

Heidelberg Township
111 Mill Road
PO Box 188
Schaefferstown, PA 17088

Phone: 717-949-3885
Fax: 717-949-2915
E-mail: htac@comcast.net
www.heidelbergtownship.com

PRESORTED STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
LEBANON, PA 17042
PERMIT NO. 122



Please email
htsewer@comcast.net
with any Township
news ideas
or events.

FALL HAPPENINGS 2014



Historic Schaeffer Farm Harvest Fair

Saturday, September 13 10AM-5PM & Sunday, September 14 11AM to 4PM

Admission \$5, Children 12 and under Free Rain or Shine—Sorry, no pets allowed

Schaefferstown Fire Company AYCE Breakfast

Saturday, September 20th & October 18th 7AM-11AM (Look for more dates on the website!)

Adults- \$9.00, Kids- 5 to 14 \$4.00, Under 5 Free

Full Range Buffet with MTO Pancakes and Omelets!

Halloween Parade

Saturday, October 25th, 7PM

Trick—or—Treat

Thursday, October 30th 6PM-8PM

SEPTEMBER 1, 2014

Special points of interest:

- Recycling the first Saturday of the month from 8-12 at the Township Building
- The Township Office will be closed:

September 1—Labor Day

October 16—
County Convention

November 27—
Thanksgiving

December 25—Christmas

Inside this issue:

Sewer Q&A 2

Burning Ordinance 3

Newsletter 3

Distribution

Happenings 2014 4

HEIDELBERG HAPPENINGS

DOGS IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD

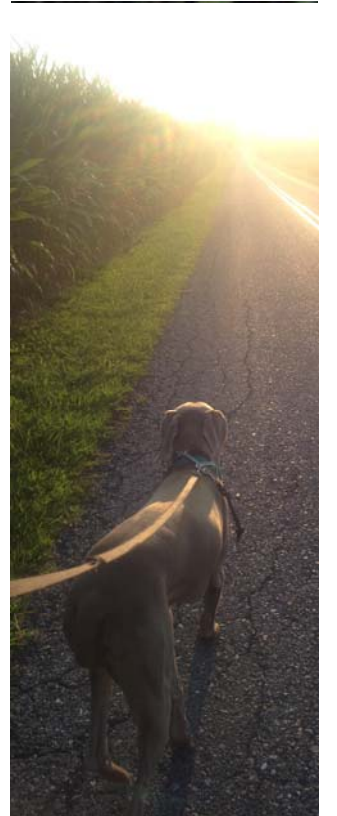
In our community we have many pet lovers. While some are fond of felines, birds or another fun animal, many of our residents love the company of dogs. Dogs can be wonderful companions and “man’s best friend”, but they still need to have a watchful set of eyes to make sure they don’t escape the confines of their home turf or their owner’s care. Heidelberg Township has an ordinance to assist dog owners in knowing what is expected of them.

Ordinance #3 requires that all dogs remain on their owner or care-givers property at all times unless under the care and control of their custodian. This means that dogs may not wander the streets or others’ private property at any time. It is the responsibility of the dog owner or care-giver to retain control of their dog’s whereabouts. Should you wish to take your dog for a walk, the dog must remain in your control at all times. This in general is maintained via a

leash or walking apparatus. At no time should you walk your dog unleashed or without some way of controlling your dog’s walking pattern. This is for your dog’s safety as well as other people and animals. In case your dog would get loose, please make sure your dog is licensed or has a microchip implanted for safe return of your furry friend.

Please be courteous to your neighbors by keeping your dog in your own yard. While your pooch may be as friendly as they come, unexpected visits may not be as welcome as you think. Be mindful of your dog’s waste as well. No one wants an unexpected “land mine” left behind.

Animals, no matter the kind, are a wonderful addition to any family. The Township would just like to remind everyone that safety and security of your pets and neighbors should remain a priority at all times.



ADDRESS CHANGE UPDATE

As many of you know, some of the addresses in Heidelberg Township were changed in an effort to help Emergency Services better locate properties in times of emergency. For those of you facing the address changes, this is a reminder that numbers on your properties should be changed to help any entity searching for you. This not only includes emergency services, but US Post Office, UPS and Fed-Ex as well. These locator numbers may be on mailboxes, front doors, entryways or the green reflective

number signs located at many properties. Most of these numerical signs can be found at a local hardware store. If you need a reflective green sign, you can contact Zimmey’s Automotive in Schaefferstown where they will make the sign for you. The fee charged covers the cost of the sign and numbering kit and any profit dollars are donated to the Schaefferstown Volunteer Fire Company. Thank you again for helping your community in making this addressing change possible.



A big Thank You to Zimmy's Greenhouse for supplying the beautiful flowers currently planted in our barrel at the Township Office!



SEWER QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

For many of you in the Township, connections to the new Sanitary Sewer System have been made while others of you are still awaiting the process to begin. Through the initial phases of billing, we have heard some questions repeatedly regarding what the actual sewer invoice means. Below is a break-down and explanation of the charges listed on your bill.

Debt Service - This is the amount of money billed to each EDU for the remaining money owed for the construction of the sewer system. Think of it this way: The project was approximately \$20,000,000 in total. The Township received an approximately \$9,000,000 grant (free money) from Pennsylvania to construct and design the system. The remaining \$11,000,000 was borrowed through bonds. All of the Tapping Fee payments (\$5,000/EDU) are going to pay down that \$11,000,000 in bond debt. The total Tapping Fee Revenue is approximately \$3,000,000 which means there is approximately \$8,000,000 left to pay back. The payments on that \$8,000,000 are approximately \$550,000/year. That's what the \$169/EDU Debt Service per quarter is collected for.

Heidelberg Township O&M - O&M stands for Operations and Maintenance. Everything that goes into running a sewer system: electricity, insurance, legal counsel, engineering, postage, operator, office supplies, etc., that is what the \$64/EDU per quarter goes to pay. This is an esti-

mated fee based on what projected costs were for the system. This could change once the system is up and running and a more accurate cost analysis can be done.

Transportation SLT - This is the fee that is paid to South Lebanon Township for the ability to run our waste through their lines to the City of Lebanon Treatment Facility. They assessed the fee of \$1/EDU which is paid to them on a quarterly basis.

City of Lebanon O&M - This fee is charged only to those actually connected to the sewer system. This is the City of Lebanon's Operations and Maintenance fee for sending our waste to their treatment facility. This fee is based on the number of EDU's and meter size at the location. A normal residence fee is \$24.78 per quarter. Other businesses may vary in price. The fee is a pass along fee meaning whatever the City of Lebanon charges us for your property is exactly what you are charged on your bill from the Township.

City of Lebanon Treatment - This is the fee for the actual treatment of your waste. This fee is also a pass along fee and the fee schedule is completely determined by the City of Lebanon because they are treating the waste. The current rate is \$4.39/1000 gallons or fraction thereof. This means if you use 1000 gallons you will pay \$4.39 in treatment

charge. If you use 1500 gallons, the amount will be round up to 2000 gallons and you will pay \$8.78 in treatment charge. This fee could change every quarter depending on how much water you are using.

Other questions being asked:

Can we pay with a credit card? No, we don't have that capability as of yet, but maybe in the future.

Can we pay at the Fulton Bank? Not yet, but we are working on that.

What is the billing cycle? Bills will be distributed in March, June, September and December

Why am I seeing a bill if I'm not connected yet? Those of you seeing invoices SHOULD have been connected by the time of billing as the 60 connection time line has lapsed. The Township understands some of you are waiting on plumbers and the connection is a bit out of your control. Unfortunately, the charges you are seeing are for bills that will occur whether you are connected or not as described above. You are receiving an invoice for only Heidelberg Township charges of \$234. Once connected, the City of Lebanon charges of O&M and Treatment will be added to your bill accordingly.

Should you have any other questions that were not answered, please don't hesitate to call the Heidelberg Township office at 949-3885. The office staff will do their best to get the answer you are seeking.

BURNING ORDINANCE INFORMATION

In 1995, Heidelberg Township revamped their burning ordinance and passed Ordinance #83. This ordinance enabled the Township to define the parameters of burning refuse material. To follow are highlights of the general points of the ordinance.

First and foremost, not everything may be burned! As defined by the ordinance, only cellulose material may be burned. Examples of cellulose material are paper, dead wood or cardboard. In reality, newspaper and cardboard are recyclable materials which can be maintained by your local trash hauler if they offer the service, or by dropping them off at the lower-lot of the Township Building the first Saturday of the month from 8:00AM to 12:00PM. Under NO circumstances should plastic, rubber,

furniture, construction material or garbage be burned. This is not allowable under any circumstances and is a finable offense by either the Township or the Department of Environmental Protection Agency. The burning of these items produces harmful by-products that pollute the air for you and everyone around you to breathe.

If the burning is uncontained, only an adult may supervise the activities. Otherwise, burning within a metal or non-combustible enclosure no bigger than twenty-four square feet and no higher than four feet is allowable. A small-weave grate or mesh screen should be used to cover the burning items within the enclosure. If you plan on having a large controlled burn for large brush piles on your own

property, please notify the Schaefferstown Fire Company so any concerned fire notifications can be recognized.

Lastly, burning of the defined items is only allowed between sunrise and sunset. Even if the burning began before sunset, the burning should be extinguished at that time.

If you wish to view a copy of the official Burning Ordinance, please contact the Heidelberg Township office at 949-3885. All regulations for burning are set up to protect everyone in the community. Whether it is the fire itself or the harmful smoke of non-burnable items, no one wishes to see any harm come to anyone. Please be mindful of your neighbors and your own family when starting any kind of fire.



BLESSED ARE THE FLEXIBLE, FOR THEY SHALL NOT GET BENT OUT OF SHAPE

NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTION OPTION

A great way of communicating to the residents of Heidelberg Township is through our Heidelberg Happenings Newsletter. To further facilitate the ease of circulation, we here at the office are hoping to jump people on board with E-mail distribution of the newsletter.

Currently our process for newsletter delivery is this: Write newsletter - all in house writing done here! Have Board of Supervisors review for corrections. Send proof to printer - approve proof.

Wait for printing - our printer also folds and stickers per USPS requirements. Label with address stickers - it takes some time to label 1,500! Take to Lebanon Post Office for mailing - we may only take them there.

If we could get a good number of households to accept their newsletter via e-mail, we could not only save money in printing and postage, but it would also save time in getting the information to your household. We understand that some of you do not have e-

mail capability. No worries, we will continue to print the newsletter and distribute to those homes without computers.

If you wish to begin getting your Heidelberg Happenings Newsletter via e-mail, please send the Heidelberg Township office an e-mail with your name, physical/ mailing address and the e-mail address you wish to receive the newsletter at to htac@comcast.net. We thank you in advance to all of those that are able to convert to electronic newsletter acceptance and assisting in this cost saving effort!

School started August 25th! Please be aware of children out and about in your neighborhood!