

Lower Mt. Bethel Twp News

BAMBOO AND OTHER INVASIVE PLANT SPECIES

Within any given natural ecosystem, there are checks and balances that have developed right along with the system during its geologic lifetime. These checks and balances take many forms and they ensure that no one organism takes over and disturbs nature's balance. This balance means that there will be an extensive diversity of both plants and animals and this diversity is what strengthens the system and allows it to resist large-scale, and sometimes, adverse, changes.

For example, if we look at the typical eastern hardwood forest, we will find a wide variety of tree species that have all existed together for centuries, none out-competing the others and each having a relatively equal chance of reproducing. If the non-native Norway maple is introduced here, it will take over. It grows much more quickly, it leafs out in the spring much earlier and produces many more seeds than the native trees surrounding it.

Since it has been brought to America, it has out-competed the other maple species, significantly reducing the numbers of these commercially valuable hardwood trees and leaving the forest community less diverse.

These trees were originally brought here because of their ability to grow quickly and leaf out early and they have been planted as urban street trees providing a lot of welcome shade in city landscapes. The problem is that they do not stay contained and their wind-carried seeds allow them to move farther and farther with each new generation.

Many people over the last few years have decided to plant bamboo because of its evergreen beauty thinking they will have just a small plot of it, perhaps to have a natural screen at the edge of the property. What they don't count on is the fact that with no natural checks on its growth, some species of

of this grass spread underground like wildfire and become extremely difficult and costly to get rid of. It is particularly problematic when the plant crosses property lines or impacts roadways. For this reason, many municipalities have already written ordinances controlling the planting of bamboo and other invasive species. Lower Mount Bethel is looking into such a regulation.

In Lower Mount Bethel this spring, we will be planting flower gardens and shrubs. But we should remember the dangers posed by exotic invasive species and try to use native plants in our landscaping efforts.

The choices you make can have far reaching effects and the Pennsylvania Department of Natural Resources has a number of recommendations for homeowners on this issue. Minimizing land disturbance and avoiding bare ground patches will help stop invasives from getting started. Testing soil and using fertilizers wisely helps stop their explosive growth. Invasives commonly found in our area include multiflora rose, purple loosestrife, and Japanese knotweed.

For information on invasive species:

<http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/conservation/science/invasive-species>

http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/cs/groups/public/documents/document/dcnr_20026634.pdf

PRIMARY ELECTION DAY

TUESDAY, MAY 16th

Centerfield School
Lower Level
6984 S Delaware Drive

WWW.LOWERMTBETHEL.ORG

- Copies of Board minutes
- Copies of recently adopted ordinances
- Links to Planning documents
- Events and important information
- Download forms
- Contact Information

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

PA State Police
(610) 759-6106

Northampton Cty Courthouse
(610) 559-3000

District Court 03-3-03
Magistrate's Office
(610) 588-3998

PennDOT
(800) FIX-ROAD

PA Dog Warden
Kathy Andrews
(610) 909-5720

SBCOG Animal Control
Officer—Christine Mammi
(610) 217-7025

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www.facebook.com/lmbt1





ADVANCED DISPOSAL
www.advanceddisposal.com
 (610) 440-3700

Sanitation pickup is once per week and recycling is once every two weeks.

Construction materials, yard waste, car parts, paint cans, oil cans, steel drums, gasoline, diesel, kerosene, liquids, tires, block, brick, concrete, dirt, tree stumps, electronics and hazardous materials are not part of the contract. You can go to www.earth911.com to find a place that will safely dispose of these items.

As part of the contract, you are entitled to dispose of one bulk item per week. Size is limited, please contact Advanced Disposal customer service. Refrigerators and air conditioners must be drained of all Freon and tagged appropriately by a professional.

If you are experiencing problems, please contact their customer service.

RECYCLING CANS

Cans are available at the Township office. Extra containers can be purchased at a cost of \$15.00 each.

OTHER:

The current five-year contract with Advanced Disposal is coming to an end on October 31st. The Township is currently accepting bid proposals from haulers for a new contract. By law the Township must accept the proposal of the lowest, qualified bidder.



OTHER SANITATION TIPS

LMBT Ordinance 2012-03

"No refuse and recycling containers shall be placed for collection earlier than 6 a.m. of the day prior to a scheduled collection date."

"No refuse or recycling containers shall remain curbside or in the vicinity of the cartway of the street or alley beyond 6 p.m. of the day following a scheduled collection date."

**LOWER MOUNT BETHEL TWP
 TAX COLLECTOR**

Regina Marinelli
 Martins Creek, PA 18063
 462-1414
 (610) 250-0935 (fax)
 Email: lbttax@ptd.net

2017 Lower Mount Bethel Township Real Estate Tax bills have been mailed. If you did not receive your bill, please contact Regina immediately. Failure to receive a bill does not exempt you from the taxes.

Evening collection hours will no longer be offered. Tax bills can be paid at 6574 S. Delaware Drive from 10 am to 5 pm

LMB/Sandt's Eddy Fire Co.

LMB / Sandt's Eddy Fire Company is a non-profit organization providing services to the Township of Lower Mount Bethel.

The 2017 letter campaign has been sent out. The fire company wishes to thank everyone who has donated. The fire company is also accepting donations of used clothing and shoes. The bin is located at the 6246 S. Delaware Drive station.

With the spring and summer approaching, please remember to contact the Fire Chief prior to burning. Fire Chief Larrison can be reached at 484-221-2416.

**MONDAY, APRIL 17TH
 is TAX DAY
 DON'T FORGET TO FILE!**

**KEYSTONE COLLECTIONS
 HELPLINE**

1-888-328-0565

www.KeystoneCollects.com

All Township residents must file a federal, state, and local income tax return.

**LOWER MOUNT BETHEL TWP
SIX-YEAR PAVING PLAN**

At their February 6th, 2017, meeting, the Board of Supervisors approved a six-year paving plan as follows:

2017

Upper Mud Run Road

2018

Joy Drive
Stevens Court
Church Road
Pennsylvania Ave
Alpha Ave
Ann Ave

2019

Gravel Hill Road
(intersection of Richmond Road to Geraldine Ct)
Deer Run Road

2020

Gravel Hill Road
(intersection of Geraldine Court to MC Belv Hwy)
Geraldine Court
Mill Creek Road

2021

Little Creek Road
(intersection of Rt 611 to Falcone Road)

2022

Howell Road
Fairview Ave
Center St
School St
Orchard St

ZONING OFFICER HOURS

Shawn Leidy

Monday 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Wednesday 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

- Permit applications are available online at the Twp website.
- Complaints can be filed with the zoning officer for violations of Township ordinances.
- Not sure if you need a permit? Call him and ask!

Email: zoning@lowermtbethel.org

**Lower Mount Bethel Township
Easter Egg Hunt**

When: Saturday, April 8th @ 2:00 p.m.
Rain Date: Sunday, April 9th @ 2:00 p.m.
Where: Riverton Ball Fields
7701 Martins Creek Belv Hwy



All children, ages 0 to 12 years old, are welcome to join the Township and LMBT Sandt's Eddy Fire Company for some egg hunting fun. The Easter Bunny will be there and prizes will be available for each age group. Come join the fun!

VACANCIES

The Township is still accepting letters of interest and resumes for a vacancy on the following boards:

- Planning Commission
- Environmental Advisory Council
- Recreation Board

If you are interested, please contact the Township Office.

LOWER MOUNT BETHEL TOWNSHIP / MARTINS-JACOBY WATERSHED ASSOCIATION
COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER DAY— SATURDAY, APRIL 29th

LMBT Welcome Center
7701 Martins Creek Belvidere Highway
Bangor, PA 18013
9:00 a.m. to 2:00 P.M.

Earth Day is Saturday, April 22nd. In celebration of Earth Day, Lower Mount Bethel Township is holding it's annual Community Volunteer Day on Saturday, April 29th. At this time, the final program is not yet completed, but will include a well health seminar, presented by Hawk Mountain Labs at 10 a.m. Learn more about protecting your water supply.



Lunch will be provided. Anyone who is interested in attending should contact the Township office at (610) 252-5074 or email the office at dchesney@lowermtbethel.org

NOTICE

All property owners that have bamboo, or other vegetation, encroaching on the Township right-of-way and/or impedes safe travel on Township roads, be advised the Township will remove the offending weeds.

DO I NEED A PERMIT...

Permits are required for the following:

- * New Construction
- * Businesses / Home Occupations
- * Driveway Installation / Regrading
- * Interior Renovations
- * Swimming pools / Hot Tubs
- * Sheds
- * Decks
- * Additions
- * Septic Installation / Repairs
- * Any work in the floodplain
- * Grading Work
- * Fence or Wall Construction
- * Install Outdoor Woodburning Stove
- * Well drilling and construction
- * Electrical upgrade
- * Central Air installation / Generator Install
- * Garage / Pole Building Construction
- * Solar Panels / Windmills

Work done without the proper permits is a violation of Township ordinances and will result in a violation notice. Most permits are issued by the Township Zoning Officer. Septic permits are issued by Sewage Enforcement Officer, Tom Noll.

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE DROP-OFF EVENTS

Saturday, May 20, 2017

8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Saturday, October 14, 2017

8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

**Northampton Community College Main Campus
Bethlehem Township, PA**

Entrance from Green Pond Rd ONLY
Follow signs to parking area across
from Kopecek Hall and Lipkin Theatre

NORTHAMPTON COUNTY RESIDENTS ONLY

No Appointment Needed

No Charge for Household Hazardous Waste
Need Photo ID or recent utility bill

Tire Collection Fees: \$2 /car tire including rim

MATERIALS ACCEPTED

Adhesives	Fire Extinguishers
Aerosol Cans	Herbicides/Pesticides
Antifreeze	Household cleaners
Automotive Fluids & Cleaners	Mercury-containing Products
Batteries	Motor Oil/Filters
Compressed Gas	Oil-based Paint & Stain
Fluorescent Lights	Pool Chemicals
Flammable/Combustible Fluids	
Thermostats	

Non-hazardous materials will not be accepted

No latex paints or stains

No smoke detectors/radioactives

No medical wastes

NO ELECTRONICS ACCEPTED

Also...no cost recycling of residential scrap metal
including piping, lawn furniture, lawn equipment,
various appliances, including washers, dryers,
stoves, air conditioners, dehumidifiers, etc.

HUNTER MARTIN MUSEUM

Located on Church Road just off Three Church Hill, in the little red school house next to the old Scotch-Irish Presbyterian Burial Ground, the museum will be open to the public on the second Sunday of the summer months in 2015 from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.:

June 11

July 9

August 13

MEETINGS

Meetings for members and friends will be held at 7:30 p.m. on:

Tuesday, May 23, 2017

Tuesday, June 27, 2017

Programs for those meetings will be announced in the annual museum newsletter.

September will be our annual covered dish at the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church. The actual date and time will be announced in the museum newsletter coming out in early May.

For visits any other time, call 610-498-4616 or 610-252-2837 for an appointment or assistance. Always feel free to bring a friend.

Annual membership is \$3.00 and lifetime membership is \$100.00. Larger contributions are welcome too.

We are still working on the Veterans File—if you haven't completed or returned your form, please do so. If you need more forms, contact one of the above phone numbers.



RECREATION—SURVEY RESULTS

The Lower Mount Bethel Township Board of Supervisors and the Recreation Board sent out a survey with the last newsletter seeking ideas from the residents on what recreational opportunities were of interest. With the decline of a children's sports program due to dwindling numbers, the Recreation Board is shifting their focus to other events that would also be enjoyable for everyone. The top choices as indicated by the survey involved fitness opportunities, senior events, and Community Day.



The Township is seeking volunteers for a committee to put together costs, plan and organize these type of events for the Township. The more volunteers, the better. So, please come out and help make great experiences for your friends, family and neighbors and show your Lower Mount Bethel Township pride!

If you are interested in volunteering to be a part of this experience, please contact the Township office at (610) 252-5074 or email the Township office at lstauffer@lowermtbethel.org.

The Recreation Board is also hoping to host Movies in the Park at the Riverton Fields Complex. The current proposal is to have a free movie night for residents in June, July, and August. If you would be interested in volunteering to assist with this event, please contact the office as well.



Finally, do you have an antique, classic or just overall amazing car that you would love to show off to your neighbors? The Recreation Board is trying to work with the fire company to put together the first Lower Mount Bethel Township Car Show. Volunteers to help plan and organize the event in conjunction with the fire company. Please contact the Township office if this is something that interests you.

2017 Electronics Recycling Events—

- * April 29th—City of Easton Public Works Garage—500 Bushkill Drive, Easton
- * May 6th—Nazareth Area Intermediate School—355 Tatamy Road, Nazareth
- * September 9th—City of Bethlehem—345 Illicks Mill Road, Bethlehem

A list of accepted items and costs can be found on the Township website at www.lowermtbethel.org

SPEED RADAR DEVICES TO BE INSTALLED IN THE TOWNSHIP...

The Township was awarded a grant in the amount of \$24,420 from the Northampton County Gaming Commission for the purchase of four speed radar devices, which will be permanently installed on various state roads and a portable unit that will be moved to different locations within the Township. Hopefully, the devices will be in place by the end of 2017.

The devices help reduce speed, which creates safer roads for everyone. The devices also provide information on traffic counts and show days and times when speeding is more prevalent. This information can be shared with Pennsylvania State Police.

The Board of Supervisors has authorized the Township Engineer to apply for the necessary PennDOT permits for the following locations:

- * Front Street approaching the traffic light between the intersection of Howell Road and Williams St.
- * Route 611 South approaching the traffic light—slightly south of the Centerfield School
- * Martins Creek Belvidere Highway—approaching the Riverton Fields Complex

The placement of the fourth device has not been determined as of yet; however, the Board is continuing to discuss the issue.



RESTORE RECYCLABLE LATEX PAINT COLLECTION EVENTS -2017

- * March 4—Lower Saucon Township—3700 Old Philadelphia Pike, Bethlehem
- * May 6—City of Easton—500 Bushkill Drive, Easton
- * July 1—Lehigh Township—1069 Municipal Road, Walnutport
- * September 2—Upper Mt. Bethel Twp—387 Ye Olde Highway, Mt. Bethel
- * October 7—Tatamy Borough—240 S. 8th St, Tatamy

Events are from 9 a.m. to Noon. The events are held in partnership with Northampton County Department of Community and Economic Development. These events are for Northampton County residents only. For more details and additional events, please see ReStore or DCED's Facebook or website.



NEED A PLACE TO HOLD A PARTY

The Lower Mount Bethel Township Board of Supervisors has established the following fee schedule for the rental of Township pavilions and rooms:

	Resident	Non-Resident
Centerfield Lower Level	\$ 50.00	\$ 75.00
Pavilions	\$ 25.00	\$ 50.00
Centerfield Gym	\$ 20.00	\$ 40.00

Call for available dates. Rental applications can be downloaded from the Recreation page of www.lowermtbethel.org



Center for Animal Health and Welfare

The Center for Animal Health and Welfare offers low or no-cost spay and neuter services to the public. Contact them for an appointment at (610) 252-7722 ext. 8. Services are as follows:

Cats—includes spay/neuter, rabies and distemper vaccine and E Collar

Male Dog—includes neuter, E Collar, pain medication, and nail trim

Female Dog—includes spay, E Collar, pain medication, and nail trim.

Vaccines are not included in the fee for dogs, but can be provided at an additional cost. Flea treatment is also an additional cost for both cats and dogs. Testing and microchip are additional costs.

Trap, Neuter and Release Program for Feral Cats is \$35.

The Center accepts donations of food, litter, cat toys, dog toys, towels, cleaning products, and hand sanitizer. For more information and a complete list of services, events and volunteer opportunities, visit their website at www.healthyanimalcenter.org

NEED ASSISTANCE WITH A STRAY DOG OR CAT ISSUE?

PA DOG WARDEN—Kathy Andrews

SLATE BELT COG ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER: Christine Mammi



DID YOU KNOW...

Any property owner conducting a business out of his home must file for a home occupation permit with the Township zoning officer. Failure to do so constitutes a violation of the Township zoning ordinance and can result in a civil complaint filed with the magistrate. This will result in fines.

Also, any business owner is required to file a Local Services Tax form with the Township office every quarter. Failure to file the form and remit payment to the Township can result in a non-traffic citation filed with the magistrate. This will also result in a fine.

Street Light Assessments—2017

The 2017 Street Light Assessments shall be mailed on April 14th and shall be due on June 15th.

The rate for 2017 for the Martins Creek Street Light District is 50 cents per foot of frontage for properties with improvements and 12.5 cents per foot of frontage for properties without improvements. This is the same rate as last year. All property owners located within 250 feet of a street light are assessed.

The rate for the 2017 for the Turnquist Street Light District is \$50 per property. This the same rate as 2016. All property owners located in the development are assessed.

Assessments that are not paid are subject to collection. This will result in the addition of attorney's fees and subject your property to a lien. If you didn't pay your 2016 invoice, please contact our collections solicitor, Amato Keating & Lessa, PC at 610-866-0400 to make payment.

Failure to receive your invoice does not exempt you from the responsibility of paying the assessment.

If you notice a street light that is out, please contact the Township office immediately with a pole number.

2017 SANITATION ASSESSMENTS



All 2017 Sanitation Assessments are due by the close of business on April 17th.

The annual sanitation assessment of \$225 is equal to \$18.75 a month for weekly garbage and bi-weekly recycling pickup.

All assessments paid after April 17th are subject to a 10% penalty. All delinquent assessments shall be subject to collection. This will result in action filed with the local magistrate, addition of attorney's fees, and a lien filed on your property. Numerous liens can result in the Board instituting sheriff's sale on your property.

Payments can be made at the Township office or at Merchants Bank (Martins Creek branch only) up until April 17th.

All residential units pay the sanitation assessment. Vacancy does not exempt a unit from being assessed. Failure to receive your bill does not exempt your responsibility.

Past-due assessments? Please contact Amato Keating & Lessa, PC at 610-866-0400 for balances and payment arrangements.

A property owner that accumulates numerous judgments could be subject to a sheriff sale of their property for delinquent assessments.

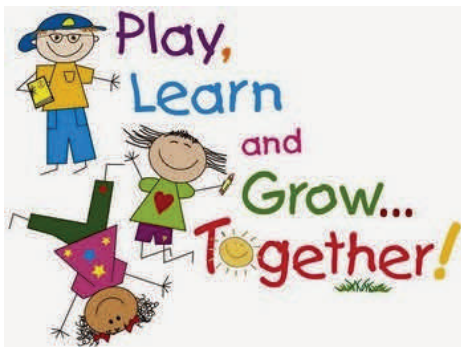
Lower Mount Bethel Township Recreation Board

Susan Pensack

Al Capecci

Supervisor Liaison: Michael DeBerardinis

The Recreation Board meets on the first Wednesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. at the Centerfield Building.



Their office is located in the rear of the building. All members of the public are welcome to attend.

There are currently three vacancies on the Recreation Board. If you are interested in volunteering, please submit a letter of interest and resume to the Township office.

The recreation board is working on new exciting recreation opportunities for our community including a Community Day, Movies in the Park, a possible fitness program and a possible car show.

Lower Mount Bethel Township
PO Box 257
Martins Creek, PA 18063

**Lower Mount Bethel
Township**

Lower Mount Bethel Township
PO Box 257
Martins Creek, PA 18063

Phone: (610) 252-5074
Fax: (610) 253-8971
www.lowermtbethel.org
supervisors@lowermtbethel.org

Board of Supervisors

Stu Gallaher, Chair
Susan Disidore, Vice-Chair
Michael DeBerardinis
Howard Klein
David Ascani

Meeting Dates and Times

Board of Supervisors, 1st and 3rd Monday at 7:00 p.m.

Planning Commission, 3rd Tuesday at 7:00 p.m.

Recreation Board, 1st Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.

Zoning Hearing Board, 3rd Wednesday at 7:30 p.m.

Scheduled on an as needed basis

Environmental Advisory Council, 2nd Monday at 6:30 p.m.

Open Space Committee, 4th Monday at 7:00 p.m.
