

Forks Township looks to keep its residents in touch

Supervisors plan to publish a quarterly newsletter to supplement Web site.

By Fred Walter
special to the Morning Call

Forks Township supervisors want to encourage more citizen input and expand ways to get more information to their residents.

One means of doing that is

to publish a quarterly newsletter again to supplement information available on the township's Web site, according to township supervisor C. David Howell who chairs the new community relations committee.

"We hope to revive it and make it more newsworthy, with more analysis on what's going on in the township," Howell said during a committee progress report at Thursday night's board meeting. Interest in the newsletter had dropped about three years ago, but Howell and his com-

mittee felt the newsletter can fill a vital information gap for residents who don't have access to the Web site and for those who can't attend regular meetings of the supervisors and planning commission.

The committee will discuss priorities on the type of news to be published in the first issue, which is expected to be available by early summer. Ideas are also being considered for periodic surveys asking residents for their suggestions of opinions on major issues as they come before the supervisors.

Fire Chief and Zoning Officer Tim Weis said the township's newly adopted zoning ordinance is now being processed to be available soon on the township Website, www.forkstownship.org. He said A new feature to be added is a updated progress report on all subdivisions and land development plans to let residents know the status of each plan during the review and approval process.

In a related effort to inform citizens, Police Chief Greg Dorney said his department is sponsoring a free session for

all residents on "Safeguarding Yourself Against Identity Theft," at 7-9 p.m. March 13 at the township Community Center on Sullivan Trail. He said that the number of "identity theft" victims isn't on the rise, prompting the need for more public education to prevent such criminal activity that includes illegal use of a person's social security number and credit cards.

In other action, the supervisors:

- Will seek applicants for the newly created part-time job of administrative assistant

to the building and zoning office. The pay rate was set at \$13 per hour for about 20 hours per week, according to Township Manager Cathy Kichline.

- Gave Public Works Director Gary Sandt the approval to buy a new International dump truck for \$101,000 to replace a 20-year-old truck. The new truck body will be purchased from E.M. Katz Inc. of Reading and the chassis will be custom-made by G.L. Sayre Inc. of Conshohocken.

Fred Walter is a freelance writer.