

Published: Tuesday, August 10, 2010

# Amity Township to install a new traffic signal

[http://www.berksmontnews.com/articles/2010/08/10/southern\\_berks\\_news/news/doc4c6188a9d7fe0126047169.txt](http://www.berksmontnews.com/articles/2010/08/10/southern_berks_news/news/doc4c6188a9d7fe0126047169.txt)

By Denise Larive, News Writer

Officials are taking steps to reduce accidents in Amity Township.

On Aug. 4, the Amity Township Board of Supervisors unanimously approved for C. M. High, Inc., Myerstown, to install a left turn arrow on the traffic signal at North Maplewood Drive, and westbound Route 422, Douglassville, at a cost of \$5,465.

The installed arrow will permit traffic to go north (straight) on Maplewood Drive and make left turns onto westbound Route 422 before opposing traffic has a green light to go.

Board members said the turn signal will reduce or eliminate traffic accidents at the busy intersection and also clear-out the traffic that gets stacked, primarily from exiting the Wawa.

Police Chief Kent A. Shuebrook said previously that traffic turning left onto Route 422 often doesn't realize that opposing traffic is exceeding the speed limit and accidents occur.

He said also that the left turns switch from the passing lane as they turn and collide with the right turns onto Route 422 from Maplewood Drive.

In other business:

- The board also approved renewing the township's recycling contract with J.P. Mascaro, Reading.

Township Manager Charles E. Lyon said the number of residential calls about missed recycling pickups or plastics blowing off of the trucks is "way down from previous years."

"They are much better at picking stuff up when it falls but I would like to see them get better yet," said Board Chairman Robert R. Yanos. "Slow their speed or close the trucks' flaps."

Yanos and Lyon asked that truck drivers slow their speed and pay extra attention to plastics blowing off on Amity Park and Geiger roads.

"One of the problems today with recycling is that everything is plastics and plastics need to be crushed," said Samuel Augustine, director of

and plastics need to be crushed," said Camille Augustine, director of sales for Mascaro.

He said township officials could ask residents through a newsletter to crush all plastics, which will also allow the recycling trucks to collect more plastics and glass.

- Lyon said the July 28 AWIP meeting went extremely well and he expects that a zoning ordinance will be finished at the Aug. 25 meeting.

The zoning ordinance is being written by the board of supervisors, planning commission, and the township's hired consultant, Spotts Stevens & McCoy, Reading, to develop an industrial area on north Limekiln Road that will bring jobs to the area and also reduce property taxes.

The 400-acre site is known as the Amity Township Western Industrial Park.

- The planning commission is also discussing a proposed 100 acre overlay district off of Toll Gate and Township Line Road, by Tornetta Realty Corp., Plymouth Meeting, Montgomery County.

Lyon said Anthony Tornetta has submitted a fiscal impact statement/analysis to the township.

He said the analysis includes a three-bedroom, age-qualified residential component of 40 percent of the net area.

"A majority [of the commission members] think zero to 10-15 percent with two bedrooms," said Lyon, adding, "I don't think any of them have moved off of that position."

"Limit the bedrooms for young professionals," said Supervisor Scott Stepp. "The train is nearby the Leaf Creek Trail, and it would benefit us if kept to two bedrooms and it could put the township on the map."

"The land layout isn't good for anything but over age 55," said Supervisor Terry L. Jones. "The diversity we should be giving him should not be residential. We already outlined our concerns and the man hasn't been around since January."

"That property could sit there exactly as it is for another 40 years if we don't try to put something in there," said Yanos. "It is something that needs to be thought about and discussed. We want something in there."