

# Branch Communicator

May 2011

## 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 officers traveled 3952 miles patrolling both townships, an average of 132 miles per day. They handled 56 incidents/complaints including traffic accidents, traffic complaints, EMS assists, missing person reports among other duties. There were several citations issued including DUI and other non violent criminal complaints.

## Sponsors

**Don's Classic Restorations**  
**544-8209**  
Enbee Tax Service 544-6583

Jerry Rizzardi

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

## Supervisor Notes

### Garbage Pick up changes.

Garbage pick up scheduled for Thursday June 2nd and July 7th will be shifted to Friday June 3rd and July 8th due to holidays. Instead of putting garbage out on Wednesdays those weeks, put it out on Thursday evenings.

### Solicitor's Report

The solicitor reported on three proposed ordinances. **Marcellus Shale regulation** in PA is an evolving issue and there is little guidance from the state or the Township Association. It was recommended that any ordinance enacted at this time would have great and costly legal problems and should be placed on hold. The County has set up a committee that was charged with the task of investigating drilling actions and proposing actions for the county to take.

The **Rental Property ordinance** was also placed on hold pending further review of compliance actions and enforcement responsibilities.

The **Blighted Property ordinance** was adopted and actions will be taken to identify and clean up properties in the township.

The question of ownership of abandoned railroad property was also discussed. Legally ownership of abandoned rail beds should revert equally to property owners on either side of the rail bed.

### Road Masters Report

Township workers were busy cutting grass along township roads, cleaning up cemeteries and other jobs beautifying the township in preparation for the Memorial Day Celebration. Patching of potholes continues as well as burnings at the compost site.

### Memorial Day

The township will sponsor the annual Memorial Day celebration to Honor our Veterans. Come out on Monday May 30th for the parade and ceremony at the Elementary School. Give an hour to salute those who gave so much.

## This and that

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

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.

### Wings and Things

The Good Intent Hose

## Financial Data

May 1 - 20, 11

<b>Income</b>	
<b>Court Income</b>	71.89
<b>General Receipts</b>	79,174.74
<b>Other Income</b>	4,001.05
<b>Permits</b>	132.08
<b>Total Income</b>	83,379.76
<b>Expense</b>	
<b>advertising</b>	305.70
<b>Building Inspector</b>	102.75
<b>Contractors</b>	355.00
<b>dues</b>	153.00
<b>Electric</b>	146.65
<b>Fire Companies</b>	2,800.00
<b>Garbage</b>	7,997.65
<b>Insurance</b>	
<b>Health Insurance</b>	4,708.89
<b>Insurance - Other</b>	250.95
<b>Total Insurance</b>	4,959.84
<b>Misc</b>	123.50
<b>Office Expense</b>	225.00
<b>Payroll Expenses</b>	8,650.45
<b>Payroll Taxes</b>	157.44
<b>Police</b>	470.25
<b>postage</b>	54.30
<b>Road Work</b>	1,968.30
<b>Sewage</b>	174.00
<b>Solicitor</b>	180.00
<b>Supervisors</b>	150.48
<b>Tax Collections</b>	3,163.28
<b>Telephones</b>	295.12
<b>Truck &amp; Equipment</b>	2,606.08
<b>Utilities</b>	1,540.13
<b>Total Expense</b>	36,578.92
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>46,800.84</b>

### If you own a house:

EPA's new lead safe regulations are onerous and outrageous, requiring contractors to do their work in a "lead safe" manner that will cost the home owners thousands of additional dollars and potentially subject contractors to future litigation.

Some of the new requirements:

Contractors must preclean the home, Contractors must remove all furniture from areas being worked on or completely wrap those items in plastic. The area being worked on must be isolated from the rest of the house.

All debris must be either wrapped in plastic or places in plastic trash bags before leaving the containment area.

Workers must wear protective overalls, respirators, rubber gloves, booties, and glasses A special HEPA vacuum costing \$500.00 or more has to be used, the filters costing approx, \$125.00 each has to be replaces after each job.

Caution tape and warning signage has to be places throughout the job site.

The outside of the house has to be protected with plastic and signage as well.

So far the EPA has required contractors to pay them \$300.00 for the privilege of doing these things and to attend an 8 hour class costing an additional \$200.00 for certification.

EPA fines for violators is \$37,500.00 per incidence. But the homeowner can do all the work, contamination they want, without taking any of the above precautions.

These regulations translate to thousands of additional dollars that home owners will have to shell out. The kicker is, homeowners cannot refuse these measures. If they hire a contractor, electrician, plumber, painter, or any one else who disturbs more than 6 square feet

of painted surface in a house built prior to 1978 prepare to be screwed. Approx. 80% of the housing in our area was built before 1978.

**Contact you Congressmen and US Senators now and ask them to reinstate the Opt-out clause which would allow you the home owner to decide for yourself if you want to pay for these extraordinary measures.**

#### \$50.00 Light bulbs

Four years ago Congress began implementing what is a global agenda to rid the world of the incandescent light. The 110th Congress' environmental agenda began with legislation that suggested the invention of the electric light causes global warming.

By outlawing incandescent lights in favor of compact fluorescent lighting, the environmentalists said the country would reduce energy consumption by \$18 billion a year, or save consumers between \$80 to \$180 on their electric bills per year.

The type of light bulbs that you use in your home **NEXT YEAR** will be obsolete. You will be mandated by federal law to get rid of your existing light bulbs---all for the sake of the preventing, or minimizing global warming (even though scientists today are telling us we are entering into a solar cooling phase that will drop the average temperatures on Earth for the next 30 to 80 years).

Further more, should you drop and break one of the new bulbs you will be required to evacuate your home and call for a Hazmat clean up team. The cost of that can be several thousands of dollars.

### Planning Commission Meeting

The Planning Commission reviewed a proposed maintenance agreement between property owners on a private driveway off Hill Terrace Drive. A maintenance agreement was requested as part of the approval of a Koury subdivision plan. The proposed agreement would allow Koury to retain ownership of a 25 foot strip while maintenance of the entire lane would be the responsibility of the current

and future residents.

A request for a variance to allow the operation of a drive-up food kiosk was reviewed by the board. The review bogged down over discussions concerning sewage and contamination of a local creek. It was decided that a meeting with the proposed operator of the facility would be necessary before any recommendation was made.