SPRING 2010 Volume 10, Issue 1



SOUTHAMPTON TOWNSHIP

FRANKLIN COUNTY

WWW.SOUTHAMPTONTOWNSHIP.ORG

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SPECIAL SITTING FOR TAX COLLECTION

Tuesday, April 20

Orrstown Bank, Orrstown 12:00 PM until 3:00 PM

Wednesday, April 21

Southampton Township
Building,
705 Municipal Drive
12:00 PM until 3:00 PM

Southampton Township Enacts Rental Ordinance

Over the past two years your Supervisors have been working to determine if a Rental Ordinance should be enacted in our Township. We held several public hearings to receive comments from our residents, conferred with officials from our emergency service providers, and evaluated Ordinances in effect in neighboring communities. On December 8, 2009, your supervisors adopted ordinances which require the Registration and Inspection of any property used as a Rental Dwelling in the Township.

RENTAL DWELLINGS MUST BE REGISTERED

The full text of these ordinances as well as the forms needed to register a dwelling may be obtained at the Township Office during normal business hours, or the full text of the Ordinances and the forms needed to register a dwelling can be easily obtained in pdf format from our web site www.southamptontownship.org. In order to register a rental property the owner must complete both the Rental Application and the Tenant List for Rental Property and submit them to the Township office. These Ordinances became effective on January 1, 2010, however the Township will accept applications without penalty during the first six months of the program.

FEES ESTABLISHED FOR RENTAL LICENSE

Licensing fees have been established to cover the cost of registering and inspecting rental properties. If the rental dwelling is

Continued on Page 2

Township to Match Library Contributions 2-to-1 in 2010

If you haven't heard yet, our local Public Library has just begun a *Capital Campaign* to expand opportunities for the community and bring the library facility into the 21st Century.

The Shippensburg Public Library has not had any major renovations or improvements since 1969. Well, as you can imagine, over the last 40 years our population in the Shippensburg/ Southampton area has probably doubled.

The library committee approached your supervisors last year for financial help with this campaign. The supervisors were very much in favor of having an up-to-date library for our citizens. Reading for enjoyment, education, as well as programs for our children, and providing access to the internet for those that otherwise would not have, are just a few of the advances this library campaign would provide. For more information about the project you can call

the public library at 717-532-4508 or just stop in.

Before writing a blank check toward this capital campaign, we wanted to gauge the interest from our citizens. After some discussion, the supervisors decided to have a match of 2-to-1 for our citizen contributions up to a total of \$100,000.

This would do two things. One, it would send us the message that, Yes, the people of Southampton want to support this capital campaign for a modern library; and secondly, it would help maximize your contribution to this cause. For every dollar you donate to the library your township will match it with two dollars. This match would max out at \$2,000 per household. If you donate \$250 then we match with \$500 more, \$750 total. If you donate \$1,000 then we match with \$2,000 more, \$3,000 total.

Rental Ordinance—Continued from Page 1

registered as required by the ordinance during the first six months of 2010, the Township will waive the registration fee. Property owners will be able to register their properties without cost for the year 2010 if the registration is delivered to the Township on or before July 1, 2010. Any existing rental property that is not registered as required by the Ordinance by July 1, 2010, will be subject to the fees and penalties that have been established for this program.

SAFETY INSPECTIONS OF RENTAL HOMES

Inspections of all Rental Dwellings will begin soon. These inspections will focus on checking for compliance with established regulations to insure the safety of the residents. For instance, the inspector will look for things such as smoke detectors and proper electrical wiring. Once a property passes the inspection, a Rental License will be issued and the property will be inspected again in approximately 3 years.

IF YOU OWN A RENTAL PROPERTY

If you own a property being used as a residential rental dwelling that is located in the Township, you should register your property with the Township Codes Officer as soon as possible to avoid any fees or penalties for this year.

IF YOU RENT A DWELLING IN THE TOWNSHIP

You do not need to do anything. Your Landlord is responsible for all the paperwork and fees required by these Ordinances. The inspection of your home will be scheduled with your Landlord well in advance. You may choose to be home during the inspection but your presence is not required. Also, you may request an inspection of your dwelling at any time by contacting the Township Codes Enforcement Officer. If your Landlord has not yet registered your home as a rental there will be no fee to you.

TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

Our mailing list for this Newsletter has always been generated from the tax list - so only property owners got the newsletter - we had no way of knowing the names of our residents who rented their homes. Once your rental property is registered we will add you to the mailing list for the Newsletter to keep you up to date on what is happening in the Township!

Library Donation—Continued from Page 1

This opportunity is for the 2010 year. You may pledge a donation for five years but we will only match the 2010 contribution. You can go onto our website, www.southamptontownship.org for all the guidelines. Just click at the Library Match Program heading on the lower left hand side of the website. You may also contact our office and we would be happy to help you get more information.

We have included the application for match on Page 6 of this newsletter.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN SOUTHAMPTON TOWNSHIP?

TRAFFIC LIGHTS AND BRIDGE - Except for a few small details that will be addressed when the weather is better, this project is complete! The bridge widening and three traffic lights are all up and running, the fourth light will be installed later near the intersection of Olde Scotland Road and a new intersection at the development.

ZONING ORDINANCE CHANGES - After nearly a year of work, and a public hearing, the Township made several changes to the Sub-Division and Land Development Ordinance (SALDO) and the Township Zoning Ordinance. Most of the changes to the SALDO dealt with requirements for larger projects such as new housing developments. The changes to the Zoning Ordinance were:

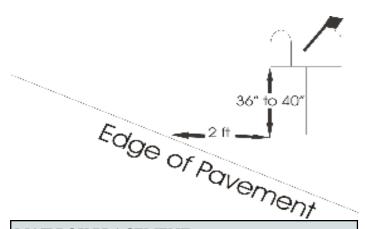
- <u>Signs</u> Changes were made to the language relating to the size and placement of signs in the township
- ◆ <u>Home Occupations</u> Several changes were made to the guidelines that apply to occupations that are permitted in the residential area.
- Zoning Map Change A small area of land between the Kapoe development and the railroad tracks was changed to a Residential area.
- Not Changed The proposed change to reduce the width of the required buffer zone between industrial and residential areas if an elevated berm was provided was NOT CHANGED. Residents who spoke at the public hearing opposed this change and the supervisors decided to keep the requirement for a 200 foot wide buffer zone.

Township Changes—Continued from Page 2

TOWNSHIP PERSONNEL - These changes have occurred since our last Newsletter:

- <u>Supervisor</u> Samuel Cressler was re-elected to a 6year term on the Southampton Township Board of Supervisors. Sam serves in the secretary/treasurer capacity.
- <u>Auditors</u> Patricia Goyt was re-elected to a 6-year term on the Board of Auditors and Bill Naugle was elected to a 2-year term. Anne Hinkle did not run for re-election and left the Board.
- <u>Township Fire Chief</u> Mark Cleck was appointed as the new chief replacing Randy O'Donnell who accepted a position of greater responsibility in the Borough of Shippensburg.
- ◆ **Zoning Hearing Board** Adam Kuhn was appointed to the Board as an Alternate Member. Lane Thrush completed his term on the Board.
- <u>Vacancy Board</u> Daniel Kuhn was appointed as the Chairman of the Vacancy Board replacing Bill Naugle who won election to the Board of Auditors.

<u>THANK YOU</u> - All of us in the Township thank Randy O'Donnell, Anne Hinkle and Lane Thrush for their years of service to the Township. We also thank all the new and current members of the various Township Boards and Commissions for their volunteering their time and service to our community!



MAILBOX PLACEMENT

If you are considering installing or replacing your mailbox please keep the *front* of the mailbox off of the roadway by a *minimum* of two (2) feet, more is preferable.

UNITED STATES CENSUS 2010

The U.S. Census Bureau is issuing a call to action for every resident of our nation: "Be counted in 2010."

In mid-March, the U.S. Census Bureau will be sending out 2010 Census questionnaires to residents with normal addresses, meaning those with house numbers. To those whose mail is delivered to a P.O. Box, census workers will hand deliver questionnaires over the weeks that follow.

Who: All U.S. residents must be counted—people of all races and ethnic groups, both citizens and noncitizens.

Why is a Complete Census Count Important?

- The census will show state population counts and determine representation in the U.S. House of Representatives, impacting our voice in congress!
- Every year, the federal government can allocate more than \$300 billion to states and communities based, in part, on census data.
- Census data can be used for writing grant proposals.
- Census data can tell businesses how many potential customers live in an area.

When: Census Day is April 1, 2010. Your responses should represent your household as it exists on this day. More detailed information will be collected from a small percentage of the population through the American Community Survey at a later date.

2010 Census Questionnaire: Quick, Easy, and Confidential: There are only 10 questions on the 2010 Census Questionnaire and it only takes 10 minutes to complete.

2010 Census—Now Hiring Workers

The 2010 Census is looking for recruits to help with the census. You can apply to the U.S. Census by calling 1-866-861-2010. You will be asked for your zip code and then given a location of where to go to take a 28 question quiz.

Southampton Township has partnered with the U.S. Census.

We encourage you to complete & return your Census

Questionnaire when you receive it in March.

It's easy. It's safe. It's Important

SOUTHAMPTON TOWNSHIP FRANKLIN COUNTY

Southampton Township 705 Municipal Drive Shippensburg, PA 17257

Phone: 717-532-9041 Email: shtwp@pa.net

Your Supervisors
Paul Witter
Samuel Cressler
Mel Wadlinger

SOUTHANGTON YOWNSELP - FRANKLIN COUNTY 2010 SHIPPINSELRG PUBLIC CIBRARY MATCHING BINDS PROGRAM	
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