

# Branch Communicator

March 2011

## Supervisor Notes

### Telephone Numbers Supervisors

John Purcell 544-5890  
Robert Yeager 449-5226  
Joseph Wank 544-3183

### Township Offices

Branch Police 544-2901  
Secretary/ Treasurer 544-4283  
Joyce Beach  
Township Manager 544-4283  
John Andruchek  
SEWAGE Problems  
• SCMA 622-8240

### Police Report

The police officers handled 74 complaints, incidents and assists during the month of February. Officers attended 5 court hearings and issued 11 traffic citations. They traveled 3182 miles in patrolling the two townships.

### Sponsors:

Snyders Auto sales and Body repairs.

Jerry Rizzardi

Enbee Tax Services

### Marcellus Shale

The solicitor continues to work on ways for the township to regulate drilling. A proposed draft received from the Township Association offers guidance on amending the Townships Zoning Ordinance to dictate where Drilling can take place. He asked for a meeting with members of the Planning Commission and Supervisors to propose changes to the current ordinance. This may offer some measure of control and protection over the drilling.

### Wind Energy Safety Ordinance

An ordinance regulating the establishment of wind farms has been advertised and will be enacted at the April meeting. This will not affect private individual use of wind generators by residents.

### Timbering Applications

Timbering permits were approved for land owned by Craig Morgan and the Branch Booster Club. In both applications relief from the payment of acreage fees were waived.

In the case of the Booster Club, cleanup will be done by members and supervised by the Township.

### Collection Authorization

Authorization to submit the Delinquent Per Capita Report for collection by Harry Ebling was given.

### Reilly Twp Sludge Permit

The DEP has issued a permit for the spreading of sewage sludge in Reilly Township. This in spite of opposition by officials from Reilly and neighboring townships including Branch township. Several hearing have been held over the years by citizens of the local area, including at least one chaired by the late Senator Rhoads opposing this permit. While there is little threat to watersheds in Branch this action by

the DEP has been deplored by the Supervisors.

### Compost Site Operation

The current policy of leaving access to the compost site open at all times will continue for now. Should illegal dumping and excess use by non-residents occur, restricted access will again be instituted.

### Courthouse meeting

A meeting will be held on March 31st in the Schuylkill County Court House on the problem of dilapidated houses, illegal junk yards and abandoned vehicles in the township. If voluntary efforts are not enough to cleanup the township, legal actions will be taken to enforce existing ordinances .

## This and that

The Branch Communicator is a privately published newsletter to provide residents of the Township with information on governance by their elected and appointed Township officials. Opinions expressed are those of the Publisher and do not reflect the opinions of Sponsors nor officials. Questions and comments should be directed to Norm Bertasavage 544-6583

The Phoenix Park Fire Company sponsors a weekly bingo every Monday night. All are welcomed to come out and play.

### Wings and Things

The Good Intent Hose

Company of Llewellyn is serving wings, peel and eat Shrimp, and fries every Tuesday night from 6 until all are gone. Eat in or take out.

### Fish & Crab Dinner

The good intent Ladies Auxiliary will hold a Fish and Crab dinner April 8th at the

Hosey. Hours will be 3 PM to 6 PM, Eat in or take out. Tickets are \$8.00. Call 544-3929 for tickets or more information.

### Lenten Pizza Sale

The Good Intent will sell Pizza every Friday during Lent. Pick one up at the Hosey!

# SCMA Meeting

## Sprinkler systems Law

The PA House of Representatives has voted to rescind the law that requires all new construction homes to have a sprinkler system installed. The bill has been sent to the PA Senate, which will act on it with it's usual haste. Hopefully, affordable housing will be available in PA soon.

Due to a scheduling conflict I missed the March SCMA meeting. The next meeting will be April 20th.

**Happy Easter to all during this season of joyous celebration and rebirth best wishes to all.**

The Minersville Area high School put on it's annual Play, a presentation of the Musical Comedy Whodunit, "Curtains". It is nice to see that this area has so many attractive, talented and hardworking young people.

Brody Lipsett's portrayal of the Detective was as outstanding as his academic standing. Olivia Massari, Katie Price, Justine Ellis, Gianna Agnello were among the many attractive and talented young ladies playing parts that were carried out

with amusing panache. Pablo Lopez, James Brown, Matt Murphy and Ed Kell danced and sang with grace. My own Nick Mione played his role with the same menace as his golf game.

All of the cast members added to an evening of quality entertainment with promise from the younger members of more of the same in years to come. If you missed this year's presentation that is your loss. But stay tuned for next years star performers.

Congratulations to all, cast, production, and tech staff. Ya did Good!

# Financial Data

<b>Income</b>	
Court Income	401.59
General Receipts	15,704.43
Other Income	5,100.00
Permits	540.25
Tax Income	<u>21,420.28</u>

**Total Income** 43,166.55

<b>Expense</b>	
Building Inspector	45.09
Contractors	775.00
dues	29.69
Electric	3,300.74
Garbage	7,997.65
<b>Insurance</b>	
Health Insurance	4,708.89
Insurance - Other	409.95
<b>Total Insurance</b>	<u>5,118.84</u>

<b>Misc</b>	481.29
Payroll Expenses	8,721.07
Payroll Taxes	3,317.80
Police	834.32
Sewage	174.00
Solicitor	1,432.98
Supervisors	150.48
Tax Collections	1,066.08
Telephones	295.09
Truck & Equipment	1,386.19
truck Loan	360.12
Utilities	1,048.71
vehicle	<u>1,636.82</u>

**Total Expense** 38,171.96

**Net Income** **4,994.59**

# Planning Commission Meeting

The Planning Commission met in a special session on March 15th. A variance request was not received from the building inspector in time for the regularly scheduled meeting. As a result the Zoning Hearing was scheduled for March 21st. The Commission reviewed the request for a variance for a property on Queen Street. The request was for relief from front and

rear side lines. The lot was one laid out prior to the current Zoning ordinances. The home to be constructed on the property will meet side line requirements and would be basically in line with other homes in the area. After examination of the planned residence a motion to recommend approval of the variance to the Zoning hearing board was made and passed

by the Commission. A letter will be sent to the Zoning hearing board with this recommendation.

The Zoning Hearing Board met in the Police Department Offices on March 22nd. After deliberation the request for variance was approved.