

# Washington Township News



## Municipal Office Building Now Open

There has been talk about Washington Township building an office building for over 20 years. And after 20 years of talking, action has been taken by the sitting Board, Chairman Leon Lutz, Vice-Chairman Wendell Gainer and Supervisor Lynn Brown. On September 26, 2016, the township broke ground on their new office building, located next to the existing garage at 225 Frantz Road in Pine Grove. With the help of a mild winter, the project took six months to complete.

The new office is 2000 sq. ft. and consists of a 22' x 30' meeting room equipped with the latest technology, a 13' x 24' reception area, 2 offices, a janitor's closet, utility room, restrooms and a lunch room. Coming soon will be the availability of computers for resident use that do not have access to a computer or internet. Monthly meetings are held on the third Monday of the month at 7:00pm.

The new office building is open Monday through Friday from 8:00am-4:00pm. Residents now have the opportunity to come to the office with questions, concerns, or just for a visit. Building permit applications are being accepted at the new office building and can also be downloaded by visiting our website at [www.washtwpschco.org/permitszoningseo](http://www.washtwpschco.org/permitszoningseo)

*Leadership without integrity is not possible.*

*Having the right team working together creates success.*

# Recent Roadwork History

2018- Road Work Project is scheduled for Mountain Road and Frantz Road which is scheduled to take place late spring early summer.

2017- Tar and Chip \$103,105.40 (54,266 SY)

- Covered Bridge Road
- Natures Road
- Doe Drive
- Camp Road
- Hill Top Road

2016- Tar and Chip \$78,558.96 (42,236 SY)

- Flat Hill Road
- Birds Hill Road
- Fiddlers Road
- Pleasant Hill Road

2016- Pipe Culvert Extension and Paving of Kemmerling Road  
\$427,806.36

2015- Tar and Chip \$56,104.75 (18,395 SY)

- Spancake Road
- Dewalt Road

2015- Paving Newswanger Road (7,592 SY) (2,766 tons of black top)  
\$143,046.50

2014-Tar and Chip \$72,189.24 (33,221 SY)

- Pine Tree Drive
- Pine Cone Drive
- Scenic View Road
- Kutz Road
- Lengel Homestead Road
- Turkey Farm Road

2013-Tar and Chip \$32,283.94 (14,222 SY)  
Farm View Road



## **WHY TAR AND CHIP?**

To be honest, it's cheaper. Using tar and chip costs about \$1.90 per square yard while blacktop costs about \$33.08 per square yard. With the Township having approximately 567,477 square yards of road it would cost \$18,772,133 to pave every road within the Township. Kemmerling Road was paved in 2016 measuring 1.1 miles and cost the Township almost a half million dollars (see figures to left). Rather than going into debt or raising taxes to pave all roads the current and past Boards decided to use tar and chipping to help maintain roads. Doing this allows the Board to save funds and evaluate which roads need to be paved and which can be tarred and chipped. The goal of the Board is to get to a point where they can develop a plan where the existing 50.91 miles of roadway can be put into a plan that is constant for paving and tarring and chipping for years to come. Other reasons for tar and chip rather than paving are:

- Extends the time between asphalt overlays for long term cost savings.
- Enhanced safety by providing a good skid resistance and practically eliminating black ice.
- Provides a moisture barrier by sealing cracks in the pavement.
- Prevents deterioration of existing surfaces from aging and oxidation due to water and sun.

Nobody likes tar and chip; however, it is needed in areas that have less than 2,500 cars traveling on roads per day. In 2015, the Township began crack sealing roads to help prevent future cracking. Cracking in roads allows water to seep into the base of the roadways and causes irreversible damage. By crack sealing the Township can extend the life of a road by 8-10 years.

Looking forward, with the ever-changing world, we are looking to find a better product that gives a comparative longevity along with a surface that is more appealing and easily travelled. In 2018, Roadmaster Lynn Brown will begin to test a new material that is more expensive than traditional tarring and chipping, but provides a better surface. This will provide an additional 5-8 year longevity on roads that are currently in good shape; Thereby, not needing to tar and chip as much.

**If you have any roadway issues within Washington Township, contact Roadmaster Lynn Brown at 570-527-2649.**

## ROADMASTER CORNER

Accepting the position as Roadmaster in February 2017, Lynn Brown had big shoes to fill. Without skipping a beat Lynn moved forward tackling projects that have only been talked about in the township.

- Performing all maintenance work inside the garage instead of sending out to a shop
- Finished the pipe work on Kemmerling Road
- Painted all plows
- Currently repairing and painting all equipment
- Resurfaced recycling dumpsters
- Built stone bins in municipal yard
- Moved large ash pile
- Completed base repairs on roads before tar and chipping was complete
- Repaired equipment that has been sitting idle in the shop
- Built a water trailer
- Began crack sealing roads to preserve longer
- Cleaned up the basketball/tennis courts and painted new lines
- Cleaned up the park and took down large light poles
- Cleaned out all inlets
- Followed up on previously promised road/curb repairs
- Working with residents on water issues

And so many other items have been accomplished in the short time Lynn has been Roadmaster. Lynn's experience has enabled him to drive on and make a difference within Washington Township. Lynn's forward thinking already has plans in place for future road work and projects throughout the township.

# WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP RECREATIONAL PARK



BASEBALL

PAVILION

PLAYGROUND

**OPEN DAWN TO DUSK— NO ALCOHOL**

The recreational park can be rented for any type of gathering, graduation party, youth party, family reunions, etc. \$200.00 (\$100.00 rental fee, \$100.00 deposit), call the office for visit the website to register your date.

[www.washtwpschco.org/park\\_rentals](http://www.washtwpschco.org/park_rentals)

## NEWSLETTER ITEMS NEEDED:

- Business advertising
- History about Washington Township, including pictures
- Event happenings within the township and surrounding areas for spring/summer 2018

## PERMIT INFORMATION:

### 1. ZONING PERMITS

- a. Washington Township is under the county planning and zoning. Zoning permits are issued at the Planning and Zoning Office located at the Schuylkill County Courthouse in Pottsville, PA. Residents must obtain a zoning permit prior to making an application for a building permit. For more information call Schuylkill Planning and Zoning at 570-628-1415 or visit the county webpage.

### 2. BUILDING, ELECTRICAL, PLUMBING, HVAC PERMITS- Building permits are required by the township for a number of activities including but not limited to:

- a. Commercial Permits (Contact BCO for requirements)
- b. Residential One & Two-Family Dwellings
- c. New Construction
- d. Additions
- e. Structural Alterations
- f. Residential Accessory Structures over 1,000 sq. ft.
- g. In-ground and above-ground pools (with the ability to hold greater than 24" depth of water)
- h. Fencing over 6 ft.
- i. Decks greater than 30" above grade

Contact the Township or the Township's building code officer Kyle Kehoe at 570-294-5514 to verify if a building permit is required for your project

#### Process:

- a. Pick up or download applications
- b. Drop off or mail to township office completed applications, three (3) copies of plans and a check for \$150.00 payable to Washington Township
- c. Once reviewed by BCO, a permit and balance due will be forwarded to township for resident pick up.

### 3. DRIVEWAY PERMIT

- a. If you are proposing a new driveway or modifying an existing driveway, a driveway permit may be required to review sight distance and drainage. An engineering study and/or roadway signage may be required on Township roads to support the posting of a speed limit less than that established by the PA Vehicle Code. All expenses including but not limited to Engineer and Legal fees are the responsibility of the resident.

#### 4. FLOODPLAIN PERMIT

- a. If you are proposing work in the floodplain, a floodplain permit will be required.

#### 5. SEWAGE PERMITS

- a. All sewage permits are processed through Larson Design Group 717-933-5530 ext. 590 with any questions.

# Washington Township

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## Website

The Township's website is filled with information that can answer some common questions. Included but not limited to:

- Current Township Board Members and Employees
- Upcoming Road Work
- Permitting (Township and County)
- Ordinances
- Resolutions
- Approved Minutes
- Agendas
- Park Rentals and Availability
- Meeting Dates and Changes
- Current Happenings throughout the Township and Surrounding Areas
- Employment Opportunities

[www.washtwpschco.org](http://www.washtwpschco.org)

## MANAGER'S CORNER

I took over as secretary/treasurer in October 2013 working part-time. When I first started I thought this would be an easy way to make a little extra money with no real commitment. Little did I know I would learn to love the ins and outs of township business. I obtained my bachelor's degree in December 2013 graduating with honors from Alvernia University. I have over 20 years of experience in the accounting field and over 7 years in management. Naturally, my first task was to review the townships financial history to find out where money has been spent, what efforts were taken to save for a rainy day, and where the township was going. Much to my surprise the township hadn't saved much in the past. Most large items were purchased using loans and more surprising many years ended with balances under \$50,000.00; one as low as \$7,000.00 in 2010.

By the end of my first full year as secretary/treasurer the township ended in the positive carrying over \$646,000.00. By May 2016, the township had over \$1 million dollars in the bank and were ready to take the steps to push forward into the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The Board made some big decisions that would cost a large amount of money, Newswanger & Kemmerling Road received new paving, new equipment was ordered and the planning for a new office building began. Along with all the big changes the board was also able to provide higher pay rates, better benefits, increase pension savings for employees by 150% and still manages to put some away for a rainy day. The current board is determined to continue this path to provide the best for the township and its employees without raising taxes.

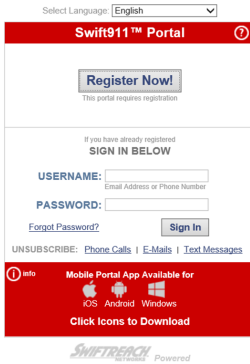
As Township Manager, I am determined to help the Board continue this path. Making a difference for the residents of the township and provide them with a level of professional service that hasn't been provided in the past. I look forward to the challenges ahead.

Township Manager– Dawn Koch



## Schuylkill Alert

## Emergency Alerts & Community Notifications



The screenshot shows the Swift911 Portal registration page. At the top, there is a language selection dropdown set to 'English'. Below this is a red header with the text 'Swift911™ Portal' and a help icon. A 'Register Now!' button is prominently displayed, with a note below it stating 'This portal requires registration'. Below the registration button, there is a section for existing users with the text 'If you have already registered SIGN IN BELOW'. This section includes fields for 'USERNAME:' and 'PASSWORD:', with a note 'Email Address or Phone Number' for the username. There are links for 'Forgot Password?' and a 'Sign In' button. At the bottom of the form, there is a 'UNSUBSCRIBE:' section with links for 'Phone Calls', 'E-Mails', and 'Text Messages'. Below the form, there is a red banner with the text 'Mobile Portal App Available for' and icons for 'iOS', 'Android', and 'Windows'. A link 'Click Icons to Download' is provided. At the very bottom, there is a logo for 'SWIFTRREACH' and the text 'Powered by'.

Washington Township now participates in the Schuylkill Alert. When situations arise that affect you and your family, Schuylkill Alert notifies you automatically. Warnings for emergencies, severe weather, road closures and snow emergency routes.

To sign up go to:

<http://www.scema.org/swiftreach>

Click REGISTER NOW and complete the online form.



## Washington Township Recycling Center

OPEN DAILY DURING DAYLIGHT HOURS

ACCEPTED MATERIALS:

**PLASTICS:** #’S 1-7 **NO #2 accepted (shrink-wrap/bags),**  
NOTHING larger than a laundry bottle is preferred.

**NEWSPAPERS & CARDBOARD**

**TIN/ALUMINUM/MIXED GLASS:** Must be clean and dry

Please note that the recycling center is under surveillance.

Please be careful which bin you are putting your recyclables in.

# STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

## WHEN DOES THE WATER BELONG TO YOU?

It's no secret that we've had a lot of rain this summer. The office was flooded with calls about water running from one property onto another. Most storm water issues are not the responsibility of the township but are civil matters that need to be handled between neighbors.

The definition of stormwater runoff is rainfall that flows over the ground surface. When there is a change in the grounds surface the stormwater runoff will most likely change. The flow of water and amount of water will increase by the increase of roads, driveways, parking lots, roof tops and any other paved areas. The natural flow of water moves downhill, but when does that natural flow become a legal issue? An uphill owner cannot:

- Concentrate the flow of water
- Increase the rate of flow
- Make any changes that negatively impact the downhill owner

*"An uphill landowner is liable for damages caused to downhill property resulting from surface water that the uphill owner alters from its natural course, unless the downhill owner acts unreasonable."* - taken from an article found at <http://www.berliner.com/article/>

*Who\_Is\_Responsible\_When\_Uphill\_Stormwater\_Causes\_Downhill\_Damage*

Causes that would change the flow of water: A new sub-division, pipe installation, land development, land disturbance, new driveway, or many other events. As part of the Schuylkill County Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance, Stormwater Management Plans for Major Subdivisions and Land Developments are required.

What does this mean for you as a neighbor of a new development?

- Ask to review the plan to see what type of drainage was approved and determine if it follows the county ordinance.
- Have documented proof of flow before new construction as well as after.
- Contact the Planning & Zoning Office 570-628-1415 with questions regarding subdivisions.
- Contact the Conservation District 570-622-3742 ext. 5 with questions regarding stormwater.

When to call the Township for stormwater help? If your flooding issues is caused by something owned by the township, examples are a broken township pipe, a flooded storm drain, or blocked culvert please contact Roadmaster Lynn Brown at 570-527-2649.

WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP  
225 FRANTZ ROAD  
PINE GROVE, PA 17963  
Ph: 570-915-6113 Fax: 570-915-6482  
OFFICE HOURS: MONDAY THRU FRIDAY 8AM-4PM,  
CLOSED SATURDAY & SUNDAY.

website: [www.washtwpschco.org](http://www.washtwpschco.org)

### MEETINGS

The Board of Supervisors of Washington Township meet the third Monday of each month at 7:00pm in the office building meeting room.

### OFFICIALS

Board Chairman.....Leon L. Lutz  
Board Vice-Chairman.....Wendell S. Gainer, Jr.  
Supervisor.....Lynn A. Brown  
Township Manager.....Dawn A. Koch  
Road Master.....Lynn A. Brown  
Solicitor.....Richard J. Wiest  
(Williamson Friedberg & Jones, LLC)  
Engineer.....Ryan Fasnacht  
(Alfred Benesch & Company)  
Sewage Enforcement Officer.....Larson Design Group  
Emergency Management Coordinator.....Carl Stump  
Fire Marshall.....Mike Stalnecker

### UCC APPEALS BOARD MEMBERS

Frank Fox (2017-2019), Thomas Hlavaty (2017-2018), Heath Machamer (2017). Alternates: James Martin, Jr. (2017-2018), James Martin, Sr. (2017)

### TOWNSHIP TAX COLLECTOR

Washington Township tax assessments are received by Keith Heinbach, 138 Covered Bridge Road, Pine Grove, PA 17963. Office Hours Monday 1pm-4pm, Tuesday 9am-12noon, Thursday 4pm-8pm. Closed holidays.  
Call for an appointment after April 30<sup>th</sup> 570-345-2434.  
Vacation- CLOSED week of July 4<sup>th</sup>.



Washington Township  
225 Frantz Road  
Pine Grove, PA 17963  
P: 570-915-6113  
F: 570-915-6482  
Web: [www.washtwpschco.org](http://www.washtwpschco.org)