



Participants at Camp Conewago play hockey during "Canada Day." Campers used fun activities to learn about different countries daily.

Crafts associated with different cultures were part of the daily activities at Camp Conewago



**Danny Fisher Field** The board has also overseen improvements to the Danny Fisher Field, immediately adjacent to the township municipal building. By securing state grant funding, the Parks & Recreation has been able to refurbish a tee-ball field and purchase picnic tables and a grill for public use. Parking improvements and wheelchair accessible pathway linking parking, the picnic area and the ball field will complete the upgrades.

Conewago Township  
3279 Old Hershey Road  
Elizabethtown, PA 17022



3279 Old Hershey Road  
Elizabethtown, PA 17022

# CONEWAGO TOWNSHIP NEWS

FALL - 2009

## BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

John D. Rochat — Chairman    Jay M. Brandt — Vice Chairman    Galen Shelly — Board Member

Phone: 717-534-8556    Fax: 717-533-6643    E-Mail: BOS.conewagotwpdauphin@comcast.net

Office Hours Monday through Thursday 8:00 - 4:00

**Need help putting the pieces of your life back together?**

### CONTACT HELPLINE

**Providing our community with free, confidential Listening, Health and Human Services, Information and referral services**  
**24 hours a day**  
**7 days a week.**  
**Harrisburg area**  
**652-4400 or**  
**1-800-932-4616**

### Top 5 caller concerns for 2008

1. **Mental/Emotional issues**
2. **Loneliness Reassurance**
3. **Financial Assistance**
4. **Family/Interpersonal Issue**
5. **Food**

[www.contacttheline.org/](http://www.contacttheline.org/)

## CONEWAGO TOWNSHIP OFFICAL WEB SITE IS NOW ON THE INTERNET!

**[HTTP://WWW.CONEWAGOTOWNSHIP.COM](http://www.conewagotownship.com)**

On July 8, 2009 the Board of Supervisors approved for the Township staff to develop an official web site for the Township. This action allowed the staff to contract Brent Dimmig a student at Lancaster Mennonite School and Web site developer, to aid the Township in this process. The Web site internet domain is [www.conewagotownship.com](http://www.conewagotownship.com). As stated, this is a process that will take several months to bring past information and documents to the site for the citizens of Conewago to use and view. This web site will also aid in getting information out faster about activities that might involve your input and help.

Receiving the Newsletter In an attempt to save costs, we are asking any resident that would prefer to receive the Newsletter electronically rather than regular mail to please contact us via e-mail, [norm.conewagotwpdauphin@comcast.net](mailto:norm.conewagotwpdauphin@comcast.net). Or call Norm Miller at township office to request 534-8556. You may also go to the website "contact us" with this information. Please note that the newsletter will be on the township official web site at [conewagotownship.com](http://conewagotownship.com)

## From the Chairman of the Parks & Recreation Board

**Camp Conewago:** Camp Conewago, a long-running summer program offered for elementary-age children in Conewago Township took on a new look in 2009. The township, through the auspices of the Conewago Twp. Parks & Recreation Board, this summer began administering Camp Conewago - a two-week long half day camp program. Camp Conewago was the first youth recreation program offered directly by the Parks and Recreation Board since its inception. Held on the grounds of Conewago Elementary School, Camp Conewago this year featured a curriculum focused on world cultures. Daily activities included learning about a new country and enjoying games, crafts and foods associated with each foreign land. As part of learning about our own country, the 70 participants took a field trip to Zoo America. The Parks & Recreation Board hopes to expand and build the camp in 2010.

*Continued on page 4*

PRSRRT STD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
HERSHEY,  
PA 17033  
PERMIT NO. 35

## FROM THE DESK OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISOR

What your Board of Supervisors have accomplished in the last five years for the citizens of Conewago while maintaining financial responsibility, controlling growth, ensuring and preserving the rural character and quality of life that we all have come to enjoy in Conewago We would like to state professionalism and accountability is paramount as we serve our Conewago citizens. Listed below are examples of some of these accomplishments:

- Expanded the office hours
- Fully computerized the office
- Official Township web-site established
- Quarterly newsletter
- Established a Parks and Recreation Board
- Established ordinances requiring developers to financially contribute to park development

- Obtained almost 3 million dollars in grants to subsidize the State mandated sewer installation
- Replaced outdated and uneconomical equipment
- Updated the almost 30 year old Comprehensive Plan, in order to preserve the rural character of Conewago while reducing the likelihood of civil liability.
- We have been very prudent and conservative with our Citizen's money as exhibited by:
  - 2003 auditor's report revealed we had \$3,219,377 in reserve.
  - According to our August 1, 2009 Treasurers Report we have \$3,901,280 in reserve.

**It should be noted that Conewago Township is only one of two municipalities in Dauphin County that DOES NOT have a Municipal Real Estate Tax.**

## Report from the Chairman of the CONEWAGO MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY

The purpose of this article is to provide the citizens of Conewago Township with the actual history and background for the formation of the Conewago Municipal Authority. The Conewago Township Act 537 Sewage Facilities Plan was updated in 2005 and approved by DEP in 2006. This plan includes the evaluation of existing on-lot sewage disposal, groundwater, community planning and alternatives for solutions. The facts confirmed a high malfunction rate for on-lot systems and nearly one third of the wells were unsuitable for consumption based on state and federal drinking water standards. No action would cause further groundwater contamination and public health hazards. The Act 537 plan DEP mandated the Phase 2 area be served by public sewer due to poor soil conditions in Conewago Township. This was a serious health risk to residents of Conewago Township. The importance of this mandate is clear as illustrated by examples of other municipalities.

Cromwell Township, Huntington County chose not to comply with the DEP mandates. These Supervisors are currently sentenced to prison time for failure to implement the Act 537 plan. The Conewago Township Supervisors John Rochat, Galen Shelly and Jay Brandt worked proactively to accomplish the following:

- Formed the Conewago Municipal Authority to qualify for Phase 2 PENNVEST funding.
- Obtained significant PENNVEST grant and low interest funding for the Phase 2 public Sewer
- Partnered with Derry Township Municipal Authority to achieve efficient and cost-effective Phase 2 design.
- Aggressively bid the Phase 2 sewer construction to reduce Phase 2 construction contract cost below budget.
- Controlled all construction cost to complete the Phase 2 construction under budget

This resulted in major savings in the taping fees (\$6,000) for the residents in the Phase 2 service areas through the commitment and diligent efforts of the Conewago Township Supervisors and the Conewago Municipal Authority.

The malfunction on-lot systems are now eliminated in the Phase 2 service area. Contamination of our groundwater supply is eliminated in these areas of the replacement of the on-lot septic systems. The Conewago Elementary School is now connected to public sewer to insure safe drinking water and the ability to expand the school to meet the educational needs of the students. Many experienced people claimed that the solutions to the problems resulting from malfunctioning on-lot septic systems were not financially feasible. The persistent and diligent efforts of the Conewago Supervisors John Rochat, Galen Shelly and Jay Brandt resulted in very successful solution for the residents at a minimal cost.

## From the ROADCREW

**Leaf Removal:** Please be advised that there is no zoning regulation or ordinance regarding leaves being cleaned up by the Township. The Township is concerned with keeping the drains and culverts clean for stormwater removal and to maintain the roadways free of water. This is the reason the township collects leaves in areas that have these types of water collection systems. Please do not rake leaves or other material in ditches, culvert, pipes and drainage areas. We have only one leaf vacuum and only two full time staff.. The area where we take the leaves is limited plus travel time to unload the leaves allows only short periods of actual time being on the job of cleaning these areas. We are asking the residents to consider this and aid us by helping us keep the drainage areas clear of leaves.

The 2009 year schedule leaf removal, for areas stated above, will start Monday through Thursday weather permitting from Oct 14, to December 2, 2009. Pickup will be between the hours of 6:30 AM to 3:30 PM. LEAVES MUST BE RAKED AND PLACED AT CURBSIDE FOR PICKUP. Leaves will not be picked up if foreign objects such as sticks, grass clippings, stones etc. are in the pile of leaves. The blower will plug-up if we try to pick up these materials. No additional pickups will be done after this date. All leaves after this time must be kept away from curbside so leaves do not end up in storm drains.

We chose this date as the last time to pick up leaves because this is the same truck that will be needed to spread salt on the road, it takes about 3 hours to get the truck ready, as it requires removal of the leaf box and getting the truck ready for salting or snow removal. This date is actually late compared to times that we have needed to salt roads; so we can not extend this time period.

The Township would also like to remind the citizens that no material from private property should be placed on roads. These items include grass clippings, tree branches, snow from private drives or blown or shoveled from curbs and sidewalks onto the roadways. This could cause plugging of drains as well as unsafe driving conditions.

## Conewago Country Fair

Don't miss the 41st Annual Country Fair at Conewago Elementary School. Mark your calendar for Saturday September 26. Fair events will start at 9 a.m. and conclude at 3 p.m. Come and relax with your friend and neighbors.



FUN, FOOD, FLEAMARKET, SILENT AUCTION Games for All Ages, Dunking Booth, Pumpkin Painting, Mums and Fall Decorations, Soap Sale, Chicken BBQ, and Bake Sales. The Flea market will feature children's books, videos, toys, sports equipment and more. The Silent Action will have Gift Certificates from local merchants and class gift baskets. Plus many more items.

Please park in at Shenk's Church, and park only in designated areas.

For additional information contact the Country Fair committee Members:

Sue Breidenstine 520-1904  
Dorian Treinnick 367-3132  
Marion Lemarr 298-1590  
Ann Bickelman 533-6312  
Tim Durgey 361-0483

**Halloween Night will be observed on October 29 from 6:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m.**



**Respect This office receives quite a few inquires concerning what neighbors can or cannot do on their property. Please remember Conewago Township is a farming community and sometimes noise and aromas are part of your surroundings. Whether it is farming or other activities please respect your neighbors.**