

LITTLE BRITAIN TOWNSHIP

Volume 26, Issue 1

Spring 2020

Hello and Happy Spring! As we say goodbye to the winter season and look forward to warmer weather, spending more time outside and all of the enjoyable activities that are associated with springtime, I have 2 questions for all residents of Little Britain Township.

First, how many of us have heard or perhaps used the phrase “Time is Money”? This phrase may never have been more accurate than it is right now. Secondly, would you believe that approximately 10 minutes of your time could mean your State would receive roughly \$20,000 over the next 10 years? While that statement certainly sounds hard to believe, it is 100% true.

While most people are aware that the Census is mandated by law and must be conducted every 10 years, few people realize the impact their responses to this survey have. Below are some examples of why having an accurate census count is so important.

Federal funding: Each year, the federal government provides \$675 billion in federal public funding. The Census will determine how those funds are divided among the 50 states for the next 10 years. Pennsylvania receives \$26.8 billion each year through federally funded programs. That’s about \$2,000 per Pennsylvanian per year.

State funding: The Commonwealth relies on census data to allocate money to local governments. Some of these programs include liquid fuels funds, school funding, community development block grants (CDBG), foreign firefighter’s relief funds, recycling grants, and many more.

Fair representation & legislative redistricting: The Census determines how many seats PA has in the U.S.

House of Representatives and how U.S. congressional and state legislative districts are redrawn. Currently Pennsylvania has 18 seats; however, it is expected to lose one seat following the 2020 Census. (At one time, Pennsylvania held 36 seats.)

By now, all residents should have received an invitation to participate in the 2020 Census. That invitation would have included a personal Census ID for your use if completing the Census on-line. This is the first time an online method of completing the Census has been available. If you are uncomfortable or unable to complete your Census survey online, you may also complete the 2020 Census over the phone with a Census Questionnaire Assistance representative by calling 1-844-330-2020. Anyone who has not responded by one of the methods noted above will receive a paper Census survey around mid-to-late April.

Please note the Census survey consists of only 9 questions. All responses to the Census are completely confidential. Residents are also reminded that you should **NEVER** be asked for your social security number, any credit card or personal banking information.

As most of us are currently spending more time at home these days due to the current coronavirus pandemic, finding approximately 10 minutes to complete the Census survey should not be a problem. The result of your efforts will have a lasting impact on your Municipality, County and State and will be greatly appreciated.

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TOWNSHIP DIRECTORY

MUNICIPAL OFFICE

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Quarryville, PA 17566
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Christine J. Jackson (717-529-2373 ext. 2)

Spring Clean-Up Day



For those of you who anxiously await Spring Clean Up Day each year, please know that while the event will be held later this year than usual, it will still be held. So keep cleaning out those closets, cabinets, attics and garages. As soon as the current coronavirus pandemic is over and people are free to resume their normal activities, the Board of Supervisors will establish a date for this event. Please keep an eye on our website for more information about this event as it becomes available.

Some Reminders

Reservation for use of the pavilions and gazebo at the Park are always popular this time of year. If you have not scheduled a date for your special event this year, please contact Pat Wood at 717-548-2941 to make your reservation. As reservations are on a first come, first served basis make the call today to ensure your date is available and will be reserved you.

With spring weather comes additional hours of daylight, blooming flowers and the growing of grass. All residents are reminded that no grass should be blown onto the roadways when mowing their lawns. Additionally, everyone is reminded that no person shall deposit on or allow by runoff excessive deposits of earth, mud, silt, corn fodder, manure or other debris to remain on Township roadways. It is important that all residents do their share to ensure the safety and maintenance of our roads.



FROM THE ZONING OFFICE

Just a seasonal reminder list. As you are planning your projects, keep the following items in mind. Wishing you all a healthy and beautiful Spring.

Vegetative Setbacks: While we appreciate homeowners take great pride in landscaping their lawns and gardens, please remember you should never plant shrubs or bushes closer than twenty (20) feet, nor trees closer than thirty (30) feet to property lines adjacent to agricultural lands. This will prevent encroachment when vegetation reaches maturity and prevent shading of crops and obstruction of farm equipment. All such vegetation already in existence should be trimmed on a regular basis.

Weed Ordinance: Please remember that it is unlawful to allow your grass to exceed 12" in height.

Yard Sale Signs: Please be sure to promptly remove all yard sale signs at the conclusion of your yard sale as well as be careful when posting signs to ensure they do not interfere with the line of site at intersections and driveways.

Driveway Permits: If you are planning to install a new, alter an existing, pave or re-pave a driveway, please be sure to contact the Township Roadmaster prior to the start of your project to obtain the necessary permits.

Junk/Wrecked/Abandoned/Untagged Motor Vehicles: If you have vehicle(s) that fall into one of the above categories, please either dispose of the vehicle or place it in a garage/shed. Leaving them parked about your property is illegal and it drives your neighbors crazy. Disposal is as easy as calling your local junkyard, who will pick-up the vehicle(s) if you have your title ready.

Zoning Permits: All structures being built or placed, regardless of the size, require a zoning permit. This includes structures that are considered portable, with no affixed foundation. Please note, all projects must be permitted prior to the start of construction or permit penalty fees are assessed. If any person starts a project without obtaining the necessary permits, the Board of Supervisors require this office to charge a permit penalty fee. The penalty fee doubles your charges and adds \$50.00. This would mean a \$25.00 permit will now cost you \$100.00.

Occupancy Permits: Every Zoning/Building permit issued by this office requires an Occupancy Permit prior to the structure being used. This permit comes from me, your Zoning Officer, not Pete Kingsley, our Building Inspector. Pete Kingsley performs structural inspection during the construction process and at the end of the project, provides you with an inspection

report. You are, then, to call this office to schedule your Occupancy Inspection. At this inspection, you will be required to show this report when I arrive to verify that you have had the required inspection. Please note, should any person occupy (use) a structure prior to receiving a Use and Occupancy Permit, the Board of Supervisors require this office to assess a \$100.00 occupancy permit penalty fee. Should you call for your inspections prior to occupancy, the permit is free. Please plan ahead and obtain any and all permits to avoid violations and costly fees.

Zoning Relief / Variance Requests: If you cannot meet the requirements of the Township Zoning Ordinance, whether it be a setback issue, allowable use, livestock count, etc. the only body that has the authority to grant you relief is the Zoning Hearing Board of Little Britain Township. I, as the Municipal Zoning Officer/BCO, have no authority and neither do your neighbors. So many times, residents think if their neighbors find the project acceptable, even if it does not meet the requirements of the Ordinance, I should authorize the use and permit the project. As Zoning Officer/BCO, the Municipal Planning Code and Township Zoning Ordinance only empower me to issue permits where the use is allowed by right or where permission is granted by the Zoning Hearing Board. This office may not grant relief of any kind; I can only enforce the Ordinance as written.

Crop Destruction: Every year I receive notification of thousands of dollars in crop damage stemming from 4-wheeler, horseback riding, litter (bottles, cans, trash) and off-roading. Please give consideration when purchasing these items for your children; where are they going to ride? A farmer's field is not to be considered recreational public open space. Those fields contain the farmer's financial security, and when the crops are damaged, they lose money. Please also remember entering a property without permission is illegal and can be costly when you are required to pay restitution for damages.

Stormwater Ordinance Amendment: On January 6, 2020, the Little Britain Township Board of Supervisors adopted an amendment to the Municipal Stormwater Ordinance increasing the right to self-plan stormwater features on your property from 2,000 to 5,000 square feet. If you are planning a project, workbooks are available in my office.

County Assessment Officer: Just a reminder to all residents, an Assessment Officer will visit your property to perform a site inspection for tax evaluation purposes shortly after the conclusion of your project. These individuals all have County Identification cards; always ask to see their identification for safety purposes.

Little Britain Township
323 Green Lane
Quarryville, PA 17566
(717) 529-2373

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HAPPY SPRING!

Another sure sign of spring will be the return of the spotted lanternfly. These insects have spread throughout southeastern Pennsylvania since its discovery in Berks County in 2014 and present a significant threat to the State's agriculture, including the grape, tree-fruit, hardwood and nursery industries. While these insects do not bite or sting, the damage they create is significant. Currently, there are 14 counties within the State that are under quarantine, Lancaster being one of them. From late fall through spring, residents are encouraged to check for egg masses on grills, lawn furniture, landscaping equipment, mowers, etc. At this stage, the egg masses can be safely scrapped into a bag or container filled with rubbing alcohol or hand sanitizer or they can be smashed and burned. Once hatched, the insect will go through 4 nymph phases prior to reaching its adulthood. The most effective manner to control the spread of these insects is to destroy them wherever found. Safe and effective methods to accomplish this once the eggs have hatched can be found on the Penn State Extension website at <https://extension.psu.edu/spotted-lanternfly-management-for-homeowners> or at the State's Department of Agriculture website at <https://www.agriculture.pa.gov>. Residents may also call the Penn State Extension hotline at 1-888-422-3359 with any questions on spotted lanternfly management or to report a sighting.

SPOTTED LANTERNFLY



Actual size: 1"
Adult (with wings closed) can be found July–December



Actual size: 1/8"
Nymph (early stage) can be found late April–July



Egg mass (fresh) can be found October–December



Actual size: 1"
Adult (with wings open) can be found July–December



Actual size: 1/2"
Nymph (late stage) can be found July–September



Egg mass (older) can be found January–June