

...Jones Township Newsletter...

April 2004 Fourth Edition



...for the citizens of Jones Township, provided by
the Board of Supervisors

Jones Township

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Wilcox, PA 15870

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• Township News

This is our *fourth edition* of the Jones Township Newsletter. We would like to thank those who participated in the Questions and Comments section of our last newsletter. The comments, questions, and suggestions were very helpful for the Board of Supervisors. Our questionnaire for this edition concerns the possibility of creating a child-care center by the Wilcox Presbyterian Church. Please refer to the last page of this newsletter. As in past editions, comments and questions from the public are welcomed and encouraged. We would also like to extend an invitation to all that would like to periodically attend the public board meetings.

Highlights.....

The Jones Township Community Park construction and fund raising activity continues with three more grant requests being submitted and additional funding received. The Jones Township Senior Center is increasing in membership and activities and was also awarded two grants this season. The Jones Township Recreation Board (JTRB) has

received another grant to finish the playground and plans to offer more activities at the community center this year. *As PA Uniform Construction Code (UCC) will take effect statewide in 2004.* We are providing an overview later in the newsletter and encourage all to contact the office (929-5138) for details before beginning any new project. A new menu item will be added to the Jones Township Website to provide detailed information on the PA building codes, permits, applications, and links to important sites. Our website is updated often during the year and we encourage you to visit the site periodically.

Board of Supervisors

James Elinski, Chairman

Debra Shaffer, Vice Chairman

Laurie Storrar, Secretary / Treasurer

Positions Available

Jones Township currently has all appointed positions filled on the Recreation & Municipal Authority Boards. We would like to thank all those citizens who have volunteered for service. For any resident who is interested in serving in the future as terms expire, please feel free to contact the Board of Supervisors.

Meeting Schedules

The meeting schedules for the Township, Municipal Authority, and Recreation Board are normally as follows:

Township Meeting: 2nd Monday of each month

Municipal Authority Meeting: 3rd Wednesday of each month

Recreation Board: Last Monday of each month, excluding December.

All meetings begin at 7:00 PM. The township and recreation board meetings are held at the Jones Township Community Center and the Municipal Authority meeting is held at their new location: 553 Marvin Street. The public is welcome to attend. Any changes to meeting times/dates or special

sessions will be noted in The Johnsonburg Press and/or The Ridgway Record.

Road & Bridge Improvement Projects

The Old Kane Road Bridge project is complete! The bridge has been completely reconstructed and was open for traffic in November 2003. The Board of Supervisors' continue to draw attention to the Station Bridge on Clarion Street. It is our hope that, with our persistence, the State of Pennsylvania who is responsible for this bridge, will see fit to make the needed improvements.

Status of the Jones Township Community Park

The Jones Township Community Park (JTCP) has received additional grant funding for the park. As a recap and thank you to all of those organizations that have provided grant money, listed are the awards and pending applications:

Awarded: DCNR - \$40,000 and \$34,000, Wilcox Area Development Corporation (WADC) - \$22,000, Weyerhaeuser - \$15,000, Christmas Drawing - \$1,300. Pending: DCNR \$34,000 and DCED \$10,000 - **Total: \$156,300**

These funds were provided to complete the major phases of the park construction: land purchase and engineering plans; ball-field; concession stand with picnic pavilion; restrooms; and a multipurpose court for basketball, tennis and volleyball. In the master site plan, there are still areas to add a walking path, wetlands educational sites, landscaping, and playground (some equipment has been donated). There are some additional areas within the park to add small venues. We are investigating the addition of a small putting green, however we would be happy to hear any suggestions from the public.

Photo (top right): the presentation of **\$15,000 Grant Award from the Weyerhaeuser Foundation**. A special thanks to **Ron King, Public Relations Director**, of Weyerhaeuser-Johnsonburg Plant, for assisting the committee in the grant preparation.



L-to-R: Sam Brawand, James Elinski, Debbie Shaffer, Laurie Storrar, and Weyerhaeuser Plant Manager, Bob Grygotis

Notice to Park Volunteers: The Weyerhaeuser Foundation's "Making Waves" Program

This program is available and will make contributions for your volunteer hours. To begin the program, all that is needed is one leader and 4 additional Weyerhaeuser employees to form a team. Once the team is established, the project receives credit for any hours of volunteer service for all citizens. If you are a Weyerhaeuser employee and wish to establish a team, **please contact the Jones Township Office**. (929-5138) The application is available and we are working with Ron King, Public Relations Director, Weyerhaeuser of Johnsonburg, to set up this program. For specific information, please view the Making Waves brochure--Weyerhaeuser Active Volunteer Employees at: <http://www.weyerhaeuser.com/citizenship/philanthropy/communitygiving.asp>

JTCP Community-Donated Yard Sale & Fund Raiser April 17-18, 2004, 9 AM - 5 PM, Jones Township Community Building

The Jones Township Community Park (JTCP) Committee will host an indoor **Community Donated Yard Sale** to raise funds for the community park project. Donations of items to sell will support the concession stand project at the new park. Please contact Deb Shaffer to arrange pick-ups for items you would like to donate for sale: 814-929-5506. Please no broken items or stained/ripped clothing. The **Wilcox Public Library** will also

provide a *Bake Sale* during the yard sale with proceeds benefiting the library.

Tickets for another fund-raising drawing will be available for sale soon: prizes to be awarded on Memorial Day 2004. For details contact Deb Shaffer or a JTCP Committee member. Details will be posted to our website and in the Johnsonburg Press.

Should you wish to make a donation to the JTCP or make suggestions, please forward your check or money order and/or comments to: Jones Township Community Park Fund Attn: Debra Shaffer, Park Committee, PO Box 25, Wilcox, PA 15870

JTCP Volunteers Needed...

The Jones Township Community Park (JTCP) will be in full construction this spring and summer. Volunteers will be needed to complete the ball field, assist in the construction of the concession building and picnic/pavilion areas, and to install the playground fixtures. If you would like to volunteer, please contact any member of the JTCP Committee or Board of Supervisors, and watch the Johnsonburg Press for announcements of scheduled activities.

Spring Cleanup

Spring cleanup is scheduled for Saturday, April 24, 2004. Please bring your items to the Jones Township Municipal Garage: Old Kane Road, Wilcox, PA, from 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM. Items that will NOT be accepted are: household garbage, burn barrel ashes, and cement blocks or bricks.

Code of Ordinances

The Jones Township Board of Supervisors (BOS), at the requests of a citizen's group, is investigating the addition of a Junk Yard/Junk Car Ordinance for the township. The BOS's is seriously considering the request to ensure a safe environment for all citizens. The ordinance would apply to all non-registered vehicles (other than farm or industrial equipment) that are not in use and are creating "eyesore" and health-risk conditions. While we are still considering sample ordinances, we would welcome comments from the community on this issue.

Jones Township Attractions & Recreation

With summer approaching, we would like to remind our citizens and visitors of the many activities available within our township. Elk County attracts more than 450,000 tourists per year for recreational activities including: hunting, fishing, hiking, bicycling, winery tours, camping, and boating. For additional information on the parks and activities within Jones Township, please visit our website. There are links to each of the state park facilities within our area. We would like to welcome the visitors to our area and encourage our citizens to take advantage of all the activities available. We would also like to advise that regional and county planners have added "tourism" as one of the top five industries in our area. The others include: powdered metal manufacturing, wood products, light-industrial manufacturing, and agriculture. If there are any recreational activities or attractions you would like to add to our website, please contact us at: jonestwp@ncentral.com

Dogs License Reminder

If you have not applied for a dog license for 2004, we would like to remind you that licenses may be obtained at the Jones Township Office. Licenses, under PA Law, are required for all dogs over the age of 3 months.

PA One Call Systems Reminder

A friendly reminder--please contact PA One Call Systems, Inc. at 1-800-242-1776 at least three (3) days before digging/excavating on either public or private land. Please note that the state can assess substantial fines and repair costs for damage to private or public utility lines when the required call was not made. This is not an option. If you have any questions, please contact the PA One Call for information.

Pennsylvania Uniform Construction Code Update

The *PA Uniform Construction Code (UCC)* will take affect on July 1, 2004. The Jones Township Board of Supervisors' expect to adopt this code at their June 2004 meeting. This code will affect the building permit approval process and all construction. If you are beginning to plan projects any construction project including interior

remodeling, please contact Russ Braun, Code Enforcement Officer, at 929-5138, to discuss your project and the new requirements for permits and inspections under the UCC. Much has changed with this statewide code and **detailed information is available on our website** (page 1). Please visit the site and select the **UCC/Permit Information** menu item. A brief overview is also available at the Jones Township Community Building on the bulletin board outside the township office.

Brief Overview: The PA UCC permits required for residential building include new construction, alteration, enlargement, demolition, and/or changes to electrical, gas, mechanical, or plumbing systems. Some examples (but not limited to) include:

- cutting away a wall, partition or portion of a wall, removing or cutting any structural beam/load-bearing support,
- removal or change of any egress or parts of a structure affecting egress,
- alteration, replacement or relocation of any standpipe, water supply, sewer, drainage, drain leader, gas, soil, waste, vent or similar piping, electrical device, or mechanical device.

These are just a **few examples**, however the changes are extensive and our Code Enforcement Officer should be consulted. There are some projects which are also exempt from UCC. The UCC also requires a *Certificate of Occupancy* for all residential buildings, after receipt of final inspection report. Please contact our office for specific questions and fees at: 814-929-5138.

• Municipal Authority News

Municipal Authority Contact Information

The Jones Township Municipal Authority contact information is as follows:

Mailing Address: PO Box 374, Wilcox, PA 15870

Phone: 814-929-5775, Fax: 814-929-5359

Email: jtma@ncentral.com

Hours: Tuesday, Thursday and Friday

9:00 AM to 3:00 PM

The Municipal Authority office receives many calls concerning building permits, on-lot sewage permits,

road work, and general questions regarding township operation. The Municipal Authority's only responsibility is the public sewer line that runs between Wilcox and Johnsonburg. All other questions should be directed to the Jones Township Board of Supervisors' Office at 929-5138.

Delinquent Accounts

We would like to remind those individuals who are seriously past due with sewage bills, to please contact the municipal authority office (929-5775) to make payment arrangements. While our office does not want to take legal action on these matters, we have found it necessary to do so in fairness to all those who have paid their invoices in a timely manner.

• Recreation Board News

"Buena Vista" Playground Phase II Grant from the Stackpole Hall Foundation

A \$10,000 grant has been awarded for completion of the playground at the Jones Township Community Center.



This grant will enable us to purchase a new picnic pavilion, addition picnic tables, grill, and bicycle rack. If you wish to volunteer for the final construction, please contact Mike Smail at 814-929-5163.

As always, donations are welcome and will support the matching funds required for this project and summer school programs. Donations may be mailed to the Jones Township Recreation Board, PO Box

340, Wilcox, PA 15870 - Please see page 7 for upcoming events and news.

Membership Drive and Community Building Activities

The Recreation Board has continued to solicit new membership to support the activities available at the community building. Currently, basketball and volleyball are being played 5 nights per week and membership applications are available by contacting Mary Bizzak at 814-929-9840 or on-line at <http://www.ncentral.com/~jonestwp/index.htm>, Community Center menu item.

• Wilcox Public Library

The new hours are:

Monday 10 AM - 4 PM,

Tuesday 10 AM - 4 PM and 6-8PM,

Wednesday 6-8 PM

Thursday 10 AM - 1 PM and 6-8PM,

Friday 10 AM-4 PM

Saturday 9 AM to Noon, closed Sunday and Holidays.

Phone: 814-929-5639

Email: wilcoxlib@ncentral.com

Director Lann Yurchick has also created a new website with service information at:

<http://www.ncentral.com/~wilcoxlib>

Wilcox Public Library Fundraisers

The Wilcox Public Library will be holding several fundraisers this year to replace some of the funding lost as a result of PA state budget cuts. The library will hold a bake sale in conjunction with the *Jones Township Community Park Committee Yard Sale* on Saturday, April 17th and Sunday, April 18th at the community center. A birdhouse, donated by Jerry Northrop, will be raffled off during the bake sale. The birdhouse can be seen in the library.

The Wilcox Public Library will be collecting recipes for a cookbook. The *Cookbook* will be available for sale later in the year. Anyone who would like to contribute their favorite recipe(s), please print each recipe on a card or piece of paper with your name and bring it to the library. If you would like to mail the recipe to us, our address is PO Box 58, Wilcox, PA 15870 or you can email us at wilcoxlib@ncentral.com.

Summer Reading Program: Discover New Trails @ Your Library

The Wilcox Public Library will, for the fifth year, hold a summer reading program for ages 3-12. This year's theme is *Discover New Trails*. The children will explore trails of all kinds through programs, books, and activities. There will be prizes, crafts, and reading fun for all. If you would like to volunteer to help with the summer reading program, contact the library. Registration for the summer reading program will begin May 1, 2004. All programs are free of charge. Watch for more details.

Book Club

Join us the 3rd Monday of each month for our book club. Everyone reads the same book and we get together to talk about it. NO, it is not like literature class, we have fun. Books are provided through interlibrary loans. If you would like to join our next discussion, let us know and we will reserve a book for you. We have read books such as: *A Walk in the Woods*, *This Year It Will Be Different*, *Secret Garden*, *Bridget Jones's Diary*, and *Gift from the Sea* to mention a few. Enjoy a night out, join us the 3rd Monday of the month at 6:30 PM. Hope to see you.

• Wilcox Area Development Corporation News

The Wilcox Area Development Corporation (WADC) held their annual meeting on January 19, 2004. Tom Folino was appointed as a new board member. The goal of the WADC is to promote local industrial, economic, and recreational development. For further information or potential projects, please contact Ronald Peterson, President, at 814-929-5978.

• Jones Township Senior Center

Activities at the Center

All persons age 60 or older are eligible to become members of the center. Please contact **Bernice Morgan, Center Director, (814) 929-5443, 320 Faries Street, Wilcox, PA 15870** if you wish to join or provide a donation to this group. The Senior Center is open every Tuesday, Wednesday, & Thursday from 10:00 am - 3:00 pm. Transportation

can be provided, if needed. Spouses of current members, who are not yet 60 years old, are also welcome to join.

The Jones Township Senior Center (JTSC) served more than 3,000 meals for 2003. This includes meals provided at the center as well as Meals-on-Wheels. As our over-60 population continues to grow and life-expectancy increases, the JTSC is committed to making these years full-filling and healthy for our citizens. Some of the services offered by the JTSC include screenings for: eyes, blood pressure, blood-sugar, cholesterol levels, and flu shots.

In addition to health presentations and informational meetings, the JTSC Director has applications available for a variety of Senior services and programs, such as: Pace/Pacenet, Reduced Vehicle Registration, Property/Tax Rebates, Disability Parking Permits, and the latest information on Medicare Health supplements. In addition to the services provided at the center, our Director can also assist Seniors' in obtaining services from County, State and Federal programs and offices. The fee to join is only \$14/yr. (\$2 to join & \$1/month for space rental). Memberships are also a nice gift for a loved one, neighbor, or friend.

If you cannot visit with us everyday we are opened, we still encourage you to join to allow us to serve you when you have a need or concern. It is important for the JTSC to increase enrollment of eligible applicants to continue to offer these essential services.

Two CDBG Grants Awarded....

The Jones Township Senior Center is the happy recipient of two Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) recently awarded by the Elk County Commissioners. The grants have been awarded to remodel the kitchen area of the center, install a handicap door and parking area, and pave the parking area adjacent to the center. The grant awards total approximately \$50,000 and a request for bids will be advertised in the Summer/Fall 2004 time period. By improving these areas, the center will be able to offer more meals for seniors as well as allow for improved handicap accessibility in the parking area. The membership would like to thank the Jones Township Board of Supervisors for

applying for these grants, as well as the Elk County Planning Commission and Elk County Commissioners for their continued financial support.

Letter from the JTSC Director Volunteerism and 4-Wheelers....

No matter your age, if you have a craft, hobby, play a musical instrument, or have a talent you would like to share, we would love to talk with us. We welcome volunteers. We host a variety of social activities for our seniors and enjoy many activities together.

We would like to remind the public that we have installed new windows in our center and while the windows have been welcomed for their climate control, we have noticed that stones thrown by our **"4-wheeler drivers"**, who like to frequent the parking area, have already damaged one very expensive window.



As you know, the total grant received to install these windows was \$45,000 and we would ask that all visitors respect the property. We do not think that these well-meaning visitors would like to incur the cost of replacement. In addition to the windows, it has been noticed that many such vehicles have caused considerable damage to community center lawns and playground area. Please consider your choices when visiting as the cost to you for such a repair can be substantial. Thank you.

• Wilcox Volunteer Fire & Rescue

Memorial Day Raffle 2004

We will be planning a raffle for Memorial Day for the benefit of the General Fund. The prizes will be two guns. For more information and tickets contact Rose Maletto or any of the Wilcox Volunteer Fire & Rescue members.

Wilcox Holiday Lighting 2003

The Christmas Eve Luminary Lighting for 2003 was a resounding success and with 400 (a record number) luminaries placed on Marvin Street. If you missed the display, the lighting was displayed in alternate colors of green, red, and white with many citizens remembered. Many of the candles were still burning through the night into Christmas day when the volunteers came to remove the display. A special thanks to all the Holiday Lighting volunteers who make our town beautiful during the holiday season. If you wish to order your luminaries, it's never too early. Some of the children believe this display was especially placed as a *landing strip* for St. Nicholas's Reindeer! Wonderful job by the Holiday Lighting volunteers.

To place an order for luminaries for 2004, we ask for a donation of \$5 per luminary. Please make your check payable to Holiday Lighting, PO Box 330, Wilcox, PA 15870. Please provide the name of the person(s) to be remembered.

Should you wish to provide any other donation to Holiday Lighting, funds are used to add to the lighting displays as well as maintain the current fixtures. Donations can be sent to the address noted above.

E-Mail Copies of Newsletter Available

Anyone wishing to receive this newsletter by e-mail can do so by sending their e-mail address to jonestwp@ncentral.com or include it with the suggestions and comment sheet. It is also available on-line in PDF format. Please visit our website for links to this newsletter as well as all previous versions.

Surveys

Please see pages 8 & 9 for important community feedback forms. We have included two forms: one

for township comments/suggestions and one for the child care center project. If you wish to fill in both surveys, please feel free to mail in the same envelope. We have appreciated the previous feedback and have tried to include in our newsletters new information on commonly asked questions received at our local offices. Thank you for your participation and the many who have volunteered.

Sincerely,

The Jones Township Board of Supervisors

• Upcoming Recreation Board Events

The Jones Township Recreation Board has a variety of projects and events scheduled for the Spring/Summer 2004 Season. For details on schedule dates please watch for announcements in the Johnsonburg Press or contact President, Mike Smail at (814) 929-5163 or Community Building Scheduler, Mary Bizzak at (814) 929-9840.

Spring Dance

A Spring Dance is being planned, with Disc Jockey, in the Community Center Gymnasium. The tentative date is May 7th, with K-6 graders in the early evening and 7-12th graders afterward.

Playground Pavilion Building

A time will soon be announced for erecting the new playground picnic pavilion. This is expected to take place on a Saturday, prior to Summer School opening. Anyone wishing to volunteer a few hours contact Mike Smail at (814) 929-5163 to sign up.

Summer School Program

The Summer School Program is being planned at the Community Center. Dates have not yet been determined. Anyone interested in volunteering for supervision, teaching, craft projects, or providing other activities for the children, contact Debbie Ferguson at (814) 929-5163.

Beautiful Valley Child Care Center Questionnaire

The Wilcox Presbyterian Church is requesting your input for a project being explored to provide additional public services within the township. The Church is investigating the possibility of building a child care center, the *Beautiful Valley Child Care Center*. In order to prepare for the number of children they may serve and to accommodate children with special needs, we are asking that the public provide us with your thoughts on the project. With this questionnaire we welcome comments from parents, grandparents, care-givers, and citizens interested in working/volunteering for the center's construction and operation. The church session members have met with the Licensing Director for Pennsylvania Child Care Centers and have been advised that there is a need in our area to provide additional child care. We would appreciate any comments you would like to provide. In the near future, the church will host a website that will provide information on regulations, curriculum, donation information, fees and financial assistance for families who qualify. Children and families of all faiths will be welcome.

Please mail to: Jones Township, PO Box 25, Wilcox, PA 15870 (may be mailed in same envelope with the comment/question form on page 8)

Name: (optional) _____

Address/Phone: (optional) _____

Number of Children: _____ Ages: _____ Gender (M/F): _____

Total hours per day child-care is desired: _____

Total hours per week child-care is desired: _____

Hours of the day/evening child care is desired: (example: 6 AM - 5 PM, before/after school hours, second or third shift workers, etc.) _____

What is your current cost of child-care per week/day? _____ / _____

What can you afford for child-care per hour/day/week? _____

Please note that subsidized child-care is available in Pennsylvania. We will pursue this funding and support for parents, should the child care center project move forward. It is helpful for us to understand the financial needs of parents, however all questions are optional. If you are not a parent or guardian but would like to provide comments, questions, or ask about employment or volunteering for this project, please feel free to provide your comments. We are also interesting in hearing from parents and grandparents as to their requirements for child-care curriculum, practices, and concerns.

Comments or Suggestions: _____

Add additional page(s) as needed. Thank you for your response.

Website regarding the child care center (May 2004): <http://www.brawand.com/bvccc/index.htm>

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