisors is very excited about the return of the Reading 120 Bike Race on September 10th, 2016, and is looking forward to community members coming out to participate in this spectacular international event that showcases our region. Lots of volunteers will be sought to help the community with traffic control and other venues so please stay tuned. The cooperative spirit is alive and well in the Antietam Valley as shown by the number of growing, community based organizations as well as the volunteer emergency service providers. We



encourage you to get involved and provide your community some support in whatever way you are able.

Thank you.