

Limerick Township

Newsletter

Moving Forward... The Next Phase of Limerick Township



Limerick Community Park

*Township Accepts Donation
of 24 Acres Adjacent to
Limerick Community Park*

Limerick Fire Company

*Begins Construction of
20,300 sq. ft. Facility*



Message from the Chairman



Thomas J. Neafcy, Jr.
Chairman

The past few months have been a busy time for the Township as the Board of Supervisors worked through the many details required for the 2017 Annual Budget. While the Budget is short-term by nature and only speaks to a specific 12 month period, Limerick has consistently structured the budget document around long-range planning which looks to provide services in the most efficient and cost effective manner possible. These services have been provided for many years while maintaining low real estate taxes which have consistently been in the lower 1/3 of all 62 municipal communities within Montgomery County.

This budgeting philosophy remains the basis for long-term studies which have been underway over the past several years as the Township analyzed how services would be provided to future generations of Limerick residents. Several long range projects have been recently finalized and are highlighted within this newsletter.

As a result of a 2009 legislative action by the State mandating that local municipalities are to be responsible for fire protection services, the Township worked with both Limerick and Linfield Volunteer Fire Companies to establish joint budgeting and operational procedures focusing on the needs of the Township, not one particular fire company. The new Limerick Fire Station, currently under construction, is an important step in this effort.

The Board is also thankful to the Sankey Family for their donation of 24 acres of land which will be incorporated into the award-winning Limerick Community Park. While the new park land and fire station are important long-term achievements, funding considerations for all Township operations were a main focus of the Board as we looked for ways to lessen the burden to existing taxpayers to pay for long-term capital needs. Included in this newsletter is a review of the recent decision to sell the Township's sewer system in order to pay for long-term capital projects. Over the next several months, the Board will discuss a financial strategy for the proceeds of the sale; we will look at ways to reduce Township debt, provide for long-term capital needs, and maintain Limerick's long standing below-average real estate tax rates.

This is an exciting time for our Township; as we look forward to the start of a new year, Limerick can also look beyond 2017 with the knowledge that the foundation of a strong and vibrant community will be in place not only for those who call Limerick home today, but for all who will follow.

I wish you all a Merry Christmas, Happy New Year, and a wonderful Holiday season!

Thomas J. Neafcy, Jr.
Chairman

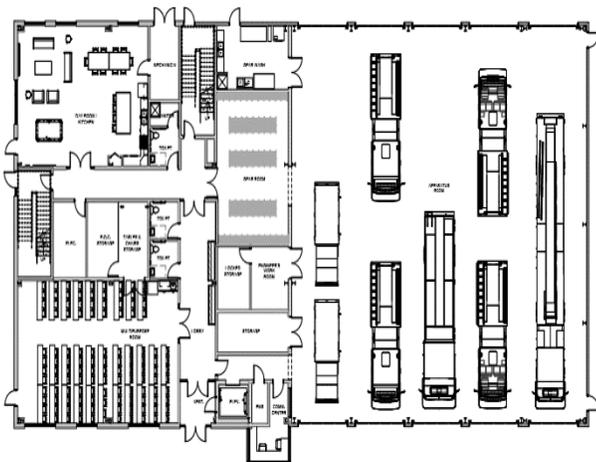


Limerick Fire Company

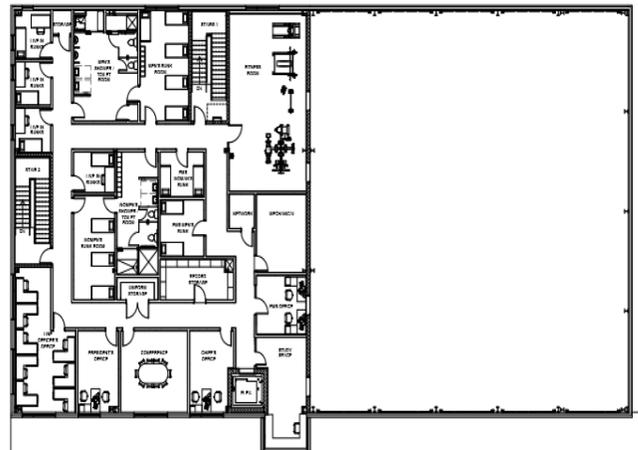
Limerick Township is fortunate to maintain a strong force of over 100 active volunteer firefighters. A volunteer force saves the Limerick Community approximately \$4 million annually by reducing the need for paid firefighters. The Township has established a capital funding program which will assist the volunteers with the equipment and facilities they need so they are able to focus on the operation of the fire service. Construction of this new Limerick Fire Station is expected to be completed in the summer of 2017.



First Floor



Second Floor



Park Expansion

The Township is grateful to the Sankey Family for their recent donation which will add valuable parkland adjacent to the Limerick Community Park. With a growing community seeking options for athletic, trail, playground, and outdoor recreational activities these additional acres will help serve the needs of this community for many years to come. In order to determine the best use for the new land, a Master Plan Study is anticipated to begin in early 2017. The Master Plan Study will look to incorporate the newly acquired 24 acres into the existing park. Public participation is strongly encouraged in this process and if you wish to participate, please check for updates to be posted on the Township website at www.limerickpa.org.

Limerick Community Park is the home of 15 different programs and events offered by Limerick Township Parks and Recreation.

An average of 200 pavilion rental permits are issued each season between the Main Pavilion and Lion's Den Pavilion.

Baseball and Softball fields are heavily used 208 out of the 224 rental days by five adult baseball/ softball leagues and six youth baseball/softball organizations.

Multipurpose fields are used 187 out of the 224 rental days by 8 different youth athletic organizations.

24 acres acquired to expand the Limerick Community Park.





SUPERVISORS APPROVE THE SALE OF THE TOWNSHIP SEWER SYSTEM

At the Board's public meeting on November 15th, the Supervisors approved the sale of the sewer system to Aqua Pennsylvania Wastewater, Inc. "Aqua" for \$75.1 million. The approval to sell the sewer system is the culmination of an analysis that has been under discussion for many years to identify funding options to cover the long term needs of the Township's core service departments which include Police, Volunteer Fire Companies, and Public Works. The demand for services on each department has increased dramatically over the past two decades with the steady growth of the community as many new residents choose Limerick as their home and place they wish to raise a family. Businesses also continue to see the benefits of the Limerick region and invest in the Township by providing jobs, goods, and services to all residents. All rely on township services and Limerick has strived to provide the community with the highest level of those services in the most cost efficient manner possible. "Police protection, fire and emergency response services, and the need to maintain a road network of approximately 100 miles are the primary services Limerick must ensure to maintain the vitality of this community not only for today, but for future generations" states Limerick Board Chairman Thomas J. Neafcy, Jr.

Township cost studies identified a required funding level of \$20 to \$30 million over the next 10 to 15 years just to meet the long term capital needs of each of these three departments, which is above and beyond daily operational expenses. The Limerick Board recognized the financial burden this would place on the existing tax base and began to investigate other funding options. We learned that other municipalities had sold sewer systems in the last couple of years to raise capital funds. This non-tax revenue source was investigated and found to be a viable option for Limerick. To fully understand if the monetization of the sewer system would be realistic, the Supervisors appointed the PFM Group in May of this year to begin a formal valuation of the system. The valuation appeared favorable and in August the Board authorized PFM to begin a formal bidding process which resulted with Aqua submitting the winning bid of \$75.1 million. The agreement with Aqua includes a Board specified guarantee that they will not increase sewer rates above the current level for a three year period.

"We are pleased to accept this bid and to be able to fund these important capital projects without the need for increased taxes. We also realize that the excess funds provide an opportunity of financial stability and stable tax rates for this community for many more years if a proper investment strategy is undertaken by the Board" states Vice Chair Kara Shuler. To achieve this, the Board will begin to discuss a long range financial plan with following objectives:

- Long term capital investments to support the "volunteers" who serve the Limerick and Linfield Fire Companies and in doing so, provide an annual savings to the community of approximately \$4 million which would be required to cover a full time paid firefighter membership
- Provide for long term capital and equipment needs for the Police department so they can continue to provide high level public safety protection services to the Limerick community in

the face of rising crime, drug, domestic abuse, and traffic issues that are affecting all communities across the country

- Provide for long term equipment needs of the Township's Public Works Department that maintains a network of approximately 100 roadway miles used daily by residents and the business community
- Reduction of current township debt
- Maintain the ongoing business strategy that has resulted in the Township's "AAA" Bond rating by the Standard and Poor's organization. This achievement is the highest level recognized by the financial industry and enjoyed by only a handful of communities within Pennsylvania
- Maintain the township's history of low tax rates, which has consistently been in the lower 1/3 of all 62 municipalities in Montgomery County. This strategy will be supported by the use of investment income to offset any burden to the tax payer needed to fund operational expenses
- Continue to invest in safety upgrades to roadways and intersections within the community
- Enhancement of the park, trail, and open space offerings to this community including the recent donation of 24 additional acres adjacent to the Limerick Community Park

Aside from the financial benefits realized, the Township recognized that increasing State DEP regulations that govern the operation of a sewer system would begin to place a greater financial and operational burden on the entire department. In addition to higher operational costs, anticipated capital investments to the current \$36 million collection and treatment system would have been required. The sale of the system to a larger organization whose expertise is specific to the industry can achieve greater economies of scale and lowering of costs more than Limerick could provide moving forward. As important as price and rate stabilization to the Board, was that all current sewer department personnel be guaranteed employment with the winning bidder at similar pay, status, and benefit levels. Aqua has agreed with this requirement and is pleased to welcome the township employees into their organization and look forward to utilizing their skills, expertise, and knowledge of the system as they work to maintain sewer services for this Limerick Community.

The next step in the process will be the submission of an application to the PA PUC who will review the details prior to the actual closing, which is not anticipated until summer or early fall of 2017. Until that time, Limerick Township will continue to operate the sewer system. As we approach the sale closing date in 2017, the public will be notified of the pending change by Aqua along with contact and billing information.

"In discussing Aqua's organizational structure with them over the course of this process, the Board is pleased with their history of customer service, responsiveness, and dedication to maintaining a high level system at the lowest cost possible" states Chairman Neafcy. "While this decision was not made lightly, we are assured that the residents and rate payers of this community will be well served by Aqua and look forward to having them as part of our wonderful Limerick Community".

Winter Break Camps

Bricks 4 Kidz: A Galaxy Far Way

Bricks 4 Kidz is bringing the force to you in this exciting LEGO camp where we will learn and build the Star Wars way!

For more information or to register for this camp please visit www.bricks4kidz.com/481

Kitchen Wizards: Ringing in the New Year

Your child will learn how to make party snacks that will be perfect for ringing in the new year or any party occasion!

For more information or to register for this camp please visit the Parks and Recreation page

Parents Night Out

Plan a special evening out...without the kids!

We have a special night planned for them! The night will include a variety of themed activities, hot dog dinner, and fun games!

We will end the night with a movie, so feel free to bring a blanket or pillow!

Dates: 1/13, 2/10, 3/10

Time: 5:30PM to 9:30PM

Ages: 3-12 years, must be potty trained

Fee: \$20 per child, \$10 each additional sibling

Red Cross Babysitters Clinic

This workshop is designed to teach you how to supervise young children and includes instruction on topics including: basic first aid and CPR, feeding babies/young children, and much more!

Date: Saturday, February 25

Time: 9:00AM to 3:00PM

Ages: 11 to 15 year old

Fee: \$65

Winter Discount Tickets

Great gift idea for all ages!

Movie Tavern

Regal Movie Theater

Crayola Factory *

Philadelphia and Elmwood Zoos *

Adventure and Baltimore Aquariums *

Stop by the Township Building today to get your discounted tickets!

* Non-movie tickets available until 12/29/16

Discount Ski Tickets

Save money at your favorite mountain!

Bear Creek

Big Boulder / Jack Frost

Blue Mountain

Camelback

Elk Mountain



Stop by the Township Building today to get your discounted tickets to our local mountains!



Look for information about our **Summer Shamrock Camps** beginning January 3, 2017!

Camp Shamrock ages 5-9
Shamrock Adventures ages 10-13
Registration will begin on **Wednesday, February 1st**

Community News

WINTER 2016 HOME FIRE SAFETY TIPS,

from the Department of Emergency Services

- ♦ Use caution and care when preparing Holiday meals; unattended cooking is the leading cause of U.S. home fires & fire injuries.
- ♦ Holiday lights and decorations should have a UL label (or other approved independent testing laboratory) & used in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations. Water fresh Christmas trees and do not use lit candles as decoration.
- ♦ If candles are used in the home, ensure they are not left unattended and are at least 12" away from anything that can burn.
- ♦ Have your heating equipment & chimneys cleaned and inspected by qualified personnel every year.
- ♦ Ash should be cool (48 – 72 hours) and placed in a metal container away from the home.
- ♦ Combustibles should be kept at least 3' away from heating equipment, temporary heating equipment should not be left unattended, and never use an oven to heat your home.
- ♦ Ensure your home is equipped with functioning smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.

Township Building Holiday Office Hours

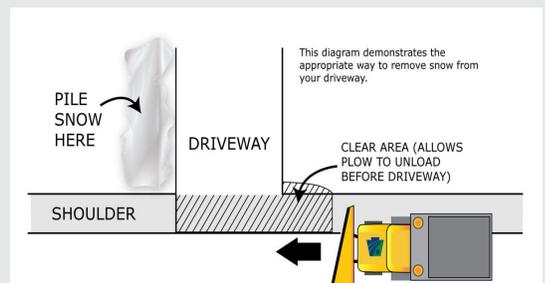
Please note that the Township Building and Administrative Offices will be closed on the following dates: *Friday, December 23, Monday, December 26, Monday, January 2*

Note: The Board of Supervisors will meet for their reorganizational meeting on *Tuesday, January 3, 2017 at 7:00PM.*

WINTER REMINDERS

- ♦ Do not drive unless it is absolutely necessary.
- ♦ Keep winter driving aids (blanket, shovel, boots, etc.) in the trunk of your car.
- ♦ When possible, remove vehicles from the street to enable road crews to efficiently plow and clear streets.
- ♦ Remove snow, ice, and slush from sidewalks including handicap ramps within 24 hours after the snow has stopped falling.
- ♦ Plowing operations begin after more than 2" accumulation and freezing temperatures which indicate no natural melting will occur.
- ♦ Clear vehicle completely of snow and ice before driving.
- ♦ Pile snow from sidewalks and driveways on lawns, not in the street.
- ♦ Residents are responsible for clearing snow around mailboxes.
- ♦ Basketball hoops are *not permitted* to be located within the right-of-way and *must be removed* from the roadway.
- ♦ Private plowing crews should haul snow from properties if it cannot be piled safely.
- ♦ Do *not* push onto the street or onto neighboring properties.
- ♦ Clear fire hydrants of snow as soon as possible.

To prevent your driveway from being plowed in, please follow the diagram to the right for clear removal of snow.



With Your Assistance We Can Stop the Spread of the Spotted Lanternfly

Spotted Lanternfly, *Lycorma delicatula*, an invasive planthopper, is a new threat to Pennsylvania and the United States. The Spotted Lanternfly attacks many hosts including grapes, apples, stone fruits, and pine trees and has the potential to greatly impact the grape, fruit tree, and logging industries. Early detection is vital for the protection of Pennsylvania businesses and agriculture.

Winter is the perfect time to find and destroy the egg masses before they hatch in May or June. The Spotted Lanternfly is spread when egg masses are moved.

Recently, the Spotted Lanternfly has been discovered within Limerick Township and Limerick has been added to the quarantine area.

Please visit the PA Department of Agriculture’s website for more information or stop by the Township Building to pick up literature on how to reduce the spread of the Spotted Lanternfly.



Give the gift of *life* - donate blood

Monday, December 19

2:00PM – 7:00PM

Limerick Township Building

Register with Marcy (610) 495-6432



Christmas Tree Recycling Drop Off

Christmas trees may be dropped off for recycling at the designated area at the Limerick Community Park

December 26th through January 31st

Please remove all Tinsel, Lights, and Ornaments.



Santa Claus Is Coming to Town!

Santa will be visiting Limerick Township on the fire truck, and Santa’s Elves will be handing out Candy Canes to all the good boys and girls in town! Listen for Christmas music playing and keep an eye out for Santa!



Linfield Fire- Saturday, Dec. 17, 9:00AM / Limerick Fire - Saturday, Dec. 17, 8:00AM

For event updates please visit the Fire Companies on Facebook:
facebook.com/LinfieldFireCompany / facebook.com/Limerick-Fire-Rescue

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Limerick, PA 19468

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Limerick Township Municipal Building
646 West Ridge Pike, Limerick, PA 19468
610-495-6432 www.limerickpa.org

Board of Supervisors

Thomas J. Neafey, Jr. - *Chairman*
Kara Shuler - *Vice Chairman*
Elaine DeWan
Kenneth W. Sperring, Jr.
Joseph St. Pedro

Schedule of Municipal Meetings

Board of Supervisors

1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month,
7:00PM at the Township Building

Parks & Recreation

2nd Tuesday of each month,
7:00PM at the Township Building

Planning Commission

4th Thursday of each month,
7:00PM at the Township Building

Zoning Hearing Board

4th Wednesday of each month,
6:30PM at the Township Building

