HEIDELBERG HAPPENINGS

RECYCLING GUIDELINES AND UPDATES

As many know, the current climate of recycling in the United States is changing. A vast majority of the United States’ recyclable materials has been sent overseas for processing for many years. This is changing in part because of our zest for recycling. While most of us know the value of recycling, there are rules dictating what can and can’t be recycled. Following the guidelines has never been more important than it is right now.

While newspaper is an easy item to identify, did you realize that not all plastic is recyclable? Here is a simple description of recyclable items:

- metal food and beverage cans (aluminum and steel - NOT RUSTY)
- corrugated cardboard (think packing boxes NOT cereal boxes)
- plastic bottles and jugs ONLY (no yogurt containers, no potato salad tubs)
- glass bottles and jars (clear, green, brown - no broken drinking glasses or Pyrex baking dishes)
- newspaper (not the glossy inserts - must be tied in bundles with twine or put in PAPER bags)

All containers must be clean and debris free. Any food or contaminant left in the container makes the item ineligible for recycling. So please rinse all containers out before including them in your recycling. Please crush or flatten items like aluminum cans and plastic jugs so as many items can fit in the recycling bins as possible. Do not include lids in the recycling.

Since Heidelberg Township does not have mandatory recycling as dictated by Township Code, we provide voluntary recycling the first Saturday of every month from 8:00AM-12:00PM at the lower lot of the Township Building. Do not bring items prior to the scheduled drop-off period unless you have prior approval from recycling coordinator Eleanor Sweeney. If you need to discuss this option, please call her at (717)644-4130. As well, please remember that everyone manning the recycling bins is a volunteer and donating their time.

“When in doubt, throw it out” is the new motto in the recycling world. This catchphrase is quite different than what we have come to embrace for our recycling interests. But if we all follow the guidelines as described above, Heidelberg Township will be doing their part. Thank you all for making the recycling program so successful!

ROAD REPAIR WORK IN THE TOWNSHIP

While Heidelberg Township has road repair and improvement projects planned for this year, one or more may impact your daily travel for a period of time. Here is a list of the work that will take place.

Martin Paving was awarded the bid to do Seal Coating on roads in the Township for 2018. With a bit of schedule juggling, the roads that will be done this year are Horst Road and Mill Road. This work will begin the first week of August so look for signs on those roads soon.

Landis C. Deck & Sons was awarded the bid to do the road repair work planned for 2018. Drainage pipes along Distillery Road are going to be replaced in the section of road between Route 501 and Old Mill Road. The contractor has not indicated if the road will be closed during this time frame or if the road will be single-lane travel during construction. Other work to be done will be patching along sections of Michters Road, Albright Road, Reistville Road, Spring Haven Road and Canaan Grove Road. All of this work will be completed by October 1, 2018.

Please be on the lookout for signs around the township indicating Road Work in the near future. Thank you for being patient during the construction period and look for improved road conditions on those roads listed.
The first day of School is scheduled for August 27.
Buses will be back on the road so please plan accordingly!

AG ANIMALS IN RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The Heidelberg Township office staff and its zoning officer have been receiving an increasing number of inquiries regarding the keeping of chickens, ducks, and other poultry and farm animals such as sheep or goats, on residential properties. The Heidelberg Township Zoning Ordinance provides for the keeping of these types of animals, allowing them in some zones, but not in others.

The Township’s Agricultural and Agricultural Transitional zones are the only areas within the Township where the keeping of small domestic is identified and regulated. These zones require that any structure where livestock or fowl are kept shall be at least 100 feet to any lot line or road right-of-way and at least 200 feet from any residentially zoned property or existing non-farm property in residential use.

No other zoning district in the Township addresses the keeping of chickens, ducks, and other poultry and farm animals. This means that keeping them in any of those zones is not permitted. These zoning districts would include the Conservation Recreation, Low Density Residential, Special Purpose Residential, Village Residential, and Village Center zones. In addition, there are no provisions for the keeping of these animals in any of the commercial, industrial or the overlay zones addressing floodplain, historic resources, resource extraction or airport hazard.

Essentially, if the property is not a farm in the Agricultural and Agricultural Transitional zones when the setback requirements described above cannot be met, the keeping of chickens, ducks, and other poultry and farm animals is not permitted. The village of Schaefferstown and all other residential developments within the Township are included in this prohibition.

SEWER AND WATER BILL EMAIL REMINDERS

Everyone today is pretty busy. We all have things to do, things to remember and things that just happen surprisingly along the way. With all of these “things” keeping our brains in high demand, we all on occasion lose track of a thing or two.

To aid our residents, Heidelberg Township would like to offer some reminder assistance for those within the public water and/or sewer system. Office staff are able to send a reminder email of due dates for both sewer and water bills. A notice can be sent to an email address of your choice approximately five (5) days prior to the due date of either bill. This enables someone who may not remember the calendar date the ability to pay their invoice prior to the due date without incurring a late charge. If this is a service you wish to take advantage of, please email htsewer@comcast.net with your name, address, account number and the email address you would like the reminder sent. Office staff will reply to your email to verify receipt. Should you not receive a response, please try again or call the office at (717) 949-3885. This will be a one-way communication. Replies to this reminder email for balance amounts due will not be answered. If you need that information, please call the office.

To coincide with this service, Heidelberg Township also offers emailed Newsletters as well. This email includes a PDF (Adobe) copy of the paper Newsletter in single page scrolling format. These emails are sent prior to the paper copy mailing so not only would you be saving paper and postage, but you would also get the Newsletter first. Feel free to email the Township Office at hta@comcast.net at any time to be included in this email group.

When the Township receives an inquiry or complaint that there are these types of animals on a residential property, and that property is not in the Agricultural or Agricultural Transitional zones, the Township may initiate an enforcement action to make certain the provisions of the Zoning Ordinance are being followed. The failure of a property owner to have unauthorized animals removed may result in the imposition of fines and other penalties as provided for in the Zoning Ordinance.

For further information, please contact Barry Wagner, Heidelberg Township Zoning Officer during regular business hours at 717-625-0444 or via e-mail at brwconsultants@dejazzd.com.

-Written by Barry Wagner
NEW STORE WITH OLD ITEMS IN THE SQUARE

Heidelberg Township has seen many changes over the years, but it is exciting to see some things stay the same. A new proprietor and a new name, but the antique store on the square is still in the building.

Starting the journey of owning an antique store may be daunting for some, but not for Jedd Erdman, owner of The Square Antiques located at 101 S. Market Street. The new business carries an eclectic mixture of styles and genres; a little something for everyone. Included in the pieces are local antiques, furniture and many small items that would add a special touch to your home. Open Thursday and Friday 10:00AM-5:00PM and Saturdays 9:00AM-3:00PM, take a tour of the new store and see if you can discover a treasure you’ve been searching for or just a little something that catches your eye. If you have questions about the store, you can give them a call at (717) 949-3700 or message them on Facebook.

Best of luck wishes to Jedd and his venture to give antique enthusiast, pickers and finders and place to keep looking.

PENNDOT INITIATES SOCIAL MEDIA COMMUNICATION

PennDOT has initiated a new social media plan in order to pass information to motorist in a more efficient and more visible manner. Promoting safety, education and communication are key objectives for this organization. Below is a list of social media platforms PennDOT is using to connect with you.

Facebook is used by PennDOT for general safety information posts. They will also use the platform as a means to communicate emergency alerts or travel bans. Their FB page can be found at facebook.com/pennsylvaniadepartmentoftransportation.

Twitter allows PennDOT to post current event information and get instant feedback about news posted. The Twitter platform can be located at twitter.com/penndotnews.

Instagram is a visible platform that allows PennDOT to educate motorists with images and content that engages the users. Go to Instagram.com/pennsylvaniadot and see what pictures they have for you to view.

Youtube is an increasingly used site for educational videos. PennDOT is using Youtube to post videos for driving tips, road rules and general news from the PennDOT organization. You can find their videos posted on their official site youtube.com/PennsylvaniaDOT.

Lastly, PennDOT utilizes their own mobile app, 511PA, to alert drivers of current traffic information. You can also visit the website 511PA.com for similar information. There is a lot of information on the site beyond traffic data such as maps, bike and pedestrian information and other useful travel links.

Check these PennDOT information sites out and see what they have to offer. Hopefully one of them will help you in your daily routine or commute.

“Give thanks for a little and you will find a lot.”

Heidelberg Township wishes you and yours a wonderful Thanksgiving!
Please email htsewer@comcast.net with any Township news ideas or events.

**SUMMER/FALL 2018 EVENTS**

**Schaefferstown Fire Company:**

Annual Fireman's Carnival—August 16-18, 5:00PM open (CELEBRATING 100 YEARS!)
Free Admission—Come for fun, food and music!

**AYCE Breakfast Buffet**—October 13, 7:00AM
(check their Facebook page at facebook.com/stownfc for more details and dates)

**Historic Schaefferstown:**

Harvest Festival—September 15, 10:00AM-5:00PM & September 16, 11:30AM-4:30PM
Admission $5 12 and up, Free 11 and under, No Pets
(see Historic Schaefferstown website at hsimuseum.org for more details)

**Heidelberg Lions:**

Halloween Parade—October 27, 7:00PM

**County-wide Trick or Treat:**

October 31, 6:00PM-8:00PM