

# WAYNE TOWNSHIP

— SCHUYLKILL COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA —

# NEWSLETTER



## ROADMASTER'S REPORT *by Ralph Fidler*

Wayne Township is not like the western part of our country with wildfires, flooding, tornadoes, landslides, and sinkholes. But we do have some snow and ice. This year, there was more ice than snow. Any snow and ice event should be considered an emergency activity. It could be crippling to our residents and businesses. We need the right equipment and material on hand to clear the roads. A carefully crafted snow and ice control plan is the best way to make sure the township is prepared for winter maintenance operations.

Every storm is a little different in some ways. You can get rain then sleet, snow or the other way around. Sometimes it starts at night, and other times in the middle of the day when school is leaving out, making a different plan necessary to handle the storm that was forecasted (if the weatherman's prediction is right!)

Salt brine is becoming the preferred material to fight winter storms, as it is applied on dry roadways up to 48 hours before a storm to prevent snow from bonding to the roadway. Falling snow activates the dried brine material to help prevent the icing of roadways and reduce hazards during the earlier stages of a winter event. In addition, if salt brine is used to pre-wet, dry salt and abrasives placed during the storm can help to decrease the roll-off if material to the side of the road, where it is wasted. By using salt brine, the township can decrease their use of salt and enhance both the environment and their budget.

The roads to be repaired this year are Summer Hill Road, Front Street, Kiehner Road, Stoyer Drive, and Johns Acres.

The roads to be double-seal coated this are Summer Hill Road (west end), Brown Church Road, Nagle Road, Lutz Valley Road, and Plum Creek Road for a total of 4.65 miles of roads.

Wayne Township is going to piggy back with West Brunswick, South Manheim, and Washington Townships and go together to put their road projects out for bid. By making



*Wayne Township's salt trucks and salt-brine truck wait for the next round of snow or ice.*

a larger project, you can get better pricing. This was done in the past and works very well for all townships.

Also, at the park this year, there will be two pickleball courts, a fishing deck, and a paved path to the BBQ grills, for the handicapped.

Wayne Township crews will also be installing drainage, cutting shoulders, patching roads, and mowing when the weather allows.

Have a great summer!

**Ralph Fidler**  
Supervisor/Roadmaster

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# Walking Down a Country Lane

by Michael Polak



As I walked out of my drive on a Saturday spring morning, I was met by a red fox sniffing the ground in the field, on the hunt for prey that might be hiding nearby. Two white-tailed deer about one hundred feet away saw me first as they waved their white tails at me vanishing into the undergrowth. To me, this is the way I would love to start every day: a reminder of the absolutely beautiful countryside here in Wayne Township.

With the challenging world we live in today, fast-paced and changing at a moment's notice, it is simply wonderful to just walk down a country lane and clear your head. Wayne Township has been my home for the past 40 years. I remember the first time I visited Wayne; I was traveling to a friend's farm to help him restore an old farmhouse. We turned onto Moyers Station Road off State Route 443. Traveling south, we rounded the turn above the valley, and there lay that beautiful valley before me. The valley was idyllic and, to me, pristine. The farmland, the small hamlets, the neatly kept homes and gardens; I fell in love with it all. It took me some years later to acquire a property up on top of Summer Hill Road. I walk to the corner of my property and there it is, laid out before me: a wonderful, beautiful undulating valley.

When you live here every day, it is hard not to take the beauty of our countryside for granted. We speed along, missing all the wonders of nature, cursing the deer that dare to cross our paths, complaining about the smell of a skunk or the smell of fertilized fields. It's the countryside, my friends; God's blessing to us all.

My walk takes me 2.5 miles west to St Mark's Church on Browns Church Road. It is a perfect little white church on top of the hill and at the crossroads of Browns Church Road and Summer Hill Road, the township boundary with Washington and Wayne Township. My walk is blessed every day, as I am always greeted by some of my four-legged friends, Bo, Lola and Shadow. They all greet me with great joy, sounding the alarm that I am close by. I also have some two-legged friends along my journey. I stop to talk to John at his farm, or Tom as he tends to his property. Once I cross Moyers Station Road, I meet up with Don and his wife on occasion, or maybe Bob and John, two characters who I really get to have a wonderful conversation with. It would be a great miss, if I did not see them from time to time.

After ending my westerly walk, I turn around at St Mark's Church. I enjoy Sundays as the parishioners meet and walk into church for their

Sunday service. I stop in and wish them a blessed service. I say a short prayer to those who rest there eternally in the graveyard alongside the church as I head back on the next 2.5-mile journey heading east, the wind at my back pushing me along, I think of how blessed I really am.

Many years ago, a friend asked me how I ever got here: **"How did you choose Schuylkill County out of all the places you could have lived in American?"** It's a great question.

My friend Bruce and I arrived on a bleak November day in 1972 in Pottsville. Neither Bruce nor I can forget that day, as it was Guy Fawkes Night in England, celebrated with bonfires and fireworks. My answer is very simple: if I cannot live in my home in Shropshire, I can think of no other place on earth I would rather live than here in Wayne Township, Schuylkill County. The absolutely beautiful surrounding countryside is amazing.

I can walk a short distance from my home and see the views east and south to the Appalachian Trail, Hawk Mountain or the cut through the mountains by Port Clinton, look north towards Pottsville and the Gordan Nagle Trail, or west towards Pine Grove, all the way down the valley. As I walk down this country lane, I hear the birds of spring singing their happy songs; the Canadian geese are flying home and honking as they fly overhead, Cardinals sing from the treetops and bluebirds check out south-facing nesting boxes. The sawmill creates a lot of noise as I walk by, but the woodpeckers hammering in the trees can break through the mills sounds any day. I walked a quarter mile and could still hear their "hammers" in the trees. The first robins of the spring are gathered on the lawns in front of the sawmill: not one but 30 or 40 of them.

There is nothing more mystical than walking along the lane with a bald eagle accompanying you for a short distance. Over the years I have saved many owl chicks who have ended up on the road, some very young turtles no bigger than the palm of your hand, and so many snakes who could have become part of the asphalt but are now slithering through the tall grass.

All of this reminds me of the hymn "How Great Thou Art" and the line "I hear the birds singing sweetly in the trees." Funny as it was, on one of those Sunday morning walks I was thinking and not paying any attention to the walk. I suddenly looked up and to the left. There on his hind feet and hissing at me was a big black and white skunk, not more than 20 feet away. I do not know who was more surprised, the skunk or I. We parted company happy to be separated (or at least I was).

As wonderful and as happy as I am with all the beauty, I am also saddened by the total disrespect some of us have for God's earth and the wonderful area we live in. The garbage that litters our countryside takes away the sheer beauty evident all over our township. Beer cans, soda bottles, cigarette packages, plastic bags, pink insulation, and pieces of cars from hub caps to fenders, lay along the path I walk. It is so easy to take your cans, bottles and diapers home with you. Please - we all have recycling containers for these items.

Let's clean up our environment, give our countryside back to the wonders of nature, and keep Wayne clean. I am sure all the hunters would rather see a turkey or a deer walk by, and not a plastic bag blowing in the wind. Stop, think, and ask yourself what damage you are doing, and enjoy the beauty of the countryside and our home.



## Frog Hollow Fun Activities

Sat., April 19	9:00am	Spring Clean-Up and Invasive Plant Pull	Bring gloves, pruners, and appropriate footwear
Sat., April 26	10:00am	Wildflower Walk with Audrey Wells	Enjoy unique early flowers
Sat., May 3	8:00am	Bird Walk with Technology with Barbara R. & Steve H.	Use technology to identify birds and their calls
Sat. June 14	10am-3pm	JuneFest - Day of arts and music in Frog Hollow	\$5 for adults
June 16-18	9am-12pm	Summer Youth Day Camp "Wild About Water"	Grade 1-5; pre-register fee is \$15



## COME JOIN US!

The Wayne Township Historical Society will again be sponsoring a free lecture on Wednesday April 9, 2025 at 7:00 PM at the Friedensburg Fire Company Social Hall. This presentation by Mr. Jesberger, a noted authority on The American Revolution, is about the "Hessian Prisoners of Pennsylvania". Mr. Jesberger

explains about these young men who were forced into fighting for England in the American Revolution, were taken prisoner, and brought to camps throughout Berks County. After the war, many never returned to Germany and stayed here becoming a part of our new country.

On June 14th from 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM, the Historical Society will have a stand at the Frog Hollow "Family Festival Day". Members of our club will be giving the story of the Old Frog Hollow. The Frog Hollow Family Festival Day is the first of what may be an annual event. There will be games for the kids, many nature trails to explore, snacks, and some live music. Both of these events will provide interesting entertainment and fun!

## South Schuylkill Garden Club

Spring has sprung and the South Schuylkill Garden Club is springing forward. There are many activities happening within the club.

**April 15: Annual Tea, 5 PM.** 'Hats Off to Fashion: Fashionable Hats from the Bygone Era' will be the program, presented by Vicki Janko. Held in the social hall of the First United Church of Christ, Schuylkill Haven on Route 61 South. The public is invited for an evening of relaxed fellowship, light refreshments, and activities. Reservations can be made with the SSGC Treasurer, 754 Mountain Road, Pine Grove, PA 17963. Reservations are limited. Deadline for reservations is April 6 and payment confirms your spot. Please call 570-617-3735 with questions.

**May 10 - Annual Plant Sale, 8 AM-1 PM** at Bubeck Park/Stoyer's Dam, Washington Street, Schuylkill Haven. Start your day early by stopping by for the best selection of plants. We are striving to meet local demand for new varieties of perennials and annuals. There will be a selection of hundreds of plants available including, but not limited to, sun & shade perennials, native plants, small trees & shrubs, vegetable plants, daylilies, dahlia bulbs, houseplants, herbs, hanging plants, annuals, succulents, ground cover, canna bulbs, and more.

**May 15: Educational Bus Tour to Chanticleer & Jenkins Arboretum in Warren, PA.** Bus leaves the Giant parking lot in Cressona at 8 AM and returns to the parking lot at 6 PM. Cost for the trip is \$75.00, payable to SSGC. Deadline for reservations is April 15, 2025. Further information can be obtained by contacting Carol Haldeman at 570-345-2423, 570-640-7511 or chaldyjr@gmail.com

**May 20 - Spring Club Picnic, 5 PM-8 PM,** Wayne Twp. Community Park at the Lions Pavilion. The picnic will be held and then we will have a walk through the lovely California poppy fields.

**August 19 - Kim Morgan, The BAAAhD Girls Sheep to Shawl Team, Time?** Kim will present a Power Point on how The BAAAhD Girls rose to success at the 2025 PA Farm Show. Kim will go into some detail on how the team used all natural dyes from trees and plants to dye the wool fibers. The public is invited to this program which will be held in the library of the First United Church of Christ, Route 61, Schuylkill Haven.

**September 16 - Kokedama Workshop, TBD,** Kokedama is a centuries-old Japanese form of garden art closely tied to the practice of bonsai. This Japanese term can be translated as "Koke" means moss, and "dama" means ball. It involves using a moss ball as the support and the focal point for a tree, shrub, or plant. To find out more and to create your own, join us for our workshop, which will be held at the church.



## Wayne Township LIONS Club

*Motto: "We Serve"*

"Spring has sprung, the grass has risen, I wonder where the birdies are."

The Wayne Twp. Lions Club revamped version is as follows: "Spring has sprung, the grass has risen, we wonder where our new member is!" Please consider membership in the Wayne Township Lions. Our motto is "WE SERVE!" meaning we serve our community with road cleaning, county fair help, providing fruit/goody bags at Christmas to approx. 100 widows/widowers, plus distress help to flood, fire, and tornado victims throughout the USA.

On Tuesday, March 18, 2025 at our monthly meeting, we confirmed five Melvin Jones awards to deserving citizens/members. Mr. and Mrs. Bob Brinich were recognized for their volunteer efforts with the Red Cross blood drives held at the Friedensburg Fire Company. Upcoming blood drives will be held Thursday, April 10th, Thursday, June 5th, and Thursday, July 31st.

Three LIONS members were also included in the Melvin Jones awards, namely Treas. Gary Reith, Mike Sausser, and Bruce Bailey. Congrats fellows! This generation needs members to "step up" and think seriously of LIONS membership.

We should also mention \$4,000 donations each that were made nationally to North Carolina flood victims and California fire victims through our Wayne Twp. Lions via the 2 cents per gallon program at Moyer's Station.

On a wider scale, Lions District Governor Grace Karrar was present and noted a big fundraiser is upcoming on May 17th with an Elvis impersonator at the Villa on Bulls Head, Pottsville. (formerly Christy Joy Catering)

A note should be made that we have a wide variety of medical items available to needy individuals, such as wheelchairs, walkers, canes, and hospital beds. These items are stored at our facility along Rt 443, and are available by contacting Paul Moyer at Moyer's Exxon.

If interested in membership in the Wayne Twp. Lions contact Wayne Blankenhorn, membership chairman, 106 Schwartz Valley Road, Schuylkill Haven, PA 17972 or Paul Moyer, president.



**Front (Left-right):** Wayne Blankenhorn (Member Chair), Graci Karrar (District Governor), Paul Moyer (PDG, Club President)

**Back (Left-Right):** Charles Zimmerman (PDG, LCIF Chairperson), Bob Brinich (Volunteer-Firehouse Blood Drive), Lucielle Brinich (Volunteer-Firehouse Blood Drive), Brooke Heim (Club Secretary), Mike Sausser (Club Vice President), Bruce Bailey, Gary Reith (Club Treasurer).

WAYNE TOWNSHIP, SCHUYLKILL COUNTY

# Low & Moderate Income Housing Rehabilitation Program

The housing rehabilitation program for the Township of Wayne is designed to encourage low/moderate income owner-occupants to restore their homes to a decent, safe and sanitary condition.

The housing rehabilitation program assistance will be in the form of grants/non-interest bearing forgiveness loans that would be forgiven at a rate of 25% per annum over a period of four years. A no-interest mortgage/lien will be placed on homes that are rehabilitated through the program in accordance with the interest-free four-year forgiveness loan.

The following current income limits were effective as of June 1, 2024. They represent the income by family size for the area as reported by HUD. The Township Supervisors will revise these limits whenever HUD adjusts the Home Income Limits for Schuylkill County.

SIZE OF FAMILY	GROSS INCOME LIMITS	Annual income is the gross amount of income that household members are expected to receive during the coming 12 months.
1 person	\$44,600	Income qualification alone does not insure that funding will be received for rehabilitation.
2 person	\$51,000	
3 person	\$57,350	
4 person	\$63,700	
5 person	\$68,800	All requirements of the program must be met in order to qualify. Below are some of the additional requirements for the program.
6 person	\$73,900	
7 person	\$79,000	
8 person	\$84,100	

The unit to be rehabilitated must be owned and occupied by the applicant. Please note that **mobile homes owned by the applicant that are located in a mobile home park will require a lease agreement between the applicant and the mobile home park.** The lease agreement must be for a minimum of five years. Real estate taxes on the property to be rehabilitated must be paid up to date as well as other municipal taxes and fees. The owner will be required to provide evidence of property insurance. Flood insurance must be provided for homes that are located in the 100 year floodplain. The amount for the rehabilitation cannot exceed limits for the program.

Homeowners can obtain a "Housing Rehabilitation Waiting List" form at the Wayne Township Municipal Building or by contacting the Township's Consultant at (570) 875-7320. (PA Telecommunications Center TDD: 7-1-1).

Stanley L. Fidler, Chairman  
Wayne Township Board of Supervisors

## 2025 WAYNE TOWNSHIP

10 Municipal Road • Schuylkill Haven, PA 17972

[WayneTwpSchuylkill.com](http://WayneTwpSchuylkill.com)

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Ph: 570-739-2629 • Fax: 570-739-1539

Email: [waynetwpsecretary@comcast.net](mailto:waynetwpsecretary@comcast.net)

### WAYNE TOWNSHIP MEETINGS

**The Board of Supervisors** - Third Wednesday each month with the exception of October, when it meets on the Second Wednesday.

**The Planning Commission** - Second Tuesday each month.

**The Municipal Authority** - First Tuesday each month.

All meetings are open to the public at the Municipal Building, beginning at 7:30 p.m.

### OFFICIALS

Board Chairperson	Stanley L. Fidler
Board Vice Chairperson	Charles J. Ferguson
Supervisor	Ralph H. Fidler
Secretary/Treasurer	Judie Yob
Solicitor	Matthew Rossi with Zane, Rossi, Conville & Harley
Engineer	WJP Engineers
Emergency Mgmt. Coord.	Thomas Finn
Sewage Officer	Scot McCaffrey, SDE
	Wayne Bowen
Zoning Officer	Randy Moyer
Planning Commission Secretary	Pamela Rhein

### PLANNING COMMISSION

Earle Otto, Chairman • Dwight Manbeck • James Cook  
Larry Fidler • Donald Gossard • Kyle Heffner  
Mark Schropp, Sr. • Michael Sterner • Raymond Bechtel

### MUNICIPAL (SEWER) AUTHORITY BOARD

James Cook, Chairman  
Ralph Fidler, Vice Chairman  
Tim Zimmerman • Daniel Kramer, Secretary  
Jeffrey Dewald, Treasurer  
Keith R. Showalter, Engineer (SDE)  
Pamela Rhein, Assistant

### TOWNSHIP TAX RECEIVER

Schuylkill County, Wayne Township, and Blue Mountain School District tax assessments are received by Joan M. Geary, 2 Millers Road, Schuylkill Haven, PA 17972-9387. Office hours: call 570-739-2509 for an appointment or email [waynetwptc@yahoo.com](mailto:waynetwptc@yahoo.com).

### TOWNSHIP OFFICE

Judie Yob

### TOWNSHIP HOURS

Monday thru Thursday, 9AM to 4PM  
Office Closed on Fridays  
Zoning Office Hours: Monday 7 to 9PM