

CAERNARVON NEWS

BERKS COUNTY



3307 Main Street
Morgantown, PA 19543-0294

www.caernarvon.org
Phone: 610-286-1010



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Winter Maintenance Very Important Reminders

Sidewalk Clearing – Residents are reminded that Township Ordinance No 167 contains information on sidewalk clearing requirements in the Township. The Ordinance states “depositing snow from any driveway or sidewalk into the street is prohibited”.

Trash/Recycling Receptacles – Please do not place trash and recycling receptacles in the street for pick up, they should remain behind the curb line or in residential driveways. **When placed in the street they provide another obstacle for crews plowing snow or performing street work. Thank you for your assistance to the road crew.**



Let's have a safe winter!



~~REPORT ANY ROAD/MAINTENANCE ISSUES TO: ~~
(610) 286-1016



John Scalia, Chief

FOR AN EMERGENCY, DIAL 911
For Non-emergency, call 610-286-1012

Parking on Roadways - Reminders

Parking During Winter Weather – Ordinance No 223 prohibits parking on all Township streets during any winter weather event.

Route 23 Roadway - Just a reminder to our residents and visitors to Caernarvon Township. There is no parking on the side of the roadway on Main Street (SR23) between Fourth Avenue and Twin Valley Road. This is especially important in the area of Twin Valley Coffee (4000 block Main St). This is a heavily traveled area with a high potential for crashes. Both east and west bound lanes of SR 23 are clearly posted with signs stating that there is no stopping or standing in these areas. Please find a legal parking location and drive safe!

Basketball Nets - We would also like to ask that you be considerate of the Township Roadcrew during snow storms and pull your basketball nets back off the street to allow for better snow removal on our streets.

Our goal is to keep the Caernarvon Township residents well informed of upcoming events and important news through the quarterly newsletters. Copies will be distributed throughout the community at locations such as the Village Library, the Joanna Store, the Heritage Restaurant, Styer Insurance Agency, Inc., Clair's Family Restaurant, State Farm Insurance, Caernarvon Township Authority, Morgantown Coffee Shop, Doug's Pharmacy, and Twin Valley Coffee. Copies can also be found on our website, www.caernarvon.org.

Police Department Message - Continued**SCAMS – BEWARE!!**

Jury Duty - Scammers have contacted victims by claiming they are a deputy court administrator. The criminals tell their targets that they failed to report for jury duty and a warrant for their arrest has been filed which contains a fine of \$1000.00, and to remain on the phone so police can track their location. Victims stated they could hear police radio communication in the background of the phone call. The criminal's call-back number answers with a sophisticated message including names and titles of county employees. **Reminder:** Court officials will only contact you by mail for jury duty, and will never call someone to demand they pay a fine.

Purchase Demands - The Caernarvon Township Police Department reminds everyone that law enforcement, or any other government agency, will **NOT** call, email, send a text message, or use social media, to ask for or demand purchase of any type of prepaid credit cards, gift cards, or ask for personal banking information, or to use "bitcoin" service, or any sort of funding website such as "Gofundme". **These types of communications are a scam!** If for any reason you feel threatened and believe these requests are not genuine, do not hesitate to contact your local law enforcement agency or the agency the scammers are saying they are with by obtaining a verified phone number from an independent source. **DO NOT USE** the phone number provided by the scammers; you will only be calling the criminal back.

People who are illegally asking for funds will utilize multiple facets of technology such as the phone, email message, social media, and many others, even going as far as sending text messages to your phone in order to steal money from unsuspecting individuals. Scammers are relentless, very aggressive, and can be very convincing preying on a person's fear such as they will either be arrested, punished by law enforcement, the IRS will be notified, one of their grandchildren is sitting in jail, and many other kinds of threats and intimidation to create panic in the person being victimized.

**Caernarvon Township
Calendar of Events:**

- * February 17th – Presidents' Day
- * March 19th – First Day of Spring
- * April 10th – Good Friday
- * April 12th – Easter Sunday

Reminder - Township Supervisors' meetings are held 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month at 7:00pm at the Township building, unless otherwise noted. The public is welcome to attend.

**Frequently Asked Questions**

Q – Do I need a permit for roof repairs?

A - Yes, if the work includes structural repairs/replacement. If you are simply replacing old shingles you typically do not need a permit unless it is for a commercial building.

Q – Is a permit required for electrical work that will be done in my home?

A – Yes, a permit is needed for electrical work.

Permit applications are available through the Township's website, www.caernarvon.org or visit the Township Office for copies of applications.



Tri County Heritage Society

MORGANTOWN HOMESTEAD ~ THEN AND NOW



A date stone lists the building of the Morgan Homestead as being built in the 7th year of the American Independence, which would likely set the date of 1783. The two story house is of local stone. There is a spring in the basement. The double floor over the spring had 3 inches of clay for insulation between the wooden floor layers. A stone addition was added in 1788. There are bins for grain storage in the attic.

Jacob Morgan was born in 1716. He came to this area with his father Thomas Morgan about 1730. On December 5, 1755, Jacob was commissioned Captain by the Provincial Government of Pennsylvania. In 1768, he became a Berks County Judge. Jacob laid out the town plan for Caernarvon (Morgantown) in 1770. Jacob was a delegate to the Provincial Conference at Carpenter's Hall in Philadelphia in 1776. He died in Morgantown on November 11, 1792 at the age of 76. He is interred in the graveyard at St. Thomas Episcopal Church in Morgantown.

On November 16, 1844, George Wert purchased the house and lot from David Morgan, Jr for \$500.00. That was a generous amount for that time.

In 1809, Jacob Kurtz of Ephrata purchased the place. He added an addition to the front of the house to provide more room for his family.

David Hartz came to own the farm as payment for a debt from a business arrangement. David also owned and operated the grain mill in Morgantown. His daughter Sadie married Bill Hammer. They had four children: Bill, twins Margaret and Mary, and David. In 1929, the Rancks moved in. Mrs. Ranck was pregnant at that time with Raymond. Their other children were Russell, Bob (Earl), Fred Ranck, Jr., and Betty. The Hammers and the Rancks got along very well as they all pitched in with the farming, the fields and the livestock. At some point, an Amish farmer, Stephen Stoltzfus, moved in with his family.

(article continued on next column)

(Tri County Heritage Society Article - Continued)

As the Hammers children grew up and married and moved to other locations, their children then used this place to vacation. The cousins always looked forward to spending their summers there exploring the forests and streams. Around 1952, the Hammers sold 25 acres to Bethlehem Steel, which was buying up many farms in the area where mining for iron ore was taking place. The Hammers family continued to enjoy the homestead until it was sold in 1986.

Since Betty Ranck had lived with her family in her growing up years in the Morgan Homestead, she always had fond memories of the homestead. Betty married Leigh C. Earnshaw in 1946. Then, in 1986, Leigh and Betty bought the Homestead and immediately planned to restore it to its original appearance. They removed the frame addition that was added in 1910.

In 2006, the Berks County Historical Society had an open house of the Southern Berks County area. The Earnshaw's newly restored Morgan Homestead was open to the public. Also open that day was St. Thomas Episcopal Church, Jonathan Jones House and the Zook / Brady catalogue home.

Leigh Earnshaw died on November 27, 2016, and Betty died not long after on March 1, 2017. Their grandson Leigh Earnshaw III and his wife Lauren and their son Leigh Earnshaw IV now live in the homestead as of 2020.

Article Submitted by: Jere Brady

PARKS & RECREATION NEWS



Decoration Contests Winner

Congratulations to Bill Joerger, the 2019 Caernarvon Township Halloween & Christmas Decorating Contests Winner!

Upcoming Events



2020 Easter Egg Hunt!!

The Parks & Recreation Committee have begun making plans for the 2020 Easter Egg Hunt! The date is set for Saturday, April 4, 2020, at 10:00 am in the Friendship Park area by the pavilion. There will be prize eggs in each age group. The Easter Bunny will be present for photo opportunities. The egg hunt will be held in the Township Social Hall in the event of bad weather. See you at the egg hunt!



Volunteers are welcome to join the planning committee for this event, please feel free to contact the Township Office for more information, 610-286-1010.



TOWNSHIP OFFICIALS

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Allen Styer III, Chair (2022)
 Paul Whiteman Jr., Vice Chair (2026)
 Sandy Styer (2026)
 Jack Hess (2022)
 Jeff Vickers (2024)
 Administrator/Secretary: Joan Bair
 Part-Time Clerk: Bill West

PLANNING COMMISSION

Sean Zerbey, Chair
 Donna Jeffery
 Roger Keith
 Allen Styer III
 Jeff Vickers
 Brian Licitra (Alternate)

ZONING HEARING BOARD

Brian Falcon, Chair
 David Anspach
 John Malm
 Brian Fraley
 Eugenia Papst
 Raymond Redner (Alternate)

PARKS & RECREATION BOARD

Colt Grazioli, Chair
 Michelle Raymond, Vice Chair
 Dan Jeffery
 Frank Payne
 Terri Payne
 John Conlow
 Brighid de Garay

POLICE DEPARTMENT

John Scalia, Chief
 Matthew Menna, Sergeant
 Chad Eberly, Detective Corporal
 Thomas Brecker
 Melissa Seidel
 William Smith
 Kyle Tranovich
 Kyle Bohn (part-time)

 Teresa Peifer, Administrative Asst.
 Bill West, Part-Time Clerk

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

Keith McGowan, Road Foreman
 Tom "Pete" Hornberger
 Jeffrey Suchomelly
 Darryl Romig (Seasonal)
 Keith Fritz (Seasonal)
 Thomas Laraia (Seasonal)
 Dominick Kennedy (Seasonal)