

# TOWNSHIP TIMES



Winter Issue 2012

## Remembering Nancie Smith

On December 20, 2011, the Village of Campbelltown and South Londonderry Township lost a dear friend in Nancie Smith. Nancie along with her husband John McGlynn represented Campbelltown Scotland during two visits to our community. Many of us who came to either the Campbelltown 250<sup>th</sup> Celebration in 2009 or to see the return of the Ship's Bell in 2011 will remember Nancie for her engaging personality and smile.

At their meeting on January 3, 2011, the Board of Supervisors adopted a Proclamation honoring Nancie's memory and her contributions to our community.

In addition and to further honor this wonderful lady, the Board moved to create a memorial fund for Nancie Smith to be used for display of the Campbelltown Bell, with a memorial to her and to support the relationship between Campbelltown, PA and Campbelltown, Scotland. South Londonderry Township will notify her family and Campbelltown Scotland Officials of all donations and provide a response letter to all donors.

Send donations by check to South Londonderry Township with Nancie Smith Memorial in the memo line. If you should have any questions about the memorial fund please contact the Township Manager, Thomas Ernhart @ (717) 838 -5556.



**THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR VOLUNTEERS, APPOINTED OFFICIALS, ELECTED OFFICIALS, AND EMPLOYEES WHO SERVED AND PROTECTED OUR COMMUNITY IN 2011!! YOUR INVOLVEMENT AND CONTINUED SUPPORT IN OUR COMMUNITY IS APPRECIATED!!**

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**The  
Board of  
Supervisors  
meetings are on the  
move in 2012.....see  
the back page for  
details**



Thank You to ALL who participated in making this years Salvation Army's Angel Tree a success. We were able to help 50 children in the Lebanon County Area.

## Residents of South Londonderry Township

### C/o Board of Supervisors

### South Londonderry Township

Pursuant to the Townships of the Second Class, Article XXXII-Section 23, the South Londonderry Township Annual Operating Budget was presented for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2012 and ending December 31, 2012.

This budget was crafted with direct guidance from the Board of Supervisors and the various department managers with the following goals in mind:

- Take necessary steps to not increase the current tax rate.
- Evaluate all options to ensure that we are getting the best insurance/medical/interest rates as well as purchased goods and services.
- Where possible, continue to utilize user fees to charge residents/developers for services.
- Continue to complete improvement projects in house to keep costs down.

Forecast Long Term Trends and plan for South Londonderry's future.

With direction from the Board of Supervisors, the budget process began in August with the department heads submitting their FY2012 – FY2015 Capital Improvement Plans. Simultaneously to the requests coming in, revenue projections were developed; prior year's budget and actual expenditures as well as current year to date expenditures were listed comparatively. A preliminary budget was then drafted and submitted to the Board of Supervisors in early September. Workshops with the Supervisors were held during the months of September and October where fiscal discussions, line item explanations and policy implications were discussed.

For the fourth straight year, the Township adopted a no property tax increase budget for FY2012. The FY2012 spending plan is a balanced budget that proposes \$2,289,374 in expenditures while generating \$2,337,072 in revenue. This balanced budget was achieved in part through anticipated reimbursements from FEMA/PEMA for Tropical Storm Lee repairs, the closure of the Connector Road account, reducing a full time position to part time and salary concessions by the Police Department.

Projections for local receipts from property and local enabling taxes (Property, Local Services, Real Estate Transfer and Earned Income) are more than our FY2011 Budget projections at \$1,733,000.00 or \$140,000 more than expected. One of the major reasons for this has been the increase in the Earned Income Tax collections since the hiring of Keystone Collections three years ago. The EIT has grown from \$600,000 in FY2008 to a projected amount of \$890,000 in FY2011. We anticipate this trend to continue but are tempering our expectations and are budgeting the same \$890,000 in FY2012.

In FY2011, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has increased their contribution to the Township's Pension Plan by approximately \$60,000 to \$145,507. As a result the Township's contribution for FY2011 will only be \$19,690. This is a onetime event that the Auditor General's Office has said will not happen again.

As in prior years, the FY2012 Budget reflects a number pass through funds and reimbursable expenses that are paid to the Township from developers, the Municipal Authority and State funding sources. These reimbursable costs are for the Township Engineer's review of developer's projects, to salary and benefits for the Public Works Director as well as the State's contribution towards the Township's Fire Companies and the Township's uniform and non uniformed pension plans.

The resources within the General Fund Budget are earmarked for the day to day operations of the Township from administrative functions to law enforcement to roadway maintenance. Salaries and benefits for the Township's Employees are the number one expense of the General Fund.

The Township has one collective bargaining agreement in effect and that is with its Police Department. An extension of this four year contract is under negotiation as it is set to expire on December 31, 2012. Under the contract, the sergeant and the officers were schedule to receive 5% cost of living adjustments but have agreed to accept a 4.0% cost of living adjustment and will continue to make a 2% contribution to their pension plans. All other cost of living adjustments for the remaining employees are at the discretion of the Board of Supervisors. This year's budget approved a 2.0% salary increase with a 10% contribution towards their health care coverage.

This year's budget includes funding for items within the Township's three year Capital Improvement Plan. South Londonderry Township has tried to maintain its infrastructure and capital items but due to limited funding, many planning and preventive maintenance projects have fallen behind. However, over the past several years the Township has worked hard to reduce costs and streamline the township's government functions. This has resulted in the development of a capital budget that will allow the Township to invest in the long term maintenance of its buildings and grounds, roadways and fleet of vehicles.

To meet the Township's goal of utilizing user fees for the residents who benefit from the services that are provided, the Township has several accounts which are specifically designed to process these funds. The Street Light Fund, the Hydrant Fund and the Sewer District Fund #1 and #2 are a few of such accounts with the fees established to cover the charges for the operation of street lights and fire hydrants within the Township. Those areas that do not have street lights, fire hydrants and/or public sewers are not assessed fees for these services.

During FY2012, the fees for the operation and maintenance of the Township's fire hydrants will be reinstated but only at a rate of a half a mill. The hydrant tax was suspended in 2008 due to a high surplus within the account. Now in 2012, the Streetlight fees will be suspended because there is a similar high surplus within this account that will cover the expected cost for at least one year.

The Highway Aid Fund was established to handle the contribution from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for the maintenance of the Township's Roadways. This funding is not expected to cover all of the road improvement costs anticipated during FY2012, so the Supervisors have authorized a \$10,000 transfer from the General Fund to this account. This will allow for the final paving of East Hinkle Road. Other road improvement projects scheduled for FY2012 will be completed under the Public Works section of the General Fund.

The Campbelltown Connector Fund was established to cover the Township's costs associated with this project and these included property acquisition, appraisals and utility relocations and to handle the federal funds for the construction of the Campbelltown Connector Project. In 2012, this project will be completed and the account closed. The remaining \$31,000 in that account will be transferred to the General Fund.

Each year the Township contributes \$100,000 to the Capital Reserve Fund from the General Fund for capital purchases. During FY2012, the only purchases out of the Capital Reserve Fund is for a new four wheel drive vehicle for the police department at a cost of \$34,000 and some minor improvements to the Municipal Building.

### **Comprehensive Plan Meetings**

Several years ago, the Township entered into a discussion with Palmyra Borough and North Londonderry Township to create a regional comprehensive plan for the Palmyra Area and have completed the initial draft of the plan and we are scheduling a public review of the plan. Once these dates have been determined we will post them on the Township's website and in the local news media.



# IMPORTANT SNOW REMOVAL TIPS

The Township’s Highway Department undertake snow removal and de-icing operations whenever road conditions require these services. Please remember that snow removal operations are performed under emergency conditions. Our drivers often endure extended work hours to provide safe and effective snow removal from Township streets.

Here are some helpful tips to avoid shoveling headaches.....

- ◆ When possible, wait to shovel the last six (6) feet of your driveway until curb to curb plowing is completed on your street. This will help prevent our plows from pushing snow back into your driveway.
- ◆ If you must shovel the last six (6) feet of your driveway prior to our completing plowing operations on your street, place the snow to the right of your driveway (standing in the direction with your back facing your house). Placing the snow in this area will lessen the amount of snow plowed back onto the driveway area. Please understand that proper plowing cannot prevent the redeposit of snow in driveway areas. (see below)
- ◆ Park all vehicles off the roadway. Parking your vehicle in your driveway and off the street allows the crew to plow back to the curb and lessens the amount of snow you may have to shovel.
- ◆ Please do not throw or place snow or ice onto the streets or immediately next to a fire hydrant. Township Ordinance prohibits this.
- ◆ Township Ordinance requires that snow and ice be removed from sidewalks within 24 hours after the end of any snow, sleet, or freezing rain. (There are some circumstances where this may be extended, visit the Township website or contact the Township office)
- ◆ Cul-de-Sacs are difficult to plow. Snow will be placed equally on both sides of the cul-de-sac. Most of the new developments have recorded snow storage easements in these areas.
- ◆ Portable basketball nets protruding into the roadway are prohibited and can become a danger during snow plowing. Township ordinance prohibits the placing of these items in the public right-of-way.

Please be patient and allow time for crews to do their job in plowing the streets. Safe streets are our primary concern during these storms. Your patience and cooperation is appreciated.

## ATTENTION ALL PROPERTY OWNERS

ALL SIDEWALKS WITHIN THE  
TOWNSHIP MUST BE CLEARED OF  
SNOW AND ICE

TWENTY-FOUR HOURS AFTER THE END  
OF ANY SNOW, SLEET OR FREEZING RAIN.

In a significant snow event we recommend all property owners watch the Township website or contact the Township Office (838-5556) to see if the 24 hour deadline has been extended.

## REMINDER:

Please remember that after any snow storm if you have a fire hydrant on your property the fire hydrant should be completely cleared of all snow and ice. Failure to clear the hydrant results in firefighters having to shovel snow from around the hydrant which may take up to 6 minutes, a loss of precious time during a structure fire and could result in unnecessary loss of property.

PLEASE REMEMBER  
TO CLEAR THAT HYDRANT  
IT MAY SAVE SOMEONES  
LIFE AND PROPERTY.

**Winter Fire Safety.....**with the rising cost of heating oil, many are looking for more cost effective ways to heat their homes, although they may be more cost effective some present an increased fire risk. Below are some safety tips from the Pennsylvania State Fire Commissioner's website to keep in mind while using other heating sources.

### **WOOD STOVES AND FIREPLACES**

- Is your woodstove installed properly and in good condition?
- Do you have 36" clearance around the hearth of debris, decorations and from other combustible materials/surfaces?
- Have proper floor support and protection?
- Is your chimney inspected and cleaned annually by a competent and qualified specialist?
- Do you have a metal mesh screen covering the fireplace opening to keep embers from getting out of the fireplace area?
- Do you leave glass doors open while burning a fire? Leaving the doors open ensures that the fire receives enough air to ensure complete combustion and keeps creosote from building up in the chimney/stovepipe.
- Do close glass doors when the fire is out to keep air from the chimney opening from getting into the room? Most glass doors have a metal mesh screen which should be closed when the glass doors are open.
- Do you keep air inlets on wood stoves open and never restrict air supply to fireplaces? Otherwise, you may cause creosote buildup that could lead to a chimney fire.

**Safety Tips.....** Do not use flammable liquids to start or accelerate any fire.

Burn your stove hot to reduce creosote buildup in the chimney.

NEVER burn charcoal in your stove or fireplace and limit the use of paper to build a fire.

NEVER close your damper with hot ashes in the fireplace and be sure the fire is out before leaving the house or going to sleep.

**Safety Tips.....** Use only approved heaters with an emergency shut off if the unit is tipped over.

NEVER fill a heater while it is hot and NEVER refuel a heater inside your home.

Keep fuel stored in approved metal cans outside the home.

Make sure the home is ventilated so carbon monoxide doesn't build up inside.

**Safety Tips.....**Make sure furnaces and chimneys are in good repair.

Keep trash and other combustibles away from heating systems.

For more fire safety information contact your fire department or visit [www.osfc.state.pa.us](http://www.osfc.state.pa.us), click on the fire safety link.

## **South Londonderry Township Historical Commission Report**

Happy New Year! The members of the South Londonderry Township Historical Commission are busy planning an event for 2012 - *Campbelltown School and South Londonderry Township Building: Past, Present and Future.*

This year the township building is celebrating 100 years. Designed by the Lebanon and Philadelphia, PA architectural firm of Hauer and Mowere, its cornerstone was laid in 1912. It was built to serve the educational needs of Campbelltown and South Londonderry Township's resident youth, and served as a public school from 1913 until the 1971/1972 school year. In 1974, it was acquired by South Londonderry Township for use as a municipal building.

The committee is planning an open house and centennial celebration tentatively scheduled for Sunday, September 30, 2012 from 2 to 4 PM. Please watch for further developments in the Township newsletter, website and local news outlets.

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### **Township Must Develop and Implement Mandatory Recycling Program**

With the completion of the 2010 Census the Township has met the population requirements that trigger our mandatory compliance with the Pennsylvania "Municipal Waste Planning, Recycling and Waste Reduction Act". While the Township meets our obligations under this act for the recycling of bottles, cans, newspapers and plastics, we do not for the recycling of leaves, garden waste and brush. The Township must develop a plan to recycle these materials and forbid the burning of them within 1 year of the certification of the 2010 Census.

In the past, the Township has taken the position that the person using a service also pays for that service. As an example the township has a hydrant tax that is for the maintenance of fire hydrants and this tax is only applied to those households with public water. The problem that the Township has now is how to take that approach and apply it to the collection and disposal of leaves and brush.

If you would like to be a part of the discussion and development of this plan, please contact please contact the Township Manager, Thomas Ernharth @ (717) 838 -5556.

# HOW TO MAKE COMPOST

**Composting is a technique used to accelerate the natural decay process. The technique converts organic wastes to mulch which is used to fertilize and condition soil. Leaf waste decomposes naturally in about two years. Composting can take as long as a year or as little as 14 days, depending upon the amount of human control.**

## COMPOSTABLE MATERIALS

Most yard wastes can be composted, including leaves, grass clippings, plant stalks, vines, weeds, twigs and branches. Compostable food wastes include fruit and vegetable scraps, coffee grounds, eggshells and nutshells. Other compostable materials are hair clippings, feathers, straw, livestock manure, bonemeal and bloodmeal.

Materials should NOT be composted if they promote disease, cause odors, attract pests, or create other nuisances. These include meat, fish, poultry, dairy products, foods containing animal fats, human/pet feces, weeds with developed seed heads, and plants infected with or highly susceptible to disease, such as roses and peonies.

Materials that should be composted only in limited amounts include wood ashes (a source of lime), sawdust (requires extra nitrogen), plants treated with herbicides or pesticides (the chemicals need time for thorough decomposition), and black and white newsprint (composts slowly, so it should comprise no more than 10% by weight of the total pile).

## COMPOSTING REQUIREMENTS

1. **SHREDDED ORGANIC WASTES.** Shredding, chopping or even bruising organic materials hastens decay. One way to shred leaves is to mow the lawn before raking, collecting the shredded leaves in the mower bag. It takes at least 34 cubic feet of shredded material to form a compost pile.

2. **GOOD LOCATION.** The compost pile should be located in a warm area and protected from overexposure to wind and too much direct sunlight. While heat and air facilitate composting, overexposure dries the materials. The location should not offend neighbors.

3. **NITROGEN.** Nitrogen accelerates composting. Good sources include fresh grass clippings, manure, bloodmeal and nitrogenous fertilizer. Lime should be used sparingly if at all. It enhances decomposition, but too much causes nitrogen loss, and it usually isn't necessary unless the pile contains large amounts of pine and spruce needles or fruit wastes.

4. **AIR.** The compost pile and its enclosure should be well ventilated. Some decay will occur without oxygen, but the process is slow and causes odors.

**WATER.** Materials in the compost pile should be kept as moist as a squeezed sponge. Too little or too much water retards decomposition. Overwatering causes odors and loss of nutrients.

## BUILDING AN ENCLOSURE

Enclosing the compost pile saves space and prevents litter. The enclosure should be collapsible or provide an entry large enough to permit the pile to be turned. It should measure at least 4'X4'X4' (a pile under 3 cubic feet generally does not decompose properly), but no taller than 6' (too much weight causes compaction and loss of oxygen). The enclosure can be built of wood, pallets, hay bales, cinder blocks, stakes and chicken wire, or snow fencing. Prefabricated compost bins are also available.

## BUILDING THE PILE

Aside from the basic requirements for decomposition and preventing odors and other nuisances, there is no set method for building a compost pile. One technique may be faster than another, but a variety of methods work well. Piles can be built in layers to ensure the proper proportion of carbon (e.g., leaves, woody materials) to nitrogen (grass, fertilizer), but the layers should be thoroughly intermixed after the pile is built.

## MAINTENANCE

Turning and mixing the pile with a pitchfork or shovel, or shifting it into another bin, provides the oxygen necessary for decomposition and compensates for excess moisture. A pile that is not mixed may take 34 times longer to decompose. Recommendations for mixing the pile vary from every 3 days to every 6 weeks. More frequent turning results in faster composting. Odors indicate that the pile is too damp or lacks oxygen, and that more frequent turning is necessary.

Occasional watering may be necessary to keep the pile damp, especially in dry weather. Covering the pile with black plastic reduces the need for watering; it also prevents rainwater from leaching out the nutrients.

A pile that is decomposing properly should generate temperatures of 140°-160°F at its center. The heat kills most weed seeds, insect eggs and diseases. The pile should be turned when the center begins to cool. Turning the pile maintains the temperature and ensures that all material is exposed to the center heat. When the compost is finished, the pile will no longer heat up. Small amounts of fresh materials may be added but should be buried inside the pile to avoid pests and speed composting. It is better to add fresh materials to a new pile.

### FINISHED COMPOST

Finished compost is dark brown, crumbly, and has an earthy odor. Depending upon seasonal temperatures, a well-built, well-tended pile generally yields finished compost in 2 weeks to 4 months. An unattended pile made with unshredded material may take longer than a year to decompose.

### SAMPLE INSTRUCTIONS FOR FAST COMPOSTING \*

- shredded leaves (about 2/3 by volume)
- fresh grass clippings (about 1/3 by volume, or slightly more for faster decomposition)
- kitchen scraps (grind in blender)

Begin the pile with a 4" layer of leaves. Add a 2" layer of grass clippings. Repeat the layers until the pile is about 4' high, then add the kitchen scraps.

Chop vertically through the pile with the tines of a pitchfork to thoroughly bruise and mix the materials. Add just enough water to moisten the pile, then cover it with a black plastic garbage bag. Using the same chopping technique, turn the pile on the second day after the pile is built, again on the fourth day, then every three days until the compost is finished. Except in dry weather, no further watering should be necessary. The compost should be finished in about two weeks.

### ALTERNATE COMPOSTING METHODS

Compost can be made in a garbage can, barrel or drum\*\* that has a secure lid. Drill holes in the sides and bottom of the container to allow for air circulation and water drainage, and place it upright on blocks. Fill 3/4 of the container with organic wastes, add a little nitrogenous fertilizer (about 1/4 cup for a 55gallon barrel), and moisten the materials. Every few days shake the container or turn it on its side and roll it to mix the compost. The lid should be removed after turning to allow air penetration. This method yields finished compost in about 24 months.

Another method is to use a 30 or 40gallon plastic garbage bag. Fill the bag with organic materials, nitrogen and lime (one cup per bag helps counteract acidity caused by anaerobic composting). Shake well to mix materials. Add about 1 quart of water and close the bag tightly. Bags can be stored outdoors in the summer and in a heated basement or garage during the winter. No turning or additional water is necessary. The compost should be finished in about 6 12 months.

\* *Instructions are based on composting techniques presented in Make Compost in 14 Days, Rodale Press, Inc., Emmaus, PA 18049 (1982).*

### IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS & LINKS

Fire Companies Non Emergency Contact Info:

Campbelltown Fire Company 717-838-3707

[www.campbelltownfc.com](http://www.campbelltownfc.com)

Lawn Fire Company/Lawn Ambulance 717-964-2369

[www.lawnfire.com](http://www.lawnfire.com)

### UTILITIES:

#### TRASH HAULERS:

Waste Management 1-800-634-4595

Lebanon Farm Disposal 1-800-533-5356

TNT Sanitation 717-866-2322

Weidle Sanitation 717-272-7061

CABLE: Comcast 717-533-4433

ELECTRIC: MetEd 1-800-545-7741

WATER: American Water 1-800-717-7292

#### TAXES: REAL ESTATE

Lebanon County Treasurer 717-228-4420

Palmyra Area School District  
[www.palmyra.k12.pa.us](http://www.palmyra.k12.pa.us)

Palmyra Recreation & Parks 717-838-9244

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

Palmyra Public Library  
[www.lclibs.org/palmyra](http://www.lclibs.org/palmyra)

Lebanon County Courthouse 717-274-2801

Lebanon County EMA 717-272-2054

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



Sign up to receive your newsletter via email by emailing

Melissa@slondtwp.com, place newsletter in the subject line.

OR To view this newsletter and our previous newsletter visit our website @ [www.southlondonderry.org](http://www.southlondonderry.org)

### VISIT US ONLINE

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

Find important updates, forms, and information.



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**We're online:**

**[www.southlondonderry.org](http://www.southlondonderry.org)**

## Supervisors Meetings Scheduled for 2012

The Board of Supervisors has announced a new approach to try and reach out to our residents by scheduling several of their monthly meetings in the Villages of Mount Gretna and Lawn. The Supervisors are planning on holding their meetings on February 15<sup>th</sup> and July 18<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. located at the Timbers Restaurant on 350 Timber Road in Mount Gretna and their May 8<sup>th</sup> and October 9<sup>th</sup> meetings at 7:00 p.m. at the Lawn Fire Station located at 5596 Elizabethtown Road in the Village of Lawn.

All other regularly scheduled meetings will be held at the South Londonderry Township Municipal Building 20 West Market Street in Campbelltown on the second Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. Please check the Township website at [southlondonderry.org](http://southlondonderry.org) for meeting agendas and any changes to this schedule.

### SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS

**Board of Supervisors**...meet the 2nd Tuesday of Every Month @ 7 p.m.

**Municipal Authority**...meet the 1st Thursday of Every Month @ 7 p.m.

**Planning Commission**...meet the 3rd Tuesday of Every Month @ 7 p.m.

**Zoning Hearing Board**...meet the 4th Tuesday of Every Month @ 7 p.m. as needed

**Fire Board**...meet the 1st Tuesday of Every Other Month @ 8:00 p.m.

**Historical Committee**...2nd Monday of Every Month @ 7:00 p.m.

**Environmental Advisory Committee**...meet the 3rd Wednesday of Every Month @ 7:00 p.m.

**Agriculture Security Advisory Committee**...meet on an as needed basis

### Volunteers Needed

South Londonderry Township is looking for volunteers to represent the Township on the Greater

Lebanon Refuse Authority and on the Township's Zoning Hearing Board. No prior experience is

necessary just please submit a letter of interest to the Township for consideration. If you are interested in serving your community and would like more information, please contact the Township Manager, Thomas Erharth @ (717) 838 -5556.