



# LOWER MAKEFIELD TOWNSHIP

A NEWSLETTER PUBLISHED BY THE LOWER MAKEFIELD TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS



**Kristin Tyler**  
Chairman, Board of Supervisors

Your Lower Makefield Board of Supervisors is committed to responsible government, financial stability and maintaining and enhancing our remarkable quality of life. One of our initiatives is to enrich our communication with residents. This newsletter is part of that initiative. There are many wonderful aspects of LMT and we highlight some of those in these pages.

The 2015 priorities include historic funding levels for our road repaving program, responsible and proactive debt management, bolstering our park system with a playground for children of all abilities, new baseball fields, a community center, a dog park and the continued expansion of preserved open space.

Thank you to all who help make Lower Makefield the place we are proud to call home. I hope you enjoy the information in the pages to follow.

## Introducing Your LMT Board of Supervisors

The Board of Supervisors consists of five officials, each elected by LMT voters to a six-year term. Though they all have full-time jobs in addition to their positions as Board members, they are LMT citizens who are actively engaged in the community. It is this commitment that led them to seek office, and they are honored to have been chosen to serve Lower Makefield residents.

The primary role of the Board of Supervisors is to perform legislative functions. These include setting policies, passing and enacting ordinances and resolutions, approving and managing budgets, and levying taxes. The Board appoints the Township Manager, Terry Fedorchak, who handles the day-to-day administrative responsibilities for LMT. Supervisors also

appoint citizen volunteers to many advisory boards and committees.

The Board meets the first and third Wednesday each month, 7:30 p.m., at the Township Building, 1100 Edgewood Road. Supervisors welcome and encourage citizens to come to meetings, listen to current issues at hand and to participate in open discussions. If you are unable to attend, the meetings are broadcast live and rebroadcast regularly on Comcast channel 22, Verizon FiOS channel 20, and are available on the Lower Makefield Township website [www.lmt.org](http://www.lmt.org).



*Left to right: Daniel McLaughlin, Ronald Smith, Kristin Tyler, Jeffrey Benedetto, Dobby Dobson*

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The individual members of the LMT Board of Supervisors are sincerely dedicated to promoting the health, safety, and quality of life for the Township's more than 32,000 residents.

Look inside for updates on **exciting** new additions coming to LMT. Some highlights include:

- New Dog Park, page 2
- Quiet Zones for Railroad Crossings, page 3
- New Community Center, page 5
- Road Repaving Project, page 6



## Fido Unleashed! Making Plans for an LMT Dog Park

If you're a dog owner, you may have heard your dog hint that it would be awfully nice to romp freely with other dogs and their owners. Great news: The Township is currently exploring possible sites that could serve residents as a fenced-in, off leash dog park.

The popularity of dog parks is booming in the U.S. Today, there are 40 dog parks in Pennsylvania and New Jersey combined –and some 1200 currently in operation across the country. Nearby, there are “bark parks” in Core Creek Park, Doylestown’s Turk Park, Morrisville, Mercer County Park and Princeton Junction. All are successful and well received.

Dog parks offer multiple benefits to both dogs and their owners. They include promoting canines’ physical and emotional health, providing puppies and adult dogs with a safe, well-maintained place to romp freely and socialize with other dogs, while allowing dog owners to enjoy each other’s company, fresh air and exercise. They also create an environment for seniors and the disabled, who are not always able to walk their dogs on a leash.

The LMT Park and Recreation Board has formed a working subcommittee to make recommendations to the Board of Supervisors in planning for a dog park over the next year. Planning would include not only locating and determining the best site, but also fundraising, establishing park rules, membership fees, and other possible requirements, such as proof of vaccination and educational programs. For more information, please contact Donna Liney, Director of Park and Recreation at: 267-274-1110 or by email at: [donna@lmt.org](mailto:donna@lmt.org).

## LMT Canine Unit Welcomes Recon

The newest addition to the Lower Makefield Canine unit is an 18-month old Belgian Malinois named *Recon*, pictured here with his handler, Police Officer Gerald Scherf. Recon joins a force of highly trained police dogs that support the Township’s police force.

The Canine Unit, established in 2006, currently has two bomb detection dogs and one narcotics detection dog. These hard-working animals are credited with finding missing children, as well as persons eluding capture, locating weapons used in crimes, discovering illegal narcotics, and rendering safe many buildings and areas hosting special events.

## LMT Officer Saves Life by Administering Narcan

On March 15, a Lower Makefield police officer helped save the life of a young adult male suspected of a possible heroin overdose. The victim was found to be non-responsive and not breathing. The officer administered a pharmaceutical antidote Narcan (naloxone) in its nasal spray form, then monitored the patient’s condition until the arrival of both Yardley-Makefield and Levittown-Fairless Hills Rescue Support. Once stabilized, the patient was transported to Aria Bucks for further treatment. LMT detectives are investigating the source and possession of the substance.

This event marks the first known Narcan rescue by police in Bucks County. After passage of a new state law last November, the LMT Police Department (LMTPD) became the first in Bucks County to train and equip its officers with the drug. Before the new law, only emergency medical responders

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# Managing Township Debt

## Township Looks To Refinancing Bonds To Save Money

by Terry Fedorchak

The Township's Bond Advisors, PFM Group, has recommended we refinance our 2010 issue to take advantage of historically low interest rates in the municipal bond market. We anticipate saving over \$300,000.

This marks the fourth time in the last four years the Township has refinanced debt and in the process saved over \$3,000,000! These savings are one reason why we have been able to keep Township taxes level over the last seven years.

Some facts about the Township Debt Service:

- Moody's upgraded the Township's bond rating twice in the last 9 years:
  - \* 2006 increased our rating to Aa2, from Aa3;
  - \* 2010 upgraded to Aa1.
- Moody's evaluates and defines the credit risk of a Township based on its financial strength.
- Every year the Township pays down principal and interest on all our bond issues. In 2015, the township will spend over \$2.5 million in debt service payments.
- LMT will be debt free by the end of 2033, just 18 years from now. To place in perspective, homeowners routinely take out 15 to 30 year mortgages.

When municipal bond rates started dropping in 2009, the Township moved quickly to refinance eligible issues.

SERIES	REFINANCED	\$ SAVED
2010	2001/2005 ISSUES	1,102,000.00
2010A	2003 BOND	475,000.00
2011	2006 BOND	1,147,000.00
2015	2010 BOND	300,000.00
<b>TOTAL SAVED</b>		<b>\$ 3,024,000.00</b>

*LMT Officer Saves Life* continued from page 2

could treat overdose victims with this crucial antidote for misuse of opioids like heroin.

"I am delighted that we are finally able to provide our police officers with this life-saving tool," said LMT Police Chief Ken Coluzzi, who is coordinating the local distribution of the drug in Bucks County. "LMTPD now has a medication that allows a second chance at life and a second chance at recovery. Police don't decide who lives and dies. We do everything we can to preserve a life. That's our mission."

# Construction of Quiet Zones at Lower Makefield Railroad Crossings



The LMT Board of Supervisors is moving forward to install quiet zones at the Township's three major railroad crossings. The \$500,000 project will be covered by a \$350,000 PennDot grant and \$150,000 in Township funds.

## What Are Quiet Zones?

The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) requires that freight and passenger trains begin sounding their horns half a mile before they reach a public crossing to warn motorists and pedestrians of their approach.

Quiet zones cut back on noise pollution along the rails by prohibiting trains from blowing horns at major crossings IF and only if stronger safety measures are implemented at those crossings. These may include gates with medians, or channelization devices at the crossings to keep people from driving or walking around the gates as trains approach or travel by. The Township must decide on which option to employ. The bottom line is that Quiet Zones must be safer than zones where trains are allowed to sound their horns.

The quiet zones will be established at the Heacock Road crossing near

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# Enhancing the Quality of Life for all LMT Residents

## Key Capital Improvements Move Forward

In 2011, a Pennsylvania State Grant for \$2 million was procured by PA State Representative, Steve Santarsiero and local Township officials. The grant was administered by Governor Tom Corbett. This grant was earmarked to fund several new important projects which will greatly enhance the Township's assets.

- Two new ball fields, which in addition to the existing Stoddart fields, comprise the Greg Caiola Baseball Complex, recently named in honor of our former Township Supervisor and PAA Commissioner. The new fields, located at the intersection of Edgewood and Oxford Valley Roads, will open this year.
- The Secret Garden Inclusive Playground at Memorial Park that opened in October, 2014.
- The LMT Community Center scheduled to undergo construction later in 2015.

These recreational and meeting facilities will contribute to the quality of life for many in our Township for years to come.

## LMT Community Clips

These short video clips highlight significant events in our Township over the past year. You can view them on our Cable Channels: FIOS channel 20 and Comcast channel 22 or our website [www.lmt.org](http://www.lmt.org).

## The Secret Garden: New Inclusive Playground at LMT Memorial Park

This is one secret everyone in Lower Makefield should know about.

The Secret Garden is a playground that opened last fall in Memorial Park, alongside Pennsylvania's official 9/11 memorial, the Garden of Reflection, a community garden, basketball courts, sand volleyball, softball field, and multi-purpose football/soccer fields. Memorial Park is located at 1950 Woodside Road.

What's special about the Secret Garden is that it's designed for all children to enjoy – including differently-abled kids. The elements of this colorful adventureland include a giant ant and spider, a large robin's egg that rocks back and forth, a merry musical maker, a giant Sequoia log, and a Rock 'n Raft. Each individual piece of equipment is designed to build sensory and motor skills. Special safety features were engineered into each of these fanciful treasures, even into the facility's rubberized floor. The protective surface makes the park accessible to wheelchairs and

for those who may have challenges walking.

Chair of the LMT Disabled Persons Advisory Board, Lisa Huchler Smith, noted, "The most important part is the socialization. You can see that occurring at the Little Mushroom Table where they can meet and interact. We have a Rock 'n Raft that promotes children working together to reach a common goal of just swinging back and forth."

The Disabled Persons Advisory Board working in close collaboration with the LMT Park and Recreation Board, chaired by Dave Fritchey, ensured the inclusive playground was part of the master plan for Memorial Park. Ultimately, the Secret Garden was designed by Boucher & James, and built by Brighton Builders.

Fritchey said the Township can look forward to more enhancements to Memorial Park, including a picnic pavilion, benches, trees, and even tennis courts. All will contribute to developing LMT's sense of community.



# Enhancing the Quality of Life for all LMT Residents

## Lower Makefield Community Center: 2015 a Groundbreaking Year

By year-end 2015, builders of the long awaited LMT Community Center are expected to break ground. If plans stay on track, the well-appointed structure will open its doors in 2016 to serve as a multi-purpose gathering facility.

The center will reside on the 25-acre partially-wooded Samost Tract near the intersection of Oxford Valley and Edgewood roads. This location, just across from the municipal complex, will allow for easy access to all parts of the Township. The one-story building will feature several smaller “classrooms” for lectures, meetings, social and recreational events, educational and arts programs, and health and wellness activities. In addition, there will be a more expansive room with a folding partition divider for larger occasions.

Architect George Hibbs of the Trenton, N.J.-based firm, Clarke Canton Hintz is overseeing the project. According to current design, the community center itself will span some 7,600 square feet. Plans also include parking, landscaping, and lighting. The building will comply with the federal Americans with Disabilities Act. Costs for construction are estimated at \$2.3 million. A \$1.1 million state grant and a \$50,000 contribution from the Township’s Seniors’ organization will fund almost half the project, while it is anticipated that a \$1.2 million bank loan to the Township will cover the balance. No additional staffing will be re-



quired to manage the facility. The Township’s Park and Recreation employees will provide property maintenance, and the Park Department will set up their main office there to manage building scheduling. Depending on contractor bids, the project may be scaled back if costs exceed current estimates.

The center is intended exclusively for community functions and not to be rented out. Whereas the building will be open to all LMT citizens, clubs, and sports organizations, primary users of the center will be our Township Seniors. Currently, the Lower Makefield Seniors, an organization numbering about 300 and growing, sponsors programs in the Township Building.

The definition of “Senior” for the group includes all citizens 55 and older. The National Council on Aging reports that some 11,400 Senior centers across the U.S. serve more than a million older adults each day, including the burgeoning ranks of “boomers.” Lower Makefield Seniors, who just celebrated their 20th anniversary, are looking forward to this expanded home, and are expecting their numbers to grow substantially.

### Moody’s Investor Service Reports on Township Finances

On April 23, 2015 Moody’s Investors Service issued a report assigning a Aa1 rating to our proposed Series of 2015 refinancing and affirmed the Aa1 rating on all outstanding debt.

In their report Moody’s stated: “The Aa1 rating incorporates the Township’s sizable and affluent suburban tax base, modest debt position, and healthy financial position, supported by conservative management practices.”

Moody’s further identified Township strengths as:

- Sizable tax base with above average wealth indices
- Stable financial trend with satisfactory reserve levels and liquidity
- Manageable debt burden
- Below average pension liability”

Moody’s report in its entirety can be found on the Township’s website [www.lmt.org](http://www.lmt.org)



# Major Makeover Coming for Pothole-Riddled Township Line Road under \$828,000 Repaving Program Approved by Lower Makefield

by D.E. Schlatter

BucksLocalNews.com The Advance of Bucks County Published Wednesday 3/11/15

The Township's \$828,000 road paving program is now officially underway.

In a 4-0 vote at the March 4 meeting, the board of supervisors approved putting out for public bid the 2015 capital spending plan for the resurfacing of a number of Township-owned roads that are in desperate need of repair.

Topping the list is laying new asphalt on Township Line Road between Langhorne-Yardley Road and the railroad crossing where Big Oak Road begins.

In a separate vote, the board unanimously awarded that contract for that project to the low bidder, Joseph E. Sucher & Sons, Inc. of Eddystone.

According to Township Engineer, Mark Eisold, the company has done a number of municipal road paving projects over the years in the Philadelphia area.

The \$380,000 estimated total cost of the Township Line Road repaving will be equally split with Middletown Township since the roadway is shared by both municipalities.

Although each Township will put in about \$190,000, Lower Makefield originally had earmarked only \$150,000 for its contribution.

"It's absolutely one of our worst roads in the Township," said Township manager Terry Fedorchak.

He noted that the overall cost might exceed \$380,000 because once the repaving starts, the underlying road might be more deteriorated than expected, and the contractor might be required to do additional repairs.

According to Eisold, if the road needs more work, then Middletown Township would have to also contribute more money. The project is expected to begin in early May and completed by mid-June.

Unlike the rest of Lower Makefield's 2015 repaving program, money to pay for the Township Line Road project is not coming from the state's allocation of the Liquid Fuels Fund to municipalities.

As part of Lower Makefield's repaving program, this year the Township will finish the rest of the roads in the Sandy Run development, which had started in 2014.

That resurfacing includes: Yale Drive, Albright Drive, Cornell Drive, Pratt Drive and Fordham Drive, at a total cost of roughly \$220,000.

In addition, about \$196,000 will be spent on repaving Springdale Terrace and Daleview Drive in the Oakdale development.

Another estimated \$65,000 will go towards resurfacing Woodland Drive and South Crescent Boulevard off of Edgewood Road.



Also \$67,000 was set aside to repave Fox Hollow Drive from Long Acre Lane to Long Acre Lane.

Although the total cost for these projects in the Township's 25-year plan is anticipated to be around \$546,000, deteriorated surfaces are under the asphalt are expected to push the total costs to about \$800,000, according to Fedorchak.

"I think it will be more than \$800,000, including Township Line Road, when you peel back the road surfaces," he explained.

Supervisor Chairman Kristin Tyler noted that there are many Township roads that now need to be resurfaced.

"This winter has been brutal on our roads," she said. "We are funding our roads on unprecedented levels."

According to Tyler, in 2007, Lower Makefield spent \$198,000 on repaving, an amount that had risen to \$674,000 by fiscal year 2013.

Meanwhile, Supervisor Dobby Dobson asked whether the road repaving could start earlier than

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when it usually begins, which is in the summer time.

Township Engineer Eisold responded that it could begin in early May, like the Township Line Road project, but that it's better to begin the work during the summer months when students are on vacation, and school buses do not have to be rerouted.

The supervisors were also concerned about residents being kept informed on when their streets will be repaired under the township's 25-year repaving schedule.

Township Manager Fedorchak said that the schedule is now being revised and will be posted in the coming weeks on Lower Makefield's website at [www.lmt.org](http://www.lmt.org).

## In Case of **Emergency**

**To make sure you're aware of potentially dangerous conditions, register with ReadyNotifyPA.**

**SIGN UP NOW!** Go to [www.readynotifypa.org](http://www.readynotifypa.org). When you create an account, it will allow you to receive alerts and updates on local emergencies via state-of-the-art notification.

Emergency notifications are provided in two ways to LMT residents:

- *By e-mail or text.* When you sign up for ReadyNotifyPA you can receive various warnings, road closings or emergency broadcasts from municipalities of your choosing wherever you can view your e-mails or text-receiving devices like cell phones or tablets. There is no limit on how many cell numbers or e-mail accounts you can register.
- *By voice communication.* Electronic voice messages from Township emergency management officials will be sent to every home telephone landline in the affected area. This is our Township's emergency management notification service specific to LMT emergencies including severe weather, flooding or evacuations.

Our Police Chief, Ken Coluzzi, is in charge of managing emergencies and serves as the Emergency Management Coordinator. Get additional emergency related information by following our Police Department on **Twitter @lmtpd** and [www.lmtpolice.org](http://www.lmtpolice.org).

Oxford Valley Road, Edgewood Road by the Municipal Complex, and the Stony Hill Road crossing near Oxford Valley Road. These crossings currently have the traditional gates with flashing lights.

Township Manager Terry Fedorchak noted, "This is good news for the Township and particularly for those living close to the tracks." More than 900 LMT families live within 750 feet of the crossings and tracks.

### What's next?

Township Engineer Mark Eisold has been working on the quiet zone project with consultant John Samean, VP of Gannett Fleming Transit & Rail Systems, Inc. Eisold explained that upgrading

safety of the crossings is so costly because the equipment must be retrofitted with warning systems and enhancements that comply with federal regulations. In addition, the FRA requires traffic and safety studies and data. Also, an agency must be hired to oversee project construction.

SEPTA is very supportive of the Quiet Zones project. In fact, it has ensured the Township that signs will be posted along the tracks to remind engineers that they are entering a quiet zone.

### In Memorium



Lower Makefield Township mourns the sudden loss of Township Supervisor Pete Stainthorpe on December 16, 2014. Mr. Stainthorpe had been a steady presence on the Board of Supervisors since first winning election in 2001. He was re-elected in 2007 and 2013. Mr. Stainthorpe was a dedicated public servant, insuring the quality of life that makes Lower Makefield the unique community we call home. He was a champion of open space preservation and development of our park system. He maintained the balance between fiscal responsibility and growth. He was kind, mild mannered and always carried a smile. His dedication, influence and knowledge will be sorely missed. We are grateful for his devoted service and are a better place because of his enduring commitment to Lower Makefield. Thank you, Pete. Rest in peace.



Lower Makefield Township  
1100 Edgewood Road  
Yardley, PA 19067

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## Get Ready for Fun in the Sun at The Pool! Register Today!

Registration is going on now! Renew your membership online or contact us for a new membership.



Would you like to receive this newsletter and other important communications from LMT?

Please enter your email by clicking on the Email request icon located on the homepage of our website, [www.lmt.org](http://www.lmt.org), located just below the Board of Supervisors meeting videos.

*A complete listing of Township Departments can be found on [www.lmt.org](http://www.lmt.org).*

### Important Administrative Phone Numbers

**Administration:** 267-274-1100, [admin@lmt.org](mailto:admin@lmt.org)

**Township Manager:** Terry Fedorchak, 267-274-1100, [tfedor@lmt.org](mailto:tfedor@lmt.org)

**Police and Fire Emergency:** 911

**Police Non-Emergency:** 215-493-4011

**Police Records/Administration:** 215-493-4055

**Animal Control:** [ACO@lmt.org](mailto:ACO@lmt.org) or call Police Headquarters at 215-493-4055

**Park and Recreation:** 267-274-1110

**Planning Zoning and Inspections:** 267-274-1120 or [stevew@lmt.org](mailto:stevew@lmt.org)

**Public Works:** 267-274-1130

**Tax Office:** 215-493-2332 [lmntax@lmt.org](mailto:lmntax@lmt.org)

**LMT Community Pool:** 267-274-1105 or [communitypool@lmt.org](mailto:communitypool@lmt.org)