

Adams Township News

Board of Supervisors

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Assistant Chief of Police

Ed Brooks

Sergeant

Shawn Anglum

Road Crew Foreman

John Hock

Assistant Road Crew Foreman

Rhett Stobert

Receptionist/Parks

Corry Harley

Scheduled Meetings at Adams Township Municipal Building

Board of Supervisors
2nd & 4th Monday of each month at 8:00 p.m.

Planning Commission
1st Wednesday of each month at 7:30 p.m.

Park and Recreation Board
1st Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m.

Zoning Hearing Board
3rd Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m.

Planning Commission Work Session
3rd Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m.

Scheduled Meetings at Breakneck Creek Regional Authority Building 1166 Mars-Evans City Road

Breakneck Creek Regional Authority
4th Tuesday of each month at 5:00 p.m.
Municipal Water Authority of Adams Township
4th Tuesday of each month at 5:45 p.m.

In Memoriam

The Township's friend and Supervisor, Herb Kaufman, has lost his battle with cancer.

Herb was an Adams Township Supervisor since 2002. He also served on the Parks and Recreation Committee and was a member of the Zoning Hearing Board for 10 years before being elected as a Supervisor.

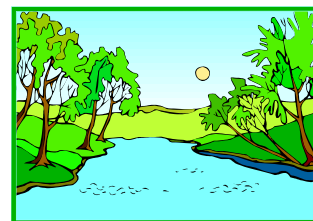
Herb also devoted much of his time to the local fire departments for many years.

He will be sorely missed.

Water Protection Program MS4s (Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems)

The water protection program (MS4s) partnership between Adams Township and M.E.S.A. (Municipal Engineering Service Association) is continuing to be a success. State regulations have been implemented that require townships to test local outfall streams within the township's watershed, which have been previously located by GPS and mapped. The township is to continue to elicit the help of the community in this process which will involve performing physical, chemical and biological testing and compiling annual reports.

Our participation and commitment to the MS4 program since its start in 2003 will continue to protect the quality and quantity of our water resources, which is vital to our environment.



Police Department News



In 2009, the Adams Township Police Department will once again be participating in the Smooth Operator Aggressive Driving campaign.

This project provides funding to pay officers to patrol certain highways and intersections that have a high number of accidents for stricter traffic enforcement.

In Adams Township, the targeted highway is State Route 228, as well as several feeder roads leading to Route 228.

The feeder roads included are Three Degree Road, Mars-Valencia Road, Warrendale Road, Pittsburgh Street, Myoma Road and Adams Ridge Boulevard.

This program will target speeding violations, red light violations, tailgating and reckless driving as well as several other driving behaviors that endanger the motoring public.

Police Reminder

This is the time of year for proms and graduations. Underage drinking is against the law. Do not turn a celebration into a tragedy.



Weekends and especially prom and graduation night are the worst times to be on the road. There are more drunk drivers at that time. Be sure to drive carefully and know where you're going. Keep your cell phone charged in case of an emergency and take extra precautions like pausing another second at a red light or stop sign.

THINK BEFORE YOU DRINK!

Road Rules

The Adams Township Police Department would like to pass the following requirements from the Pennsylvania Vehicle Code concerning the use of headlights.

Drivers are reminded that headlights must be turned on in the following conditions, according to Section 4302 of the Pennsylvania Vehicle Code:

- Between sunset and sunrise.
- Any time a driver cannot discern a person or vehicle from a distance of 1,000 feet due to insufficient light or unfavorable atmospheric conditions, including rain, snow, sleet, hail, fog, smoke, or smog.
- Any time the vehicle's windshield wipers are in continuous or intermittent use due to precipitation or atmospheric moisture.

Make sure all headlights, taillights, and brake lights are properly working. Drivers can be ticketed for nonworking equipment during the conditions listed above.



Crime Prevention Tips

Since the warm weather is approaching, the following are a few safety tips to follow:

Sliding Doors: Door should be locked and have a dowel pin placed in the track to prevent them from being lifted off track.

Lock Doors & Windows: As the temperatures get warmer outdoors we open our doors and windows. BUT beware of intruders. Make sure all doors and windows are securely locked. If the door is not in your sight it should be locked. When working in the back yard, do not leave the front door and/or windows open. Always lock before leaving even for a quick run for an errand. Always have a spare key. Don't place it under a mat or a rock. Leave it with a neighbor for emergencies and safety.

Garage Doors: Don't rely solely on the automatic garage door opener for security. Remember a lightning storm can cause the door to open without your knowledge.

Music Word Search



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|--------------|-------------|-----------|----------------|
| accompanist | alto | bass | bass clef |
| choir | chord | conductor | crescendo |
| dynamics | eighth note | fermata | forte |
| grand staff | half note | harmony | instrument |
| interval | keyboard | legato | measure |
| melody | mezzo forte | piano | quarter note |
| quarter rest | singing | solo | soprano |
| staccato | tempo | tenor | time signature |
| treble clef | vocalize | voice | whole note |

Municipal Water Authority of Adams Township

The Spring Hydrant Flushing program is a part of regular Authority operations and maintenance. The purpose is two-fold, flush the water mains and to check hydrant operation. Discolored water is sometimes a side effect of this ongoing maintenance program. If you do experience discolored water or stained laundry, DO NOT CONTINUE TO USE THE WATER. Keep the laundry items damp until the water clears and use non-chlorine bleach to re-laundry. DO NOT USE CHLORINE BLEACH. Soak the items for a few hours and re-laundry with your regular detergent and non-chlorine bleach. There will be notification in the local papers prior to flushing. Some of the frequently asked questions are:

1.) *When does the tap fee have to be paid?*
Before service is turned on.

2.) *Can I keep my well in operation?*
Yes, provided the well system and the public water system are not interconnected to one another.

3.) *How often will I be billed?*
Once a month, usually on or around the 16th day of the month, based on the following:
\$11.55 per month base charge (5/8" x 3/4" water meter)
\$5.95 per 1,000 gallons used.

The Authority has installed taps at most homes along the distribution system, either for immediate use or future use. Vacant lot taps will only be installed if the tap fee is paid in advance, and the Authority will not be responsible for moving the tap if and when the lot is sold and the new owners prefer it in a different location.

Please contact the Water Authority Manager, Matthew A. Cranmer, if you have any questions or visit the Water Authority office on Valencia Road (in the Adams Township Municipal Building).

The mailing address for the water authority is P.O. Box 807, Mars, PA

16046. Their phone and fax numbers are:
Phone - 724-625-3166
Fax - 724-625-3134

Adams - Mars Farmer's Market

The Adams-Mars Farmers' Market is open Saturdays from 9:00 to noon, May through September. The location of the Market in Mars is at the Woodland Valley Church parking lot (across the street from the Mars Post Office).

All items are locally grown or made. Local vendors sell "in season" vegetables, fruits, plants, flowers, shrubs, honey, eggs and handmade crafts.

The Market is sponsored by Adams Township and the Adams Township Agricultural Security Committee.

Take a moment to stop by some Saturday and support your local producers.

A Few Things You Can Do for Wildlife

1. Respect the Environment—All facets of our environment—soils, plants, animals, air, water—are interrelated in a complex system. The quality of life is directly dependent upon this system, so we must all do our part to protect our environment and keep it clean.

2. Conserve Water—Water is such an everyday part of our lives that it's all too easy to take it for granted. Water is required for many home and industrial uses, for agriculture, for generating power, and even for recreation; yet our water resources are extremely susceptible to waste and abuse. Conserve water, it's precious.

3. Don't Pollute or Litter—The poisoning of our environment is one of the greatest threats facing mankind. Support all efforts to control pollution, and don't litter under any circumstances.

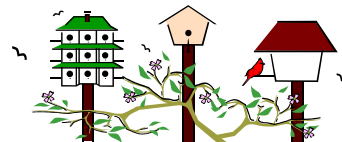
4. Leave Baby Animals Alone—Many young wild animals die prematurely because too many persons find them and think they've been abandoned. Such is rarely the case. Baby

animals should be left in the wild where their mothers can properly care for them.




5. Build and Erect Bird Houses—Artificial nest boxes provide many kinds of cavity nesting birds with places to raise their young. House wrens, house finches, bluebirds and woodpeckers are just some of the bird species which can be expected to nest in appropriately placed nest boxes.

6. Feed Birds in Winter—Bird feeders can entice countless birds to within easy viewing distance. Cardinals, chickadees, nuthatches, goldfinches and many others can be easily attracted to your yard where they can brighten up a gloomy winter day.






7. Plant Seedlings—Food producing plants can fulfill the food and cover needs of many kinds of animals, and beautify a lawn as well. For an assortment of tree and shrub seedlings proven especially useful, visit your local Home and Garden Center.







April 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Planning Commission 7:30 P.M. <i>April Fool's Day</i>	2	3	4
5	6	7 Park & Recreation 7:00 P.M.	8	9	10	11
12	13 Supervisors 8:00 P.M.	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22  Earth Day	23	24	25 
26	27 Supervisors 8:00 P.M.	28 BCRA 5:00 P.M. MWAAT 5:45 P.M.	29	30		

May 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 
3	4	5 Park & Recreation 7:00 P.M.	6 Planning Commission 7:30 P.M.	7	8	9
10 	11 Supervisors 8:00 P.M.	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19  Municipal Primary	20	21	22	23
24	25  Memorial Day	26 BCRA 5:00 P.M. MAWAAT 5:45 P.M.	27	28	29	30 
31						

June 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 Park & Recreation 7:00 P.M.	3 Planning Commission 7:30 P.M.	4	5	6 
7	8 Supervisors 8:00 P.M.	9	10	11	12	13
14  Flag Day	15	16	17	18	19	20
21  Happy Father's Day	22 Supervisors 8:00 P.M.	23 BCRA 5:00 P.M. MWAAT 5:45 P.M.	24	25	26	27 
28	29	30				

Support for Your Local Roads is Down as Transportation Costs Escalate

Times are tough, and Wall Street isn't the only place that is hurting. Main Street is in trouble, too — in more ways than one.

The effects of the nation's financial crisis are trickling into Pennsylvania's townships, where soaring prices for necessities, like groceries, are taking a bite out of your wallet. And like you, the commonwealth's municipalities are experiencing their own money woes.

No doubt, you've picked up the local newspaper only to learn that your township supervisors are approaching this budget season with more caution than usual. As one local official put it: "Everyone's afraid. You're afraid to go and spend money when you actually don't know how much you're going to have."

So now there is lots of talk about trimming spending, delaying projects, dipping into reserves, and even instituting tax increases or employee layoffs to do what state law requires: Balance the township budget.

The housing slump and local job losses have led to a decline in real estate transfer and earned income taxes, both significant revenue producers for municipalities. Meanwhile, the cost of doing business is up — way up.

Just ask your township how much it costs to maintain "Main Street" today compared to a year or two ago. Their stories will stun you.

No relief in sight

In the past year, for example, the price of petroleum-based products, such as asphalt, has almost doubled. Road salt, which has become a scarce commodity, is another expensive item. Last season, townships were paying an average of \$40 a ton for salt. This winter, many are paying well over \$100 a ton, that is, if they can locate a supplier.

And now, thanks to the Pennsylvania Supreme Court's decision in *Youngwood v. Pennsylvania Prevailing Wage Appeals Board*, municipalities are being mandated to shell out additional dollars for routine road maintenance projects. Under the decision, townships must now pay contracted workers higher wages, commonly known as "prevailing wages," which could add up to 30 percent to their costs.

On top of all this, state efforts to produce additional transportation funding have hit their own roadblocks. Recently, for instance, the Federal Highway Administration rejected Pennsylvania's application to toll Interstate 80.

This decision, while welcomed by some, was a blow to Act 44 of 2007, which would have turned the toll revenues into new transportation funding and generated about \$900 million a year for roads, bridges, and mass transit.

Meanwhile, Gov. Ed Rendell's plan to lease the Pennsylvania Turnpike to raise road revenues has faltered, too. A private partnership had offered the commonwealth \$12.8 billion for the 75-year lease. However, state lawmakers let the September 30 decision deadline come and go, and the partnership pulled the plug on the deal. Rendell had estimated that the lease plan would have raised an estimated \$1 billion a year for transportation.

State sources report that the I-80 toll and turnpike lease proposals will likely be revived in 2009, but this isn't good news for townships.

Why? Well, these initiatives would funnel very little money — and in some cases, no money at all — to your community, where officials are responsible for the upkeep of many of the roads and bridges that you use to get to work and your children take to school. Instead, much of the funding would be directed to the state Department of Transportation and mass transit authorities.

This lack of support, coupled with increasing costs and decreasing revenues, spell trouble for township budgets, local roads and bridges, and the traveling public, which will be impacted the most if state lawmakers continue to overlook the growing transportation needs of Pennsylvania's local governments.

"Townships are doing the best they can and working hard to trim their costs. The last thing they want to do, especially now when so many of their constituents are hurting financially, is raise taxes to fix roads," says Ken Grimes, president of the Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors, which represents the state's 1,455 townships of the second class.

"But that's exactly what will happen," he adds, "unless the governor and state lawmakers find a way to provide additional funding for the state's *entire* transportation system, including local roads and bridges."

The next few months are critical

That's why the next few months are critical.

When lawmakers return to Harrisburg in January, transportation funding is expected to be uppermost in their minds. And this time around, it's imperative that they survey the entire landscape and treat everyone — PennDOT, municipalities, and mass transit — equally and fairly. In addition, lawmakers need to repeal the state's prevailing wage, which is also helping to spike transportation costs.

The Adams Township News is published for the residents of Adams Township. All comments/questions should be sent to: The Adams Township News, c/o Adams Township, 690 Valencia Rd., Mars, PA 16046.

And you can bet your township officials will be on the phone with state senators and representatives, urging them to support local roads and bridges and take action on the prevailing wage. But this isn't a battle they can — or should — fight alone.

You and your neighbors — in fact, every Pennsylvanian — relies on local roads and bridges to travel to work, school, and the grocery store. Therefore, you must join township officials and become an advocate for increased transportation funding not only to ensure the safety of local roads but also to keep property taxes from climbing. Phone calls, e-mails, and letters are the most effective ways of reaching state lawmakers. *(You can get lawmakers' names, numbers, and addresses from your township and online.)*

"The adage about strength in numbers applies here," Grimes says. "Township officials and you, their constituents, have to work together to make sure local roads, a vital link in Pennsylvania's transportation chain, aren't

overlooked anymore. We all have to do something, or we run the risk of getting nothing. I don't think any of us want that."



Townships statewide are trying to squeeze every road dollar as far as it will go, but escalating wage and product costs are putting local officials in a bind. Financial support from the state would help alleviate the problem, but so far lawmakers have been slow to act.

Adams Township Municipal Building: 724/625-2221
Adams Township Police: 724/625-2040

Road Crew Building: 724/625-1826
Adams Township Web Site: www.adamstwp.org

Adams Township
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Mars, PA 16046

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