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NINE



Keeping you connected to your community

in Lehman

Fall/
Winter
2021-22

A Message from your Supervisors:

elected officials >>>

As another year begins your Township Supervisors wish everyone a healthy and happy 2022 with the hope that we can all get back to the normal lifestyle we enjoyed in the recent past. Our employees are ready and able to continue to provide our residents with the services they deserve and expect.

We recently expanded our police department to seven full time officers and will continue to have 24-hour coverage every day of the year. Our road department equipment is in great shape and our workers are prepared to handle whatever mother nature throws at us this winter.

Please don't hesitate to contact us with any questions or concerns!

Visit us on



*"Lehman Township,
Luzerne County, Pennsylvania"*

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

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

or check our website
www.LehmanTwp.com

Recycling >>

Recycling Center

2022 Recycling Permits are now available. Residents who have renewed since 2020, do not need to do anything further at this time. We do ask that any updates or changes in vehicles and contact information be submitted with a new permit application. You will find permit applications at the Recycling Center as well as online (www.LehmanTwp.com/Recycling-Center).

Thank you for continuing to recycle with us and help us work towards a healthier world.

Chief Liparela's Update

police department >>>

The Lehman Township Police Department closed out another successful year. We were able to retire two (2) police SUVs from our fleet and replace them with two (2) new 2021 Dodge Durango Police Pursuit SUVs. Along with the updated fleet, LTPD took delivery of ten (10) new body cameras and body camera server thanks to receiving a Local Share Agreement (LSA) Grant. These upgrades to our department would not have been possible without this grant and a very generous donation by a township resident. This resident wishes to remain anonymous to the public but we cannot thank them enough for their support.

With the support of the Lehman Township Board of Supervisors, the department hired our 7th full time police officer. In the modern day, it is becoming more difficult to find part time officers to work. A full-time police force provides proper 24-hour coverage and allows officers to inter-departmental backup on calls instead of relying on outside police agencies.

In 2021, the police department received 2,882 calls for service, investigated 66 vehicle crashes, issued 197 traffic citations, and handled 81 adult criminal arrests.

The SRO program between the Lake-Lehman School District and Lehman Township continues to be very successful having police officers on the Lake-Lehman school campus everyday.

As we begin 2022, the Lehman Township Police

Department is excited to announce that we will be breaking ground for a police addition in the very near future, after years of planning. This much-needed addition will have an on-site locker room, break room and interview room to be able to accommodate the daily functions of our expanding police department.

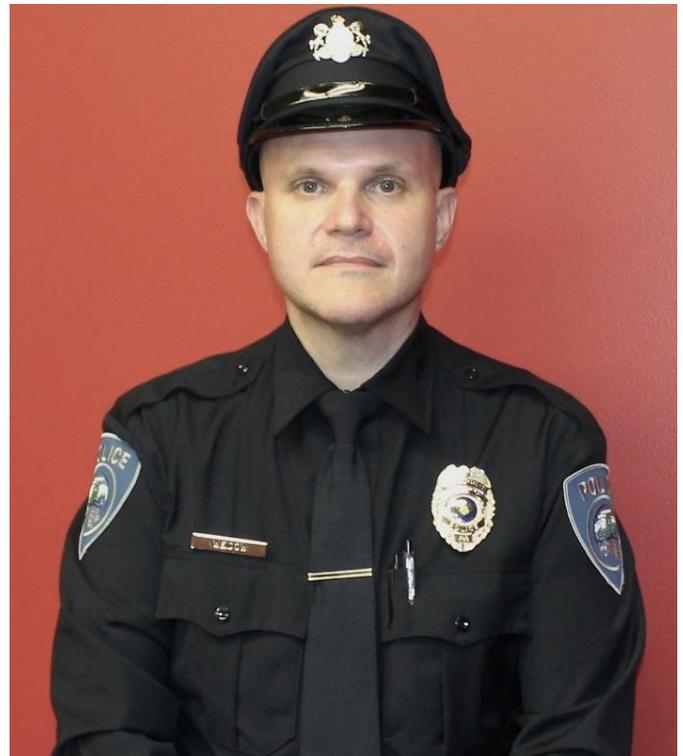
LTPD looks forward to another successful year for 2022. Thanks to the Lehman Township Board of Supervisors and all Lehman Township residents for your continued support.

Reminder – call 911 for police. We are available 24/7/365 for service. Officers can be reached by a general department email for non-emergencies: police@lehmantwp.com

~ Chief Mark Liparela

welcome >>>

We welcome Edwin Weidow to the Lehman Township Police Department. Officer Weidow was sworn in at the Township Supervisors Meeting on October 18, 2021.



zoning office >>

We wanted to remind our residents of our Ordinance that PROHIBITS the feeding of Waterfowl or creating any condition causing the congestion of Waterfowl, including, the Operation of Circulators in Lake Silkworth. This puts residents in grave danger just walking on the lake. You can see this and other Ordinances, in full, at www.LehmanTwp.com/zoning-ordinances-applications.

We are currently working to have all Ordinances uploaded on our website to make it easier for all residents to obtain and read. We have already shared our most used applications as well as directions for use and fee schedules. Please visit the website and check out everything that's new on our Zoning Page! As always, be safe and stay healthy.

~ Mr. Jim Welby

welcome >>>

We welcome Cody Grey to the Lehman Township Road Department.

Cody was hired as full-time employee in August, 2021.



Lehman Township was successful in securing a multi-modal grant from DCED for Three Hundred Seventy-Five Thousand Dollars (\$375,000.00) to repave Old Route 115 from where we left off in 2020 to the intersection of Huntsville-Idetown Road. The engineering work on this project is already complete and the project will be put out to bid in the spring. This will complete the repaving of Lehman Township's section of this road. The remaining portion of Old Route 115 (from Huntsville-Idetown Road to State Route 309) is a Luzerne County Road.

Lehman Township was awarded a Twenty-Five Thousand Dollar (\$25,000.00) Dirt & Gravel Road Grant to rebuild the unpaved portion of Sayre Road in 2021. All preliminary work has been completed but due to the wet summer conditions, application of the DSA (Driving Surface Aggregate) top coat will be done this spring.

We have been able to purchase a new Case 580 wide track Backhoe/Loader to replace our old Case 590. The new loader comes with a quick detach system for the front bucket as well as a set of pallet forks and a second 4-in-1 bucket.



special reports >>>

VOLUNTEERS WANTED for NEW Pollinator Gardens >>>

In August of 2021, we were graciously awarded the **Healing the Planet Grant** in the amount of \$2,500 from *Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful* and the *GIANT Company*. We are excited to begin building our safe havens and gardens to assist bees and butterflies in our area. The gardens will be placed on our property next to the Back Mountain Food Pantry Gardens. We will be needing many



volunteers in early spring. If you would like to help, or know of a Group within the community, please contact Chrisandra at 570-674-7788 or Lehman@LehmanTwp.com with your name and contact information. We will be reaching out to volunteers in the next month or so.

With the help of our community, we believe this project will have long-lasting positive effects on our immediate area.

In Issue ONE - Spring, 2019, of our newsletter, we discussed how Lehman Township aggressively applies for grants, both alone and with our neighboring municipalities. We thought it best to review how Federal, State and local grants are awarded and to answer some questions that our residents have asked.

These grants are highly competitive in many cases, the awarding agencies look more favorably when multiple applicates go together on a grant to stretch available dollars. Therefore, 7 municipalities formed the Back Mountain Community Partnership (BMCP) to cooperate together in numerous projects including assisting neighboring towns in policing, paving, sharing equipment, etc. Another function is requesting grants administered by the Local Share Account (LSA) grants funded by the gaming industry. These applications are sponsored by one of the seven members but the dollar amount awarded is shared by all seven municipalities in BMCP.

Some of the larger awarded grants and completed projects include the following:

1. Paver & Roller for our road department that is shared by Lehman Township and Dallas Borough;
2. Retrofitting of the Lehman Township Municipal Building to make it more energy efficient. It is estimated to save approximately 30% on energy bills;
3. Back Mountain Regional EMS garage and training center located on Route 118 at the fairground entrance (this was sponsored by Lehman Township);
4. Phase 2 of the Back Mountain Regional EMS building to include a multi-bay garage for Back Mountain Regional Fire and Ambulance equipment was awarded close to \$400,000 and will be soon going out to bid;
5. Lake Silkworth Fire Company's new garage was made possible by over 1 million dollars in grant awards (this was sponsored by Lehman Township).

Other projects funded by grant awards either sponsored by Lehman Township, or other BMCP members, in which Lehman Township shares in the awarded grant money and/or equipment is as follows: (1) Paying Huntsville-Idetown and Idetown Roads; (2) Paving Old 115; (3) erecting a 6-bay storage building on Lehman Township property; (4) purchase of 4 police cruisers; (5) purchase of a vactor truck for drain cleaning; (6) purchase of a leaf vacuum; (7) purchase of a brush cutter; (8) purchase of a dump body pickup truck; and (9) purchase of various police equipment including in-car computers, tasers, vests and body cameras.

Other grant awards which Lehman Township participates includes the Conservation District Dirt and Gravel roads program, the Luzerne County Recycling education and paper shredding grant programs, and Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful litter pick-up and Heal the Planet programs.

Lehman Township's participation in LSA, multimodal transportation fund, dirt and gravel roads, inter-municipal, energy saving, recycling, environmental, stimulus and other grant opportunities has proved useful. The awards have totaled over **6 million dollars** in an 8-year period.

We would like to also let our residents know, that when awards are in press releases and Lehman Township's name is not on the list that doesn't necessarily mean we are not a recipient of that award. Lehman Township could be a part of a joint application sponsored by another member of the Back Mountain Community Partnership. We hope that this article clears up any questions our residents have on how grants are applied for and awarded.