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Issue
SEVEN

Keeping you connected to your community

in Lehman

Fall/
Winter,
2020-21

elected officials >>>

A Message from your Supervisors:

As we've closed out the end of the year that will be known as "the year of the virus", we want to wish our residents a Happy & Healthy New Year.

Many of us have had to make sacrifices to the lifestyle we were all accustomed to. Our thoughts and prayers go out to all who lost loved ones during these trying times. We understand, now more than ever, the importance of being together with family and friends.

We need to remain vigilant and continue to do everything possible to stay healthy. Our Township employees will continue to provide all the normal services and activities needed to meet the needs of our residents. We're confident that sometime during the new year, the new normal we're dealing with now, will be replaced with the old normal we all loved.

Please stay safe Lehman. We miss seeing you in-person and hope to again very soon.

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

[Recycling in 2021 >>>](#)

Recycling Permits for 2021 are now available!

Residents, please make sure to update any out-of-date information on your Recycling Permit at the Recycling Center. Forms are also available to print on our website under the "RECYCLING" tab.

Non-Residents, please make sure to renew your yearly Recycling Permit at the Recycling Center. New permit applications are also available to print on our website under the "RECYCLING" tab. The yearly fee of \$25 can be paid by cash or check to the Recycling Center attendant. He will then issue you the 2021 Permit.

Please remember, Permits should be attached to the backside of the rearview mirror so the cameras and attendant can see them from a distance. If you need a hang-tag, they are available for \$1.00.

Lehman Township's Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS)

The Lehman Township Police Department recently purchased an Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) with a Local Share Account Grant through the Back Mountain Partnership. For a few years, we have considered purchasing an unmanned aircraft system, after hearing and seeing the effectiveness of such programs in communities around us and afar. The more research we are doing into how municipalities are using these systems, the more uses we are finding for our own township. We are very excited to get this program up and running.

The purchase of the UAS is the first step in creating an Unmanned Aircraft System Program within our department. After much research into the brands and models, we decided the DJI Mavic Enterprise 2 Dual UAS was best suited to do the duties we require for our program. Our program will be able to assist first responders with search and rescue, major incident reconstruction (such as car accidents) and allow for a "bird's eye view" of other major incidents. We will also be able to assist our municipal officials in many different capacities, such as road condition checks for repairs, assessing storm damage, and assisting with zoning issues.

As with any aircraft, we need to meet all Federal Aviation Administration Regulations. The Lehman Township Police Department is currently working to meet all FAA Regulations and properly register and insure our UAS. After we meet the basic FAA regulations, all pilots must be trained and certified under FAA Part 107. We are currently seeking the best and most rigorous training plans for our designated pilots to become Commercial UAS Pilots. Lehman Township Police Department is working with the FAA for a certification to also work outside the Part 107 Regulations. In order to fly the UAS after dark, we would need to have a Certification of Authorization/Waiver. The COA/Waiver would also allow us access to work missions above and beyond the standard certification. At that time, our certified Pilots from Lehman Township Police Department will be on call 24/7 for requests for service in Lehman Township and the surrounding municipalities under the partnership agreement.

We are currently developing a standard operating procedure and a maintenance program. We are working closely with the FAA and our insurance company to obtain everything required to properly set up the program.

We still have much more to do to prepare for the introduction of Lehman Township's Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) Program but are hopeful to be fully operational by the summer of 2021.



DJI Mavic Enterprise 2 Dual Unmanned Aircraft System

litter in lehman >>>

You may have noticed some signage that has been placed throughout the township regarding littering. Over the years we have had many complaints of illegal dump sites in our township. Police investigate and our Road Department assists with cleanup. Because of the severity of the problem of littering and illegal dumping in recent years, many programs are reaching out to towns to help.

We have been able to secure a few dozen signs. If you would like to place a sign in your yard or get involved to help stop littering, illegal dumping and/or clean up in Lehman, please email Chrisandra at lehman@lehmantwp.com



What is happening with Old Route 115?

We've gotten many calls, Facebook comments & messages regarding the Old Route 115 project. Many of you remember, in our Spring, 2019 Newsletter, we announced that Old Route 115 would be repaved from Route 118 to the Huntsville Dam. The project is being funded by two grants. One from PennDOT and a Federal Grant that passes through Luzerne County. Both grant funding is committed, allocated and not in jeopardy. However, in 2020, the Federal Grant was not awarded. We were graciously still able to complete about half of the project with the Multimodal Grant through PennDOT.

We are hopeful to be able to fully finish the repave from where we left off (end of Market Street on Old Route 115) to the Huntsville Dam in 2021 when the Federal Funding becomes available through Luzerne County.

- Phase I of the repaving of Old Route 115. We are looking forward to Federal K-fund grant in order to finish next year.
- Pipe replacement near Lake-Lehman High School has been completed.
- Line Painting of Old Route 115, Idetown Road and Huntsville-Idetown Road is completed for 2020.
- The Road Department has been working with Pocono Spray Patch, who were the low bidder this year, for crack sealing.

partnerships >>

Lehman Township participates in several shared equipment programs. It is very beneficial to the Township for a few reasons. By partnering with other local municipalities, we have access to equipment that is too specialized to warrant a purchase. A few, are extremely necessary to complete a task, but are only used for a few weeks out of the year. Renting equipment is always an option, however, they are hard to find and very costly. Purchasing such equipment would far exceed any funding available to us. Being able to share the cost of such equipment with other municipalities is beneficial to all involved.

We currently belong to The Back Mountain Community Partnership. The Back Mountain Community Partnership is a coalition of municipalities in the Back Mountain. It consists of Dallas Township, Dallas Borough, Lehman Township, Kingston Township, Jackson Township, Franklin Township and Harvey's Lake Borough. We own many pieces of equipment through this Partnership that we all benefit from. Lehman Township uses a leaf vacuum truck to gather leaves in both the Spring and Fall. We use a Jet Vac Rooter to clean catch basins and clean clogged pipes from Spring until Fall. These trucks are highly specialized and used frequently, however, they would be much too costly for Lehman Township to purchase on our own. With the Partnership we have been able to purchase both of these pieces of equipment and each municipality is free to use them on a rotating basis.

We also are a part of a shared equipment and labor agreement with Dallas Borough. This agreement is our oldest sharing agreement and has been in place since 2005. Together, Dallas Borough and Lehman Township, own a paver, asphalt roller, milling machine and a street sweeper. These pieces of equipment are needed for paving. Paving large areas or large roads is labor intensive and specialized, requiring us to bid the larger jobs to commercial paving companies. However, Lehman Township and Dallas Borough are able to complete smaller paving projects such as narrow roads, side streets, housing developments and parking lots. This mutual agreement has benefitted both municipalities financially, saving approximately 30% in paving costs.

Many pieces of the specialized equipment have been purchased with LSA (Gaming) grants. This money comes from the Local Share Account for Luzerne County as part of Act 71 (Gaming Act). It allows the Commonwealth Financing Authority to use gaming funds for community development and infrastructure projects in that county and others surrounding. Not only are the pieces of equipment expensive, but the necessary housing of them as well. It was quickly agreed that the equipment required a storage building in a central location. The Partnership applied for and received an LSA grant to fund the construction of a 6-bay storage garage on Lehman Township property.



Participating in these shared equipment programs is truly a blessing. Not only do our Road Departments benefit but our Police Departments as well. We will be touching on those benefits in our next Newsletter. We are grateful to have access to major, expensive pieces of equipment, we may never have had access to before these Partnerships. Not only are we benefitting financially but we are continuing to build bonds, learn from other municipalities and create great friendships and co-operation within the Back Mountain community.

A note from Mr. Welby:

Winter is upon us and we all know what that means! Snow and slippery roads. Please drive carefully and remember Lehman Township's Snow & Ice Ordinance. Any snow you have plowed and/or shoveled out of your driveway cannot be placed or left in the street.

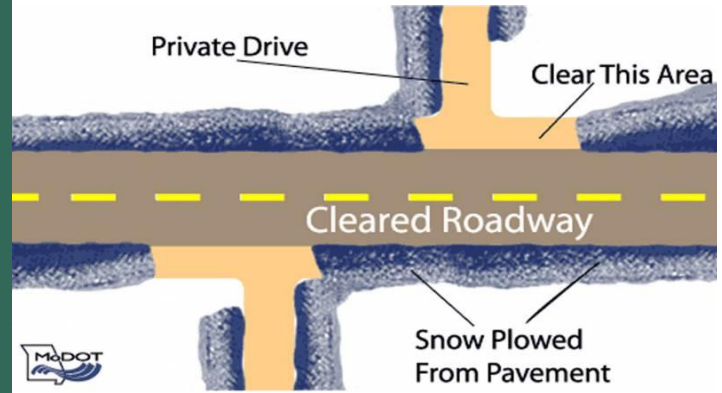
Any and all snow and ice placed from your property onto the public roadway must be completely removed by you. Not only are you creating a hazard to motorists on the roadway, you are also in danger of fines and penalties.

Parking vehicles on Lehman roadways is prohibited during snowstorms or during the snow removal process; said vehicles will be towed at the owner's expense. As always, we ask that you abide by our Township Ordinances to keep everyone safe.

Please be safe this winter!

Zoning Office >>>

We published this last year and feel it needs to be shown again: "We've found some helpful tips to keep your driveway cleared during plow season from MoDOT. Many states are calling this technique 'avoid the second shovel'."



announcements & news >>

new website >>

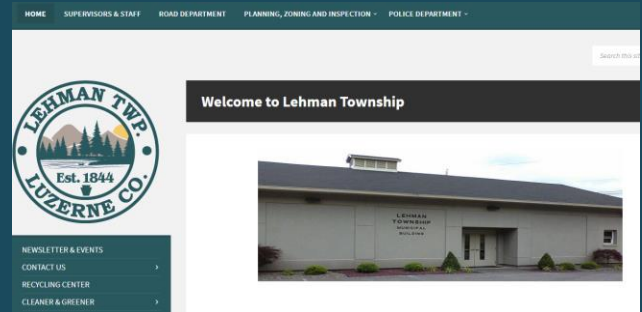
Our Brand-New Website is officially up and running!

We have been working really hard to get our new website up and easy to use. *We are always looking for photos of the township to include from our residents. We are so thankful to those who have already submitted ones we can use!* The new web address is LEHMANTWP.COM. Make sure you save it on your computer favorites so you can easily log on and see up-to-date announcements and/or easily know who to contact if the need arises.

Here is a little preview of some improvements we've made:

- Urgent Announcements easier to find on Home Page;
- Direct Contact through webpage;
- Printable Zoning & Township Ordinances;
- Printable Zoning applications;
- Helpful resources (links & phone numbers) for our most common calls – lost animals, veterans' resources, domestic abuse resources;
- Meet who is working for you;
- Recycling hours, information and printable permit applications.

We will continue to add and make necessary changes to make our new site easy-to-use with more information than ever at your fingertips.



events >>>

Food Drive Collection Location

Again, this year, we will be a collection location for our area food banks. Now more than ever, food banks are low on donations. If you are able, please feel free to drop donations at the municipal building during regular business hours and we will make sure they get to a food bank in our area.

PLEASE DO NOT DROP OFF EXPIRED GOODS. Unfortunately, this has become a recurring issue. All expired food has to be thrown away and we are respectfully asking that you do not bring it at all. Thank you.

If you are in need of assistance, please visit our website under the "Food Pantry Gardens" for food banks in our area and other resources to utilize in your time of need. For more information about how to get help, or how to give, visit our website.

Visit us on



"Lehman Township,
Luzerne County, Pennsylvania"

Call us at **570-674-7788**

or check our website
www.lehmantwp.com

