

HEIDELBERG TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER - 2019

SUPERVISORS - 6YR. ELECTED

Brian Thumm (term expires 12/31/19)

Thomas L. Schoener (term expires 12/31/19)

David L. Manbeck (term expires 12/31/21)

David Randler (term expires 12/31/21)

Terry Wolfe (term expires 12/31/24)

SECRETARY

Cheryl Bowers

TREASURER/TAX COLLECTOR (4 YR TERM - EXPIRES 12/31/21)

Carol Keppley - 610-781-7424

POLICE CHIEF

Jeff Stone

ROAD MASTER

Thomas Schoener

ZONING OFFICER

Technicon Enterprise or contact Township Office

BUILDING INSPECTOR

Jerry Farro - 570-573-2825

TOWNSHIP OFFICE

Telephone: 610-693-3197

Fax: 610-693-8311

Hours: 10 AM to 1 PM: Please call ahead to confirm that the office will be open or to arrange a more convenient time to suit your needs.

Location: 11 Tulpehocken Forge Road

POLICE, FIRE, EMS: 610-655-4911

EMERGENCY: 911

Please **DO NOT** call the Municipal Building or Police Office

PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT www.heidelbergtownship.org

SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Last Thursday of each month - 7:30 PM

PLANNING COMMISSION

First Wednesday of each month - if needed - 7:30 PM

ZONING HEARING BOARD

Meets when needed to consider appeals

**ALL MEETINGS ARE HELD AT THE TOWNSHIP BUILDING LOCATED
AT 11 TULPEHOCKEN FORGE ROAD, THE PUBLIC IS ENCOURAGED
TO ATTEND.**

NEWS TO USE

PERMITS

Before any project (new residences, commercial construction, agricultural buildings, sheds, swimming pools above and in-ground, accessory buildings, signs, driveways, remodeling, etc.) are started PLEASE check with the Township office for permit requirements.

PA HOME IMPROVEMENT CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT NO. 132

Effective July 1, 2009, the Act affords protections for consumers who hire contractors to perform home improvements on their residential properties. Written contracts are required between contractors and consumers when the total cash price of all work agreed upon exceeds \$500. A contractor shall

provide his or her registration number on all advertisements, contracts, estimates and proposals. Visit www.attorneygeneral.gov for additional information.

ATTENTION SEWER CUSTOMERS

PLEASE NOTE: IT IS ILLEGAL TO DISCHARGE SUMP PUMPS AND BASEMENT DRAINS INTO THE SYSTEM. This results in higher costs for all. Sump pumps and basement drains **MUST** be discharged into the gutter. Also, please check to see if your vent cap is cracked. If so, **PLEASE** contact your plumber and remember, nothing but toilet tissue waste should go through the lines.

Thank you for your cooperation as it will keep your sewer rates down.

WEEDS/TREES

All premises and exterior property shall be free from weeds or plant growth in excess of ten inches. All noxious weeds shall be prohibited. Weeds shall be defined as all grasses, annual plants and vegetation, other than trees or shrubs. **PLEASE DO NOT BLOW MOWN GRASS ON PUBLIC ROADS.**

Homeowners are responsible for trimming trees that extend into roadways. Any growth that is on the Township right-of-way will be mowed by the Township. There are numerous trees in the Township that need to be trimmed, property owners are responsible and can be cited if left unattended.

PLEASE NOTE: Brush, tree branches etc. may be dropped off at Zwicky's on Bernville Rd. There is a "goodwill" box for contributions.

RESIDENTIAL RECYCLING

If you are a new resident, it is your responsibility to contact the Township to begin this service. Residents are billed by Waste Industries (formerly Lebanon Farms) on a quarterly basis (\$62.25). Rental properties will be billed

to the owner. Trash is collected every Wednesday and recycling is every other Wednesday. Calendars available at Township Building.

Please have your containers out the night before as they begin collecting early in the morning. Also, please remember to remove all containers within 24 hours after it has been picked up. On a recycling week, both trash and recycling will be picked up on Wednesday. The recycling is NOT picked up by the same truck, so please make sure all recycling containers are clearly marked "Recycling" for the drivers. Recycling containers are available at the Township Office. Service includes: once a week pickup of two (2) 35 gallon containers weighing a maximum of 75 pounds or 4 plastic garbage bags from each single family dwelling unit, and every other week pick up for recyclables. Also included - 1 bulk item per week may be placed in addition to the trash. Appliances will need to be scheduled and any item with freon will be an additional charge. Please contact Waste Industries for fees.

Please tie all bags securely so your trash does not blow over the roadway or in your neighbor's properties.

This is a mandatory trash/recycling service. Failure to pay the quarterly fee will result in collection action against you.

The only exemptions permitted to the trash collection are: apartment units, farm dwellings and commercial units all currently utilizing a dumpster. Proof of service must be submitted to the Township office yearly or regular trash service will be setup and billed to you.

RESIDENTIAL RECYCLE MATERIALS ACCEPTED

Paper - dry & clean: Bagged (in brown grocery bags (NOT PLASTIC) or bundled. PLEASE DO NOT PLACE PAPER IN RECYCLING CONTAINER.

Newspaper, inserts, magazines, catalogs, junk mail, envelopes, file folders, office white, colored and computer paper (staples & paper clips OK), phone books, and cardboard (bundled)

Containers - empty & clean: loose in recycling container -not in plastic bags.
Aluminum beverage cans, steel food cans (rinsed), empty aerosol cans, all glass (food and beverage containers only), plastic bottles and jugs.

UNACCEPTABLE RECYCLE MATERIALS

NO ceramics, dishes, coffee cups, drinking glasses, glass cookware/bake ware (Pyrex, Vision Ware etc.) Window glass, mirrors, light bulbs, plastic bags, styrofoam containers, packaging peanuts, takeout containers, plastic cups and plastic table ware, containers of hazardous or toxic materials, tissue or paper towels, books, tyvek envelopes, carbon paper, paper cartons for milk or juice, with coated boxes, toys, household appliances, coat hangers, food waste and garbage.

REDUCE YOUR WASTE TO NO MORE THAN ONE CAN (2 BAGS) A WEEK REGULARLY: THE REST GETS RECYCLED OR COMPOSTED.

COMMERCIAL RECYCLING

The Township of Heidelberg Ordinance #154-2008 requires a mandatory recycling program throughout the Township. It is the duty of every property owner where recyclables are generated and/or accumulated to provide for the collection, removal and disposal of such recyclables in accordance with the provisions of PA State Act 101.

Those properties in the Township not receiving municipal recycling collection service including but not limited to large apartments and condominium type properties, large commercial and industrial properties and institutional properties shall establish and maintain their own private recycling programs in accordance with the provisions of this part and Act 101. All such properties shall submit annual reports regarding their recycling programs and provide information as requested by Heidelberg Township.

Acceptable recycling materials include: PAPER – newspaper, magazines, catalogues, office paper and phone books, cardboard, (cereal boxes), mail (including junk mail), and all paperboard. CONTAINERS – aluminum beverage cans, steel food cans (rinsed), empty aerosol cans, all glass (food and beverage containers only), plastic bottles and jugs.

RECYCLING PROTECTS THE **ENVIRONMENT**

TAKE ACTION TO RECEIVE LESS JUNK MAIL. RECEIVING TOO MUCH CREDIT CARD AND INSURANCE OFFERS??? UNDER THE FAIR CREDIT REPORTING ACT, YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO OPT OUT OF RECEIVING THEIR MAIL. OPT OUT BY VISITING WWW.OPTOUTPRESCREEN.COM

BERKS COUNTY SOLID WASTE AUTHORITY

Please check their website: www.co.berks.pa.us/swa or call 610-478-6362 for county collection of household hazardous waste, electronic waste and tires.

SNOW EMERGENCY SITUATIONS

Ordinance #125 states it unlawful to park, or allow to be parked, any motor vehicle or other vehicle on any public highway, street, or road within the Township upon the accumulation of one inch (1”) of snow upon the street or roadway until the snow has been completely plowed for the full width of the cart way. Heidelberg Township may remove any vehicle abandoned or parked on a public street. It is also unlawful to dump, throw, shovel, pile, push or deposit any snow, ice, slush or combination thereof into any public street.

Any person violating any provision of Ordinance #125, upon conviction, be sentenced to pay a fine of not more than One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) and in default of such payment, imprisonment for a term not to exceed (10) days.

Objects in the road right of way such as bushes, trees and mailboxes are subject to damage from snow being cast off the plows. Mailboxes on a well secured and maintained base should not be able to be pushed over or damaged by the snow coming off the plows.

The plow truck drivers have a very necessary and difficult function to assure that our roads are safe for travel. The snow is plowed from edge to edge or curb to curb so **PLEASE REMEMBER TO REMOVE YOUR VEHICLE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE OR BE CITED.**

STORAGE OF MAJOR RECREATIONAL VEHICLES

Heidelberg Township Ordinance #147 states: For the purposes of these regulations, tractor trailer, rigs, or cabs, boats and boat trailers, travel trailers, pick-up campers or coaches (designed to be mounted on automotive vehicles), motorized dwellings, tent trailers, and the like, and cases or boxes used for transporting recreational equipment, whether occupied by such equipment or not are defined as Major Recreational Equipment and Major Vehicles. NO Major Recreational Equipment and Major Vehicles shall be parked or stored on any lot in a residentially zoned district except in a carport, or an enclosed building, in a rear yard, or on that portion of a private residential driveway not within the road right-of-way. No such equipment shall be used for living, sleeping, or housekeeping purposes when parked or stored on a residential lot, or in any location not approved for such use. Additionally, no such equipment shall be parked for loading and unloading along public streets in any zoning district for a period of time exceeding twenty-four (24) hours.

DO YOU KNOW WHERE YOU LIVE

It is important to our Township that both you and your employer know that you reside in **HEIDELBERG TOWNSHIP**. Why is this important? Employers collect a Local Services Tax and Earned Income Tax. If you don't specify that you live in Heidelberg Township, even though you have a Robesonia post office address, your tax dollars could be misdirected to Robesonia Borough. In addition, we have a cable franchise fee paid to the Township and in the past some of that money was also misdirected to Robesonia Borough. In short, if you want your tax dollars to benefit the Township that provides your services, please be sure to specify you live in **HEIDELBERG TOWNSHIP**.

DOGS

Dogs are not allowed to run at large throughout the Township as stipulated by the PA Dog Law: violators are subject to fines as established by the state.

COMPLAINTS

The Township has a policy whereby any complaint coming into the Township office must be in writing and signed by the person submitting the complaint. Forms may be picked up at the Township Office or on the website.

TAX COLLECTION INFORMATION

Hello - My name is Carol A. Keppley. I am the Tax Collector for Heidelberg Township. I collect payment of your real estate taxes for Heidelberg Township, the Berks County taxes and the Conrad Weiser Area School District taxes, Per Capita Taxes and Light taxes, if applicable.

If there is a problem or question about your assessment, please contact Berks County Assessment at 633 Court Street, 3rd Floor, Service Center, and Reading, PA. 19601 (610-478-6262)

If you have any questions about the Homestead Exemption, please contact Conrad Weiser School District or call 610-693-8542.

All tax payments are made payable to Carol A. Keppley, Tax Collector and can be mailed to 23 Blossom Drive, Robeson, PA 19551 or you can drop off your payment at the drop off box located at the same address or call the Township Office for an appointment. If a receipt is requested, you will need to send both copies of your tax bill with a self-addressed stamped envelope. However, if a receipt is requested at a later date other than your date of payment, there is a \$5.00 charge. Funds must be available when check is received for payment of taxes. There will be a \$50.00 charge for non-sufficient fund checks. There is also a \$25.00 fee for tax certification.

All tax payments must be received by December 15. ALL DECEMBER PAYMENTS MUST BE MADE IN CASH OR CASHIERS CHECK. After December 31, all unpaid County/Township, Light Tax and School taxes will be handled by the Tax Claim Bureau. All unpaid Per Capita taxes will be handled by Statewide Recovery.

County/Township/Light Tax is mailed by the County in March. School taxes and Per Capita taxes are mailed by the school in July. If you do not receive your tax bills, contact the Tax Collector at (610-781-7424) as you are still responsible for payment of all taxes mentioned above.

Real Estate Taxes - County/Township and School taxes are levied on your property assessments.

Per Capita Taxes - are levied on all Heidelberg Township residents who are eighteen (18) years old and older and payments must be paid by December 15.

Interim Bills - These are bills sent out during the tax year for improvements made on your property that increased your property assessment. This bill is generated through the Assessment Office, not the Tax Collector.

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NOISE

Heidelberg Township has a noise or sound level limit in the current Zoning Ordinance. Please be mindful of your neighbors during outside activities.

HEIDELBERG TOWNSHIP IS NOW ON FACEBOOK

When in doubt about anything PLEASE

Call the Township