



## Winter 2011

**Supervisor Doug Weimer** - Winter arrived early this year with a few inches of snow before Halloween. The children began getting restless in my house for fun outside in the snow and the expectations of holiday events ahead. The winter season can be a fun time of the year when it is warm enough to enjoy but when it becomes bitter cold I can only count the days to spring. During the unbearable winter days my gratitude goes out to all those that have to work outside in the harsh winter weather to keep our community safe. The Township public works department is on call around the clock to clear the roadways of snow so that we all can go from our homes to work, school, or the store. We also count on the roads being clear so that friends can visit, deliveries can be made, and emergency services can access our homes.



We sometimes forget that our emergency service volunteers continue to remain on call 24 hours a day even in the winter. The role these volunteers play is essential and more difficult to maintain as volunteer numbers drop and expenses to support their efforts increase. Our volunteer fire companies in Hempfield and the region face many challenges as they try to remain open and ready to serve us. We sometimes take for granted the valuable service they provide in the protection of our families and property. These volunteers make personal sacrifices on a daily basis to provide an irreplaceable asset to our community. If the amount of fire companies in Hempfield were reduced, then the reaction time for a fire fighter to arrive on scene and evaluate the emergency incident would increase and fire insurance rates could climb.

As a community, we need to do everything possible to support our local volunteer companies and encourage as many residents as possible to join the ranks of the volunteer fire fighters. I pledge to do everything I can as an elected official in Hempfield to ensure that our volunteer companies have the resources to remain open and ready to serve. Please consider contacting your local fire department about serving as a volunteer fire fighter or supporting the company in other ways such as fundraising.

In closing, I wish all Hempfield residents a blessed holiday season and Happy New Year." Supervisor R. Douglas Weimer. To contact Supervisor Weimer call 724-834-7232 X 118 or [dougweimer@hempfieldtwp.org](mailto:dougweimer@hempfieldtwp.org).

## Fall 2011

**Supervisor Doug Weimer** - After a hot and humid summer, one can only look forward to the cooler days and nights of the approaching autumn. This fall the changing of colors on the leaves will not coincide with any change in Hempfield Public Work construction signs.

My fellow Supervisors and I have embarked on an infrastructure improvement program that will last until winter. Some of the fall goals include the completion of 25 miles of Township road surface improvements and various storm water pond upgrades such as the Heather Ridge and Laurelwood retention ponds. The Township will also soon conclude an \$850 thousand Ft. Allen area flood control project that will improve storm water controls in a region that has seen years of residential flooding. The Board will also begin a new \$2 million flood control project in the West Point area that residents will soon receive information regarding.

The 2011 project list of accomplishments continues at Hempfield Park where residents can enjoy the newly resurfaced tennis courts, pavilion improvements, and play ball under the new field lights. These improvement projects are only the beginning of more to come in future years. The good news is that all these projects and the ones for next year will be completed without having to raise property taxes, a 20-plus year record.

In closing, I want to invite everyone out to Hempfield Park on September 10th this year for our annual Community Day celebration to experience the beginning of fall while listening to live bands, visiting area vendor booths,

tasting local foods, watching children play in the free amusement area, and gazing at fireworks. This event will be a great way for all Hempfield residents to come together to celebrate the benefits that our wonderful and great Township has to offer. I hope to see you at the park.

## Summer 2011

**Supervisor Doug Weimer** - This is the time of year when I usually write about my thoughts of summer fun in Hempfield, but in recent weeks, my thoughts and prayers have been with the families affected by the spring tornado. It was heart wrenching to see the depth of loss that families in Hempfield suffered and have had to endure this year.

Many families will be spending the upcoming summer months trying to put their homes back together and the children in those families will not have the summer memories that many of us will experience. The families affected by the storm should not feel alone, the outpouring of those wanting to help them has been tremendous. People from all over the Hempfield area have come forward to assist in community clean up events, disaster relief fundraisers, and donation drives for the benefit of these families.

I cannot express my gratitude enough to the extraordinary efforts of the Hempfield Municipal staff in all departments, Township Volunteer Firemen, HEMA members, Fire Police, other Township support volunteers, and outside agencies. To see tears in the eyes of both those helping and those receiving assistance over the first few days was very moving to witness.

The last few weeks have brought out the best in people and further reveal how wonderful our community is as a great place to live. Hempfield is not only a Township but a family that pulls together when there are times of adversity. As we move forward in our short busy summer, I encourage Hempfield residents to take advantage of the public parks, recreation centers and recreational activities throughout the area this summer.

Hempfield Township will continue its support of "Summer Sounds" Concerts in the Park Series held at St. Clair Park in Greensburg on Fridays this summer. The Board of Supervisors will also be sponsoring a "Community Day Festival" at the Hempfield Township Park on September 10th. I hope to see many of you out and about this summer enjoying our great community.

## Spring 2011

**Supervisor Doug Weimer** – "I am beginning my 10<sup>th</sup> year in 2011 representing my community as a Hempfield Township Supervisor. The time sure goes fast. I continue to enjoy the role I serve in ensuring Hempfield Township remains a premier place to live, work, and raise a family. Many changes to the structure of municipal government in Hempfield have occurred during these years, in part to decisions I have made as a Supervisor. When I began serving as a Township Supervisor, the Board had a long history of employing its elected members to serve as Road Masters or managerial staff. Today the Board of Supervisors has elected to hire credentialed professionals to manage the Township and its various departments. After serving nearly a decade, I can attest that this decision has saved tax payer dollars. This decision to separate any personal interests that an employed Supervisor may have from the unique role a Board of Supervisors carries out in our local government as an Executive, Legislative, and at times Judicial branch is very important to an efficient municipal government operation, in my opinion. As an elected Supervisor, I have led by this example and hope that our community will continue to support this style of government. I look forward to serving the remainder of my term moving Hempfield Township forward into the 21<sup>st</sup> century."

## Summer 2010

**Supervisor Doug Weimer** – "It is time for fun, sun, and great times outdoors as we count the days to the 2010 summer solstice on June 21st. With summer ahead I look forward to spending time outside going to picnics, camping, and spending vacation days with my family. I know many of my neighbors and friends throughout the Hempfield area will be doing the same.

This is the time of year when everyone, including our children, enjoys engaging in outside activities around the house. Please be extra careful to watch for children and pedestrians on and around our public streets. Also be alert for our road crews as they repave and repair some of our neighborhood streets.

In addition to the annual paving program, the Board of Supervisors plans an aggressive construction schedule this year as the Township reconstructs Walton Tea Room Road, replaces the Bothwell Bridge culvert, and begins storm water control projects in the Zellers Street, Ft. Allen and Green Ridge neighborhoods. During the short busy summer, I encourage Hempfield residents to take advantage of the public parks, recreation centers and recreational activities throughout the area this summer.

Hempfield Township will continue its support of "Summer Sounds" Concerts in the Park series held at St. Clair Park in Greensburg on Fridays this summer.

The Board of Supervisors will also be sponsoring a "Community Summer Festival" at Hempfield Park on August 14th and 15th. I hope to see many of you out and about this summer enjoying our great community."

**Spring 2010:**

## **Supervisor Doug Weimer Comments on Supporting Worthy Cause**

"The Hempfield Township Board of Supervisors has supported the recreational interests of residents for decades with indoor programs and outdoor facilities. Generations of Hempfield residents have enjoyed the athletic fields at Hempfield Park, reunions under the pavilions and exploring the playgrounds. Many others have learned to swim, dance, or express themselves with the many indoor programs. All these recreational activities require a financial commitment to remain available.

In 2007, I worked with my fellow Board members to establish a provisional fund with The Community Foundation of Westmoreland County which would act as a clearinghouse for funds generated from sources for the purpose of providing parks and recreation services in Hempfield Township. In this same year, the Board of Supervisors approved an ordinance which established a "Fee in Lieu of Land" option for new developments. This option gave developers a chance to pay a flat fee per lot in lieu of dedicating specific property within their development for recreation use. The fees collected over the years have been deposited in the fund along with other donations, and have grown to a 2009 ending value of \$55,000. This fund is not only available to developers but to any person, organization, or other entity that may want to make a monetary donation toward recreation in Hempfield. The Supervisors can utilize the provisional fund as a mechanism to initiate formal fundraisers and accept corporate or foundation donations while removing a perceptual barrier that the government is soliciting donations. Funds collected must be used by the Township for capital projects that benefit recreational activities within the Township.

I encourage everyone to consider the Hempfield Township Parks and Recreation fund as a great place to direct donations when planning to support community recreational projects in Hempfield. You do not have to be a serious philanthropist to make a donation, gifts of all sizes are welcome and The Community Foundation of Westmoreland County can address any I.R.S. questions that donors may have, while ensuring that the money that is earmarked for specific recreational purposes is put to proper use.

I am humbled by the generosity of those that have contributed to the Parks and Recreation fund over the years. Their donations will strengthen recreational uses without relying solely on tax dollars or participation fees. For more information on how to help support recreation, contact my office at 724-834-7232, extension 118." r

**Supervisor Doug Weimer** – "As the days grow longer and the temperature becomes warmer, Hempfield road crews will be switching from snow removal to road maintenance. Spring is a season for renewal and a time for some spring cleaning, watch for Township crews sweeping the winter salt from the streets, repairing storm water systems, and preparing to resurface thirty (30) miles of roads. With nearly 300 miles of Township roads to watch after, not every roadway issue is immediately recognized and assistance from residents reporting issues will be welcomed. Safety is a priority when traveling our neighborhood streets, so please slow down for road crews and your neighbors who may be walking the streets. I am looking forward to beginning several community

improvement projects this summer that will include flood control measures for the Ft. Allen, West Point, West Hempfield, and Zellers Street areas with nearly a 3 million dollar commitment. These storm water projects are not final solutions but improvements that should reduce flooding. They will also require the cooperation of property owners who must follow Township guidelines when living in a flood control area such as not filing in swales or placing structures along streams that can become obstructions to flowing water. Other improvement projects will include the reconstruction of Walton Tea Room and Feightner roads. Several bridge replacements will also be underway for Old Route 30 near Slate Run, Bothwell culvert, Edna Road and Brown Avenue. My goal as a Supervisor continues to be one that makes Hempfield the best local municipality to live in, and with the hard work and dedication of the Township staff, Board of Supervisors, and residents, all these projects can be accomplished.” r

Winter 2009

**Supervisor Doug Weimer** – “We are coming to the end of another long and eventful year in Hempfield Township. It has been full of changes that included the hiring of new Township management staff, an earlier community festival date, adoption and implementation of the Uniform Construction Code, new Township website and expanded recreation programs. However, not everything changes. The Board of Supervisors is moving to adopt another Township operating budget that for the 20<sup>th</sup> year in a row will not raise property taxes in 2010. Many long meeting hours by the Board have gone into adopting a proposed budget that will maintain the services and low taxes that Hempfield residents enjoy.

After another long year, I have to commend the Supervisors that I serve with for their dedication in representing their neighbors as Board members. My fellow Supervisors and I will enter the New Year by working with our area legislators to maintain the current public safety arrangement of State Police coverage in the Township. This topic appears to be a discussion item for the upcoming legislative year in Harrisburg and I plan to dedicate my time working to stop Harrisburg from grabbing more money from Hempfield residents for State services such as State Police protection. The Board also plans to conclude the adoption of a new zoning ordinance that reflects the goals of the Multi-Municipal Comprehensive Plan in 2010.

In order to make informed decisions, we rely on good communication between residents and elected Supervisors. I look forward to the continued letters, e-mails, phone calls, and casual conversations from my Township neighbors as we look toward the New Year. I wish you and your family Happy Holidays and the best of New Years.”

Fall 2009

**Supervisor Doug Weimer** – “Where has the long summer gone? Hempfield entered the summer wading through four (4) inches of rain that gushed through our neighborhoods within a six (6) hour period on June 17<sup>th</sup>. Many residents found themselves helpless in this unexpected twist of “Mother Nature”, but in a great community like ours I witnessed neighbors, volunteers, and Township agencies responding quickly to assist those in need. My heart goes out to my fellow residents in Hempfield that have experienced these recent storm related hardships and those practicing patience with the inconveniences of several bridge closures and road detours this summer. Following the storm the Board of Supervisors has taken immediate action to evaluate storm water facilities, enact a storm water ordinance, and update emergency protocols. In addition to addressing the unexpected summer storm emergency, my fellow Supervisors and I have approved 46.5 miles of township road improvements, secured \$767,910.00 in storm water grant funding, filled the vacant Assistant Township Manager position, enacting an ordinance to enforce the Uniform Construction Code, accepted the findings of the Public Safety Task Force related to police protection, and set a schedule to begin the public participation in the new Township Zoning Ordinance proposal. All this was accomplished by a hard working and dedicated group of Supervisors, township staff, and community volunteers in a short and eventful summer. I look forward to adding a few more accomplishments for Hempfield in the remaining months of the year.” r

Summer 2009

**Supervisor Doug Weimer** – “It is time for fun, sun, and great times outdoors as we count the days to the 2009 summer solstice on June 21<sup>st</sup>. With summer ahead I look forward to spending time outside going to picnics, camping, and spending vacation days with my family. I know many of my neighbors and friends through the Hempfield area will be doing the same. This is the time of year when everyone including our children enjoys engaging in outside activities around the house. Please be extra careful to watch for children and pedestrians on and around our public streets. I encourage Hempfield residents to take advantage of the public parks, recreation centers and recreational activities throughout the area this summer. Hempfield Township will continue its support of “Summer Sounds” Concerts in the Park series held at St. Clair Park in Greensburg on Fridays this summer. The Board of Supervisors will also be sponsoring a “Community Summer Festival” at North Hempfield Park on July 18-19 in conjunction with a Baseball Tournament. I hope to see many of you out and about this summer enjoying our great community.” r

Spring 2009

**Supervisor Doug Weimer** – “The “New Year” is well underway in Hempfield Township as we welcome a new Township Manager, Kurt Ferguson, to the municipal team. I look forward to working with Mr. Ferguson as the Board takes on an aggressive agenda for 2009. One task I look forward to completing this year, as a member of the Comprehensive Plan Review Committee, is the revision of the Township Zoning Ordinances that will help plan the future of Hempfield. Another task relates to the concerns I have heard as I met with residents over the past few years in different neighborhoods. They have faced the wrath of Mother Nature as storm water has damaged their homes, and I am hopeful that the grant funding that the Board is pursuing will soon initiate storm water projects to help their neighborhoods. Funding like this acquired from the Federal and State programs provide an excellent opportunity for the Township to complete infrastructure and recreational projects without having to raise local tax dollars. The agenda is long and includes work yet to be completed by many citizen committees such as the Public Safety Task Force (addressing police) and the Local Traffic Advisory Committee (responding to neighborhood petitions for traffic calming). Without the help of Hempfield residents volunteering to serve on committees and dedicated Supervisors, an agenda like the one proposed for 2009 could not be undertaken. I close by saying thank you to all those who are putting in the long hours to make Hempfield the best place to call home.” r

Winter 2008

**Supervisor Doug Weimer** – “I always enjoy talking with residents in Hempfield Township no matter where our paths may cross, at the local grocery store, mall, church, ball game, or walking down the street. I view all of us that live in the township as neighbors and it is always great to chat about what is going on in our big neighborhood. I enjoy the questions and concerns residents have about Hempfield, because it demonstrates an interest in the community in which we all live. As a Supervisor, the input of my neighbors is invaluable in helping me to discuss with my fellow board members the goals for the upcoming year. The New Year is almost around the corner and the 2009 goal setting process is under way. Good communication between residents and elected Supervisors is very important. I look forward to the continued letters, e-mails, phone calls, and casual conversations from my Township neighbors as we look toward the New Year. Wishing you and your family Happy Holidays.”

Fall 2008

**Supervisor Doug Weimer – A Government of the People, by the People and for the People** – “I am proud to serve with a Board of Supervisors that has provided so many opportunities for residents to be involved in their local government. It has been great to have so many Hempfield citizens show ownership in their community by volunteering to serve on twelve different boards, commissions, committees, and task forces involving almost 100 people. As a Supervisor, I have never seen so many opportunities for community involvement as there are now. I can attest that the time, effort and input of these volunteers has proven invaluable to me and the other Board members. It is so great to be a part of a community, where everyone is working together with a common goal to make Hempfield a better place to live and feel proud to call home.”