

# *Hamiltonban Township Highlights*

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*September 2006*

*Dear Hamiltonban Township Resident,*

The Board of Supervisors would like to keep the public informed and up to date. We only do this on an as needed basis, and hope you will carefully read this newsletter. Please make plans to attend our open house, once the date is advertised. Everyone is invited to our board meetings, which are held on the first Tuesday of every month, space is limited. Tuesday, November 7 is Election Day, so the Board will meet on Thursday, November 9 at 7:30 p.m. instead.

We are reviewing our animal and nuisance ordinances to bring them up to date. There are some gray areas to clear up and improve. The nuisance ordinance focuses on abandoned vehicles, trash build up that attracts rodents, and noxious weeds. These are very important public safety issues to consider.

Our Comprehensive Plan, Subdivision and Land Development Ordinances, and Zoning Ordinances are going to be updated also. There are a couple of developments we are working on now, with more to come. We cannot stop this influx of development coming, but we hope to influence how it will be done. This process is in cooperation with our Planning Commission, Adams County Planning Commission, the Fire Company, our engineer and solicitor, and the Board of Supervisors.

A request to rezone a few parcels of land is another issue. To do this, we will have another public hearing like the one held in April of 2005. However, before the hearing, we will hold an open house so the public may get informed of the areas and changes. We will advertise the date once it is decided.

*James E. Benner, Chairman*

### **“Conservation By Design” Ordinance**

Growing Greener- Conservation by Design is a collaborative program of the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR), the Governor’s Center for Local Government Services, Natural Lands Trust, Inc. a Regional Land Conservancy located in Media, Pa., and an advisory committee comprised of Officials from State and Local Agencies including the Pennsylvania Environmental Council, The Penn State University Co-Op Extension, and other Non-profits and the Private sector.

Communities across Pennsylvania are realizing that they can conserve their special Open Spaces, Greenways, and Natural Resources at the same time they achieve their development objectives. For Communities to take control of their destiny and ensure that development creates more livable communities in the process, this is a tool to help accomplish those objectives.

In early 2006, the Hamiltonban Board of Supervisors decided to begin work to adopt this concept to help us achieve our objectives to protect our Open Spaces, our many wonderful Historic sites and Viewsheds. We, like many Adams County Communities, are feeling the development pressures and we want to do all we can to update our Ordinances to help us manage all this potential growth.

We received a Grant through the Natural Lands Trust to study our existing Ordinances and that study was presented to our Community at a meeting at the Fairfield High School in late March 2006. Since that time we have been working with our Engineer and our Planning Commission to draft a new Chapter to our Comprehensive Plan, amendments to our Zoning Ordinance and amendments to the Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance (SALDO) to implement this program. We hope to have this work completed within the next several months. At that time, we will advertise an Open House to present this program to the public. Subsequent to that, a Public Hearing will be held to receive comments from the public regarding these changes. We hope you will attend. We think these changes will benefit all our citizens.

*Bob Gordon, Supervisor*

**Municipal Facilities**

Hamiltonban Township has owned a maintenance facility on Bullfrog Road for many years now. That facility has been inadequate and in need of upgrades for quite a few years and does not have sufficient acreage for long-term future needs and expansion. As many of you already know, our municipal office building was a vacated doctor's office. As community interest in the "topics of the day" has increased, so has the attendance at the Board of Supervisors' meetings and Planning Commission meetings. The higher attendance at meetings is a welcomed sight and we encourage residents to attend but we are distressed to see that very often the numbers of persons attending cannot be comfortably seated in the meeting room. The overflow is forced into the hall and consequently they cannot hear the proceedings. Although the building would be functional for another type of business, we have outgrown the space. The acreage on which the building is located is minimal for the expansion of the building and the parking area. The cost of expansion of this older cinder block building far exceeds the ability to create a building that will see this township through the future growth of our community. It is our goal to build a complex that will serve the community for many, many years to come.

Through the cooperation and community minded spirit of a local business Hamiltonban Township has been able to tentatively negotiate a "trading of lands" for a new facility. The additional acreage agreed upon will allow us to build a new facility that will bring our operations together onto one site enabling us to build a facilities complex that will accommodate our needs into the foreseeable future. We will also have the opportunity to provide our residents with a community park adjacent to our offices and community center. The community room would be available for use by you for receptions, parties, meetings and other community-oriented activities. We are in the very early stages. The agreements have not yet been finalized and there will be a lot of work put forth in the planning and funding effort for such an undertaking. We are looking to our future and the future needs of our residents. The Hamiltonban Township Board of Supervisors asks for your support in this effort. During the upcoming months we will begin the process of grant submissions and also "kick-off" a Capital Campaign to help fund the project. We are urging and will accept donations from residents and business leaders alike. A Parks and Recreation Board will be established to serve in an advisory role to the Board of Supervisors towards the establishment of two community parks. The largest park will be located beside the new municipal office. The smaller of the two parks will be located on a small parcel of land owned by the township in the development area known as the "BB Section" off Iron Springs Road. Anyone interested on serving on the parks board is asked to call the township office at 642-8509 to submit your name. Again, we will need your help and your vision. Once a conceptual design is prepared it will be displayed at the township office. We will do our best to notify the public on its arrival. The Board members are looking forward to beginning this process in partnership with our community.

*Coleen Reamer, Supervisor*

**Roads and Sewer Plant**

In the last nine years the Township has completely resurfaced and rebuilt 75% of all Township roads, the remaining 25% will be done in the next three years. The 2006 road project will include ¾ mile of Zoo Road and .3 mile of the lower Cold Springs Road Gettysburg side. Developers are coming to the Township and the Township is negotiating with them for financial help on any roads directly involved with traffic increases from their developments.

The Road Crew has mowed roads monthly since Spring and will be mowing one last time around the beginning of October.

Most Hamiltonban Township residents are aware of the severe damage on Cold Springs Road and the mudslide on Mount Hope Road that occurred during the June 26-27 rainstorms. The Township has been very active in seeking Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) funding. In the Township's first meeting with FEMA, we were promised funding to restore roads to pre-storm conditions. The Township had several meetings with FEMA personnel, filed the necessary forms, and measured road surfaces for repair. The Township received two professional estimates (\$400,000 - \$580,815) to repair the damage. Unfortunately, FEMA awarded only \$87,000 to offset the cost of repair, much less than hoped for. Therefore, the Township will stabilize and rebuild the base on the damaged sections of Cold Springs Road, for winter travel, and complete the re-surface in the Spring of 2007.

**Winter News :**

Supplies and equipment are ready for Winter. The Township purchased a new 2007 F350 4X4 Super Duty Ford Truck. The Truck is equipped with 9-foot angle plow and anti-skid insert application spreader.

**Sewer Plant News:**

The Township has recently installed new aerators, pumps and a new lagoon liner to keep the Orrtanna Treatment Plant running at capacity.

*J. Edward Deardorff, Roadmaster Supervisor*

**Fairfield Fire and EMS**

By the time you read this, school we be back in session. Pay careful attention to the kids on the street when you're driving. Fall brings leaf burning, and we again urge you to be careful. Use common sense and burn only according to the rules.

Make sure that your house numbers are on your mailbox and, especially if your house is not on the same side of the road as your mailbox, at the foot of your driveway and/or on the house itself. It's hard for us to find you if your house is not well marked. It's also a good time to check your house for fire hazards, to make sure the furnace is safe and ready to go on that first cold morning, and to clean the fireplaces and chimneys. And bring those lists of medicines the members of your family take up to date so they are available to us if we must come to your aid.

Do you realize that Fairfield Fire & EMS – like the other fire/rescue departments in Adams County – is not supported by tax funds? The money we get to provide fire and emergency medical services to Fairfield and the surrounding communities comes from membership in our ambulance club and your donations to our fund drive, from bingo and small games of chance, and from insurance company payments for our services (of course, no one ever is turned away, whether or not they have insurance).

We squeeze every dollar to provide the best service possible. However, times are changing. Because our area is growing and so few volunteers are available during the daytime, we have hired paid EMTs to staff one ambulance during the day seven days a week to insure a quick response to your call for assistance. This costs a lot of money, and we need your continuing financial generosity to support it.

The heart of Fairfield Fire & EMS is its volunteers, and we need more in all phases of operations – firefighting, emergency medical services, fund-raising and administration. It's a community organization. Step up to the plate. All it takes is the desire to be a player and some of your time. We provide the training. The several thousand new homes planned in the next few years in our service area could double the number of people we serve, requiring that we have even more personnel available. Don't sit on the sidelines and miss the experience of a lifetime. Call us or come down any Tuesday evening. We want to meet you.

*Neal Abrams, Fairfield Fire and EMS*

**General Information**

- >HALLOWEEN TRICK OR TREAT NIGHT IS October 31, 2006 from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM
- >FALL ELECTION DAY is November 7, 2006; Polls open at 7:00 AM, Please Vote – Your Vote Counts
- >NOVEMBER BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING IS RE-SCHEDULED FOR THURSDAY NOVEMBER 9 AT 7:30 pm
- >PLEASE RESPECT YOUR NEIGHBORS BY RESTRAINING ANIMALS FROM RUNNING AT LARGE
- >WITH SNOW SEASON FAST APPROACHING PLEASE REFRAIN FROM PUSHING SNOW ONTO THE TOWNSHIP ROADWAYS
- >PLEASE **HELP PROTECT OUR CHILDREN.... DO NOT** PASS A SCHOOL BUS WITH FLASHING LIGHTS, THERE MAY BE A CHILD APPROACHING THE ROADWAY EITHER TO ENTER OR EXIT THE BUS
- >PLEASE BE MINDFUL OF CHILDREN PLAYING, ESPECIALLY IN OUR DEVELOPMENTS. PLEASE OBSERVE THE POSTED SPEED LIMITS.
- >THE TOWNSHIP HAS BEEN NOTIFIED THAT A PARENT IN THE "BB SECTION" WOULD LIKE TO INSTITUTE A BLOCK PARENT PROGRAM FOR CHILDREN AS A SAFETY PRECAUTION. IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO PARTICIPATE, PLEASE CONTACT THE TOWNSHIP OFFICE.

**Township Contacts:**

**James E. Benner, Board of Supervisors Chairman**  
**William E. Eckert Sr., Vice Chairman**  
**Jay Edward Deardorff, Roadmaster**  
**Coleen N. Reamer, Police Coordinator**  
**Robert L. Gordon, Supervisor**  
**LuAnn M. Dille, Secretary/Treasurer**

**Office Hours: Monday Through Thursday**  
**8:00AM to 4:30PM (Closed for lunch 12:30-1:30)**  
**Office Address: 23 Carrolls Tract Road**  
**PO Box 526**  
**Fairfield, PA 17320**

**Office Phone: 717-642-8509**  
**Office Fax: 717-642-9511**  
**E-mail: [hamiltonban@earthlink.net](mailto:hamiltonban@earthlink.net)**  
**Web site: [www.hamiltonban.org](http://www.hamiltonban.org)**

**Zoning Officer: Milton Nicks 717-642-0022**  
**Police Officer: Juanita Larmer 717-642-9708**  
**Emergencies: Dial 911**  
**Emergency Management Coordinator:**  
**Donald F. Wills, Jr.**  
**Deputy Officer: Larry Schneider**