

LURGAN TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

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Office Hours

Mon., Tues., Thurs., & Fri.
8:00 – 1:00

Closed Wednesdays

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- ❖ A History Lesson
- ❖ Recycling News
- ❖ Bulky Trash Days
- ❖ PHFD News

TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS MONTHLY MEETINGS

Are held the third Monday
of each month at 7:00 p.m.
At the Township Office
bldg.
8650 McClays Mill Road

**ALL ARE
WELCOME**

TOWNSHIP DIRECTORY

Norman S. Appleby 532.7460
Supervisor

Robert L. Boyd 729.1438
Supervisor

Lawrence C. Kolb, Jr. 532.7460
Supervisor

JoAnna Cover 532.7460
Secretary/Treasurer

Barbara J. Wisner 532.5515
Tax Collector

Vincent Elbel 263.6120
Sewage Enforcement

LURGAN TOWNSHIP – A HISTORY LESSON

CHARLES BELTZ, TOWNSHIP HISTORIAN

ROXBURY GRAMMAR SCHOOL

In 1937, the only inoculation required was vaccination for smallpox. Upon entering first grade, a yellow certificate signed by a doctor and a “birdie” mark on the shoulder was your ticket to a small seat. With all other childhood diseases you took your chances and accepted the consequences.

Since smallpox has been eliminated from all nations, only in laboratories scattered in the United States and Russia does the germ culture exist. If, by accident or purpose, these cultures were reintroduced, many would be infected, and a large percentage would succumb to the disease. Our childhood protection has long since lost its effectiveness.

Because there was no kindergarten in the 1930’s, everyone entered first grade. Colds, flues, chickenpox, measles, mumps and diphtheria marched through the little children. Chances for infections were numerous.

Now, school entrance requirements are for shots to prevent these common but often debilitating illnesses. In times past, these diseases were simply endured. Sadly, the end was death for many. No treatment existed. A check of old graveyards reveals many small tombstones for children whose ages range from a few days to late childhood. Nearly every family mourned the passing of at least one little one.

Another potentially fatal disease was rickets. Lack of nutritional knowledge and lack of financial funds for food purchases, contributed to this wasting away of bone support. The legs were first affected.

In the 1950’s Dr. Salk discovered a vaccine for the prevention of polio. Children’s parents no longer had to fear the crippling or fatality of this dangerous disease, whose survivors suffered various physical challenges, and spent their lives limping, in wheel chairs or on breathing machines.

In Roxbury, Mrs. Emery Guyer instructed the first four grades with as many at thirty seven students. D. Frank Stewart taught students five through eight. No one questions or protested large amounts of pupil faces on the first day of the fall semester, which, at the time, included only one hundred forty days. Children were needed at home on the farm. Gradually school terms increased to the present one hundred eight day requirement. Farming is no longer the main economy of the area.

These one and two room schools are either being used by the Amish, been turned into residences, or razed out of existence. Interesting, even the new Amish schools follow this old pattern to great advantage. Their teachers are very young, with no high school or college training. Yet they adeptly teach grades one to eight in two languages, their own and English. The curriculum equals or surpasses the state educational system.

Their new schools do contain a few more modern conveniences, such as water. The old schools visited nearby neighbors for drinking water, which was carried in buckets by two older students and dumped in a ceramic jar. A button at the bottom was pushed for water to flow. Each child carried his own cup, usually one of the tin type, expandable, or collapsible into a flat entity. It was seldom taken home for washing. Grubby hands stayed grubby from the playground mud, sticky fingers were sticky from lunch cookies and various sundry other gross coverings. Students in Roxbury did go home for lunch, where mothers could swipe hands and faces to some preventability.

In addition to reading, writing and arithmetic, upper grades added history, health and geography. A music teacher appeared once or twice a month. The boys were unimpressed.

Obviously, one person had difficulty maintaining all these classes for four grades, let alone eight. Competent older students helped younger ones in some cases. Bear in mind, Amish schooling remains much the same, and they do receive a viable education.

In the time before 1930's, some school's had no money for pencils or tablets. In the 1930's we were allowed to have one tablet and one pencil per month to bad if you were a student who ate paper, and threw spit balls or broke to many pencil points. Certain allotted time was allowed to line up at the pencil sharpener fastened to the wall or window sill. Schools without adequate supplies recited mental math and oral phonics.

Electricity didn't appear much before the 1940's. (The Amish still use gas lights) Heating was elemental, a wood/ coal stove in the corner, whose fire was tended by an early appearing of the teacher, who may have walked several miles on a snowy morning to arrive an hour or so before the pupils. Near the stove one cooked ones face. Far from the stove, on froze one's feet. We used the ash pile out back to play king of the hill on its icy sides.

Wooden floors were oiled twice a year to control mud and dust. Once or twice during the year, water and cleaner miraculously appeared along with rags to clean our desks, splattered with ink from inkwells and sticky with hand grease. The upper grades received pen points to dip in wells of ink and practiced writing.

In Roxbury, a narrow space separated the building from Mrs. Culbertson's backyard fence. It made a runway for our tag ball games. A ball over the fence meant an early death. Not being enamored of children's games, Mrs. C was always handy to capture any ball in her yard, and burn it.

Frank Killian, our teacher at one time, did his best to rescue errant tag – balls before they disappeared forever. Once, Mrs. Culbertson caught him in her chicken yard. Fortunately, Mr. Killian escaped the fate of the balls. Why were we all so intimidated by one person?

The Roxbury School was finally sold as storage space to Henry Hart, after the Lurgan School was built. Later Roy and Dorcas Myers bought the property, razed the school and the eyesore was cleaned and properly used. No remnants are visible of what once stood in the space.

Lurgan Township Recycling Pay – As – You – Throw Trash

**Recycling Hours
8:00 a.m. – 12:00 Noon**

Our Program is ending its fourth year this coming June. We sincerely appreciate your patience your adaptability with all of our changes this past year. We cannot guarantee that there will not be more changes in the future, but we genuinely appreciate your cooperation.

We will continue to ask you to separate the opaque milk/tea/juice jugs from the other plastics. The other plastics are now kept separate as well as the glass and the bimetal cans are separated from each other in their own compartments. Aluminum cans are also kept separate from other cans and put into a bin of their own.

Our recycling and pay – as – you – throw trash program is open to all Lurgan Township residents and all surrounding communities. So, pass the word to your friends and neighbors, that they can save some money on the monthly expenses by using Lurgan Townships trash and recycling program every other week.

BULKY TRASH

Our bulky trash day will be held this year on Friday, April 13th and Saturday, April 14th from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on Friday, and 8:00 a.m. to 12 noon on Saturday.

As in past years, we will accept appliances, air conditioners, hot water heaters, furniture, metal, aluminum, computers, electronics, car batteries, electric motors and tires. You may bring four (4) free tires 18" or less per household; there will be a charge of \$2.00 per tire for any amount over four tires. Larger truck tires will be accepted for \$10.00 each, and tractor tires will be accepted for \$25.00 each. (This is the amount we have to pay for them).

We will also accept your old paint cans if you add cat litter or sand to solidify the paint that is remaining in the can. We will not accept regular household trash, hazardous waste, old oil, propane tanks or any clean, wooden building materials that can be burned. If you have any questions regarding our bulky trash day please do not hesitate to call.

DEP CHANGES STATUES

The Department of Environmental Protection has changed a statute under Title 25. Environmental Protection, Subpart C. Protection of Natural Resources, Article II. Water Resources, Chapter 102 – Erosion and Sediment Control and Stormwater approvals or authorizations, a municipality or county **may not issue a building or other permit for approval to those proposing or conducting earth disturbance activities requiring a Department permit** until the Department or a conservation district has issued the E & S or individual NPDES Permit or approved coverage under the general NPDES Permit for Stormwater Discharges Associated with Construction Activities under 102.5 (relating to permit requirements.)

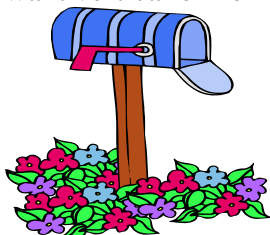
102.5 Permit Requirements – **Earthmoving activities disturbing 1 or more acres are required to obtain a NPDES permit prior to any earthmoving** (was previously 5 acres). Except – Agricultural plowing and tilling only. Need conservation and AG E & S plans (any farm building disturbing more than one acre will be required to obtain NPDES permits. Timber Harvest, oil and gas, road maintenance activates are exempt from NPDES permits, however must implement erosion control BMP's.

LANDLORDS

Please call Josie (532-7460) with your tenants' names each time they change. We are not getting them and your renters are missing out on what the Township has to offer them.

EMERGENCY HOUSE NUMBERS

You may order your blue and white reflective house number sign through the Township by calling 532.7460 or emailing Josie at lurgantwp@embarqmail.com with your information. Please designate whether you want vertical or horizontal. The cost is \$15.00, which is payable when you pick up your sign.



A SIGN WILL MAKE IT EASIER TO FIND YOU IN AN EMERGENCY