

MANOR UPDATES

NEWSLETTER For the Residents of Manor Township

SPRING 2019

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In Defense of the New Marijuana Ordinance

By Ryan Strohecker, Township Manager

The topic of legalizing and decriminalizing marijuana has been headline national news in recent years, sometimes even covered consecutive days. Since Manor Township began discussing our version of an ordinance, the local media has been using words like legalizing, decriminalizing and lenient in their headlines to report on the issue. Further, there is a natural attempt to coningle our discussions of a local ordinance with the national debate so I'd like to point out some distinct differences between the two and explain why the two conversations are very different. To the end, I'd like to highlight some reasons why I came to recommend an ordinance that, of its face, goes against my core philosophy.

First, not one Township Supervisor, Township police officer or involved staff member has expressed that marijuana should be legal or that the direction of the Township should move towards being more marijuana friendly. The original request for such a marijuana ordinance was made by several police officers who stated that it takes them two to three hours to complete the necessary paperwork and court preparation time for a misdemeanor arrest for marijuana. While the new ordinance does not eliminate the officers ability to arrest under state law, it does give them an added ability to circumnavigate the cumbersome details of a misdemeanor offense and act more aggressively enforcing a marijuana arrest as a summary offense. Effectively, this ordinance will give our officers an additional resource to use when illegal marijuana use is discovered.

(continued on pg. 5)



MARIJUANA IN MANOR TOWNSHIP

By John Wenzel, Board of Supervisors, Chairman

It is hard to believe but marijuana use is on the increase in our idyllic Township. It has been reported that police calls for marijuana/drug use are outpacing those of alcohol. This doesn't seem right to me.

Our penalty in the Township was based on the state ordinance, which means that anyone caught with a small amount of marijuana is subject to a misdemeanor offense. As a Township Supervisor, I struggle with the fact that someone arrested under this statute has it on their record for the rest of their life, unless expunged through a difficult and tedious process. One offense and they can be subject to punishment forever when they apply for a job, education, or anything that would require a check of the individual's history.

I don't know about you, but I made mistakes as a youth that were never repeated. It is hard for me to believe that these errors in judgement could have followed me the rest of my life.

As a Supervisor, my decision on an ordinance should deliver appropriate punishment, but also give the first-time offender an opportunity for redemption. I feel that our current ordinance does just that. A first offense carries a stiff fine that can be reduced if the individual takes and completes a diversionary program as directed by the court, but a second offense once again reverts to the state ordinance and once again is a misdemeanor with lifelong consequences.

During our public hearing and before drafting an ordinance, we heard from local professionals about how the diversionary program works. It was stated at that meeting that diversionary programs for first-time offenders are an essential key towards rehabilitation. This was a key element of the new ordinance.

To me, this is a balanced approach that gives the first offender an opportunity for redemption and redemption is a commodity that most of us could use at one time or another.



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20th Annual



COUNTRY CLASSIC 2019

Lace up those running shoes and gear up for the annual **Turkey Hill Country Classic**. In its 20th year since inception, there will be three different running events to choose from including a 5K Run/Jog/Walk, 10K Run and Half Marathon. Please note that ALL half marathon runners will need to be off the course by 10:00 a.m., due to the impending bike races. All event registrants will receive a goody bag and t-shirt (while supplies last).

The family fun-filled event takes place on **Saturday, May 4th** at Central Manor Church located at 387 Penn Street, Washington Boro. The event features food, vendors, kid's activities, and entertainment for all ages and will benefit the Lancaster Farmland Trust.

Monetary prizes will be awarded to the top five overall male and female finishers and medals will be given to the top three male and female finishers in seven different age categories for all three running events. A chip timing system will once again be used to secure the most precise results. For more information or to register for any of these events, visit: www.manortwp.org. Admission and parking are free.

- 5K Run/Jog/Walk ■ 10K Run ■ Men's & Women's Bike Races
- Half Marathon ■ Baby Derby (up to 14 months) ■ Food ■ Entertainment
- Prizes ■ Youth Run (ages 12 and under) ■ Games

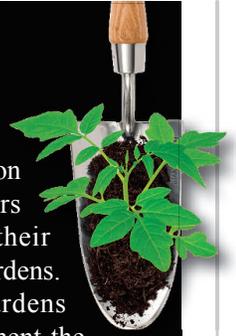
HELP US IN PRESERVING PRECIOUS LANCASTER COUNTY FARMLAND!



TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURES

On Saturday, May 4th, residents can expect temporary road closures and delays on Blue Rock, Anchor, Hostetter, Prospect, Gamber, and River Roads due to the 20th Annual Turkey Hill Country Classic. Drivers can also expect a higher level of pedestrian and bicycle traffic in the Central Manor area during this time as well, so please **DRIVE SAFELY**. We apologize for any inconvenience and **THANK YOU** in advance for your cooperation.

SPRING COMPOST



Now that spring is upon us, many home gardeners are ready to work in their vegetable and flower gardens. Adding compost to gardens has been proven to augment the soil. Gardeners have commented that incorporating compost into their gardens helps to keep the soil loose and enhances the ability to retain moisture.



Compost may be purchased at the Manor Township Compost Facility, which is located along Charlestown Road between South Centerville Road and Manor Boulevard. The cost of compost remains \$10 per cubic yard on the scheduled dates below.

SATURDAY'S: 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
March 30th ■ April 6th, 13th & 27th
May 11th & 18th

WEDNESDAY'S: 3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
March 27th ■ April 17th
May 1st & 8th

Township Website

Visit our Township website for up-to-date information on important upcoming meetings and events at



www.manortwp.org

Due to the Half Marathon, the Enola Low Grade Rail Trail will be closed from dawn - 11:00 a.m. on May 4th.

Employee Spotlight



Michael Bitts

Michael Bitts is our Employee Spotlight. Perhaps you have seen him working along our roadways, operating a heavy piece of equipment, plowing snow, or collecting leaves. Michael joined the Townships Public Works Department in the Spring of 2018. A lifetime resident of Manor Township, Michael, the youngest of four brothers and sisters, grew up in Washington Boro.

In Michael's free time he enjoys hunting, building things, and helping friends. Michael and his wife Mikayla recently enjoyed a vacation to Tennessee. Michael has been an active member with Blue Rock Fire Rescue. At the age of 14 he began serving our community as a Junior Firefighter with the former Goodwill Fire Company.

Michael grew up working on local farms. He feels that experience has helped him in working for the Township. He has expressed what a privilege it is to work with his fellow co-workers, and also for the Township that is home.



Manor Township's Public Works Department maintains 111 miles of roads, which happens to be one of the largest municipal road systems in Lancaster County. To continue to maintain and improve this road system there are several projects planned for 2019.

Several paving projects have been planned for this summer. The following roads are scheduled to receive a new paved surface: Charlestown Road (between Prospect Road and Central Manor Road), Supervisors Road, Sheep Lane, Crossland Pass, Applewood Lane, and Kendes Road.

Seal coating is one of the best maintenance and cost-effective applications available to our Public Works Department. The application of bituminous material that is coated with clean stone provides an excellent skid resistant surface while sealing the existing roadway. To prepare roads for this maintenance application side gutters will be cleaned to improve the drainage system. Storm water pipes will be inspected and replaced if needed on roads that are scheduled to be seal coated. The following roads have been scheduled to receive this application this summer: Coffee Street, Creek Road, Indian Run Road (from Creek Road to Safe Harbor Road), Oak Road, and Observation Road.

The Township is also planning to continue the road-widening program that improves the width of narrow rural roads. Widening is planned for Witmer Road and Breneman Road between Safe Harbor Road and Maverick Road.

Another maintenance application is micro-surfacing. Manor Township has been using this application since the mid 1990's. Micro-surfacing is a slurry seal mixture of tiny aggregates and bitumen combined with special polymers and emulsifiers. There are many benefits from this application; roads are sealed without excess stone and dust, drainage is not altered, and it produces a skid resistant surface. This year Weaver Road is scheduled for micro-surfacing.

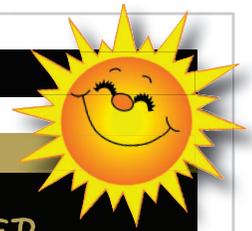


POLLUTION REDUCTION

Did you know that 71% of the surface of the earth is covered by water? And of that amount, only 2.5% is fresh water. The Township is bounded by the Susquehanna and Conestoga Rivers. Also, the Little Conestoga Creek and the West Branch of the Little Conestoga Creek flow through the Township. These streams ultimately flow into the Chesapeake Bay.

Here are several ways you can help to reduce pollution into our waters, streams, and tributaries:

- Keep storm drains clean of debris, grass clippings, leaves, and litter.
- Participate in storm drain marker installation - Reminding residents that "Drains are for Rains" only.
- Reduce your use of fertilizer and pesticides on your lawn - A soil sample test is recommended before applying to your lawn. Also, sweep or blow fertilizer that falls on paved surfaces back into the lawn.
- Build a rain garden to reduce storm water runoff.
- Use a commercial car wash, or wash your vehicle on the lawn.
- Clean up after pets and properly dispose the waste.
- Never dump paint, oil, or antifreeze into storm drains - If you see anyone doing this, please notify the Township office promptly at 717-397-4769.
- Never pump pool water, pool cover water, or basement flood water into storm drains - This also should be reported to Township authorities if discovered.



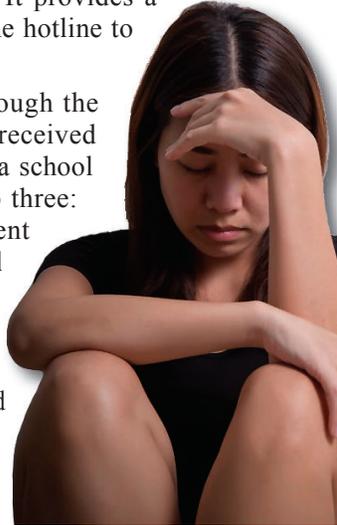
Safe 2 Say Something

Why the **Safe 2 Say Something** program? Each year millions of youths hurt themselves or others through verbal, physical and digital means. These behaviors can cause the youth to experience emotional trauma and physical injury, mental health or wellness issues, stress or anxiety.

The **Safe 2 Say Something** program is an anonymous reporting system for youths and adults to warn the school and police officials of individuals who may be a threat to themselves or others. It provides a phone app, website, and 24-hour crisis telephone hotline to submit anonymous tips.

Step one: someone submits a tip either through the app, website, or phone call. Step two: the tip is received by an analyst and then categorized and sent to a school official and law enforcement (as needed). Step three: the school official and possibly law enforcement intervenes to help the individual. The school official reports the outcome back to the **Safe 2 Say Something** platform, it is documented, and the tip is closed out.

The mobile app is available for Apple or Android devices, the website is www.safe2saypa.org, and the tip line number is 1-844-safe2say.



CURFEW INFORMATION

The Manor Township Police Department reminds kids and parents that the curfew is 10:00 p.m. Sunday through Thursday and midnight on Friday and Saturday. This includes driving without an adult or a work permit note that specifies their work times, in the vehicle.

The majority of the time the kids are just out walking or riding their bikes and not causing any harm; however, some have been caught doing damage to property or doing things that they shouldn't be doing. The biggest danger and concern for the Police Department though is that the kids are away from the safety of their home and are easy targets for people who would do them harm. A big common denominator involved in these cases is it usually happens when a few friends sleep over at another friend's house and then they all sneak out together. It is easier for a few kids to sneak out of one house rather than each of them sneaking out of their own houses and then try to meet up somewhere. Parents just need to be aware of where their kids are at all times.

SUMMER PLAYGROUND IN THE PARK

Manor Township is proud and excited to offer a fun filled summer day program at Manor Township Community Park and Greider Park. **Playground in the Park** is open to children entering 1st grade through 6th grade. The drop-in program takes place Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and offers excellent counselors that engage children in a wide variety of activities, games, crafts and field trips in a safe organized setting.



Brochures with a registration form and additional information will be available mid-May, as well as on the Township website at www.manortwp.org. Discounts will be given to those that register in May.

Coffee with COPS

The Manor Township Police Department will be hosting a **"Coffee with COPS"** event Tuesday, April 16, 2019 at 8:00 a.m. This free community forum is open to Manor Township residents where they will have an opportunity to talk to the Police Chief and other officers over coffee and doughnuts. They will answer questions and listen to your concerns about important issues affecting our Township. **"Coffee with COPS"** will take place in the meeting room of our Township building located at 950 West Fairway Drive in Lancaster. We hope you will take advantage of this great program. Please visit the Manor Township webpage at www.manortwp.org for additional dates and times for 2019. Questions may be directed to Sergeant Kim Geyer at 717-299-5231.



Recycling right doesn't have to be hard.



JUST FOCUS ON THE **BIG 4!** PLACE **ONLY** THESE ITEMS IN YOUR BIN.

1



CORRUGATED
CARDBOARD

Flattened

2



PLASTIC BOTTLES
& JUGS WITH NECKS

Emptied, Rinsed, & Lids Removed

3



METAL FOOD &
BEVERAGE CANS

4



GLASS JARS
& BOTTLES

All other items, such as those below, **do not** belong in your recycling bin.



It's okay to throw **everything else** away. It will be turned into energy.

Lancaster County has an advanced waste-to-energy process that converts these materials into renewable energy, powering local homes and businesses and helping to reduce our reliance on non-renewable sources of energy. So, when in doubt, throw it out.

Visit recycle.righlancaster.org for more tips.



ANONYMOUS COMPLAINTS

Manor Township receives frequent calls, letters, emails, and verbal complaints about possible Zoning Ordinance violations within the Township. Among these are many anonymous complaints, of which the staff will NOT investigate.

If a complaint is to be submitted, one must provide the address and/or tax parcel number of the property with the alleged violation. In addition, complaints that are mailed in or presented at our Township office must be signed and provide contact information. Complaint forms are available at the Manor Township Administrative Office.



In Defense of the Marijuana Ordinance (continued from pg. 1)

Second, Supervisors have expressed their desire for a stiff fine when a small amount of marijuana is found. Recognizing that state law currently allows an officer or judge to impose an arbitrary judgement between \$0 and \$500 leaves open a very real possibility for a \$25 or \$75 fine. Manor Township's new ordinance sets the minimum fine at \$300, not to exceed \$500. Think about this example - if you were to receive a speeding ticket from an officer for \$300, I think that most drivers would consider such a ticket to be steep.

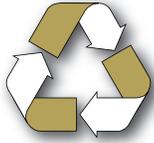
Third, the projected result of this ordinance will increase overall marijuana arrests in Manor Township. Unlike many ordinances, which the affect can be difficult to quantify, the marijuana ordinance will be tracked and analyzed over several years. We know there were 38 small amounts of marijuana arrests in 2018 and we will know as early as the next year or two whether the new ordinance increased that number or not.

Fourth, I've had to ask myself if a first time offender should have this on their record for their entire life. That means every job application requiring a background check will reflect a prior marijuana arrest. People do make mistakes, even very stupid ones. However, it seems fair to give a person one chance to stop such a destructive behavior and turn their life around. If that doesn't happen under this new ordinance, any second offense would be treated as a misdemeanor in accordance with state law.

I relate to the critics of this ordinance, especially as I was on the fence for a long time. I realize the timing of our discussion on such an ordinance bled into the greater legalization issue. Yet most people that have heard the rationale and explanation of the Township, seem to understand our goals. Time will tell and I intend to keep the Supervisors informed of the impact and result this ordinance has had in the Township.

**Manor Township
Board of Supervisors**

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MANOR TOWNSHIP UPCOMING PROGRAMMING

Full details of all programs can be found at www.manortwp.org or by calling 717-397-4769

GRASS & WEED ORDINANCE

As spring arrives, grass and weeds will begin to grow. Manor Township has a Grass and Weed Ordinance. The Ordinance requires every person owning or occupying any property in Manor Township upon which grass or weeds in excess of six (6) inches in height is growing, must cut grass or weeds on or before May 1st, June 1st, July 1st, August 1st, September 1st and October 1st of each calendar year.

Exceptions include trees, shrubs, flower beds or gardens, vegetables, wild flower gardens, seasonal and ornamental grasses, woodlands, wetlands, areas with fifteen (15) feet of a stream or pond, and land cultivated in crop production.

Please make sure the grass and weeds on your property are mowed on a regular basis. If you have any questions, contact the Township office at 717-397-4769.



BLUE ROCK FIRE RESCUE NEEDS YOUR HELP!

Did you know Blue Rock Fire Rescue (BRFR) provides fire and rescue services to all of Manor Township and Millersville Borough? There's always a need for firefighters, but they have several other ways to become involved including the areas of:

- Community Public Education
- Fire Police
- Quick Response Service (QRS)

BRFR has a fire protection district that includes eight miles of the Susquehanna River and they also provide water rescue services. Three boats are located at their Washington Boro (Station 907) and Highville stations (Station 903).

There are a number of unique services for interested firefighters consisting of:

- Collapse Rescue
- Decon Team
- Vehicle Rescue

Blue Rock Fire Rescue pays for trainings and provides their volunteers with the latest fire protection equipment. Their modern fleet of fire apparatus features four engines (new engine coming in 2018), one rescue engine, three tankers, one heavy rescue, one brush truck, three boats, two collapse rescue trucks, one QRS unit, six squad trucks and numerous other support vehicles.

Interested individuals may learn more by attending one of their monthly membership meetings at 7:00 PM in the headquarters building located at 26 East Charlotte Street in Millersville or may stop by of their other stations as well. They are located at 1697 Temple Avenue in West Lancaster (Station 901), 11 Charlestown Road in Washington Boro (Station 907) or at 3079 River Road in Highville (station 903). For more information, go to www.bluerockfire.com.