



## Borough of MOUNT PENN

Volume 25 – No. 1 SPRING 2013 NEWSLETTER

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### *DEAR RESIDENTS OF MOUNT PENN BOROUGH:*

*In mid 2012, the Borough of Mount Penn and the Township of Lower Alsace agreed to meet and discuss the possibility of a merger or consolidation. Talks amongst the two government entities were to be held monthly, with PEL (Pennsylvania Economy League) acting as a moderator, as well as providing a study of their findings.*

*From the onset, talks were heated, many times turning into a shouting match. Several times PEL called for a recess, allowing tempers to cool and composure to be regained. As discussions continued for several months, it became evident that the Borough and Township would have to do much reconciling and compromising for a merger/consolidation to ever happen.*

*In late 2012, Mount Penn borough council voted 6-1 to end discussions and to walk away from the merger study. Realizing there would be a charge for PEL's work to date, most council members felt it was in the best interests of the Borough citizens to cease discussions. Since then, much has been published and rumors continue to swirl throughout the community. Until now, the Borough hasn't commented on why a majority vote to end discussions occurred, and the reasons behind that vote.*

*On October 22, 2012, at a meeting held at the Lower Alsace Township building, PEL asked the officials in attendance to go around the table and state their position as to the form of government they wanted to see for the 'new entity.' Some officials from the Borough expressed the desire to remain a borough, one felt becoming a 2<sup>nd</sup> class township was beneficial, and a few stated that they would be open to whatever was in the best interest of the community. After one Borough official stated that they would prefer to remain a borough, a supervisor was heard, at the table and from within the audience, stating "I guess we're done here."*

*When it came time for the township supervisors' position on which government entity they would like to see, a letter dated October 22, 2012 was passed around. The two supervisors in attendance made it very clear that their only option was to remain a 2<sup>nd</sup> class township, with the letter in part reading the supervisors "have concluded that it would be in the best interest for the community to remain a township of the 2<sup>nd</sup> class." The letter was signed by two of the three supervisors. Mount Penn Borough council and its solicitors all agreed that the township's position was clear, and it appeared to be their way or nothing.*

*A second question asked by PEL was, regardless of what you want, what form of government would you accept as a new entity? Of the five council members present, four said they would accept a borough or a 1<sup>st</sup> class township as the government of the new entity. The other council member and the Mayor said any form would be acceptable. Both township supervisors again stated that they would only accept a 2<sup>nd</sup> class township.*

*Throughout the months of discussion, borough council learned that there was a lot of 'back door politics' going on. It became apparent, from discussions and comments, that there was an agenda in place. There is much speculation regarding the agenda of some of the merger proponents, a potential takeover and sale of the Mount Penn Borough Municipal Authority being at the forefront of those speculations. The only agenda most of Mount Penn Borough Council supported was one which would benefit our residents. On October 22, the majority of council felt that there would be no benefit from a merger in which some of the involved parties were not willing to compromise.*

*Mount Penn borough council had valid reasons to end the merger discussions, mainly to protect the residents of the borough. We plead with you to contact any of us who can answer your questions about this issue without bias or hidden agendas.*

*Sincerely,*

*Mayor Josh Nowotarski  
and*

*Members of Council: Thomas Smith, Janice Podolick, Claudia Hurwitz, Dennis Swartz, James Cocuzza, Thomas Staron*

## Various Ordinance Reminders:



### \*\*\*\* INSPECTIONS REQUIRED \*\*\*\*

Prior to selling or renting your property, the Borough requires that a Use and Occupancy certificate is issued. You will need to have a Use & Occupancy Inspection done; a certificate will be issued when the property passes the inspection. An Inflow & Infiltration inspection also must be done prior to sale. Forms may be obtained and inspections arranged by contacting the Borough Office or at [www.mtpennborough.net](http://www.mtpennborough.net).



**Pets** It is unlawful to allow pets to run at large in the borough. Pet waste deposited upon another's property must be cleaned up immediately. All fecal matter on the pet owner's property must be cleaned up within twenty-four (24) hours and deposited in a sanitary manner. Excessive barking is prohibited.

**Bonfires** or other outdoor open fires are prohibited in Mt. Penn Borough.

**Grass and Weeds** must be kept trimmed to a maximum of 10 inches. **Trees** must be kept trimmed so they do not interfere with the passage of pedestrians on sidewalks, or obstruct the view of traffic signs, streetlights, or oncoming traffic at intersections. The minimum clearance of any limbs overhanging a street is 13 feet; alley, or sidewalk should be 10 feet. Our Street Crew will be spraying herbicide along curbs and roadsides to eliminate pesky weeds.

**Tax Information:** Mt. Penn Borough has issued the 2013 Per Capita tax bills on March 1, 2013 in the amount of \$5.00 (Flat) to every resident over the age of 18. ALL UNPAID PER CAPITA TAX BILLS must be paid by December 31, 2013. After this date, the unpaid Per Capita Tax Bills will be turned over to a Tax Collection Agency who then will demand that full payment be made with the additional cost of penalties (\$30.50). To avoid an inconvenient situation, please make payment to the Tax Collector for \$5.50 by December 31, 2013. **Tax Collector's Hours:** During the last 2 weeks of March, April, June and December. Tuesday 3:00pm-6:00pm, Wednesday and Thursday 9:00am-Noon. Other hours by appointment. **John Skrincosky, Jr., (610)-779-1116.**

### General Reminders:

Borough news, permit applications, rental and transfer forms, etc. can be found on our website: [www.mtpennborough.net](http://www.mtpennborough.net)  
All complaints require a **written and signed form.**

**Trash Collection** every Tuesday and Friday

**Recycling** every Friday

**One Bulk Item** the first Friday of the Month

**Yard Waste** will be picked up **twice** per month on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Mondays from April-November.

**Street Sweeping** will take place April 16-19, 2013. Vehicles will be ticketed and towed so please watch for our signs.

**Note: Effect January 24, 2013,** the Pennsylvania Covered Device Recycling Act **requires that consumers not dispose of covered devices, such as computers, laptops, monitors and televisions with their trash.** We urge you to contact Berks County Solid Waste Authority for all your questions and information on Tire Collection, Paper Shredding, Electronic Recycling Center, Household Hazardous Waste, Pharmaceutical Waste and more at [www.dep.state.pa.us](http://www.dep.state.pa.us) or call 610.478.6362, or DEP's Recycling Hotline 1.800.346.4242. For your convenience please be aware of the following 2013 Special Waste Collections. All events will take place 8:00 AM – 2:00 PM.

Spring Events  
Exeter Twp. Municipal Bldg.  
4975 DeMoss Road, Reading, PA  
Fall Events  
First Energy Stadium  
Rt. 61 Reading

Household/Hazardous Waste  
April 20, 2013

Household/Hazardous Waste  
October 19, 2013

Paper Shredding and  
Pharmaceutical Waste  
April 27, 2013  
Paper Shredding and  
Pharmaceutical Waste  
October 12, 2013

Electronic and Tire Recycling Center  
1316 Hilltop Road, Leesport, PA (in Bern Twp.)  
Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday (year round) 8:00 AM - Noon

**Congratulations to our 2012 Holiday Decorating Contest Winners**

**Best Decorated Single Home**

1<sup>st</sup> place – The Oropeza Residence  
44 North 23<sup>rd</sup> Street  
2<sup>nd</sup> place – The McKoy Residence  
2404 Perkiomen Avenue

**Best Decorated Semi-Detached Home**

1<sup>st</sup> place – The Bakanowski Residence  
2312 Fairview Avenue  
2<sup>nd</sup> place – The Becker Residence  
2304 Fairview Avenue

**Best Decorated Row Home**

1<sup>st</sup> place – The Steward Residence  
201 Endlich Avenue  
2<sup>nd</sup> place – The Haraschak Residence  
1948 Perkiomen Avenue

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**ANTIETAM/OLEY VALLEY FOOTBALL ALLIANCE**

Registration at OVES Lobby  
Youth Football & Cheerleading

Grades K-7<sup>th</sup> for the 2013-14 school year (8<sup>th</sup> Grader Football Players Who Are 13 Years Old as of 06/30/13)

**DATES**

Thursday, April 11<sup>th</sup>, 6PM-8PM  
Saturday, April 13<sup>th</sup>, 11AM-1PM  
Tuesday, April 15<sup>th</sup>, 6PM-8PM

**COST**

Family Discounts Available  
Flag Football & Cheerleading (K-1<sup>st</sup> Grade) \$50.00  
Tackle Football (Grades 2-7) \$100.00  
Cheerleading (Grades 2-7) \$80.00

Pre-Register Online @ [www.oleyfootball.org](http://www.oleyfootball.org)

After April 15<sup>th</sup> \$50.00/\$120.00/\$100.00

Football Information Contact: Lynn Leister @ 610.334.2761 [lynn@oleyfootball.org](mailto:lynn@oleyfootball.org)

Cheerleading Information Contact: Wendy Mundy @ 267.372.2938 [della09@comcast.net](mailto:della09@comcast.net)

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**Don't forget to come to National Night Out on  
Tuesday, August 06, 2013 from 6pm-9pm at the A-Field!**



**National Night Out**

**1,000,000 Gallons of Fun!  
Antietam Pool**

805 Byram Street  
Membership Information  
(610) 779-5240



**Important Telephone Numbers:**

Borough Hall:	610.779.5151	Emergency:	911	District Justice:	610.779.5137
Water Authority:	610.779.4900	Police (Non-Emergency):	610.655.4911	Tax Collector:	610.779.1116
Sewer Authority:	610.779.0150	Police (Office)	610.779.1100		

***HAVE A VERY SAFE AND ENJOYABLE SPRING AND SUMMER SEASON***

**BOROUGH OF MOUNT PENN**  
*“The Friendly Borough”*

